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On the cover: *Shells* by Adrienne McPhaul. This photograph was taken on Ship Island, off the Mississippi Gulf Coast. Photography is a hobby for McPhaul, an associate professor and information services librarian at the University of Southern Mississippi. She received her MLIS from the University of Alabama in 2003 and her BA in English from the University of South Alabama in 2002.

MISSISSIPPI LIBRARIES

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PRESIDENT'S PAGE

1909. An eventful year in which to be a Mississippian. Author Eudora Welty was born on April 13. Holly Springs' Ida B. Wells became one of the founders of the NAACP on February 12. And on Friday, October 29, 1909, one hundred years ago, Mississippi A & M College librarian Whitman Davis organized the Mississippi Library Association.

A century later, as we celebrate our centennial, MLA's mission to ensure access to information for all Mississippians has not only endured, it has indeed prevailed, to borrow Mr. Faulkner's memorable phrase.

As we see our usage grow and grow, we can celebrate our state's long heritage of service to Mississippians this October. MLA Vice President Ann Branton and her team are creating an unforgettable conference to be held in Hattiesburg, October 21-23, 2009, which will celebrate our association's one hundredth anniversary.

Join us for a once in a lifetime centenary celebration at the 2009 Mississippi Library Association Annual Conference in Hattiesburg, October 21-23, 2009, at the University of Southern Mississippi's Thad Cochran Center. Our centennial theme is "Eco-Friendly Libraries: Greener for a New Century."

Branton and her conference planning team at USM have done a truly outstanding job to create a one hundredth birthday party that celebrates our accomplishments, focuses on the timely theme of environmental sustainability in libraries, and looks forward to our continued success stories as twenty-first century librarians.

It will all happen in the beautiful and vibrant city of Hattiesburg, where you will find some of the South's most unique libraries, culture, cooking, and shopping. You'll discover why Hattiesburg has been called "America's Best Small City."

If you have new staff members, trustees, or library supporters at your library, our centennial anniversary conference in October is the perfect time to introduce them to

our Mississippi Library Association.

For all the details on this wonderful opportunity, just look inside this issue of *Mississippi Libraries* and then find updates on our MLA Web site at <http://www.misslib.org>.

Setting the tone for our conference will be our keynote speaker, Louise Schaper. She is the director of the award-winning Fayetteville Public Library in Arkansas,

2005 recipient of the prestigious Library of the Year Award from *Library Journal*, as the library that "most profoundly demonstrates outstanding community service."

The Fayetteville Public Library (FPL) was also designated a LEED® Silver building in 2006 for its environmentally-friendly design and operation by the U.S. Green Building Council.

In 2007, FPL was named one of "America's Landmark Green Libraries" by *TravelSmart* newsletter. Fayetteville's citizens have embraced their library. Circulation at FPL has increased from 271,000 checkouts in 1997 to 1,013,630 in 2008!

Louise Schaper's perspective on libraries will resonate with every member of our Mississippi Library Association:

"Our vision is to be powerfully relevant and completely accessible. That's a big vision in these tough economic times. But we believe that serving our community and empowering all its citizens through free and public access to information is our core mission. If times are tough, then the library is needed even more."

Join us for our entire conference, for programs, workshops, and events that will inspire and inform you. Obtain continuing education credits. Whether you're from the public, academic, school, or special libraries, you can network with other librarians from across our state, region, and the nation.

We'll see you in October in Hattiesburg for our centennial celebration! ■



Jan Willis

Bibliographic Authorship Study of *The American Archivist*, 2004-2008

Kristin Finch

Abstract

This article examines descriptive authorship characteristics of the leading archives journal The American Archivist from 2004 to 2008. The characteristics studied are author name, gender, publication frequency, and institutional affiliation. This study follows up on a similar study of characteristics of The American Archivist conducted in 2004 by Marta Jean Hofacre and compares results of both studies. The results of this study revealed that the number of articles published in recent issues increased slightly over time and that the institutional affiliations of the authors varied widely, with academic institutions producing the majority of articles. Further, the trend in international interest and article production in authorship and bibliometric studies is not reflected in the author affiliations present in this journal for the time period examined.

Introduction

Bibliometric studies of the authorship characteristics of core journals within specific disciplines can provide useful information to assist in the collection management decisions of libraries and other information providers. Such information can indicate which journals publish the most important research within a given discipline and can therefore assist in determining which journals are most relevant and necessary to members of a particular field of study.

This study examines authorship characteristics of a leading archives journal published by the Society of American Archivists. To determine changes in authorship characteristics over time, the

characteristics of author name, gender, affiliation, and publication frequency were evaluated. Specifically, this study is limited to the journal *The American Archivist* and to issues published from 2004 to 2008. Information was retrieved exclusively from the online version of the journal, which the publisher states is identical to the printed version. It is assumed that the issues studied contained accurate and complete author information. Only articles listed as "Research Article" or "Theodore Calvin Pease Award" were included. The study seeks to answer four research questions:

- R1. Which authors published scholarly, peer-reviewed articles in *The American Archivist* from 2004 to 2008?
- R2. What is the gender of these authors?
- R3. What institutional affiliations/ professional titles do these authors have?
- R4. How many authors were published more than once, and with what frequency?

Definitions

Author: the writer of an article, or the first listed author in the case of co-written articles

Author affiliation: both the institution affiliated with the author and the author's professional title at the time of article publication according to the journal's author descriptions.

Publication frequency: the number of times an author is published within a journal during a given time period

Scholarly and peer-reviewed articles: articles listed as "research articles" by the journal; omits articles such as editorials, reviews, and conference proceedings

Editorial Policy of *The American Archivist*

This journal is a leading publication of information about the subject of archives. It is published twice yearly and has an identical online version. It is a refereed journal,

meaning that all submissions will be reviewed by subject experts before publication.

The journal accepts a variety of submission types, including research articles, case studies, perspectives, international scene pieces, professional resources, forum letters, and reviews. Each submission is sent out anonymously to two reviewers who recommend that it be revised, rejected, or accepted. Authors may not know about publication decisions for up to three months. The total time for the publication cycle is about twelve months.

Literature Review

A search of the literature was conducted using databases appropriate to the topic. The results demonstrated that a wide range of bibliometric studies have been conducted over recent decades, but that studies specifically focused on authorship characteristics of a particular journal were much less common. Within the studies that did examine authorship, the characteristics studied generally included author name, professional affiliations, gender, and frequency of publication. However, some of the authorship studies expanded beyond these basic characteristics.

In 1994, Richard J. Cox studied the *The American Archivist* to determine how it fit within the field of archival research and its impact in the field. He evaluated research produced from 1970 to 1992. He concluded from the results of his study that the majority of studies conducted in archival research do not focus on an historical perspective.

Further evaluation of the *The American Archivist* was conducted in 2004 by Marta Jean Hofacre in a study that examined descriptive authorship statistics of journal issues from 1993 to 2003 (97). The study found that a total of one hundred sixty-one "major" articles were published during the given time frame, with one hundred forty-eight authors from twelve countries. Fur-

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ther, the largest number of authors was from the United States, with thirty-one states represented. As for the authors' institutional affiliation, the largest number was produced by the United States National Archives and Records Administration. Author publication frequency revealed that 86% of the authors in the study had only published one article (99).

As bibliometric studies progressed, authors such as Andrew Wertheimer argued that studies conducted in library and information science tended to fall into opposing categories, either quantitative or qualitative research and were generally mutually exclusive approaches. He conducted a study combining both quantitative and qualitative methods to determine the "goodness" of articles on library history (267). Wertheimer evaluated four issues of the *Journal of Library History*, from 1967 and 1977, and then from the newly named version, *Libraries and Culture*, from 1987 and 1997, to determine trends in seventeen different journal characteristics over the forty-year period (269). The results indicated that the majority of authors (73%) were male, and that the majority of authors were library and information science students or faculty. The author concluded that further study should be conducted to evaluate the level of "goodness" of a given author that can be ascertained from bibliometric studies (270).

In 2008, authorship studies developed further when Jian Qin conducted a bibliometric study on the writings of one prolific author, J.W. Lancaster, from 1972 to 2006, to determine the scope of his influence (1). The study revealed that Lancaster had an unusually high degree of citedness in citation databases during the given time period and that six of his works were cited with such frequency that they are considered "classics" in the library and information science field (9).

Another trend discovered from the literature published since 2006 is the increase in authorship studies by international authors, particularly authors in Malaysia and Africa. Tiew, Bakri et al., and Biawas et al. published studies in the *Malaysian Journal of Library and Information Science*. Tiew studied the authorship characteristics of the Malaysian LIS journal *Sekitar Perpustakaan* from 1994 to 2003.

The results showed that single author articles were most common, that female authors were most prevalent, and "middle-level professionals" were the most frequent contributors (49). In a similar study, Biawas, et al. examined journal characteristics of the journal *Economic Botany* from 1994 to 2003 in 358 articles. Results revealed that single author and two- or three-author articles were the most prevalent, that most of the articles originated from universities, and that article authors came from forty-five different nations (23). In 2008, Bakri, et al. conducted a study that examined the characteristics and citation patterns of the *Malaysian Journal of Library and Information Science* from 2001 to 2006. The results of this study were then compared to the results of an earlier study conducted by Tiew in 2002

which evaluated the time period 1996-2000. Results of the newer study revealed increases in article number and article length, changes in article type, and changes in the number of references per article (103).

Joel Sam published a study in the *African Journal of Library, Archives & Information Science* which examined the *Ghana Library Journal* publication characteristics from 2000 to 2006. The study indicated that the journal's authors were mostly from Ghana and that of the fifty-one authors who had articles published in the journal during the six-year timeframe, 62.7% were male and 37.3% were female (58).

The research methodology of this study most closely resembles that of Tiew and Hofacre, in that these also specifically focus on authorship characteristics of a



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particular journal for a given period of time.

Methodology

For this study, the information evaluated includes author name, gender, affiliations, and publication frequency. Data were gathered directly from issues of *The American Archivist* from 2004 to 2008 as published in their official online version of their regular print edition.

All accumulated information was entered into an Excel spreadsheet to be compiled and analyzed, and to allow for manipulation of data into various categories and the creation of representative charts or graphs.

Results

R1. Which authors published scholarly, peer-reviewed articles in *The American Archivist* from 2004-2008?

R2. What is the gender of these authors?

The data accumulated and compiled for the *American Archivist* journal from 2004 to 2008 revealed a total of fifty-two scholarly, peer-reviewed articles were published during this timeframe by sixty-eight different contributing authors (Appendix, Table 1). As to the gender of the contributing authors, twenty-eight were male and forty were female.

Table 1. Number of scholarly peer-reviewed articles per year.

Year	Articles Published
2004	9
2005	9
2006	9
2007	11
2008	14
TOTAL	52

R3. What institutional affiliations/professional titles do these authors have?

The authors were affiliated with a variety of institutions, including academic (professors), academic libraries, corporate, government (any local, state, or federal agency), and both master and doctoral

Table 2. Number of authors per academic institution represented.

Academic Institution	Number of Contributing Authors
The University of Michigan	10
University of Toronto	6
The University of California, Los Angeles	5
The University of Illinois	3
University of Texas	2
Auburn University	2

level students from various universities. The largest numbers (forty-two) were from academic institutions, eleven were from private or corporate institutions, eight were masters or doctoral students, four were affiliated with a governmental office or agency, and three were unknown.

Among the academic institutions affiliated with the contributing authors, The University of Michigan had the highest number of contributors (ten), followed by the University of Toronto (six), The University of California, Los Angeles (five), The University of Illinois (three), and both the University of Texas (two), and Auburn University (two). The remaining institutions were affiliated with only publication each (Table 2).

R4. How many authors were published more than once, and with what frequency?

Two authors contributed four articles and six authors wrote two articles each. The remaining forty-five authors contributed one article each (Appendix, Table 3).

Discussion

The results of this study indicate that the

Table 3. Publication frequency of authors with multiple article.

Last Name	First Name	Frequency
Duff	Wendy	4
Yakel	Elizabeth	4
Cherry	Joan	2
Cox	Dwayne	2
Limkilde	Carrie	2
Prom	Christopher	2
Swain	Ellen D.	2
Yeo	Geoffrey	2

number of scholarly peer-reviewed articles has increased incrementally during the 2004 to 2008 time period, increasing from nine articles in 2004 to fourteen articles in 2008. As in the earlier authorship study on *The American Archivist* by Hofacre, the number of articles with a single author was consistently much higher than articles with multiple authors. While the institutional affiliation of the contributing authors varied widely, a few universities tended to have a higher number of contributing authors, although this number was increased by the inclusion of articles authored by several authors from the same institution.

The professional title of the authors also varied widely, but the largest number of authors was from academic institutions, including both university professors and academic librarians. The least represented category was the private and corporate sector, which suggests that the journal might consider ways to attract more contributors outside the academic sphere to achieve a better balance of perspectives in the archival profession.

In considering the literature reviewed for this study in comparison to the authorship characteristics revealed by it, the trend in international interest and article production in authorship and bibliometric studies is not reflected in the author affiliations present in the time period examined. The recent literature reviewed on the topic of authorship in archival journals revealed a strong presence of authors from other countries, particularly Malaysia and Africa. Further research could be conducted to further explore the authorship studies conducted outside the United States to create a more informed and complete picture of the research interests and publications ongoing internationally. ■

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Appendix. All Author Names and Frequency of Publication

Last Name	First Name	Frequency	Last Name	First Name	Frequency	Last Name	First Name	Frequency
Duff	Wendy	4	Hedstrom	Margaret	1	Millar	Laura	1
Alexander	Ben	1	Hendry	Julia	1	Moore	Reagan W.	1
Blake	Ben	1	Hodson	Sara S.	1	Olson	Judith	1
Blanco-Rivera	Joel	1	Jimerson	Randall	1	O'Sullivan	Catherine	1
Blouin	Francis X.	1	Johnson	Elizabeth Snowden	1	Patzwald	Gari-Ann	1
Bogomazova	Ellie	1	Johnson	Catherine A.	1	Prom	Christopher	2
Braeden	Ian Craig	1	Kim	Jihyun	1	Ricci	Steven	1
Cherry	Joan	2	Krause	Magia G.	1	Rieh	Soo Young	1
Church	John	1	Lampe	Clifford	1	Roberts	Peter J.	1
Chute	Tamar	1	Lau	Andrew	1	St. Jean	Beth	1
Coombs	Leonard A.	1	Lee	Kyong Rae	1	Stark	Bruce P.	1
Cox	Richard J.	1	Lee	Christopher A.	1	Swain	Ellen D.	2
Cox	Dwayne	2	Limkilde	Carrie	2	Torres	Deborah	1
Danielson	Elena S.	1	Loe	Nancy E.	1	Turrini	Joseph	1
David	James	1	Lu	Yang	1	Tussing	Nicholas J.	1
Davis	Susan E.	1	MacNeil	Heather	1	van Ballegoie	Marlene	1
Dingwall	Glenn	1	Malkmus	Doris	1	Weideman	Christine	1
Dorman	Robert L.	1	Markey	Karen	1	White	Kelvin	1
Dryden	Jean	1	Marshall	Amy	1	Wildt	Sister Carol Marie	1
Duff	Wendy	4	McCrea	Donna	1	Yaco	Sonia	1
Galloway	Patricia	1	McKemmish	Sue	1	Yakel	Elizabeth	4
Gilliland	Ann	1	Meissner	Dennis	1	Yeo	Geoffrey	2
Greene	Mark A.	1	Mifflin	Jeffrey	1	Zhou	Xiaomu	1

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Libraries: The Hubs of Our Communities

Wayne Senville

Introduction

There has been a dramatic change in the mission of a growing number of libraries across the country. No longer just static repositories of books and reference materials, libraries are increasingly at the heart of our communities, providing a broad range of services and activities. They are also becoming important "economic engines" of downtowns and neighborhood districts.

Is there a place in your community

- where residents of all ages and incomes visit and enjoy spending their time?
- where people go to hear interesting speakers discuss new ideas, books, travel, and a broad range of topics?
- where comprehensive databases are available free of charge?
- where you can get help when applying for a job?
- where you can stop by and take home a book, CD, or DVD at virtually no cost?

That's also a place

- that's "owned" by everyone in the community?
- and can be counted on, day after day, to draw people downtown or to main street?

Wayne M. Senville is editor of the *Planning Commissioners Journal*. He holds a *Masters in City Planning* from the University of Pennsylvania, and, during the 1980s, worked as a planner for the National Park Service and then the State of Vermont. Senville has also served on the Burlington, Vermont, Planning Commission (1991-1999, and 2008-present); e-mail: pcjoffice@gmail.com.

In a growing number of cities and towns, there is one answer to all these questions: the public library.

Anchors for Our Cities and Towns

Dramatic new or renovated libraries have become cornerstones of downtown in dozens of cities, including Denver, San Antonio, Des Moines, Indianapolis, and Salt Lake City, to name a few.

Noted architect and writer Witold Rybczynski offers an online slide show titled, "How Do You Build a Public Library in the Age of Google?"¹ His main point: libraries are far from dead in today's Internet age – in fact, they're making a comeback as key anchors in our downtowns. Indeed, they're bringing us full circle to the "end of the nineteenth century and the beginning of the twentieth, when cities such as Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Detroit, and Chicago built ambitious public libraries."

It's important to recognize, however, that it's not just big cities that benefit from libraries. In fact, smaller cities and towns may have even more to gain from having a thriving library, as they don't have the range of community gathering places that larger cities often have.

Reporter Annie Stamper writes that, "No more just a place to find books, today's library is a place that extends far beyond its physical walls with the addition of digital information and access. Particularly in small towns, the library is often the hub of the community, providing a place for residents to meet, as well as to learn."²

Libraries, like city halls and post offices, are key to strong communities. Ed McMahon, a senior fellow at the Urban Land Institute, has pointed out that "public buildings and spaces create identity and a sense of place. They give communities something to remember and admire. The challenge facing public architecture is to provide every generation with structures

that link them with their past, fill them with pride, and reinforce their sense of belonging."³

Keeping libraries in the center of town, and having them reflect high standards of design, is a challenge a growing number of communities are successfully meeting.

Hudson's Star Attraction

I stopped in Hudson, Ohio, this April as part of my "Circle the USA" trip to learn about its library. Hudson is a small city (population 22,439), midway between Cleveland and Akron. It has elements of both a suburb and a small town. In the center of Hudson is its historic Main Street business district, home to the city's library.

Opened in 2005, the library is housed in a stately brick building, with functional but very attractively-designed interior spaces. The heart of the library is its rotunda, proof that the design of libraries today can match that of the classic Carnegie library buildings of a century ago.



The central rotunda inside the Hudson Library.

New libraries tend to need considerably more space than their earlier counterparts. That's the case in Hudson, where the new library building (at 50,000 square feet) is much bigger than the old building (at 17,000 square feet).

At first blush, this seems counter-intuitive. Why in today's Internet and digital age would libraries need to be larger?

More importantly, why do they seem in even greater demand?

I asked assistant director Margie Smith what draws people to the Hudson library. "It's become the cultural, entertainment, and social hub of Hudson," she replied. "The library programs a lot of readings, there are musical performances every week, and we also have meeting rooms."

Add in over fifty public computer terminals, access to state and local databases, and a collection of more than seven thousand DVDs, plus a coffee shop to hang out in, and an outdoor patio. You can even borrow laptops from the library, and use them anywhere in the building or on the patio. What's more, the Hudson library doesn't close till 9 p.m., Monday through Thursday, and is open a total of sixty-nine hours each week, making it even more accessible.

The library is funded primarily through a property tax levy (raising \$1.4 million), with just over \$1 million more from the State of Ohio. The library also makes extensive use of volunteers, including "tech wizards" who help out in the computer center.

The residents of Hudson have decided that the library is a key service they want for their community. The numbers attest to this, as there are more than 23,000 registered library users, who checked out 736,000 items last year. The library counted more than 700,000 visits, an average of well over 2,000 every day it was open.

For planners, however, I want to touch on what may be the most interesting

aspect of the Hudson Library: its location. It is part of an expansion of Hudson's Main Street district.

Indeed, you could say the library is Main Street's star attraction. As Hudson city planner Mark Richardson told me, "You can't just rely on retail in downtown expansion, you need an activity center like a library." "The library," Richardson continued, "fulfills its role as the anchor by creating opportunities for multi-stop trips downtown."

The Main Street extension (called First & Main) consists of a mix of retail, office, and housing. The city has architectural design standards for the area. As Richardson notes, "the idea was for it to be a natural extension, not a replication, of Main Street." The streets are laid out in a grid, connecting with the old village.

From Richardson's perspective as a planner, having the library downtown is also cost-effective. As he explains, "the library's location downtown has helped facilitate numerous partnerships and collaborations with the merchants; the public, private, and parochial schools; and the City of Hudson because they are all located in close proximity ... these collaborations have allowed the library to stretch its tax dollars and, at the same time, more effectively serve the needs of Hudson."

The Economic Benefits of Libraries

As is the case in Hudson, libraries can bring substantial benefits to downtowns and main street districts. Planning consultant Robert Gibbs has observed that "a typical public library draws 500 to 1,500 people a day, that's close to the draw of small department store." Public buildings like libraries, he notes, "add to the authenticity of a town ... they make it less of a shopping center and more of a town center."⁴

Seattle is another city that has gained substantial economic benefits from its new downtown library, opened in 2004. An economic assessment prepared for the city found that "the Library is associated with \$16 million in net new spending in Seattle in its first year of operations – equal to \$80 million for five years," and that "nearby



View of the Seattle Public Library: "Living Room" by Padriac, www.flickr.com/photos/padraics_travels/2179049925. Licensed, Creative Commons.

businesses report increases in spending associated with Library visitors." As a result, "the increased number of Library visitors contributes to Downtown vitality and vibrancy, making Downtown a more attractive residential and commercial market."⁵



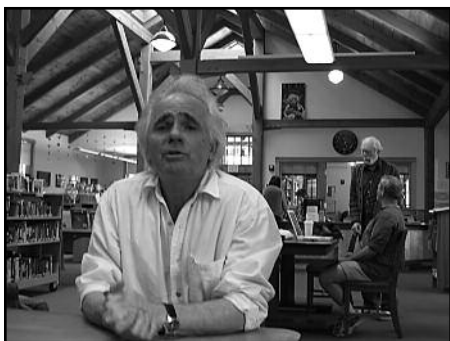
Seattle Public Library" by Rodefelf, www.flickr.com/photos/rodefelf/1622522316. Licensed, Creative Commons.

As Brian Murphy of the Seattle-based Berk & Associates, which prepared the economic assessment, told me, "the library has become an important part of a network of attractions in Seattle." In part, this is because of the library's dramatic design. Its location close to downtown residential neighborhoods and the city's retail core is also a big plus, he added.

Perhaps more surprising is another major draw that Murphy pointed to, the Seattle Public Library's extensive genealogical resources, which attract visitors from a wide area. Indeed, the library has more than 40,000 items in its collection, and three full-time genealogy reference librarians to provide assistance.



Mark Richardson in front of the Hudson Library.



Librarian Stephen Coronella, Putney Public Library.

“A Harbor You Can Sail Into”

Those are the words that Stephen Coronella used to describe the role of the Putney Public Library. For Coronella, who is the librarian in this small Vermont town (population 2,600), a good library works a lot like a harbor. It provides a place where people can dock themselves for a while, socialize with others, and feel some comfort and security.

When I met with Coronella, he explained that over the years libraries have become more multi-faceted. They're no longer just places to read and take out books (though that's still a key function). Increasingly, libraries are providing a broader range of services, from access to research databases, to loaning videos and CDs, to providing Internet access, to offering space for lectures and public meetings.

The Putney Public Library attracts one hundred or more people on a daily basis, and forty or fifty more often show up for evening programs. You'll find people of all ages, incomes, and backgrounds using the Putney library. Its seven public access computers are very popular, and offer a valuable service in this rural community where residential broadband service is limited.



Putney Public Library.

The library's beautiful new building is located within walking distance of the town center (less than half-a-mile away) and next to a co-op market and senior housing. The new building was made possible in part from a generous donor, but also through extensive fund-raising in the Putney community.

The importance of libraries like Putney's to village and town centers was underscored in a public forum sponsored by the Windham Regional Commission (the WRC's service area includes Putney, Brattleboro, and twenty-five other small towns in southeastern Vermont). As Kendall Gifford, a planner with the WRC, told me, it “opened up perceptions of what libraries have to offer.”

One by-product of the forum was the formation of a task force to develop recommendations for strengthening local libraries within the region. The task force's report, *The New Heart of the Old Village Center: The Role of the Library in Community Development*, includes a series of recommendations centered on three goals: to achieve universal access to library services; to assure adequate funding for libraries; and to use libraries to strengthen village centers.

Susan McMahon, another planner with the WRC, has been struck by how often people have mentioned the value of their libraries “as community places, where you can see your neighbors,” and by the importance that seniors, in particular, place on having a library nearby.

One problem facing local libraries in Vermont – and many other states – is the lack of state financial support.⁶ This puts the burden on cities and towns to provide funding from their municipal budget. Not surprisingly, this can be a major hurdle, especially in communities with limited resources.

While private organizations like the Freeman Foundation (in Vermont) and the Gates Foundation (nationwide) have stepped up to provide financial support, this is not a long-term solution. Recognizing this, the Windham Regional Commission task force report points out the importance of educating legislators, community leaders, and residents about libraries' funding needs “in the context of all the positive

community and economic benefits” they bring.

From a national perspective, why shouldn't libraries be more highly valued? In 2006, the most recent year for which data is available, there were some 1.4 billion visits to the nation's 9,208 public libraries.⁷

To put library visits in perspective, consider that in 2007 the attendance at major league baseball games was eighty-one million and NFL football, twenty-two million – add in NCAA men's and women's basketball (forty-three million) and football (forty-nine million) and the total is less than 15 percent the number of visits to public libraries.⁸

Yet libraries may well be the single most important civic institution in America today. As scholar Vartan Gregorian has noted, “Across America we are coming to realize the library's unsurpassed importance as a civic institution ... In our democratic society, the library stands for hope, for learning, for progress, for literacy, for self-improvement and for civic engagement. The library is a symbol of opportunity, citizenship, equality, freedom of speech and freedom of thought, and hence, is a symbol for democracy itself. It is a critical component in the free exchange of information, which is at the heart of our democracy.”⁹

The Hub of Moab

Twenty-two hundred miles west of Putney, Vermont, is the small city of Moab, Utah. Their new library, opened in 2006, is just two blocks off Main Street in the heart of the city's compact downtown.

Moab is located in a remote, but spectacularly beautiful, corner of Utah, and is home to Arches National Park, a thriving



Grand County Public Library exterior.

recreational industry, and residents who love the outdoors.¹⁰ But it is also home to a fine new county library, at 15,000 square feet, triple the size of its former location.



Grand County Public Library interior.

The library itself is a delightful place. When I stepped inside, it was a beehive of activity, with people of all ages engrossed in reading and, yes, in using the Internet.

In fact, Internet use has been booming. When I followed up with library director Carrie Valdes this May, she told me that the number of online sessions last year exceeded 93,000, up from 75,000 in 2007. The library building is also wireless. In part, the growth in Internet use owes to the fact that anything faster than dial-up service is very costly in Moab. Valdes also believes that the economic downturn has led to increased use, especially as more people are looking to access online job search services.

The Grand County Public Library is part of a small complex of public buildings, making it even more convenient for area residents. Right next door are the municipal offices, in a recently rehabbed former elementary school building.

The Library Board saw the need to purchase the property the library is now located on several years ago. It wanted to “lock in” a downtown site for use when the time came for expansion (important since there are few large parcels available close to downtown). Valdes believes that keeping the library downtown was critically important. As she put it, “everything that happens in Moab, happens downtown.”

Owing to its welcoming environment, expanded size (allowing for the addition of a dedicated children’s room), and the state of the economy, library use has surged – from an annual average of about 90,000 visits before the new building opened to 150,000 last year. It has become, says Valdes, “a true community center.”

Libraries Mix It Up

“Among private sector developers of malls, commercial corridors, mixed-use developments and joint-use facilities, libraries are gaining recognition for other qualities – their ability to attract tremendous foot traffic, provide long-term tenancy, and complement neighboring retail and cultural destinations.” That’s from a recent report, *Making Cities Stronger: Public Library Contributions to Local Economic Development*, prepared by the Urban Library Council.¹¹

As the report continues, “Library buildings are versatile. They fit in a wide mix of public and private sector developments. Library leaders and private developers across the country are beginning to notice distinct advantages to incorporating public libraries into mixed use, retail and residential areas.”

You can now find libraries not just in malls, but as part of residential developments, and other mixed-use projects.

In the Chicago suburb of Des Plaines, the new library – which opened in August 2000 – is located next to a stop on one of the METRA commuter rail lines. It is the central element of a 6.2-acre redevelopment that also includes 30,000 square feet of retail, a 180-unit condominium, and a parking garage. This mix of complementary uses has created a hub of activity in the heart of this suburban city of 58,000.¹²

In putting together the project, the library served as the traffic anchor, “much like a large retailer would” explained Stephen Friedman of S.B. Friedman & Co. His firm, which specializes in advising communities on public/private partnerships, worked with the City of Des Plaines on the redevelopment. Having a high quality library, Friedman adds, is also an



Des Plaines Public Library interior.

important part of being a “full service” community, something that suburbs are increasingly focusing on as they seek to create a high quality of life for residents.

Another interesting point that Friedman makes is the importance of libraries in middle-income communities like Des Plaines. “People can’t always afford Barnes & Noble or Borders,” he notes, but many middle-income individuals are highly educated, “so the library becomes a critical public service for them.”

In St. Paul, Minnesota, the 31,000-square foot Rondo Community Outreach library is on the ground floor of a new building that includes three floors of mixed-income housing, plus a floor of parking immediately above the library (serving the apartments) and underground parking below (for library patrons).

The project grew out of a desire by the city and neighborhood to redevelop what had been the site of an adult entertainment theater – a focal point of community anger – demolished after the city acquired the property. The idea of a mixed-use building emerged from a conjunction of interests: the city’s goal of providing more affordable housing and the fact that the existing neighborhood public library had outgrown its building.¹³

According to Alice Neve, Supervisor of the Rondo Area Libraries, having the library in the same building as the housing provided some significant economies of scale, allowing for more space than if the library had been built as a stand-alone building. Families living in the apartments above, Neve notes, are also (not surprisingly) frequent visitors to the library.



Des Plaines Public Library, on right, and adjacent housing on the left.

A Home for All of the Community

Libraries provide something increasing-

ly scarce in our cities and towns, what Brattleboro, Vermont, library director Jerry Carbone described to me as “neutral public space.”

Carbone explained that Brattleboro’s Brooks Memorial Library, in the heart of downtown, makes its community room available at no charge to local organizations three evenings every week. The fact that it is public space, Carbone notes, makes it a more comfortable meeting place for some than a church basement or a business office meeting room – even

though these private spaces are typically made available for community meetings in a spirit of good will.

This message was reinforced in a conversation I had with David Lankes, director of the Information Institute at Syracuse University. As Lankes observed, libraries are in a pivotal role because “there are very few civic organizations left today” that can provide a space accessible to everyone in the community.

But for Lankes, the role of today’s library goes beyond providing community space. Libraries, he argues, should also be actively seeking ways of “enriching and enhancing” issues people are most interested in.

To cite one example, Lankes told me how in several cities, librarians have developed training sessions – open to all – covering the basics of setting up a new business and putting together a business plan. Along the same lines, some libraries are teaming up with local community development agencies to provide job counseling centers. This level of engagement goes well beyond the “traditional” role of just providing books about how to set up a business or find a job.¹⁴

Another valuable role that libraries play is in integrating immigrants and other newcomers into our communities. As national columnist Neil Peirce reports: “In immigrant-heavy suburbs of Washington, D.C., many public libraries have recast themselves as welcome centers. Some check-out desks have signs in Korean, Chinese, Spanish and Vietnamese. A recent immigrant from the Dominican Republic said: ‘I come to the library almost every day. And two days a week I follow the conversation classes. We have the opportunity not only to improve our English but to get new friends from all over the world.’”¹⁵

At the other end of the country, Seattle’s Kent Kammerer points out that “Seniors now flood the libraries for many reasons including taking computer classes and attending special programs. Young people find willing, friendly help at the library ... and yes, though, the library wasn’t designed to be a hygiene center or daytime shelter, some homeless people find the library the most welcoming place to spend their days.”¹⁶

There’s been a “sea change” in the past five to ten years in the role libraries are playing in communities, says Sari Feldman, director of the Cuyahoga County Public Library, which operates twenty-eight branches in Cleveland, Ohio’s suburbs. Feldman, who is also president-elect of the Public Library Association, told me that “libraries have become vibrant centers of community interaction,” with librarians working more closely with community groups and businesses. In Cuyahoga County, notes Feldman, “the library does extensive focus groups, polling, and market research” to better learn what the community wants.

Libraries have been especially proving their worth during the current recession.

Internet Access

One of the essentials of being informed today is having Internet access. That’s still a problem in many rural areas and for low-income households. Public libraries are a critically important resource in terms of broadening the availability of this access.

A nationwide survey conducted last year by the Florida State University’s Information Institute focused on the Internet and libraries. Two of the most striking findings: 72.5 percent of libraries reported that they are the only provider of free public computer and Internet access in their community, while 98.9 percent of public libraries indicated that they offer Internet access.¹ Moreover, according to the Institute of Museum & Library Service, in 2006 a total of 196,000 Internet computers were available in America’s public libraries (3.4 per 5,000 people).²

Another sign of the times: the rapid increase in the number of libraries offering wireless access – an increase from 54 to 66 percent of libraries in just the past year.³ Wireless access is of value not just to residents, but to tourists and business travelers when they visit a community.

¹ *Public Libraries and the Internet 2008: Study Results and Findings*; currently available online at: www.ii.fsu.edu/projectFiles/plinternet/2008/03_Executive_Summary_p_1-6.pdf.

² *Public Libraries Survey Fiscal Year 2006* (Institute for Museum & Library Services, Dec. 2008), p. 5.

³ *Id.* *Public Libraries and the Internet ...*

In the Neighborhood

While this article has focused on the positive impact that libraries can have on downtowns, let’s not forget the powerful benefits that libraries can bring to neighborhoods. Take a look at an excellent short report prepared by the Urban Library Council, *The Engaged Library: Chicago Stories of Community Building*.¹ It tells of the importance Chicago has placed on strengthening neighborhood libraries:

“Libraries are uniquely positioned to contribute to the local economy. They are local employers. More often than not, libraries bring foot traffic to the neighborhood commercial district. ... The Chicago Public Library has built forty new branch buildings in the last eleven years. Many of these buildings have gone into areas previously avoided ... Often, CPL has used its capital investments to buy sites that have been neighborhood eyesores. Liquor stores or abandoned buildings are torn down to be replaced with public libraries, changing the streetscape completely. For this strategy to be successful, library administration and planners have to tap into community knowledge and listen to community requests.”

¹ *The Engaged Library* is available through the ULC Web site: www.urbanlibraries.org/files/ULC_PFSC_Engaged_0206.pdf.

As Feldman explains, “we’re clearly the place where people are coming for job information, for preparing online job applications, and for basic financial literacy ... and we provide them support in doing this.”

Summing Up

The twenty-first century library has arrived. Its mission goes far beyond loaning out books and providing reference materials. In fact, in a growing number of cities and towns, the library has become *the* hub of the community, drawing large

numbers of new users. This is happening because libraries are providing programs, meeting space, computer access, and resources that are responding to a broader array of community needs.

Moreover, when libraries are located in downtown, village, or neighborhood centers, there’s also a special synergy at work. Libraries generate increased business for local merchants, while those shopping or working downtown visit the library as part of their day.

Libraries and community – they’re really inseparable. ■

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- ⁶ Nationally, 82 percent of public libraries’ revenue comes from local sources, 9 percent from states, 1 percent from the federal government, and 9 percent from other sources, such as library fees, donations, and grants. See *Public Libraries Survey Fiscal Year 2006* (Institute of Museum & Library Services, Dec. 2008), p. 6. Only one state, Ohio, provides substantial financial support to its libraries, with a dedicated 2.22% of all tax revenue from the state’s General Revenue Fund going to public libraries. Perhaps this explains why Ohio has higher levels of library use per capita than any other state. For more on the issue of funding, see “What’s the State of Your Library” (posted on July 15, 2009 on our PlannersWeb.com site).
- ⁷ *Public Libraries Survey, Fiscal Year 2006* (Institute of Museum & Library Services, Dec. 2008), pp. 4-6.
- ⁸ Sports attendance data from *The 2009 Statistical Abstract* (U.S. Bureau of the Census), Tables 1204/1205. Unfortunately, the *Statistical Abstract* does not include attendance for all sports, but you get the picture.
- ⁹ Vartan Gregorian, “Libraries as Acts of Civic Renewal” (speech given in Kansas City, Missouri, July 4, 2002; available online at: www.carnegie.org/sub/pubs/gregorianspeech.html).
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- ¹² The City of Des Plaines even offers a video tour of the library, accessible from their home page: www.desplaines.org/.
- ¹³ For more on the Rondo library: www.stpaul.lib.mn.us/locations/rondo_about.html.
- ¹⁴ To learn about other creative ways in which libraries can engage with their community, see the Project for Public Spaces’ “Libraries That Matter,” at: www.pps.org/info/newsletter/april2007/libraries_that_matter; and *Making Cities Stronger: Public Library Contributions to Local Economic Development* (Urban Libraries Council, 2007); available at: www.urbanlibraries.org/files/making_cities_stronger.pdf.
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“Eco-Friendly Libraries: Green for the New Century”

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Promoting Reading in the Classroom

Brenda Pritchett

With the competition between technology and activities outside the home, teachers need to find innovative ways to encourage their students to make time for reading. Here are twenty fun ways to promote reading in the classroom:

1. Book Stacking

Stack books on tables in your classroom. Having books in plain view will incite curiosity and encourage students to pick one up during free time.

2. Book Bragging

Let students talk to the class about a book that they have just finished reading. If a peer has read a good book, then other students will be more likely to read it.

3. Book Debating

Students form debate teams to argue why a book they have selected should be chosen "Book of the Month." A vote can be taken afterwards.

4. Book Twisting

After reading a book, ask students to write a new ending or add a sequel to the story.

5. Book Blogging

Create a blog where students may write their opinions about books they have read, or simply write on large paper and post opinions on a bulletin board.

6. Book Racing

Students track the number of pages they have read in a designated period of time, such as one month. The amount of time spent reading could also be noted. Highest achievers for number of pages and number of minutes could be awarded, with special recognition for any records set. Form-

ing teams is another way to promote involvement.

7. Star Book Rating

Students rate books they have read using one to five stars to represent interest level. Post the ratings so students can see the ratings a book has received.

8. Book Matching

Students complete a Reading Interest Inventory and then the teacher or school librarian is challenged to find a book that matches a student's interests.

9. Good Book Fishing

Students write a short summary of a book and place both book and summary in the reading, or "fishing," area. Classmates then "fish" for a good book and the challenge is to see which book is chosen, or "caught," first by a classmate.

10. Characters Talking

Students dress up like a favorite character from a book they have read and stand at designated places in the room or library, while classmates move around the room as if visiting a museum. Book characters "come to life" and tell their stories when a person arrives at their spot. Biographies work well in this venue. (Prewriting the character's speech allows students to practice identifying important details and summarizing).

11. Book Buzzing

Students sit in small groups, select an element from their books, and begin to share and compare. For example after a student describes one of his or her book characters, he says, "I buzz off to ____ (insert name of another member of the group)." Each student continues until all have had a turn, and then another element is chosen.

12. Movie Viewing

The cinema has recently made movies from popular novels for children and young adults. Students com-

pare and contrast a book and the corresponding movie. Students can decide which they like the best and why.

13. Book Club Grouping

Students form fan clubs for their favorite book series or author. The students can make flags, T-shirts, or other materials to promote their club.

14. Book Swapping

Periodically, let students bring in paperback books that they have read and trade with one another.

15. Day of Discovery

On "discovery day," invite students to share something with the class that they learned from a book. This is a good time to promote non-fiction and biographical books. For more focus, teachers can choose a common topic for everyone's reading.

16. Poetry Writing

After reviewing the mechanics of writing poetry, have students pen their own poems. Publish in a booklet for the class and school library.

17. Yackity-Yacking

Bring in newspapers and discuss current events. Point out the difference between opinion and facts in the media. Let students identify whether articles in the news are informative or persuasive. Discuss whether perception is reality.

18. Circus of Facts Performance

Using a 2-ring or 3-ring circus theme, students use their artwork to portray two or three facts or events from a book.

19. Top Ten Listing

Students list ten top reasons why or why not to read a book. Set up as a countdown to the number one and most important reason.

20. Book Breaking

Take a book break and provide ten minutes of quiet time for silent reading in class every day. ■

Eco-Friendly Libraries: Green for the New Century

Ann Branton, MLA Vice President

Environmental sustainability during these financially challenging days has come to mean planning an economically affordable conference while providing quality programming for all librarians attending the 2009 Mississippi Library Association Annual Conference. We have a strong program lineup, with several national speakers from as far away as Alaska, California, New Mexico, Texas, and New York, as well as many close to home. As the conference will be held entirely on the campus of the University of Southern Mississippi, all programs, events, banquets, and meetings will be held in the Thad Cochran Center. The campus will be at its autumn peak, temperate and beautiful, and walking is encouraged. Ample reserved parking will be made available to conference attendees.

Day One Highlights

On Wednesday, October 21, 2009, the First General Session will be addressed by keynote speaker Louise Schaper, director of the Fayetteville Public Library in Arkansas, whose topic is "Green Libraries: Smaller Footprint for Bigger Impact." Fayetteville Public Library (FPL) was the recipient of the prestigious Library of the Year Award in 2005 which is given by *Library Journal* each year. According to Thomson Gale publishing company, the Library of the Year Award honors the library that most profoundly demonstrates outstanding community service. Fayetteville Public Library was also designated in 2006 by the United States Green Build-

ing Council as a LEED® Silver building for its environmentally-friendly design and operation. In 2007, FPL was named one of America's Landmark Green Libraries by *TravelSmart* newsletter. I am very inspired by the success of Schaper's leadership in environmental sustainability and think she will be an inspiration to us all on this very timely topic.

The conference will begin on Wednesday with a morning workshop, "Developing History Scrapbooks: Preserving Our Libraries Memories," given by consultant Tracie Thompson; Thompson will assist librarians to preserve the past and plan for the years ahead by safekeeping the histories of their libraries in scrapbooks. At noon on Wednesday, the Black Caucus Roundtable, hosting the Virgia Brocks-Shedd Scholarship luncheon, will feature author Peggy Brooks-Bertram from the University at Buffalo, State University of New York, who will be talking about a new book she has co-authored, *Go Tell Michelle: African American Women Write to the First Lady*; the book is a collection of letters from African American women to Michelle Obama. Later in the day, the annual Afternoon Tea with Authors, sponsored by Friends of Mississippi Libraries, will host several regional authors who will talk about their writing interests and publishing experiences – a traditional program we all look forward to. The day will end with the MLA President's Reception at the USM Museum of Art and the opening of the Artists in Mississippi Libraries exhibit. The best is yet to come at the 100th Anniversary "Birthday" Bash at the Bottling Company restaurant, located in a for-



Louise Schaper

mer Coca-Cola bottling plant, where our own Greg Johnson, blues archivist at the University of Mississippi, will entertain us by performing traditional Irish music. Librarians, exhibitors and friends – I hope you will all plan to attend this once and only happy event.

Day Two Highlights

Thursday morning begins bright and early with a crowd pleaser, "Breakfast with Rick Bragg," co-sponsored by Two Year College Roundtable (2YCRT) and the Public Library Section (PLS). Later Ken Waldman, poet, storyteller, and fiddler, joins us all the way from Alaska to present a wonderful two-hour program titled "Fun with Poetry" and sponsored by the Young People Services Roundtable (YPSRT). Other morning programs will appeal to academic, special, or public librarians. After the two luncheon banquets sponsored by ACRL-Mississippi Chapter and YPSRT, more programs are scheduled for the afternoon. These include a screening of the documentary film, *The Hollywood Librarian: A Look at Librarians through Film*, with discussion to follow.

Day Three Highlights

On Friday morning, along with a variety of programming and user group meetings, the Technical Services Roundtable (TSRT) will host speaker Brad Eden, author and librarian



Ken Waldman

at University of California, Santa Barbara, who will speak on "Technical Service Futures: What Are They?" The conference will close with the annual awards banquet, where we will recognize our MLA leadership and their accomplishments in

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professional librarianship and in library service.

Focus on Young Adult Library Services

Special attention has been given this year to provide programming for librarians who serve young adults in school and public libraries. Starting with a MAGNOLIA training session Wednesday morning, seven substantive programs with continuing education unit (CEU) credits are scheduled specifically for this service group during the three days. Topics include "What's New in Teen Literature" and "Teen Services 101," presented on Wednesday and Thursday respectively by ALA Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA) speaker Angie Manfredi, and a Thursday presentation on the ALA "Great Stories CLUB" by Lainie Castle, ALA Public Programs representative. Jan McGee from West Monroe (Louisiana) High School will speak at two programs, "Books that Bite!" and "Web-vertise Your Library," both on Friday morning and sponsored by the School Library Section.

From the USM-SLIS

The University of Southern Mississippi School of Library and Information Science (SLIS) is sponsoring a number of programs this year, beginning on Wednesday with "Online Reference Sources" by SLIS faculty Jenny Bossaler and Catharine Bomhold. Teresa Welsh, another SLIS faculty member, will discuss "Special Libraries and Collections" on Thursday. Later Thursday afternoon, SLIS will host an alumni mixer at the renovated Power House restaurant right in the middle of campus. Be sure to stop in and see friends and former classmates. SLIS will also co-host a Friday morning breakfast with the Special Library Section, featuring guest speaker Sheila Snow-Croft

from the National Network of Libraries of Medicine.

The Green Theme

In addition to the keynote speech, a fair number of programs will support this year's theme, "Eco-Friendly Libraries: Green for a New Century." Featured speaker for the ACRL-Mississippi Chapter luncheon on Thursday is Fred Stoss, the associate librarian for biological and environmental sciences and mathematics at the State University of New York University at Buffalo. Stoss has a wealth of experience promoting environmental sustainability and will speak on "Sustainable and Green @ Your Library." We will also have a screening of the documentary film, *Kilowatt Ours: A Plan to Re-energize America*, with a discussion to follow. Greg Johnson, of the University of Mississippi, will present "Greening our Libraries," which should be of interest to those committed to implementing eco-friendly ideas in your libraries.

I know I am looking forward to the several social gatherings and banquets planned in addition to many of these programs. Beginning with the President's

Reception and the opening of the Artists in Mississippi Libraries exhibit, I hope to see you there before going to the 100th Anniversary Bash. Look for me at the hospitality booth having a bag of hot popcorn or at the silent



Fred Stoss

auction table bidding on something to support our two scholarships. In addition, be sure to stop by each of the exhibitor's booths to say, "What's new?" We are very grateful to all of the vendors who work with us in good times and lean times, diligently serving our libraries in Mississippi. Without them, the conference would not happen, so please express your appreciation to them during the conference. For more detailed information about hotels, registration, or the conference program, go to the MLA Web site at www.misslib.org. The preliminary program and registration form are also in this issue of *Mississippi Libraries*. For other information, phone MLA Vice President Ann Branton at 601-266-4350. ■

New from the Jackson County Historical and Genealogy Society

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Mississippi Library Association 100th Year 1909-2009



**MLA Annual Conference
Thad Cochran Center
Hattiesburg, Mississippi**



October 21-23, 2009

2009 Mississippi Library Association Annual Conference

“Eco-Friendly Libraries: Green for the New Century”

PRELIMINARY PROGRAM

(Sessions and schedules are subject to change)

Tuesday, October 20

3:00-6:00 Registration at Courtyard by Marriott hotel

Wednesday, October 21

8:00-5:00 Registration

9:00-10:00 MLA Executive Board Meeting

9:00-10:00 MAGNOLIA Training: World Book for K-12

9:00-11:00 *The Hollywood Librarian*, film screening

9:00-11:00 *Developing History Scrapbooks: Preserving Our Libraries' Memories*
Tracie Thompson, Consultant for Creative Moments
Sponsored by MLA Anniversary Scrapbook Committee
(Advanced registration required. Limit 30)

10:00-11:00 *Online Reference Sources: What's Out There Now?*
Jenny Bossaler and Catharine Bomhold, School of Library and Information Science,
University of Southern Mississippi

10:00-11:00 *O Donor, Where Art Thou?*
Greg Johnson, Blues Archivist, University of Mississippi and Elaine Owens, Photograph and
Sound Archivist, Mississippi Department of Archives and History
Sponsored by Special Collections Roundtable

10:00-11:30 *Laura Bush Foundation for America's Libraries: What the Statistics Tell Us*
Barbara Martin and Yunfei Du, University of North Texas College of Information
IMLS Laura Bush Foundation
Funded by LSTA Grant and MLC

11:00 Exhibits Opening

11:30 Box Lunches with Exhibitors (Advanced registration required)

PRELIMINARY PROGRAM**Wednesday, October 21** *(continued)*

- Noon-1:30 Virgia Brooks-Shedd Scholarship Luncheon (Advanced registration required)
Go, Tell Michelle: African American Women Write to the First Lady
Peggy Brooks-Bertram, African American Studies, University at Buffalo, SUNY
Sponsored by Black Caucus Roundtable
Funded by LSTA Grant from the MLC
- 1:30-2:30 First General Session
Green Libraries: Smaller Footprint for Bigger Impact
Louise Schaper, Director, Fayetteville Public Library, Arkansas
Funded by LSTA Grant from the MLC
- 2:30-3:30 Poster Sessions: Session 1 of 3
- 3:00-5:00 *Afternoon Tea with Authors* (Advanced registration requested)
Sponsored by Friends of Mississippi Libraries
- 3:00-5:00 *The Hollywood Librarian*, film screening
- 3:00-4:30 *What's New in Teen Literature*
Angie Manfredi
Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA)
American Library Association
Funded by LSTA Grant from the MLC
- 3:00-4:30 American Library Association Strategic Planning Meeting
- 5:00-6:00 MLA President's Reception (Advanced registration requested)
Opening of Artists in Mississippi Libraries Exhibit
Location: University of Southern Mississippi Museum of Art
- 6:30-8:00 MLA's 100th Anniversary Bash (Advanced registration required)
Location: The Bottling Company

Thursday, October 22

- 8:00-5:00 Registration
- 8:00-9:00 *Breakfast with Rick Bragg* (Advanced registration required)
Co-sponsored by 2YCRT and Public Libraries Section
Funded by LSTA Grant from the MLC
- 9:00-5:00 Exhibits Opening
- 9:00-10:00 Coffee with Exhibitors
- 9:00-10:00 Poster Sessions: Session 2 of 3
- 9:00-10:00 *The Waller Photography Collection: Preserving Local History*
Laura Capell, Digital Archivist, University of Southern Mississippi
-

PRELIMINARY PROGRAM**Thursday, October 22** (continued)

- 9:00-10:00 *LIRT Teaching Twofer: Twice as Nice as a Single Presentation with Two Great Speakers!*
Teaching BI Online Using Wimba
Mary Beth Applin, Instructional Services Coordinator, University of Southern Mississippi
Integrating Information Literacy into an Upper Division Writing-Intensive Course
Ellen K. Wilson, Instructional Technology/Reference Librarian, University of South Alabama
- 9:00-11:00 *Census Data at Your Fingertips: Training Session on American FactFinder*
Cliff Holley, Director of the Census Bureau's State Data Center
Sponsored by Government Documents Roundtable
- 9:00-11:00 *Fun With Poetry*
Ken Waldman, Poet, Storyteller, and Fiddler
Sponsored by Young People's Services Roundtable (YPSRT)
Funded by LSTA Grant from the MLC
- 10:00-11:00 *Greening Our Libraries*
Greg Johnson, Blues Archivist, University of Mississippi
- 10:00-11:00 PALMS Business Meeting and Program
Tom Henderson, College Librarian, Millsaps College
- 11:00-12:30 Box Lunches with the Exhibitors (Advanced registration required)
- Noon-1:30 ACRL-Mississippi Chapter Luncheon (Advanced registration required)
Sustainable and Green @ Your Library
Frederick Stoss, Associate Librarian, University at Buffalo, SUNY
Funded by LSTA Grant from the MLC
- Noon-1:30 Young People's Services Roundtable Luncheon (Advanced registration required)
We Do Make a Difference!
Paul Griffin, Young Adult Author, Great Stories Program
Funded by LSTA Grant from the MLC
- 1:30-2:30 *Teen Services 101*
Angie Manfredi
Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA), a division of ALA
- 1:30-2:30 *Bringing Great Stories CLUB to Mississippi*
Lainie Castle, ALA Public Programs Office
Sponsored by Young People's Services Roundtable (YPSRT)
Funded by LSTA Grant from the MLC
- 1:30-3:30 *Special Libraries and Collections: Relevance, Programs, and Services*
Teresa Welsh, School of Library and Information Science, University of Southern Mississippi
- 3:00-4:00 Ice Cream Social in the Exhibits
- 3:00-4:00 Poster Sessions: Session 3 of 3
- 3:00-4:30 Librarianship 101 and 201 Alumni Reunion (Registration required)
-

PRELIMINARY PROGRAM**Thursday, October 22** (continued)

- 3:00-5:00 *The Hollywood Librarian*, film screening
- 3:30-4:30 *Center for the Study of the Life and Work of William Carey, D.D. (1761-1834)*
Bennie R. Crockett and Myron C. Noonkester, William Carey University
Sponsored by Beta Phi Mu, Beta Psi Chapter
- 3:30-4:30 New Members Roundtable Planning Meeting
- 3:30-4:30 MLA Conference 2010 Planning Meeting
- 3:30-5:00 Focus on SLIS and the ALA Committee on Accreditation
School of Library and Information Science, University of Southern Mississippi
- 4:00-5:00 Mississippi SirsiDynix Users' Group
Stephen Patton, Electronic Services Librarian, Delta State University
- 5:00-6:00 USM-SLIS Alumni and Friends Mixer (Advanced registration required)
Sponsored by School of Library and Information Science, University of Southern Mississippi
Location: Power House restaurant, USM Hattiesburg Campus
- 6:00-8:00 Mississippi Authors Awards Dinner (Advanced registration required)
Sponsored by Mississippi Authors Awards Committee

Friday, October 23

- 8:00-11:00 Registration
- 8:00-9:00 MLA Past Presidents Breakfast (Restricted to Past Presidents of MLA)
- 8:00-11:30 *Breakfast with Sheila Snow-Croft* (Advanced registration required)
Sheila Snow-Croft, National Network of Libraries of Medicine
Co-sponsored by Special Libraries Section and School of Library and Information Science at
the University of Southern Mississippi
- 9:00-10:00 *Kilowatt Ours*, film screening and discussion
Greg Johnson, Blue Archivist, University of Mississippi
- 9:00-10:00 *Books With Bite!*
Jan McGee, West Monroe (Louisiana) High School
Sponsored by School Libraries Section
Funded by LSTA Grant from the MLC
- 9:00-10:00 Mississippi University Library Directors' Council
- 9:00-11:00 *Publicity Basics @ the Library*
Ned Browning, Mississippi State University Extension Service
Sponsored by Friends of Mississippi Libraries
-

PRELIMINARY PROGRAM**Friday, October 23** *(continued)*

- 9:00-11:00 *You're Not Going to Believe This: A Program for Library Trustees*
James R. Sherard
Sponsored by Mississippi Library Commission
- 10:00-11:00 *Web-vertise Your Library*
Jan McGee, West Monroe (Louisiana) High School
Sponsored by School Libraries Section
Funded by LSTA Grant from the MLC
- 10:00-11:00 *Technical Service Futures: What Are They?*
Brad Eden, Associate University Librarian for Technical Services and Scholarly Communication, University of California Santa Barbara
Sponsored by Technical Services Roundtable (TSRT)
Funded by LSTA Grant from the MLC
- 10:00-11:00 Lyrasis Member Meeting
- 11:00-Noon Mississippi Polaris Users' Group Meeting
- 11:00-Noon MAGNOLIA Steering Committee Meeting
- 11:00-Noon Society of Mississippi Archivists Meeting
- 11:00-Noon Mississippi Autographics Users' Group Meeting
- Noon-1:30 MLA Awards Luncheon (Advanced registration required)
Sponsored by Awards Committee ■

Join MLA!

Fill out and return the membership form located on the inside back cover of this issue and be a part of the continuing promotion of libraries throughout Mississippi.

The logo for the Modern Language Association (MLA), consisting of the lowercase letters 'mla' in a bold, sans-serif font.



REGISTRATION / NAME TAG INFORMATION

Name _____

Library/Business _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Telephone _____

Work

Home

Email Address

- ☐ I require special assistance
☐ I require vegetarian meals

- ☐ First time attendee
☐ Other _____

- ☐ MLA ☐ ALA
☐ SELA

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FEES

FULL CONFERENCE	ON-SITE	ADVANCE	AMOUNT
2009 MLA Paid Member	\$45.00	\$35.00	
Non-Member	\$55.00	\$45.00	
MLS-MLIS Student	\$25.00	\$20.00	
Exhibits Badge Only	\$10.00	\$10.00	
ONE DAY CONFERENCE <input type="checkbox"/> Wednesday <input type="checkbox"/> Thursday <input type="checkbox"/> Friday			
2009 MLA Paid Member	\$35.00	\$25.00	
Non-Member	\$42.00	\$32.00	
MLS-MLIS Student	\$18.00	\$13.00	
Friends of MS Libraries (FREE Badge on Friday Only)	Badge	Badge	

PRE-REGISTRATION, MEALS, AND PROGRAMS

Wednesday, October 21, 2009	R.S.V.P	COST	AMOUNT
Scrapbooking Workshop (Limited to 30 participants)	Yes No	\$20.00	
Box Lunches for Vendors and Attendees		\$10.00	
Black Caucus Luncheon "Go Tell Michelle" <i>Sponsored by the Black Caucus Roundtable/Funded by LSTA Grant from the MLC</i>		\$25.00	
Afternoon Tea with Authors <i>Sponsored by Friends of Mississippi Libraries</i>	Yes No		
MLA President's Reception and Opening of the Artists in Mississippi Libraries Exhibit	Yes No		
100th MLA Anniversary "Birthday Bash" at The Bottling Company <i>All proceeds will equally support the Peggy May & Virgia Brocks-Shedd scholarships.</i>		\$20.00	
Thursday, October 22, 2008	R.S.V.P	COST	AMOUNT
Two-Year College Roundtable and Public Libraries Section "Breakfast with Rick Bragg" <i>Sponsored by the 2YCRT and Public Libraries Section/Funded by LSTA Grant from the MLC</i>		\$15.00	
Box Lunches for Vendors and Attendees		\$10.00	
Young People's Services Luncheon with Paul Griffin, "We Do Make a Difference!" <i>Sponsored by YPSRT/Funded by LSTA Grant from the MLC</i>		\$18.00	
ACRL Luncheon with Frederick W. Stoss, "Sustainable and Green @ Your Library" <i>Sponsored by ACRL/Funded by LSTA Grant from the MLC</i>		\$18.00	
Librarianship 101 Alumni Meeting <i>Sponsored by MLC (Limited to Past Participants)</i>	Yes No	Reservation required	Included w/Registration
USM SLIS Alumni Mixer at the Power House, USM Campus	Yes No		
Mississippi Author Awards Dinner <i>Sponsored by the MLA Author Awards Committee</i>		\$35.00	
Friday, October 23, 2008	R.S.V.P	COST	AMOUNT
Past Presidents Breakfast (Limited to Past MLA Presidents)		\$15.00	
Special Libraries Section/USM SLIS Alumni Breakfast with Sheila Snow-Croft, National Network of Libraries of Medicine <i>Sponsored by SLS/USM School of Library & Information Science</i>		\$15.00	
MLA Awards Luncheon <i>Sponsored by the MLA Awards Committee</i>		\$18.00	
Grand Total			

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News Briefs

Tina Harry, Editor

New Mississippi State University Libraries Collection Highlights Mississippi Author

An exceptionally rare copy of Eudora Welty's first book, *A Curtain of Green*, has been added to a collection-in-progress at Mississippi State University Libraries.

Mississippi State University English professor and editor of *The Mississippi Quarterly* Dr. Noel Polk is currently working with Mitchell Memorial Library's Special Collections department to create the Noel Polk Collection, which will feature books, papers, and memorabilia on Mississippi authors. In May, Dr. Polk, both a Welty and Faulkner scholar, donated to the Collection a rare copy of Mississippi author Eudora Welty's first collection of short stories, *A Curtain of Green*. This 1941 edition, with an introduction by author Katherine Anne Porter, is unique in that it is signed by both Welty and Porter.

"I have spent the better part of four decades looking at Welty first editions," Polk said, "and this is the only copy of *A Curtain of Green* that I have ever seen signed by Welty and Porter."

"The double autograph makes this book extremely valuable," said Dr. Lynne Mueller, coordinator for MSU Libraries' Mississippiana and Rare Books division. "With the Libraries' Welty Collection, Dr. Polk's collection will greatly increase the University's researchable holdings on major Mississippi authors."

In April, MSU Libraries announced the acquisition of another premiere Eudora Welty Collection, donated to MSU by Hunter Cole, a Jackson, Mississippi, historian and former associate director of the University Press of Mississippi.

For more information on the Noel Polk and Eudora Welty Collections at Mississippi State University Libraries, please visit <http://library.msstate.edu/specialcollections/index.asp> or contact the special collections department at 662-325-7679.



Mississippi State University Libraries' Dr. Lynne Mueller (left) accepts Welty's *A Curtain of Green* from Dr. Noel Polk, to be added to his collection at Mitchell Memorial Library. Photo by Jim Tomlinson, MSU Libraries.

– Submitted by: Angela M. Patton, library assistant, Mississippi State University Libraries

Waynesboro-Wayne County Library Selected as E-WIN Job Center Access Point

The Waynesboro-Wayne County Library has been accepted as an E-WIN Job Center Access Point by the Mississippi Department of Employment Security. On June 10, 2009, the employees of the library completed two hours of training conducted by Mississippi Department of Employment Security employment representative Nellie Satcher. The purpose of the E-WIN Access Point is to establish an alternative and convenient site for job searchers to perform a job search without visiting a local WIN Job Center. The library will also serve as a location where unemployed workers can report their job hunting activities. Local businesses owners can post job openings in Wayne County from the library's customized E-WIN Web page.

"This is a great asset for area residents to be able to search for, not only jobs in our area, but also state and federal jobs that are available, without having to travel to the E-WIN Job Center in Laurel or Hattiesburg. The E-WIN job site has the capabilities to search Mississippi newspaper classified job listings. Also individuals who are drawing unemployment can report

their job searching activities here in Wayne County as well," stated library director Patsy Brewer. "We are happy to be able to provide yet another free service to the citizens of Wayne County. The library has been going through the process of being accepted during the last three months and now we are ready to help the public search for any available jobs during this tough economic time."

The E-WIN Access Point at the Waynesboro-Wayne County Library will provide the following four areas of expertise.

- **Job seeker services:** provides information on job search training and education, job hunting tips, resumes, veteran services, equal opportunity, job fairs, Job Corps, job industry data, and federal bonding information to the job seeker
- **Employer services:** provides employers with information on registering a business, employee job training, job placement services, wage reporting, tax filing, employer information change request, and tax credit programs
- **Unemployment services:** provides customers with information on benefit eligibility, weekly claims, overpayments, claim filing information, and appeal information
- **Labor market information:** provides customers and employer's information about various publications that are produced, Hurricane Katrina's impact on the job industry, occupational projections and wages, workforce information database, and data maps

The Mississippi Department of Employment Security (MDES) oversees the Workforce Investment Network (WIN) system in Mississippi in partnership with the State Workforce Investment Board and the four local workforce areas. WIN in Mississippi creates a unique, locally designed and managed system that, through a network of WIN Job Centers,

provides customer choice and convenient access to services and program information for both the business customer seeking qualified workers and the job seeker and dislocated worker.

WIN Job Center Access Points provide a comprehensive array of services for both job seekers and businesses, including Internet access and recruitment.

For more information, contact the Waynesboro-Wayne County Library at 601-735-2268 or by e-mail at wlib@wwcls.lib.ms.us.

– Submitted by Patsy C. Brewer, library director, Waynesboro-Wayne County Library

Friends of Libraries U.S.A. Literary Landmark Designation for Eudora Welty

On June 22, 2009, as part of the Eudora Welty Centennial Celebration, the Eudora Welty Library of the Jackson-Hinds Library System was placed on the Friends of Libraries U.S.A. Literary Landmark Register. Recognizing Eudora Welty's role in Mississippi's literary heritage, support for public libraries, and her importance to all Mississippians – the Friends of Mississippi Libraries, the Jackson Friends of the Library, and the Mississippi Library Commission joined together to support this nomination.

Mrs. Amy Lou Douglas Flournoy of Byram and president of the Friends of Mississippi Libraries stated that "Eudora Welty is uniquely Jackson, but she is also of the world. When one mentions Jackson, people think of "Miss Eudora." She loved books, enjoyed reading, supported libraries, and left us a rich legacy of her writings and spirit that will last the times."

Beginning in 1986, The Friends of Libraries U. S. A. have honored more than one hundred historic homes, libraries, and museum collections, scenes and inspirations of writers, poets, journalists, social commentators and others who have played a prominent role in creating America's literary heritage. There are nine Literary Landmarks in Mississippi, including William Faulkner (Oxford), Tennessee Williams (Clarksdale and Columbus), Jefferson Davis (Biloxi), Stephen Ambrose (Bay St. Louis), William Johnson

(Natchez), Willie Morris (Yazoo City), and Richard Wright (Natchez).

Friends of Mississippi Libraries, Inc. is a statewide organization of over 125 chapters and individuals that serve as advocates for library issues on the local, state, and national levels; encourages the enhancement of local library services; and promotes reading and the enjoyment of books by all Mississippians.



Left to Right: Mary Alice White, niece of Eudora Welty; Sharman Smith, executive director, Mississippi Library Commission; Dr. Leslie McLemore, acting mayor, City of Jackson; Amy Douglas Flournoy, president, Friends of Mississippi Libraries; Margaret Barrett-Simon, city councilwoman, Jackson; Dr. George Barnes, chairman, Jackson-Hinds Library System Board of Trustees; Carolyn McCallum, executive director, Jackson-Hinds Library System; Rosalyn Sylvester, vice chairman, Jackson-Hinds Library System Board of Trustees. Photo by Steve Rachel.

– Submitted by Margaret Murray, senior consultant, Development Services Division, Mississippi Library Commission

Hancock Libraries Reaching for New Heights

Almost four years after the devastation of Hurricane Katrina, the Hancock County Library System is poised to begin an exciting new era of rebuilding and revitalization as the library system strives to reach new heights in service to the communities of the western Mississippi Gulf Coast. Thanks to the cooperation of local city and county officials, the Library Board of Trustees, and an energetic new library director, Patty Furr, a wave of construction projects are set to begin that will repair two of the library system's branches and replace two other libraries that were destroyed by the storm surge of Katrina.

The next few months will see the beginning of the repairs to the Bay St. Louis and Kiln library branches and the ground-

breaking ceremonies for the Waveland Public Library. County officials are also considering a project to rebuild the Pearlinton Public Library and a totally new library facility for residents of East Hancock County, Fenton, and Diamondhead.

Bay St. Louis

To remedy wind and water damage caused by Katrina, repairs have begun on the flagship headquarters building in Bay St. Louis. Although the building may not appear to be significantly damaged from the outside, damage to the roof, windows, sheetrock, insulation, exterior walls, and doors will require extensive renovations and or replacement. The Library Board of Trustees has contracted with Flagstar Construction of Brandon, Mississippi to complete the repairs in both the public and administrative areas of the Bay St. Louis space. Library director Patty Furr is hoping that the library will be ready to reopen in November, just in time for the library's annual Tree Gala celebration.

"While we know it is difficult for our Bay St. Louis customers to wait another few months while the repairs are taking place," said Furr. "We believe that the new library space will be worth the wait. New heating and air conditioning units have already been installed, and the repairs that will begin shortly will put the library back into tip-top condition." In addition to the hurricane-related repairs, Furr is hoping to update many of the interior furnishings thanks to private donations from library supporters. "We have some funds for the project, but we welcome help from anyone who would like to help us replace some of our fourteen-year-old furnishings."

While the renovation and repairs are completed to the Bay St. Louis Library, customers can still find many of the same services are available in the temporary library in the double-wide trailer next to the library building. "We know the public misses having their spacious, comfortable main library," Furr said, "and the staff is eager to provide the full range of library services in the newly renovated space. We can't wait to give the newly repaired Bay St. Louis Library to the public as a wonderfully timed Christmas present."



Bob Garrett, left, Hancock County Library System technical services department, and Jason Bans, HCLS automation manager, pack books to begin the Hurricane Repair Project at the Bay St. Louis-Hancock County Library. Photo by Mary Perkins.



Joel Johnston, Hancock County Library service maintenance technician, stacks boxes of books being packed by library staff to begin the Hurricane Katrina Repair Project at the Bay St. Louis-Hancock County Library. Photo by Mary Perkins.

Kiln

The Kiln Library is also scheduled to undergo the final repairs needed to bring the building up to its pre-Katrina condition. Several of the exterior doors will be repaired or replaced, ceiling repairs will be completed, and the library meeting room will be repainted. Thanks to a grant to the Library Foundation of Hancock County from the Leo Seal Family Foundation, new multimedia equipment will soon be added to the Kiln meeting room. The new equipment will provide Internet access and graphic displays from DVDs and computer presentations. Furr comments, "This new equipment has been selected for its ease of use even by those who are not as tech-savvy as they would like to be. We thank the Leo Seal Family Foundation for bringing our Kiln Library up to twenty-first century standards. Their support of technology projects in our libraries has already been so beneficial to Hancock County residents, and this meeting room project again will help us provide the latest technology to our communities." The Seal Foundation has also provided the funding

for the same equipment in the Bay St. Louis Meeting Room, and it will be installed and in place as soon as the building is reopened in November.

Waveland

Thanks to the leadership of officials from the City of Waveland and the Hancock Library Board of Trustees, the new Waveland Public Library is set to debut on the corner of Coleman and Central Avenues sometime in late 2010 or early 2011. Groundbreaking for the new 8,000 square foot building took place on the site on July 31, 2009, at 10:00 a.m., and construction is estimated to take twelve to eighteen months. The new building will feature special areas for both children and teens, a ten-foot deep front porch with space for rocking chairs and a portecochere in the back of the building for passenger drop-offs.

"We are also very excited about opening the new Waveland Public Library in the fall of 2010," continued Furr. "The furnishings and décor will be very reminiscent of the former space and reflect the coastal lifestyle that Waveland residents have always loved. When we are closer to the opening of the new space, we will be looking for donors to help us replace the wonderful beach-themed artwork that made the Waveland Library such a delight to its users. This building will be a wonderful place for current users and new residents alike to enjoy." The Waveland Public Library is now located in a temporary trailer as part of the Gulf Coast Libraries Recovery Project through a grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, administered by the Southeastern Library Network (SOLINET), which has recently been renamed LYRASIS. The temporary facility is a full-service library that holds approximately 5,000 items, including adult and large print fiction and non-fiction books, movies on DVD, books on CD, and a variety of children's books. Library Board Chair Toni Larroux is grateful for the support from the Gates Foundation. "We can't thank this organization enough for helping us restore library services and allowed us to have the latest technology in our temporary facilities. The library is such an important part of the rebuilding efforts there, and the support provided by the Gates Founda-

tion has been invaluable in providing a full-service library for the residents."

Pearlington

County officials are also considering restoring library services in a permanent facility for Pearlington residents, and a new facility for the residents of Diamondhead, Fenton and East Hancock County.

Programming

Along with the building and revitalization of the system's facilities, a new emphasis on library programming will begin in the fall. Two new series are planned to appeal to a wide range of library patrons including working parents and those unable to attend the library's traditional day-time events. The first series, starting in September, is "Top Tips for Tough Times," and features practical tips on how to save money and keep more of the paycheck that families earn. Some of the topics offered will include "Depression Era Secrets for Cooking Low-cost Delicious Meals," "Savvy Shopping Secrets for Buying More and Paying Less," "Decorating on a Dime by Recycling Items from Estate Sales and Thrift Stores," and "Finding a Home You Can Love without Bankrupting Your Budget." More information about these and other programs in this timely series, which will be offered in the evenings starting in September, is available from the library.

A second series planned for 2010 will feature local artists sharing their particular area of expertise with beginners who are interested in learning a new craft or skill. The programs, which will be called, "You Know, I've Always Wanted to Do That!" will feature close-up demonstrations and hands-on instruction in many different kinds of arts and crafts. Some topics that are being considered for the series include pottery, print-making, ceramics, working with stained glass, water color painting, sculpture, photography, and even some cooking techniques like making homemade pasta and crafting sushi from scratch. More information about these classes, which will be held in the Bay St. Louis-Hancock County Library beginning in January, will be available in December and again shortly after Christmas.

The library system currently hosts its

monthly Authors & Characters @ Your Library each month and the Kiln Public Library hosts the Second Friday Book Club each month as well. These programs offer those who are available to attend programs during the day with a forum to learn about current books and discuss them in a group setting.

Even though the library system is still largely in temporary quarters, over three thousand people a month visit the various locations, and those figures will likely increase as the new library spaces become available. Thanks to a gift from the Gates Foundation, a final, large technology grant will become available shortly that will benefit just the Katrina libraries in New Orleans and on the Gulf Coast and some of the libraries affected by Hurricane Rita, as well. Furr is excited about this final Katrina grant, "The Gates organization has asked us to evaluate our existing technology to see what needs to be replaced, and what new systems might benefit our customers the most as we bring the libraries that were lost in Katrina back. I will be proposing a new PC reservation system with automated printing services that will allow patrons to reserve a computer at the library ahead of time from home, as well as an automated system for Internet printing. We also hope to get children's computers with preloaded educational games for children from the age of pre-schoolers up through the upper elementary school grades. We want everyone to be able to find the technology that they need here at the library. It is one of our most important missions."

With all of the new building projects and plans to revitalize library services, there will be many exciting developments ahead for each of the libraries that make up the Hancock County system. As each of the library branches begin to come back online, corresponding services like library programming, more computers for patrons and technology classes at libraries will begin to be offered again. The return of each of the Hancock libraries will likely give those who are considering a return to the Coast just one more good reason to come back home. Furr comments, "We consider these libraries to be part of the economic engine that will help spur new growth and encourage former coastal residents to come home to Hancock County. I

will be working each day to push the projects to completion as quickly as possible because they are so important to the communities they serve."

Countywide public library services are provided with funding from the Hancock County Board of Supervisors and the Cities of Bay St. Louis and Waveland. The library's Web page can be found at www.hancocklibraries.info.

— Submitted by Mary M. Perkins, public affairs/development officer, Hancock County Library System

Ellisville Public Library Opens New Facility

On July 9, 2009, the Friends of the Ellisville Public Library and the Jones County Economic Development Authority hosted the grand opening of the new Ellisville Public Library facility. Attended by over 150 people, the event drew state and local officials as well as local residents. Three grants made up the majority of the funding needed for the new facility. Senator Thad Cochran sponsored a \$250,000 line item grant through Housing and Urban Development. A \$275,000 grant came from the United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development Authority. A \$300,000 Public Library Capital Improvement Grant from the Mississippi Legislature was administered by the Mississippi Library Commission. The City of Ellisville and Jones County Board of Supervisors provided money to match grants as well as pay for other needs that arose during construction.

The Friends provided refreshments, balloons and bookmarks for the event. Chil-

dren attending the event were entered in a drawing for two gift cards to a local bookstore donated by an area business.

"We were so thrilled to have a great crowd for the opening of our beautiful new facility," said Director Mary Louise Breland. "The community has been campaigning for this new facility for a while and it is finally complete."

After over seven years of planning and securing funding, the new facility quietly opened its doors to the public on May 26. In the first month alone, the library saw an increase in library visits of over 300%. Circulation soared as well, jumping from over 400 items in May to over 1,600 items in June. The new facility provides room for programs. The library already hosted the Summer Reading program. A weekly Toddler Time is scheduled to begin in August.

"Community response to the new facility has been great," said Assistant Director Carolyn Russell. "We received an Institute of Museum and Library Services Library Services and Technology Act grant from the Mississippi Library Commission to develop a children's collection." The children in the community have responded with circulation jumping by 800 items in one month alone. The new facility boasts eight public access computers courtesy of a Gates grant as well.

"I am just so thankful the new library is finally completed," said Breland. "It has been a long wait but the beautiful new facility and the community response prove it was worth it."

— Submitted by Jill Nicholson, children's librarian/programming coordinator, Laurel-Jones County Library ■



Front row, left to right: Bobby Shows, Frank Williams, James Holifield, Pat Holifield, Julie Laird, Tim Waldrup, Carolyn Mason, Michelle Rogers; Back row: Andy Dial, Gary Staples, Win Ellington, Doug Landrum, Jeannette Walker, Paulette Entrekin, Mary Louise Breland.

People in the News

Tina Harry, Editor

Sarah C. Campbell, of Jackson, received a 2009 Theodor Seuss Geisel Honor Certificate for her book, *Wolfsnail: A Backyard Predator* (Boyds Mills Press, 2008), at the American Library Association's annual conference in July.

Campbell wrote the text of the critically-acclaimed non-fiction picture book that details a day-in-the-life of an unusual predator. Campbell and her husband, Richard, took the photographs that illustrate the story. Campbell is a member of the Mississippi Arts Commission's artist roster in two categories: writer and photographer.

A writer by profession, Sarah Campbell joined the Mississippi Library Association because she shares the MLA goal of strengthening Mississippi libraries. The Campbells have three sons and are avid users of school, public, and institutional libraries.

Campbell's next book, *Growing Patterns: Fibonacci Numbers in Nature*, will be published by Boyds Mills Press in spring 2010.



Sarah and Richard Campbell with Joan Atkinson (center), chair of the ALA's Theodor Seuss Geisel Award Committee. Photo by Graeme Campbell.

Rachel Cannady is Mississippi State University Libraries' new assistant professor and education reference librarian. Cannady received her BA in



Rachel Cannady

Tina Harry is associate professor and catalog and assistant automation librarian at the University of Mississippi; e-mail: tharry@olemiss.edu.

English at Texas Lutheran University in 1995 and her MLIS at the University of Arizona in 2008. Between earning her degrees, she worked as a teacher, academic advisor, and curriculum writer.

— ♦ —

Stephanie McKnight joined the University of Mississippi Libraries as a senior library assistant in the Modern Political Archives in August 2009. She recently graduated from UM with a BA degree in history.

— ♦ —

Mary Travis, former employee of the Jackson Hinds Library System, has accepted the position of public services clerk at the Waynesboro-Wayne County Library. Mary will handle overdue patron accounts, assist in the computer lab, and provide other public services.

— ♦ —

Alyssa Wilson joined the University of Mississippi Libraries as a senior library assistant in August 2009. She earned her BA in fine art from the University of Mississippi and her MA in history, with a concentration in museum studies, from the University of Missouri-Saint Louis. ■

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About Books

Jennifer Brannock, Editor

FICTION

Cheek, Steven. *Cane and Able: A Novel*. Raleigh, NC: Lulu Press, 2008. 398 pp. \$23.49 (paperback)

In *Cane and Able*, the titular characters are a Mississippi farm boy, Justin Cane and farmhand Able Johnson. This general fiction work is Cheek's first novel.

The story takes place in the summer of 1959 in the Mississippi Delta, with three different threads: the coming-of-age story of Justin learning to drive on a road trip with his father's black farmhand Able; the perilous story of Able's sister, Jeanna, who becomes entangled with a well-known Delta gangster; and the sad story of another farmhand, Pete Dodd, taking the train to see his son who is buried in Detroit.

Justin and Able dropped Pete off at the train station; then began a roundabout tour of the Delta on their return to the farm. During the trip, Able teaches Justin the rudiments of driving while they experience some adventures that would have raised the eyebrows of Able's employer, Mr. Cane.

Before Jeanna can come up with the money to go to New Orleans for a job, she meets up with a gangster – Big Doug. Her treatment at Big Doug's hands and her harrowing adventures are the most exciting passages in the book.

Pete, on his trip to Detroit on the train, tells his story of how he came to work for Mr. Cane. When he returns to Mississippi, he helps Cane, Able, and several law enforcement officers in hot pursuit of criminals.

This first novel is very much in need of better copyediting. The typos and misuse

of language were numerous, glaring, and distracting. Characterization and plot are both a little weak and confusing.

This book is an optional purchase even for large, regional collections. Libraries and readers with an interest in Mississippi historical fiction will be somewhat disappointed with the lack of real historical context.

Jamie Elston

Assistant Director for Public Services
Hancock County Library System

— ♦ —

Neely-Dorsey, Patricia. *Reflections of a Mississippi Magnolia: A Life in Poems*. Jonesboro, AR: GrantHouse Publishers, 2007. 90 pp. \$15.00 (paperback)

In *Reflections of a Mississippi Magnolia: A Life in Poems*, Patricia Neely-Dorsey has written, in poetic form, a kind of primer on southern life, manners, and customs. Her collection of seventy-two short poems is divided into seven sections: Southern Life, Country Living, Childhood Memories, Family History, Getting Personal, Intimacies, and Summing Things Up.

This is not the angst-ridden poetry of a tortured soul; instead, "Loving Me" and "Happy (With the Nappy)" reveal a woman who is happy, secure, and comfortable with herself. Free of strict meter, but usually rhyming, Neely-Dorsey's poetry captures images of nature, people, rural activities, social gatherings, and, of course, all kinds of food. "Hog Killing Time" depicts the tasks performed in preparing a hog for eating; "Country Doctor" paints a loving, respectful portrait of the poet's father in his profession; and "Right to Vote" is a gentle reminder of the great difficulties that have been overcome, so that black people could vote in elections. It is clear Neely-Dorsey also enjoys

playing with the rhythm of words and speech, as evidenced in "Neighborhood Groceries," "Partyline," and "Country Living."

While Neely-Dorsey received her college education in the Northeast (shown in her lighthearted frustrations with northern expressions in "Boston"), it is obvious from "Mississippi Morning" and "If Mississippi's In You" that she deeply loves the South, especially her native Mississippi. As she expresses in "Mississippi Through and Through," "...I breathe Mississippi. I move Mississippi. I think Mississippi. I feel Mississippi. I am, simply, Mississippi through and through." This little book of poems is recommended for all Mississippi libraries, and will move the reader closer to understanding just what a "Mississippi Magnolia" girl is.

Rick Torgerson

Cataloger
Delta State University

— ♦ —

North, Darden. *Fresh Frozen*. Jackson, MS: Ponder House Press, 2008. 344 pp. \$26.95 (hardcover)

Fresh Frozen is the author's third mystery set in Jackson, Mississippi. Readers will be taken behind the medical scenes of the Van Deman Reproductive Center, a lucrative facility that provides advanced technology in the process of frozen embryos. The four main characters – Wesley and Carrie Sarbeck, Cheryl Choice, and Allyn Saxton – all are individuals who desperately want to have children and are turning to the reproductive center for help. Unfortunately, their desperation collides in a plot filled with murder, deceit, and even the larceny of frozen embryos.

North does an excellent job of detailing the precise work behind human reproduc-

Jennifer Brannock is associate professor and special collections librarian at the University of Southern Mississippi; e-mail: jennifer.brannock@usm.edu.

tive technology. Readers may find themselves comparing the book to today's media attractions such as the Octomom, Jon and Kate Plus 8, and other celebrities who are seeking assistance from fertility clinics. The jargon is easy to read and, since it is loaded with intrigue and information about this medical process, it will be a page turner for readers. In some areas of the book, however, certain characters were futile and could have been deleted easily, while others could have appeared more frequently with a stronger voice. The book is recommended for public libraries with an audience interested in medical thrillers.

Shugana Williams

Librarian

Katrina Research Center, University of Southern Mississippi

— ♦ —

Shirley, Philip. *Oh Don't You Cry for Me.* Lookout Mountain, TN: Jefferson Press, 2008.
200 pp. \$19.95 (hardcover)

Set in Mississippi and Alabama, these stories explore the world-weary, sadder aspects of life. Acts of drinking, revenge, loving, raw sex, resignation, and violence are interspersed with the drag of getting through life day by day. Some stories are as short as four pages; others are more involved. The time span covered by each story ranges from a few minutes to several months, but each is a precise description of a life – some told in first person, others in third person. Each is concise and elegant, but ultimately a downer. An overwhelming sense of futility, with an undercurrent of menace, pervades each tale. At the end of it all, the title is precisely what you should be doing for these people – crying for them, because a lot of them really need it.

This book is recommended for public and university libraries, and possibly high school libraries with Advanced Placement English classes. The book is intended for mature readers.

Susan T. Byra

Retired Director

East Mississippi Regional Library

— ♦ —

NONFICTION

Johnson, Elizabeth. *Martha Skelton: Master Quilter of Mississippi.* Jackson: University Press of Mississippi, 2008.
208 pp. \$28.00 (hardcover)

Quilters throughout Mississippi have long been familiar with Martha Skelton, a master quilter who has shared her love of the craft with others throughout the state. In *Martha Skelton: Master Quilter of Mississippi*, author Elizabeth Johnson provides a detailed narrative of the life and work of Mississippi's renowned quilt artist.

Johnson, the author of numerous books on quilting and a long-time acquaintance of Skelton, consulted oral histories and scrapbooks to tell Martha's story. She also lets the quilts "do the talking," using them to illustrate significant events and places, as well as other sources of inspiration in Martha's life.

The narrative is accompanied by ninety full color photographs by J.D. Schwalm of the *Clarion-Ledger*. The photos capture the beauty and detail of Skelton's quilts, illustrating her skillful use of color and design. The photographs are arranged chronologically, so readers can follow Skelton's development as a quilter from her childhood through the present.

Martha Skelton was born in 1919 and grew up in Oklahoma surrounded by quilters. She enjoyed a variety of needlework as a child, and pieced her first quilt as a teenager. After she graduated college, Martha worked in a library and earned her library degree. She and her husband later moved to Vicksburg. Martha continued to quilt while raising a family, and she also worked for over ten years as a school librarian.

After her children left home, Skelton became increasingly active in Mississippi's quilting community. She taught numerous classes throughout Mississippi, and her work was displayed in venues around the state and the nation. She has also been active in state quilting organizations, and she helped set up the quilting program at the Mississippi State Fair. She has won numerous awards, and twice participated in the Smithsonian's Folklife Festival. She

has made over two hundred quilts, and is recognized as a master quilter and teacher.

Martha Skelton: Master Quilter of Mississippi is appropriate for readers interested in arts and crafts in Mississippi, and will appeal particularly to those interested in quilting. Johnson's narrative is clean and straightforward and the photographs of Martha Skelton's quilts are stunning. This book is recommended for public libraries and academic libraries in Mississippi.

Laura Capell

Digital Archivist

University of Southern Mississippi

— ♦ —

Kaye, Anthony E. *Joining Places: Slave Neighborhoods in the Old South.* Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 2007. 365 pp. \$22.95 (paperback)

This fine first monograph by Anthony E. Kaye describes a little known facet of slave life – that slaves transformed plantation life into slave neighborhoods with unique slave cultures. These neighborhoods allowed slaves to date, practice religion, marry (albeit marriages not recognized by law), work for pay outside their plantation, and have a sense of community.

The focus of this book is Mississippi – in the regions of both Vicksburg and Natchez. The time period spans from the antebellum period through the early days of Reconstruction. The author touts his book as the first such source to use vast testimony by ex-slaves and pensions files of former soldiers in the Union Army.

Other sources used by the author include Works Progress Administration records, plantation journals, newspapers, county court cases, travelers' diaries, and the records of the Southern Claims Commission.

One weakness of the book is that Kaye – an assistant professor of American history at Pennsylvania State University – doesn't provide detailed evidence that slave neighborhoods existed in all of the southern slave states; although, Kaye does provide cursory evidence that slave neighborhoods did exist in North Carolina and Virginia.

The fact that Kaye makes the case about slaves and neighborhoods in Mississippi is his book's greatest strength. Until now, this story had not been told. Kaye's book appears to be a truly unique contribution to the body of literature about this chapter of history – and hopefully, Kaye's subject matter will be re-examined in future scholarly endeavors.

This book is recommended for academic and public libraries.

Peter R. Dean

Information Services Librarian

University of Southern Mississippi-Gulf Coast

— ♦ —

Shoup, Barbara and Margaret Love-Denman. *Novel Ideas: Contemporary Authors Share the Creative Process.* Athens: The University of Georgia Press, 2009. 2nd ed. 334 pp. \$22.95 (paperback)

Frequently books which purport to teach or inspire creative writing lapse into restrictive pedagogy or mystical flights of fancy and end up fulfilling neither premise nor promise. Fortunately, *Novel Ideas* by Barbara Shoup and Margaret-Love Denman does neither. This second edition of a well-received text first published nearly a decade ago is clean, crisp, informative, and welcoming. It is a well-made book with a superb cover design, and the content does not disappoint.

The deceptively simple construction frames question-and-answer interviews with twenty novelists by an introductory how-to and a concluding set of writing exercises. The authors, both novelists and teachers of creative writing, speak with authority and experience. Their seventy-page explication of the writing process covers imagining the novel, identifying the elements of fiction, seeing it all through, and revising one's work. The writers' interviews comprise the bulk of the text, and each one stands alone as an interesting vignette. Taken together, they provide a nicely illustrative, never didactic, guide to novel making.

The concluding sixteen pages of exercises are designed for browsing and are

keyed to the specific techniques and writing strategies exemplified by each interviewee's personal observations. These literary calisthenics could easily serve as assignments in a creative writing class or just as aptly as a means for jump-starting the seasoned novelist who needs to write his way out of a specific difficulty.

The novice, the professional, or the student scholar who desires fresh insight into how working writers sustain their writing lives and how they make their books could all benefit from *Novel Ideas*. This publication would be a worthwhile addition to any collection (academic, public, or private) whose readership is interested in that peculiar balance of craft and magic which produces a novel.

Teresa Neaves

Librarian

Mitchell, McNutt & Sams Law Firm

— ♦ —

Vendryes, Margaret Rose. *Barthé a Life in Sculpture.* Jackson: University Press of Mississippi, 2008. 229 pp. \$40.00 (hardcover)

James Richmond Barthé was born on January 28, 1901, in Bay St. Louis, Mississippi, to Richmond Barthé and Clemente Raboteau. His early education was in Bay St. Louis. From there, he moved with the Ponds family to New Orleans to take a position as a houseboy. His talent for drawing and painting was recognized in New Orleans, and he was encouraged by the local church and religious community to study at the Art Institute of Chicago, where he began his life as a sculptor.

Margaret Rose Vendryes narrates a compelling biography of Barthé, an artist who is largely underappreciated today. She reveals his enigmatic character: a person in constant conflict with himself – as a Creole, an African American, and a closeted homosexual – and whose inner turmoil led to bouts of mental illness and confinement. Although he saw his work as non-racial “He [Barthé] walked a fine line between solidarity with African America and his wish for inclusion in the dominant European American art arena. This was

one of his greatest lifelong challenges.” (p.25)

The book's many excellent illustrations provide an overview of Barthé's work and a comparison with the work of the artists who influenced him. Vendryes includes images of lesser known sculptures *Boy with Broom* and *Marathon Runner*, as well as of his better known works *Blackberry Woman* and *The Awakening of Africa*. It is sad that Vendryes has had to put “location unknown” as a note on so many of these illustrations indicating that the works so noted may only exist as photographs today.

Although Barthé was known primarily as a sculptor, Vendryes has taken pains to include examples of his work in pastels (*Portrait on Harold Jackman*) and paint (*Untitled (St. Sebastian)*). Vendryes documents Barthé's internal struggles as he moved to Jamaica and tried to establish himself as a painter, and his ultimate realization that painting would never form a significant part of his oeuvre, noting that in one of his paintings, “A self-portrait hides behind The Sad Clown ... Bright colors veil the despair lying right on the surface” (p.158). Barthé's subsequent illness in Jamaica, “A series of disturbing episodes would eventually bring life at lolaus to a halt ... Barthé was taking tranquilizers for chronic insomnia ...” (p. 164), and the changing political climate of the island, ultimately prompted his return to the United States. Moving to Pasadena, California, in the 1970s, Barthé spent his last days as a celebrated artist whose social circles included celebrities and “California's intelligentsia.”

It is clear that Vendryes brings a considerable amount of scholarship to this well-written and interesting book. She has meticulously footnoted her work and has drawn upon a wide range of sources for her content. Her resources include formal archives, such as those at the Amistad Research Center at Tulane University in New Orleans and the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, as well as the correspondence collected over the years by Barthé's family and friends. The result is a highly readable account of the life and work of one of the great sculptors of the twentieth century, a book that will be a welcome addition to the collections of

public, academic, and art research libraries.

Sheila Cork
Librarian
New Orleans Museum of Art



White, Neil. *In the Sanctuary of Outcasts: A Memoir.* New York: William Morrow, 2009. 336 pp. \$25.99 (hardcover)

Neil White's first book is his account of the year he spent in the federal penitentiary at Carville, Louisiana. Convicted of bank fraud in 1993, White arrived at Carville unaware that the facility was also the home of about 130 leprosy patients. Proud of his success in publishing and journalism in Oxford and the Gulf Coast, and not entirely convinced that kiting checks was so wrong, White was both embarrassed that he had let down his family and employees and also determined to make the best of his sentence. He decided to continue being a journalist and began to interview his fellow prisoners and the patients he gradually got to know.

During the year at Carville, White confronted some vanities behind his drive for success, including his desire to be the head of a publishing empire. From some of the leprosy patients, he learned to live with simplicity and humility, to care less for the opinions of others, to welcome people in. A key lesson for White was to understand he could not remake himself. Instead, he could accept himself for the person he was, and he could make choices to put his strengths to work to accomplish new purposes.

The title is intriguing. It is easy to think of outcasts as representing leprosy patients as well as inmates. Sanctuary is more enigmatic, but was aptly chosen. A sanctuary is often a place of refuge or protection. In a sense, Carville is that to the patients (who now live there by choice). But sanctuary also connotes holiness or a sense of the sacred. I think this is what White experienced at Carville, especially in his friendships with two leprosy patients, Ella and Harry, as they welcomed him into their lives.

In the Sanctuary of Outcasts: A Memoir would be a good addition to any general collection. Adult readers who like to read accounts of conduct of life will be interested, as well as those who want to know more about the challenges faced by leprosy patients.

Linda Ginn
Catalog Librarian
University of Southern Mississippi ■

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MLA Executive Board Meeting Minutes

May 20, 2009 • 10:30 a.m.
Mississippi Library Commission
Jackson, MS

President Jan Willis called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m.

Secretary Marsha Case called the roll.

Executive Board members present:

President: Jan Willis
 Vice President: Ann Branton
 Immediate Past President: Jeff Slagell
 Treasurer: Amanda Clay Powers
 Secretary: Marsha Case
 ALA Councilor: Sherry Laughlin
 Parliamentarian: Shirlene Stogner
 MLA Executive Secretary: Mary Julia Anderson
 (ex officio member)

Others present:

Judy Hilkert, ACRL section chair
 Jacqueline Quinn, Black Caucus Roundtable chair
 Pat Rodgers, Black Caucus Roundtable vice chair
 Sybyl Robinson

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from October 21, 2008, December 11, 2008 (2008 final meeting), and December 11, 2008 (2009 first meeting) were read. One correction was made in the December 11, 2008 (2009 first meeting) to insert Shedd after Brock in Fiscal Management report. Jeff Slagell moved that all three sets of minutes be accepted with the correction as noted above. Sherry Laughlin seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Executive Board Reports

President's Report: Jan Willis began his report with the discussion that Randy Sherard has asked to not chair the Trustee section this year and asked if anyone knew of a possible replacement.

A report was given that National Library Legislative Day was held in Washington, D.C. May 11-12, 2009. Representing Mississippi were

Frances Coleman, Sharman Smith, Dee Tatum, and Jan Willis, as well as MLC Board of Commissioners Russell Burns, Celia Fisher, Pamela Pridgen, and Glenda Segars. They met with Representative Gregg Harper, along with the assistants of the other members of Mississippi's Congressional delegation.

LSTA funding, E-Rate, and the federal stimulus package were among the topics discussed. Legislative Day 2010 will be tied into the ALA annual conference.

Advocacy Day in February was well received at the Mississippi State Capitol where MLA representatives delivered slices of pie to the members of the legislature.

Treasurer's Report: Amanda Powers opened a discussion about using electronic banking for the regular monthly bills. It was discussed whether there was a more efficient, progressive way of handling the banking. The mail doesn't work very well with having to send checks to various people. Electronic banking should allow for better monitoring. She will look into it further.

Vice President's Report: Ann Branton said plans for the 2009 MLA Annual Conference to be held in Hattiesburg, October 21-23, 2009, are going well. The theme this year is "Eco-Friendly Libraries: Greener for a New Century." Ann, Jeff Slagell, and Sherry Laughlin will work on a proclamation for the one hundredth anniversary of MLA to be presented by the Mississippi Legislature. Branton and Laughlin are working on the program grant. The keynote speaker is Louise Schaper, director of the Fayetteville Public Library, Arkansas, which received LEED Silver status in 2006. The one hundredth anniversary birthday bash will feature Celtic dancers with Greg Johnson. There will be a \$20 cover for beer, wine, and heavy hors d'oeuvres. Laughlin reported that rooms have been put on hold at several hotels in the Hattiesburg area – Hampton Inn, Fairfield Inn, Courtyard, Residence Inn, and Holiday Inn. Jeff Slagell stated that he would be working on the Past Presidents' Award.

ALA Councilor's Report: Sherry Laughlin presented a resolution honoring Judith F. Krug (1940-2009) for her life and legacy as an indefatigable champion of libraries and librarianship and a steadfast advocate for First Amendment rights for all people. Slagell made the motion that MLA should pass this resolution. Amanda Powers seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Section Reports

ACRL-Mississippi Chapter Report: Judy Hilkert stated that Fred Stoss' topic will be "Green Library ICE @ your library: Information, Communication, Education." Stoss is from the University at Buffalo.

Roundtable Reports

Black Caucus Roundtable Report: Pat Rodgers reported that the BCRT luncheon will have two speakers: Barbara A. Seals Nevergold and Peggy Brooks-Bertram, compilers and editors of *Go, Tell Michelle*.

Technical Services Roundtable Report:

Ann Branton reported that the spring meeting held in May went well and had more than fifty in attendance.

Committee Reports

Election Committee Report: Shirlene Stogner presented the slate of nominees to be ratified for the 2010 elections:

Vice President/President-elect
 Carolyn McCallum
 Jennifer Smith
 Secretary
 Ruth Ann Gibson
 Judith Hilkert
 Treasurer
 Molly Signs McManus
 Maggie Moran

Jeff Slagell made the motion to accept the slate of nominees and Amanda Powers seconded. Motion passed.

Stogner also presented the results of the 2009 election to be ratified:

Vice President/President-elect
Jennifer Smith
Secretary
Ruth Ann Gibson
Treasurer
Molly Signs McManus

Jeff Slagell made the motion to ratify the winners as presented. Amanda Powers seconded the motion. Motion passed.

National Library Week Committee

Report: Alice Shands was not in attendance, but submitted a written report. Seventy-six libraries ordered 26,885 bookmarks and 848 posters for NLW. A press packet was distributed and news releases were sent to all daily papers in the state. Shands also suggested finding a way to insure multi-type library participation. Another idea was to expand the committee into a year-round marketing/public relations/publicity committee.

Old Business

Budget Proposal: The 2009 budget proposal was presented at the December meeting, but wasn't approved due to a lack of a quorum. The following recommendations were presented to the MLA Executive Board for consideration:

1. Approve an increase in salary for the Executive Secretary of 3% to \$15.45 per hour.
2. Increase bookkeeper's salary to \$3,708 per year, which is a 3% increase.
3. Investigate possible increases for advertising in *Mississippi Libraries* and on the MLA Web site.
4. Invest Virgia Brocks-Shedd Scholarship funds.
5. Hire Ann Richmond as bookkeeper to replace Missy Lee who is retiring.
6. Transition to electronic banking and Executive Board to decide who has access to account.
7. Approve the 2009 budget proposal.

Amanda Powers made the motion to approve the seven recommendations as presented. Jeff Slagell seconded the motion. Motion passed.

More discussion followed concerning who had access to the bank account and who might have access if electronic banking is chosen. Final suggestions were that the treasurer and president have complete access while the bookkeeper, president-elect, and executive secretary have viewing capability if and when electronic banking is implemented.

New Business

Legislative Goals: The following ten legislative goals were presented:

1. Secure continued and increased funding for MAGNOLIA, which provides to all Mississippians access to electronic information databases through publicly supported libraries.
2. Secure full funding for the Mississippi Library Commission's operational budget, including staffing.
3. Obtain increased funding for the Personnel Incentive Grants Program (PIGP). Raise legislative awareness of the role of the PIGP in supporting public library services. PIGP is as important to public libraries as MAEP is to public schools.
4. Broaden legislative understanding of the importance of the Health/Life Insurance Program for public library employees and the need for continued full funding as premiums and participation increase.
5. Support projects and funding involving K-12 schools, community colleges, and university libraries.
6. Obtain bond funding for capital improvements in public libraries.
7. Increase public awareness of the role of all types of libraries in the educational, informational and economic development of the state.
8. Raise awareness of the need for professional librarians and qualified staff in libraries.
9. Identify and monitor any legislative initiatives that pertain to or impact the delivery of library services to Mississippians, including issues related to funding, library governance, intellectual freedom, access to information, and confidentiality in the use of library materials.

10. Monitor and respond to federal activities affecting libraries.

Sherry Laughlin made the motion to accept the goals as presented and Jeff Slagell seconded. Motion passed.

Linda Milner Fund: Jan Willis presented information concerning the establishment of a charitable account for Linda Milner, assistant director of the Mid-Mississippi Regional Library, who was seriously injured in an automobile accident. This account will be known as the Linda Milner Fund and will be located at Regions Bank. The set-up fee will be \$50. Richard Greene, director of the Mid-Mississippi Regional Library System, along with Milner will have authority to access the funds. Amanda Powers made the motion that MLA support the creation of this fund and pay the \$50 set-up cost. Sherry Laughlin seconded the motion. Motion passed.

National Library Legislative Day: Jan Willis also asked that the National Legislative Day registrations and hotel be paid by MLA and then be reimbursed by MLC. Sherry Laughlin made the motion and Ann Branton seconded the motion. Motion passed.

The next MLA Executive Board meeting will be on Friday, August 14, 2009 at 10:30 a.m. The October meeting will be held during the annual conference. The December meeting has been scheduled for Friday, December 11 at 10:30 a.m.

With no further announcements, Sherry Laughlin made the motion to adjourn with Amanda Powers seconding. The meeting adjourned at 11:33 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Marsha Case, MLA secretary

Minutes approved at MLA Board meeting August 14, 2009. ■

MISSISSIPPI LIBRARY ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP FORM

Membership Year January-December 2009

☐ New Membership ☐ Renewal

Name _____
Mailing address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Position _____
Library _____
Home Phone _____
Business Phone _____
Fax _____
E-mail _____

One of the primary forms of communication between MLA and its members is the MLA listserv. As a member of the MLA listserv you will receive important announcements from MLA via email and be able to discuss library related issues with your peers. If you are not already a MLA listserv member, can we add your email address to the listserv?

☐ Sign me up! ☐ I decline

A. MEMBERSHIP TYPES

Membership (Any person currently working in a library or information center. Mark by salary range.)

\$0 to \$9,999	\$15 per year	\$ _____
\$10,000 to \$19,999	\$25 per year	\$ _____
\$20,000 to \$29,999	\$35 per year	\$ _____
\$30,000 to \$39,999	\$45 per year	\$ _____
\$40,000 to \$49,999	\$50 per year	\$ _____
\$50,000 to \$59,999	\$55 per year	\$ _____
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Student (2 Year Limit)		

Full or Part-time	\$10 per year	\$ _____
Retired	\$15 per year	\$ _____
Trustee	\$15 per year	\$ _____
Friend of Library	\$15 per year	\$ _____
Institutional Membership	\$45 per year	\$ _____
Vendor	\$40 per year	\$ _____

Lifetime membership

One-time Payment	\$1000	\$ _____
Installment Plan		

(Payable in increments of a minimum of \$200 each year until paid in full)

A. MEMBERSHIP TYPES SUBTOTAL \$ _____



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(Enter **\$6.00** for Additional Sections)

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School	\$ _____
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B. SECTIONS SUBTOTAL	\$ _____

C. ROUNDTABLES

Join one or more roundtables for opportunities in professional growth **\$3.00 EACH**.

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BLACK CAUCUS	\$ _____
ECTRT (Educational Communication and Tech)	\$ _____
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LIRT (Library Instruction)	\$ _____
NMRT (New Members)	\$ _____
SCRT (Special Collections)	\$ _____
TSRT (Technical Services)	\$ _____
2YCRT (2 Year College)	\$ _____
YPSRT (Young People's Services)	\$ _____
C. ROUNDTABLES SUBTOTAL	\$ _____

D. SCHOLARSHIPS

Donation to Peggy May Scholarship	\$ _____
Donation to Virgia Brock-Shedd Scholarship	\$ _____
D. SCHOLARSHIP SUBTOTAL	\$ _____

GRAND MLA TOTAL

(DUES GRAND TOTAL (A + B + C) AND SCHOLARSHIP D)

\$ _____

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____ Please charge my MLA dues to my:

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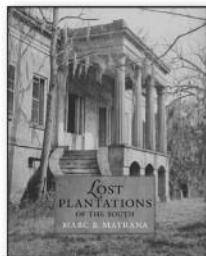
Signature _____

Dues must be paid by **March 15** in order to receive the Spring issue of **Mississippi Libraries** and for annual election of officers. MLA may at times supply its membership list to professional organizations or library vendors.

☐ Check the box if you do not want your name included.

(Revised 12/08)

Must-Have Titles for Mississippi Libraries



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MISSISSIPPI POLITICS

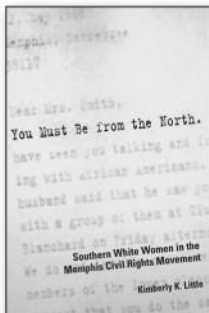
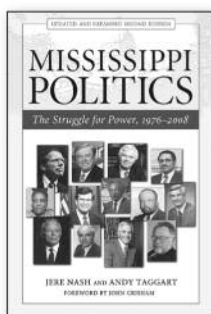
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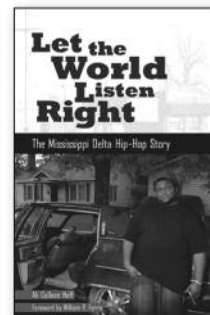
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