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On the cover: *Rainbow* by Brandi Katterjohns, Sandra C. Goldsby Library  
This rainbow was captured at Glacier National Park. I only happened upon the view when I pulled over to look for lodgings.

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*Mississippi Libraries* is a quarterly, open access publication of the Mississippi Library Association (MLA). The articles, reports, and features herein represent viewpoints of their respective authors and are not necessarily the official options of the Association.

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# President's Page

It has been an honor to serve as MLA President for the past year, and I am grateful to all my fellow service-minded colleagues who have mentored me and those who have assisted MLA with its mission as section and roundtable chairs, MLA officers, and volunteers. I am also grateful for all the work done behind the scenes by Paula Bass, our MLA Administrator. Without all your collective efforts, MLA would not exist, so thank you for your dedication to ensuring all of our Mississippi libraries thrive.

We have a new group of leaders ready to continue this important work. Mary Beth Applin is the President for 2020, and Mara Villa Polk, our 2020 Vice President, has already begun work on our conference that will again take place in Meridien at the beautiful Riley Center. The board also approved a new Social Justice Roundtable at the December meeting, and we look forward to adding to the many different areas MLA members can make a difference at their institutions and in their communities.

Our new Legislative Chair, Tonja Johnson, has begun contacting members about our extremely important advocacy efforts that will begin in the new legislative session this January. I hope you will all participate to help inform our state leaders about why libraries need their support. MAGNOLIA is on the top of our agenda. This tool that is used in school, academic, and public libraries is a resource we are proud of, but it needs full funding from our legislature to continue serving the many thousands of



Mississippians who use it. We are also working with the Mississippi Library Commission to coordinate our messaging with theirs so that we can maximize our voices. Please join us in Jackson during these events and help us spread the word.

Your Board and representatives are working on investigating ways we can enhance membership benefits in several ways, such as offering institutional membership options to allow more librarians and staff to join and scheduling additional training opportunities outside of conference to reach more members.

I look forward to continuing working on these and other projects as Past President, and I hope that you will join me. Being a part of MLA as a volunteer, a roundtable or section chair, or board member all are rewarding experiences. Spending time with fellow librarians from different backgrounds and settings working on shared goals is encouraging, uplifting, and fun.

# Fine Free?

## *A Look at the Current State of Penalty Fees in Mississippi's Colleges and Universities*

**Jerome Billingsley**

*Access Services Librarian  
Delta State University*

To fine or not to fine? That is the question facing the nation's public as well as academic libraries. The collegiate libraries of Mississippi's eight universities and fifteen community colleges, faced with slashed budgets and diminishing revenue, have approached the issue with a degree of necessary caution. A survey conducted by this author along with Delta State University colleague Joi Phillips found that only two universities and five community colleges have become "fine free." Survey results were drawn from information posted on the various libraries' websites or from phone conversations with library personnel.

The positive aspect of library fining lies with the revenue it brings to institutions facing increasingly tight budgets amidst pressure from all sides to feature the most up-to-date services and technology. The fines further provide incentive for patrons to return borrowed material in a timely manner ensuring that others have the opportunity to access the borrowed material, which in many cases may be the library's one and only copy of an in-demand item. A primary fear of any "no fine" system lies with the possibly cavalier attitude patrons may develop concerning the borrowed material. With no fear of recrimination, the patron may totally ignore due

dates and concerns over keeping borrowed items for entire semesters even after the usefulness of the material to the patron has long passed. Professors on campuses are notorious for routinely checking out material for full semesters (and often for subsequent semesters), decreasing the amount of material on a given subject to those students who do not share the same privileges. Overdue fines can therefore serve as safeguards so that at least material charged to students cannot be hoarded for prolonged periods denying access to their fellow students. Smaller collegiate libraries lacking the extensive holdings of their larger kin face these difficulties all too frequently. What can the library do if a class of twenty-five must all prepare reports on Edgar Allan Poe or the fall of the Roman Empire and its book holdings on these subjects are limited in number? Should effective safeguards be in place that allow access to as many students as possible? Interlibrary loan helps in this issue but too often students rely on the expectation that the library will have *something* in book form available on a given topic. All too often students wait until a few days or even the night before a project or report is due. Diligent attention to overdue fines at least ensures that students realize the importance of returning items in a timely manner.

Commenting on the fee debate, librarian Steven A. Gillis says, "Many library administrators feel that fines

are a barrier to access (especially for low-income families), cost the library significant staff time, are antithetical to our mission and principles, set up an adversarial relationship, or prevent implementation of services such as autorenewal" (41). This author can comment on the concept of the "adversarial relationship" aspect of the library/patron interaction—which in some instances may exist only in the mind of the patron, especially in the younger demographics. As a youngster I frequently borrowed books from the library to feed a rapidly increasing reading habit. At age 11, in preparation for a family vacation back to my hometown of Panama City, Florida I packed a library copy of the Hardy Boys volume *The Mystery of the Aztec Warrior* to read during the car ride and also in case of the stormy Florida weather I well recalled from my early childhood. Upon arrival at the Admiral Benbow Inn, I dutifully placed *Aztec Warrior* in the bedside table drawer where it would share space with the ever present Gideon's Bible. The weather remained sunny and pleasant the entire week and I never had the need to immerse myself in the adventures of the brothers Hardy. Not until the long ride home did I realize that I had failed to remove the book from the drawer. I dreaded the possible "wrath" of my librarian when she learned of my misdeed. The shame I experienced after learning of my overdue fine and book replacement cost branded

me as such a delinquent that for six months afterwards, I never stepped foot in the library, fearing alarm bells or accusatory remarks if I dared bring a potential checkout to the librarian. These fears turned out to be totally in my mind as the librarian warmly welcomed me back after my absence. Nevertheless this experience underscores the potential for fines and penalties to negatively impact the patron's relationship with the library.

The majority of the Mississippi collegiate libraries featured in this particular survey incorporate fines ranging from five to thirty cents per day with a cap in most cases of \$10 in a given semester. Patrons who never return a book at all are generally charged the price of a replacement copy plus a processing fee.

Very few of the libraries indulge in the Fine Forgiveness programs favored by various public libraries including concepts such as "Fine Free Tuesdays" or cancellation of fines during events such as National Library Week or Banned Books Week. Many of the libraries surveyed do allow "grace periods" usually on weekends and official holidays. Collegiate overdue and "lost" book fines are generally charged to students' business accounts. Failure to pay these fines can result in the block of students' access to transcripts after graduation or being blocked from registration while still enrolled.

For now at least, Mississippi college students must deal with the emails and letters reminding them of their past-due material. Under the current system the fines serve

as a modern Sword of Damocles hanging over students' heads as a reminder that whether the overdue item is the latest Stephen King best seller or an older, possibly obscure account of a political figure or scientist - someone else may be fervently hoping for access to that item. Perhaps a future survey could determine whether the majority of collegiate library patrons regularly return their material without threat of fines or fees. But at present the attitude persists that patrons still need that extra "nudge" to honor their due date commitments, maybe as much as the libraries themselves need that extra income.

#### Works Cited

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## The Weeding of Physical Journals

**Lynne Lambdin**

*Electronic Resources Librarian  
Delta State University*

Technology is constantly advancing and providing innovative options for academic libraries. Physical journals in the serials department are now coming into question with how they fit into today's advancements and green friendly options. As electronic subscriptions come to the forefront, libraries are asking if the physical subscriptions of journals are worthwhile and economically wise. While some hard copies of journals come with the electronic subscription other do not creating an additional cost. Some institutes may choose to forgo the additional

cost of the electronic version, while others may take it on considering the off-campus students who access the journal resources remotely. While this information is hardly new in the library world, this research will take an in-depth take on academic libraries across the state of Mississippi and how they are handling their serials departments and subscriptions.

### INTRODUCTION

Technology is the culprit of change. Innovative inventions and technological discoveries can greatly benefit patrons while inadvertently forcing a library to restructure departments, staffing and the budget. Technology has played a

direct role in slowly breaking down the traditional serials department in libraries. Many libraries are doing away with an area of physical space dedicated the latest release of periodicals, journals and magazines. Instead the area is now home to new computer terminals for patrons to access journals and databases electronically. Not only can patron and students access the databases from an on-site computer, but they now have the option of accessing these electronic subscriptions from anywhere in the nation. While technology has greatly improved the patron experience, it has had a direct cause and effect reaction on the serials department, staffing and practices across the nation. This research will



take an insular look into academic libraries in the state of Mississippi and how technology has directly impacted journals, magazines, periodicals, and the likes.

## PURPOSE – BACKGROUND

Moving from the physical journal subscription to the electronic subscription has been a trend on the uptick for the last 20 years gaining momentum especially in the last 10 years. Public, private and academic institutes across the nation are making the active effort to ensure their library can offer information in various formats that meet the needs of students and patrons not only on-site but offsite. The rate which a library can make the transition from physical journal subscriptions to electronic journal subscription varies. The reasoning and factors on the speed of the transition are numerous and vary greatly based on the library's position and the needs of those they cater to. As libraries make the decision to leave behind physical journals, they must also make the decision on how to handle traditional practices in the serials department. Now there is a great deal of information and studies that focus on this area of interest at a national level. But there is little to no information focusing solely on academia in the state of Mississippi. This research is meant to dissect and interpret how each academic library is handling journal subscriptions, serials departments, and employment. Not only how, but how and why they have come to their new serials structure and practices.

## LITERATURE REVIEW

In 2018, the *Library Journal*

completed the Academic Library Collection Development Survey with the help of EBSCO. The study involved a survey that involved 282 academic libraries and librarians. Research from this study uncovered a great range of information about academic libraries dealing with electronic resources from budgeting, collection development, data and beyond.

According to a study by the *Library Journal*, more than one-third (37%) of academic library materials budgets go to database subscriptions and electronic reference material. While 23% of the budget is designated to journal and serials materials (Enis, 2018). That budget includes both physical and electronic formats of the journals and serials materials. When the study was completed in 2018, the librarian respondents indicated that the average collection was around 60.3% print (Enis, 2018). However, respondents indicated that the electronic data collection was on the rise and their budgets will continue to shift towards electronic formats while steadily decreasing the allocated budget away from print formats but not entirely.

The study also divulged a great deal of information on how respondents were making the purchasing decision between electronic and physical formats. The study was able to break down the percentages based on the institute type. The two-year institutions or community colleges found the following influences: faculty preference (43%), accessibility (59%), student preference (70%), and pricing (59%) (2018). The great debates also included the 4-years colleges and universities relaying

the following results: faculty preference (66%), accessibility (58%), student preference (70%), and pricing (59%) (GOBI, 2018). This information is telling into the practices and factors that influence how institutes across the nation are handling data and subscription in the epic physical verses electronic format decision.

With this information in mind, this research attempts to examine the driving forces behind the serials' practices and collection in the state of Mississippi and the direct impact of these changes.

## METHOD

The method for obtaining the data to be discussed was through a voluntary survey. This survey included twelve questions with an option to further explain an answer. None of the questions were required nor were participant required to disclose the library they represented. The survey was sent to all the state institutions covering the two- and four-year institutions. Participation from private institutions was also requested. While the response from the surveys were not over whelming, there were enough participating institutions to form an idea of periodical handlings and processes across the state. In addition to the survey, a great deal of time was spent researching information on each university's library website. These two means provided a great deal of information and an outlook for serial departments in Mississippi.

## FINDINGS

The participants of the survey and website provided great insight into each institution's serials department. Specifically, participants were

asked whether their institute still maintains a traditional serials department. For clarification purposes, a traditional serials department were defined as an area dedicated to physical periodicals, journals, magazines and the likes. In addition to that requirement, a traditional serials department would have staff handling receiving, processing, claiming, binding, weeding, and many other responsibilities.

Based on the received responses, it was concluded that only thirty percent of academic libraries in the state of Mississippi still retain a traditional serials department. As times progress and technology advances, many academic institutes are finding themselves moving on from a traditional serials department. While libraries are transitioning from the physical journal subscriptions, it should be clear that they have not done away with journal subscriptions. All institutes are still subscribing to periodicals and journals but the format and methods of accessing these resources has transitioned to a more modern approach that requires no physical space to be allocated. While others are maintaining physical journals, the selection is very exclusive and geared towards a specific program or major.

After inquiring on their library's serials department situation, the respondents were asked to explain if they had a serials librarian employed or not. For clarification, the question was seeking to determine how many libraries have a dedicated serials librarian on staff. Based on the survey and research completed through the institute's website, it was determined that eighty percent

of academic libraries in the state of Mississippi no longer have a dedicated serials librarian. Instead the serials librarian role and responsibilities have been transitioned to other faculty and staff members. Some titles that have taken on the serials title include the collection development librarian, electronic resources librarian, and public services librarian to name a few.

Some libraries divulged information on how the serials librarian responsibility transitioned to other employees. The greatest reason based on the optional explanation seemed to be the number of professionals on staff. One library from the survey disclosed that the number of employees they had was "too small to specialize in serials." Many of the institutes offered a very similar reason behind the loss of their serial's librarian. While transitioning away from the serials librarian position seems to be the trend, the methods for doling out the responsibilities vary from institute to institute. A few institutes indicated that the collection development librarian or acquisition librarian took over the subscription and maintenance decisions upon restructuring. Other institutes are assigning one librarian two titles to compensate the restructuring. One library indicated that they took on a new librarian with both the systems and serials role.

Aside from the librarians, staff are taking on more roles to help compensate the new structure. Staff were noted throughout the survey repeatedly for taking over some of the responsibilities that became available with the serials librarian position loss. One of our participants provided a brief but telling explanation

of the responsibility breakdown on the serials job assignments, "Public Services Librarian is responsible for cataloging serials. Public Services Assistant is responsible for checking-in serials daily." In addition to checking in, staff members are gaining skill in processing, claims, binding and weeding. Some institutes are even utilizing student workers to get some of the serial's jobs completed. While their responsibilities are minimal, they are a great help to the overall success of the organization. It also allows other staff and librarians to manage the many hats they wear.

### ***ELECTRONIC SUBSCRIPTIONS***

The survey's core focus inquired on factors behind the decision to move from a physical journal subscription to the electronic format. The top discussed reasons included: accessibility, the MAGNOLIA database, space issues, print discontinuation, and patrons. The number one driving force behind the transition to electronic availability was the patrons. While this may seem obvious, the survey responses were interesting. One institute elaborated, "Students just aren't interested in periodicals anymore. They use physical subscriptions to find information for coursework or personal studies, and they get entertainment news from other sources. If we switch the most useful and relevant subscriptions over to electronic, it boosts our overall usage."

In addition to the student's new age approach to finding information, their location around the globe has made a major impact on the type of journal subscriptions purchased by academic libraries. Educational institutions are making more of

an effort to offer online degree to attract students outside of the state and country while competing with online universities. It was noted by most of the participants that accommodating the students that cannot physically access the library was essential to their core values. This in turn made moving to an electronic subscription format an obvious choice. Supporting distance education programs and students has become one of the highest priorities in libraries. Fortunately, electronic journal subscriptions are making global information a viable goal.

Amongst patrons and accessibility, the Magnolia Database has had a role in the transition away from electronic journal subscriptions. Half of the responses from the survey indicated that they had the option to leave a physical journal subscription due to the MAGNOLIA database. Not only did they have the option, but many decided to take advantage and drop physical journals and periodical subscriptions that were now available electronically.

A few of the academic libraries mentioned being forced to drop a physical journal subscription because the publishing company no longer offered both formats. There were ambiguous responses to the lack of options as a few explanations indicated that the electronic subscription was quite a bit more expensive, but their database usage had seen a spike of some sort. The last big reason noted for leaving behind a physical subscription was due to space. Many of the responding academic libraries mentioned that the serials department was no longer being utilized through traditional methods, they utilized the

space in other ways. One library shared their experience with repurposing the space, "The reduction of our bound periodicals footprint has greatly increased the amount of shelving we can devote to circulating monographs, which still have a strong appeal amount our patron population." While physical journals may have lost their allocated space, once again, the library saw a positive outcome. The library re-utilized the space and will experience a noticeable usage increase in another area of patron interest while still maintaining the option of reaching their journals through electronic means.

#### **GOING GREEN**

Each participant was asked whether the trend of "Going Green" had any influence on their library's decision to leave a physical journal subscription. This was the only question that each participant responded to. Not only did they all respond to this question, but they unanimously agreed that this trend played no part in the decision-making process.

#### **PHYSICAL SUBSCRIPTIONS**

While many institutions are making the decision to transition from the physical format to the electronic format, it was not the chosen practice across the board. Respondents were asked two specific questions on keeping physical subscriptions:

1. Would you pay for a print subscription over electronic subscription?
2. When do you choose to subscribe to print over the electronic format?

Many respondents indicated that they have chosen a physical journal subscription over the electronic format before and would do so again.

The decision to keep a physical journal subscription oftentimes had to do with accreditation and program support. Many of these academic institutions allow the institute employees to weigh in on the decision to retain specific physical journal subscriptions. One respondent stated, "The majority of print subscriptions we still maintain have been tailored with the help of faculty to support course offerings and degree tracks that utilize the titles." In addition to faculty and staff, many libraries are ensuring that students and patrons have voices that are heard. One library indicated that when they re-assembled their serials department they reached out to students through survey. Through this method, the library was able to retain specific physical journals at the request of the patrons and students being served.

#### **BINDING**

Although minorly touched, binding was questioned in the survey to get a complete and rounded idea of current practices. Each survey participant was asked whether they are binding periodicals after closing out a physical subscription. Based on the result, only 40% of academic libraries in the state of Mississippi are practicing binding. There were two reasons repeatedly mentioned behind the discontinuation of this practice: space and money.

#### **CONCLUSION**

Much like the rest of the nation, academic libraries in the state of Mississippi are transitioning away from the traditional serials department. The greatest factor for such a major department restructuring is a direct result of technological



advancement. These innovations have made information readily available at the click of a mouse. Libraries are eliminating the physical format to ensure that those distance education students and staff members receive the same available data as those who live on or near campus. Although the rate in which these changes happen vary greatly. Along with changing the format of journals, there seems to be a major restructuring for the serials department and staff. Some Mississippi

academic libraries are eliminating the department entirely including the serials librarian. Responsibilities are being shared amongst various faculty and staff. But this are is truly handled on a institute to institute basis. In addition to changes in staff, many practices are becoming historical like binding. Overall, technology has greatly impacted the serials department and subscription management as it has traditionally been known. While change can be scary some changes allow information to

be shared more easily and across greater lengths.

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## Collaboration Application Using Citation

**Jamie Stanfield**

*Science, Nursing & Health Librarian*

**Justin Easterday**

*Education and Human Sciences Librarian  
University of Southern Mississippi*

During the fall semester of 2018, University of Southern Mississippi Gulf Coast Librarians Jamie Stanfield and Justin Easterday formed a partnership with the Academic Success Center (ASC) to determine if collaboration increased student interest in workshops. The ASC, located inside the library, provides student tutoring for basic citation style and classroom assignment assistance. After meeting with ASC Director, Dr. Kevin Walker, it was evident both support centers offered the same types of workshops, often offered in the same week and always in the same building. After reviewing the library's workshop attendance from Fall 2015 to Spring 2018, an average of 2.05 students attended a library workshop. Because of low workshop attendance, Stanfield and Easterday began collaborating with

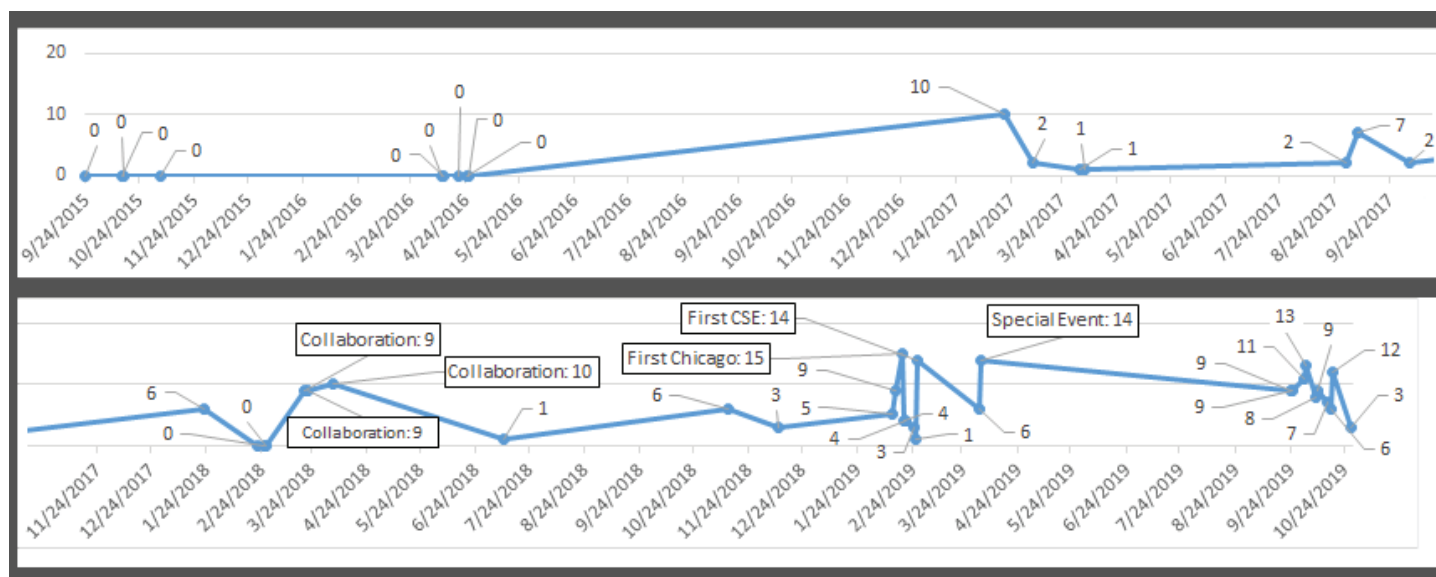
the ASC. By collaborating, changes ensued. Changing from a traditional classroom to a more relaxed student setting, offering rooms with open eating and drinking policies, providing lunch or snacks, and pairing a professional librarian with an ASC student employee increased attendance. These changes additionally allowed for the creation of new workshops, such as Council of Science Editors (CSE) and Chicago/Turabian workshops.

Initially, Stanfield and Easterday assessed the location of prior workshops. It was imperative to select a student-centered area. Prior to the collaboration, library workshops occurred in a computer lab room, set up much like a standard classroom. The ASC meeting room has an open, relaxed student environment, as well as, comfortable and movable furniture. All furniture is adjustable and movable, to best fit any workshop. This format allows students to use varied learning styles to absorb information, by listening, taking hand-written notes, or using

laptops. This allowed the librarians and ASC tutors to work together to present the information and answer basic to complex questions. Librarians gained an understanding of why, when and how tutors might suggest a librarian consultation. One ACS student expressed they are now more comfortable directing students to a librarian when more complicated questions arise. This also gave librarians the opportunity to see first-hand how ASC tutors interact with and teach students.

Stanfield and Easterday also gathered past attendance numbers and times of previous workshops. Some data suggested that library workshops occurred while students were in class or on days some students were not on campus, such as, prior workshop schedules and course catalogs. To maximize student opportunities, identical workshops are offered a minimum of twice during the semester. For example, one offered on a Tuesday or Thursday and another on a Monday or Wednesday. Dr. Walker indicated

Citation Workshop Attendance Graph



the ASC generally start their workshops at 11:30 a.m. or 1:30 p.m. These times typically reflect student lunch breaks. Rather than an entire hour, ASC workshops worked the best with a set 30-45 minute time frame, so as not to take all the time students have for lunch. Following what the ASC found successful, collaborative workshops are offered during lunch breaks with a 30-45 minute maximum time limit. The ASC retains an ample food budget for programs, whereas the library does not have such. Sandwiches, chicken and snacks are always popular with the college crowds. Additionally, the library's computer lab, where past workshops were held, had a no food or drink policy. This permanent collaboration allows librarians and tutors, side by side, to present information students need, offered in a relaxed setting, while providing lunch.

Finally, this collaboration granted additional public relations (PR) and outreach opportunities for both support centers. For example, workshop details are placed on both the

library and ASC websites, separate Facebook pages and other similar social media that both support centers maintain. Collaborative efforts also allow for new PR to both. For example, the ASC can email all students directly, based on their classes. Though the library does not tend to email individual students, librarians have access to University Communications, which is used to its fullest capacity to reach students for workshops. Both support centers use flyers, strategically placed across campus. Through shared and new outreach portals, efforts to reach students are beginning to show positive results. In fact, recently 46 high school students visited the Gulf Coast campus to learn about Chicago citation and university research. A collaboration between the ASC, Gulf Coast Library, Student Success Center and Recruitment ensured such a success, the instructors plan to bring senior Advanced Placement classes each fall for repeat visits.

Current data shows an increase in workshop attendance, but the most impressive outcome was student

attendance at the two new workshops: Introduction to Chicago/Turabian Citation (attendance: 15) and the Introduction to CSE Citation (attendance: 14). These citation workshops were created by Jamie Stanfield and two ASC tutors because disciplines within her liaison areas require students to use these citation styles. Prior, neither were typically offered as workshops. Higher attendance rates may correlate with the increased PR, but librarians also collaborate with instructors to determine gaps that new workshops might address. As with any new venture, there will be a few workshops with unexplained low attendance. However, library and ASC collaboration workshops are beginning to show success. In order to continue to provide effective and comprehensive library instruction, while maintain student interest, Easterday and Stanfield plan to gather detailed assessments of their workshops. Data about student assignments, free periods, specific citation needs and continued collaboration results, will assist collaborators to adjust future

workshop schedules and create student-requested workshops.

Beginning fall of 2018, newly hired librarians became curious about the nature of low workshop turnouts seen previously in the library and in the ASC. Using prior workshop data provides some information about past workshops that did not manage

to gain momentum. Engaging in collaborative discussion provides insight to recent workshops and plans for future workshops. However, it appears that changing from a traditional classroom setting to a relaxed student-centered environment offers students an area where they can easily relax, eat and learn,

all at the same time. This seems to be a valuable tool to increasing student engagement. Scheduling workshops during student free periods remains invaluable, but collaboration and the opportunities it provides is one of the most useful tools used by Gulf Coast Librarians.

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## MLA Annual Conference 2019 Recap

### *Mississippi Libraries – Cultivating, Educating and Inspiring!*

**Mary Beth Applin**

*MLA Vice-President*

The 2019 Annual Mississippi Library Association Conference took place this year at the Westin Hotel in downtown Jackson, MS October 22-25 with the theme “Cultivating, Education and Inspiring!” a nod to the important role our libraries play in developing the hearts and minds of our community members. There were 392 registered participants, including attendees, speakers and authors. Sixty-nine attendees earned CEU credits. Librarians of all types from around the state shared research and ideas at 60 sessions, panels and events and 9 poster sessions and lightening rounds. Twenty-six vendors exhibited and Ebsco, C Spire, First Regional Friends Group, Visit Jackson, Sirsi, Midwest, The Library Furniture Guy and Bibliomix generously sponsored conference events this year. We are also grateful to MS Library Commission for their support with funding from a federal LSTA grant which helped pay for conference speakers. The silent auction supporting our Virgia Brocks-Shedd and Peggy May Scholarships

raised an astonishing \$1,746. In addition, the President’s Bash raised \$532 to help Mississippi librarians further their education.

#### **TUESDAY, OCTOBER 22**

Ninety-six people attended the pre-conference workshop entitled “Librarians Guide to Homelessness” sponsored by the MLA Public Library Section. The session was led by Ryan Dowd, Director of the Homeless Institute in Chicago, and provided participants with a ‘hands-on’ approach for compassionately working and managing problematic behavior from troubled individuals. Pre-conference was followed by an evening event at the Mississippi Museum of Art. Seventy-one conference-goers were treated to music, light hor d’oeuvres and drinks as they strolled through the museum and its gardens.

#### **WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 23**

Conference kicked off with an opening General Session that featured Jackson’s own Malcolm White, Executive Director of the MS Arts Committee and owner of famous Hal & Mal’s restaurant. Mr.

White reminisced about his time at libraries throughout his youth and how important a role they played in his life and education. Many exceptional workshops were presented throughout the day Wednesday and Thursday, too many to name. So only section and roundtable sessions are highlighted here. Technical Services Roundtable presenters Preston Salisbury and Joy Dubose (MSU) provided participants with tips and tricks for using MarcEdit and OCLC Connexion. Black Caucus hosted a sit-down luncheon for 50 with speaker Ebony Lumumba, chair of English at Tougaloo College and wife of Jackson Mayor Chokwe Lumumba. Afternoon sessions included the ACRL Section’s speaker Vince Jordan, CEO of Lobaki Inc, an Extended Reality (XR) firm that develops educational and training experiences using Virtual and Augmented Reality. Friends of the Library hosted New York Times best-selling author Brenda Jackson who spoke with the audience about the importance of diversity in Romance Fiction. Special Libraries Section hosted three panelists (Stephen Parks - State Law Library, Tracy



Carr - MS Library Commission and Ally Mellon - Mississippi Department of Archives and History) who described the various collections associated with each of their unique institutions and the best ways of utilizing their resources. Wednesday night's President's Scholarship Bash took place at the famous Iron Horse Grill & Blues Museum near the train depot in downtown Jackson. 72 members enjoyed food and drink as well as entertainment by renowned saxophonist Tiger Rogers and enjoyed a walk through the incredible Blues Museum documenting the rich history of blues in Mississippi.

#### **THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24**

The School Libraries Section had an outstanding line-up of sessions Thursday including two presentations by the American Association of School Librarians president Mary Keeling – “How do AASL Standards Drive Collaboration” and “Best of AASL.” Attendees were also introduced to “Using National Geographic Giant Maps to Engage Students” by Sylvia Leggette, the instructional Technology Facilitator from Jackson Public School District and “Genryfying Made Easy” by James Taylor from Mackin Books. Young People Services RoundTable hosted a box lunch session for 50 with comic book author and illustrator Jess Ruliffson who described the inspiration for her works in “Comics Come to Life: Visual Journalism as Graphic Novel.” Beta Phi Mu hosted USM librarians Hali Black and Kathryn New who shared how they used escape room gaming to facilitate instruction in “Escape the Classroom: Implementing Game-based Learning.” Closing

session was provided by author and motivational speaker Tonja Murphy who stepped in at the very last minute to provide a farewell to attendees after Sweet Potato Queen Jill Conner Browne came down with a stomach virus. The Mississippi Authors' Awards on Thursday evening honored three Mississippi authors for their outstanding work in one of 3 areas. The 2019 MLA award for Fiction went to Tiffany Quay Tyson for her work *The Past is Never*. First time author and longtime music producer Tena Clark won the MLA award for Non-Fiction for her personal memoir *Southern Discomfort*. And finally, the MLA Winner for Special Literature (Juvenile) went to Linda Williams Jackson for her work *Midnight without a Moon*. All three authors were there to accept their awards, read excerpts from their work and provide a few words to their audience.

#### **FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25**

The MLA Awards Brunch marked the traditional end of conference. At Friday's Awards Breakfast, 99 attendees celebrated the outstanding achievements of several Mississippi libraries, staff and supporters:

**Library Champion Award** - Joanne Anderson, Trustee, Jackson-George Regional Library System

**Mary Julia Anderson Award** - Janessa Ullendorf, USM Gulf Coast

**Outstanding Achievement Award** - Mac Buntin, Mississippi Library Commission

**Peggy May Award** - Mary Ann Peoples, Vicksburg Junior High School

**Best Newsletter Submitted by a Library Group** - Gunter Library, Gulf Coast Research Laboratory

**Best Effort by an Individual Library to Publicize Library Services Around a Single Theme or Event** - Ocean Springs Municipal Library, Jackson-George Regional Library System The Smithsonian Waterways Exhibit

**Best Coordinated Effort by a Group of Libraries to Publicize Library Services Around a Single Theme or Event** - First Regional Library System, Summer Reading Challenge

**Best Year-Round Effort by an Individual Library to Publicize Library Services in General** - The Library of Hattiesburg, Petal, and Forrest County

**Best Year-Round Coordinated Effort by a Group of Libraries to Publicize Library Services in General** - First Regional Library System

**Ruby Assaf Presidential Award** - Larry Cockrum, Friends of the Ripley Public Library, Northeast Regional Library

**Chapter One Award** - Friends of the Stone County Libraries, Pine Forest Regional Library System

**Carroon Apple Award** - Jennifer Baker, Jackson Public School System

**MLA Past Presidents Award** - Ashley Dees, University of Mississippi

# News Briefs

**Carol Green**

*Interim Head of Technical Services  
University of Southern Mississippi*

**CREATING FILMS GIVES MISSISSIPPI'S YOUTH A VOICE**

The Madison County Library System partnered with Canton Tourism to host the 2019 Canton Young Filmmakers' Workshop the weeks of July 8th and July 15th. This was the second year in a row that our Digital Innovation Lab helped give young minds a place to create, explore, and flourish with their film making skills. "Our youth are eager to find their voice. They have something important to tell the world. They want to make a difference in their respective communities," says Dr. Wilma Mosley Clopton with NMHS Unlimited Film Production. She

also states, "They are the future, and I wanted them to find their voices and ground them in research which supports their eagerness to make a difference." These young adults are learning to use technology that will put them years ahead in their respective career fields as well as team building exercises, critical thinking, and problem solving skills with everyday circumstances.

David Jackson, Technology Programming Specialist with MCLS, and Dr. Wilma Mosley Clopton were the talented instructors that worked with two groups: 8-12 and 13-18. They learned to write scripts, design props, shoot film, edit, and much more. On top of sharpening their movie making skills, several groups took advantage of the sound booth in the Digital Innovation Lab

to record custom music for their productions. Dr. Wilma Mosley Clopton said, "In addition to honing their skills, film camp offers each camper the opportunity to discover what their own particular skillset might be, and how to best use that skillset to tell a story. Through this process, participants begin to understand that there are many ways to tell a story." The Madison County Library System hopes to continue this innovative camp for years to come which is shaping the creative minds of our future!

*Submitted by  
Braley Reed  
PIO/Asst. System Admin  
Madison County Library System*

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**2020 EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETINGS**

March 6, 2020 - 11:00AM at MLC

May 8, 2020 - 11:00AM at MLC

July 10, 2020 - 11:00AM at MLC

October 2, 2020 - 11:00AM at MLC

December 4, 2020 - 11:00AM at MLC

**IMPORTANT EVENTS FOR 2020**

ALA Midwinter: Philadelphia, PA: January 24-28, 2020

MLA DAY: Mississippi State Capitol: February 5, 2020

ALA Capitol Fly-In: Washington, D.C.: February 10-11, 2020

MLC Advocacy Day: Mississippi State Capitol: March 10, 2020

Fay B. Kaigler Children's Book Festival: USM: April 1-3, 2020

National Library Week: April 19-25, 2020 with the theme "Find Your Place at the Library"

ALA Annual Conference: Chicago, IL: June 25-30, 2020

Mississippi Book Festival: Mississippi State Capital: August 15, 2020

MLA Annual Conference: MSU Riley Center, Meridian, MS: October 13-16, 2020

# People in the News

## Carol Green

*Interim Head of Technical Services  
University of Southern Mississippi*

The Jackson-George Regional Library System has hired **Marsha Greer** as the manager of the Singing River Genealogy-Local History Library in Pascagoula. As manager, she will guide the library into the modern era of digitization and organization in an effort to offer increased access to all resources pertaining to the history of the community and service area.



Marsha is a native of Ocean Springs where she and her husband live with their two daughters. She has a background working in university and media libraries in Louisiana. She attended Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge and holds a Bachelor's degree in news/ed journalism and has a Master's degree in library and information science.

Marsha stated, "I look forward to what can be accomplished here at JGRSL. I am delighted to spend my days helping people who enjoy genealogy and take pride in our communities just as much as I do!"

For more information about the genealogy library, branch libraries or library services, visit [www.jgrls.org](http://www.jgrls.org). Find the Singing River Genealogy-Local History Library on Facebook @SingingRiverLibrary and @JacksonGeorgeLibrary for the library system.

Elizabeth G. Hinton, Reference Librarian at Rowland Medical Library, co-edited a book with former UMMC librarian Lauren M. Young, entitled [Framing Health Care Instruction: An Information Literacy Handbook for the Health Sciences](#). The book has just been published by Rowman and Littlefield, as part of their Medical Library Association Books series.



Mississippi State University Libraries are pleased to announce the appointment of four new faculty members.

**Marsha Belton** is the new Electronic Resources Cataloger, appointed at the rank of Assistant Professor on October 1, 2019. She has 15 years of librarianship experience, which serves her well in her new role at MSU. Marsha will be responsible for cataloging serials, ETDs and other library materials. She serves on the library liaison team for the Agricultural and Life Sciences departments. Prior to this appointment, she worked as Cataloging Librarian at Mississippi Valley State University. Marsha holds a B.S. from Alcorn State University in Agriculture Economics and an M.L.I.S. from The University of Southern Mississippi.

**Blair Booker** is the new Assistant Professor/Distance Education and Instruction Librarian. Blair began her new position in the Research Services department on October 1, 2019. She has 11 years of experience as an academic librarian, serving most recently as the Serials/Reference Librarian at Hinds Community

College. Blair will work with the MSU distance education students and serve as a subject liaison for the departments of Physics/Astronomy, Mathematics/Statistics, and Geosciences. Blair holds a B.S. from the University of North Alabama and an M.L.I.S. from the University of Alabama.

**Lauren Geiger** was appointed Metadata Librarian at the rank of Assistant Professor, also on October 1, 2019. As a member of the Collection Management Services department, Lauren will be a part of the cataloging unit. She will help expand and create metadata workflows for several departments in the library. Prior to this appointment, Lauren was a graduate assistant at the Park Library at UNC's Hussman School of Media Journalism and a docent for the Burwell School Historic Site. She completed her M.L.S. with an Archives and Records Concentration at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

**Carrie P. Mastley** is the newest addition to Mississippi State University Libraries' Special Collections Department. She was appointed as Manuscripts Librarian on September 1, 2019 at the rank of Assistant Professor. In this role, Carrie will be responsible for making the department's rare and unique manuscript items accessible and discoverable to patrons. This includes processing collections, creating finding aids, assessing materials for preservation needs, and conducting research consultations and information sessions. Prior to this appointment, Carrie served as the Collection Processor





for the Frank and Virginia Williams Collection of Lincolnia. She holds an M.A. in English from Mississippi

State University and an M.L.I.S. with a Graduate Certificate in Archives & Special Collections from The

University of Southern Mississippi.

## Book Reviews

**Michele Frasier-Robinson**

*Education and Human Sciences Librarian  
University of Southern Mississippi*

### **Boteler, Lovejoy**

*Crooked Snake: The Life and Crimes of Albert Lepard.*

Jackson, MS: University Press of Mississippi, 2019. 224 pp. \$25 (hardcover).

In *Crooked Snake: The Life and Crimes of Albert Lepard*, author Lovejoy Boteler recounts the criminal life and prison escapes of Albert Lepard. Culminating with the author's experience of being kidnapped by Lepard in 1968, the stories offer a timeline of Lepard's crimes gleaned from interviews, research, and first-hand accounts. An engaging read, this book offers a glimpse into Lepard's world as well as additional stories from his associates, family, and victims. Boteler also includes the realities and eccentricities of rural life and culture in the Mississippi Delta as well as the experiences of prisoners at the Mississippi State Penitentiary in Parchman, Mississippi during the 1960s and 1970s.

Throughout the book, Boteler intersperses descriptive dialog and colloquial expressions to tell the stories. The bibliography includes a list of interviews Boteler conducted when researching the book. These interviews are weaved into the book and read like flowing conversations.

While the bibliography includes adequate details, the lack of footnotes or endnotes sometimes leaves the reader with a lack of additional information that may have been useful. On the other hand, this same quality allows the reader to become immersed in the narrative.

Additional material includes several pages of images and a section called the "People of Crooked Snake," which proves helpful in identifying and understanding the relationships among individuals discussed in the book. This book is recommended for both public and academic libraries with collections in southern biography and twentieth-century Mississippi history. It is also recommended for general readers interested in true crime and Mississippi history and culture.

*Jamie Bounds Wilson  
College Librarian  
Millsaps College*



### **Cushman, Susan**

*Friends of the Library.*

Virginia Beach: Koehler Books, 2019. 140 pp. \$14.95 (paperback).

*Friends of the Library* is a collection of short stories about the Mississippi towns and public libraries visited by Adele Covington, a sixty-something author traversing the state to promote her new book. In each one of the ten stories, Adele

attends the Friends of the Library meetings and comes into contact with people that will eventually be impacted by her. Readers also discover how each town has been a part of Adele's past.

This delightful book provides the history of each town that Adele visits, along with a cast of colorful characters that the reader will fall in love with. Readers will meet a stubborn homeless man who is well-read, an interracial couple who connect as their spouses battle Alzheimer's disease, and several women who have been affected by abuse. These characters and towns will be changed for the better because of one woman's kindness. Even though difficult issues are discussed, Cushman does not seem to burden the reader. Instead, she encourages readers by illustrating Adele's caring nature and her ability to face difficult situations and find ways to help characters out of these situations. Readers will be left wanting to know more about Adele and her life.

This book is a fast and entertaining read that will be enjoyed by all. Fans of Southern literature will love this book with its quirky characters and Southern history. Those who work in public libraries will appreciate this love letter that promotes their profession so well, and they may even recognize some of their patrons.

Audrey Beach  
Reference Librarian  
Mississippi Delta Community College

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**Greenway, Beth**

*Sippi Sue and the Cool Cat Blues*  
Mount Pleasant, SC: Arcadia  
Publishing, 2017. 32 pp. \$16.99  
(hardcover).

*Sippi Sue and the Cool Cat Blues* is a juvenile fiction story in verse written by Beth Greenway and illustrated by Jamie Meckel Tablason. Greenway's rhythmic, paw-tapping story is about a happy cat (Sippi Sue) finding music in the Delta town she calls home.

Sippi Sue is captivated by the cool Delta blues beat. When Sippi is not enjoying the juke joint with friends, she can be seen tapping her paws to the beat of the streets. Follow orange, one-toothed, smiling Sippi Sue as she discovers incredible music from the humdrum sounds of ordinary life. The rat-a-tat-tat of raindrops become the loud, steady beat for her own blues melody, and the chiming of glass bottles or the roar of crashing trash cans create lively music. A host of city locals, humans, and animals alike, unite collectively to participate in those cool cat blues!

The cadence of this story has as much of a beat as the blues music it commemorates, however like most blues songs, there is more music than words. Nevertheless, by the end of Sippi Sue's tale, all readers will be humming along and enjoying those cool cat Delta blues. This

cat's lively actions are entertaining and will certainly appeal to cat and music lovers alike. This is an excellent work for a public library juvenile collection.

Mantra Henderson  
Director of Library Services  
Mississippi Valley State University

—◆—

**Isbell, Timothy T.**

*The Mississippi Gulf Coast*  
Jackson: University Press of  
Mississippi, 2018. 173 pp. \$40  
(hardcover).

On occasion, the thing to do is to ditch the rules for writing a proper book review. That said, the end of this review comes at the beginning, and here it is: you want a copy of Timothy Isbell's *The Mississippi Gulf Coast*. It doesn't really matter how many books about the Coast are in your library's collection or what's on your coffee table at home. Make some space and get a copy of this one.

Isbell is a career photojournalist who has worked for newspapers and as a freelancer. He has provided the photography for several published books, and he was part of the Pulitzer Prize-winning group who documented the devastation following Hurricane Katrina in 2005. As a child, he vacationed on the Coast with his family, and he developed a lifelong love for his adopted home.

Before focusing on the text and beautiful photographs, consider the clever table of contents – it sets

the tone for the organization of the whole book. The contents page is, itself, a map of the Coast. From west to east (left to right) the reader sees the edge of the Southern U.S. against the northern Gulf of Mexico and a few miles of inland area that makes up the land so many people call home.

Highway 90 and Interstate 10 also run west to east, with the locations of eight towns marked and named: Bay St. Louis, Pass Christian, Long Beach, Gulfport, Biloxi, D'Iberville, Ocean Springs, and Pascagoula. A chapter of text gives an overview of the history of the Coast beginning with its being home to the Biloxi, Pascagoula, and Acolapissa Indians, followed by explorers, empires, development, statehood, the Civil War, twentieth-century events, Biloxi Beach wade-ins, and more. At the start of each section, the map theme from the table of contents is repeated, including presentation of each city name within a large, uniquely designed cartouche.

Isbell's color photographs for each city and town are beautiful and varied. There are sunsets, cityscapes, wildlife, architecture, beloved landmarks, and people. Taken together, they are a celebration of the towns along the Coast.

Trust me. You want a copy of *The Mississippi Gulf Coast*.

Linda K. Ginn  
Catalog Librarian (Special Collections)  
University of Southern Mississippi

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*Electronic Resources & Discovery Librarian  
The University of Mississippi*

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To join MLA, or to renew your membership:

<http://misslib.org/membership>

2019 MLA Executive Board Minutes:

<http://misslib.org/page-1860516>