



# MISSISSIPPI LIBRARIES

Volume 73, No. 1

Spring 2009



A Quarterly Publication of the  
Mississippi Library Association  
©2009

ISSN 0194-388X

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**On the cover:** *Hollyhocks and Hummingbirds* by Jeanette Stone. This lap quilt/wall hanging was made from a kit from Keepsake Quilting. Jeanette Stone is the librarian at Lafayette-Yalobusha Library at Northwest Mississippi Community College's Oxford campus.

# MISSISSIPPI LIBRARIES

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

**Subscription Rates:** \$16.00 per year (\$4.00 per issue); \$24.00 per year outside of the U.S.; free to MLA members. Back issues are available from University Microfilms International.

**Advertising Rates:** Rates are available upon request from the Advertising Editor.

**Advertising Deadlines:** Spring: February 10; Summer: May 10; Fall: August 10; Winter: November 10

**Submissions:** Manuscripts must be submitted in electronic format in Microsoft Word, WordPerfect, or ASCII text format. Documents can be sent as an attachment via e-mail or on a CD-ROM or a 3½ inch disk via surface mail.

**Deadlines for submission:** Spring: February 2; Summer: May 2; Fall: August 2; Winter: November 2.

In order to assure the widest possible audience for the work published in *Mississippi Libraries*, that work is added in electronic form to the Mississippi Library Association Web site and, by contractual agreement, to one or more EBSCO Publishing databases. *Mississippi Libraries* is also indexed in *Library Literature and Information Sciences Abstracts*.

Dues must be paid by March 15 in order to receive the Spring issue of *Mississippi Libraries*.

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# PRESIDENT'S PAGE

It is an honor to serve as president of the Mississippi Library Association (MLA) during our centennial year. When Mississippi A & M College librarian Whitman Davis organized MLA on October 29, 1909, our mission began to ensure access to information for all Mississippians. One hundred years later, we are more vital to our citizens now than ever before in our history. As we enter our centennial year, our opportunities, not just our challenges, are before us.



Jan Willis

In the face of a very difficult economic period, our usage has risen. More and more Mississippians turn to their libraries for job information and applications, training and retraining themselves for a new career, taking online courses through the free computers and Internet services, and checking out books, audios, and DVDs rather than purchasing them. It's no wonder our libraries are a bargain.

While the need for our services continues to grow, funding in these economic times is in decline. Among public libraries, for example, those in our Southeastern region have been the hardest hit, according to the American Library Association (ALA).

ALA also notes that, nationwide, college libraries receive less than two pennies of every dollar invested in higher education and school libraries spend an average of \$10 on books per student, or less than half what a single school library book costs.

The answers to our needs are in ourselves as we advocate for better funding. Public, school, academic, and special libraries are essential to our communities and we hold the key to our future success in our hands.

As ALA president Jim Rettig, keynote speaker at our 2008 Conference, has said, "Libraries are part of the solution when a community is struggling economically – assisting the unemployed with job searches and filing unemployment benefits, helping the unskilled learn how to use a computer, providing homework help and access to e-government services."

Each of our libraries has a compelling and personal story to share with our elected officials, local and state, and with our users – who are ready to support us. In fact, our users provide that story to us on a daily basis. We simply have to effectively share it.

ALA offers excellent resources for organizing our advocacy efforts. Of special interest is the "Advocating in a Tough Economy" toolkit, available at [www.ala.org](http://www.ala.org). It is part of

ALA's new "Advocacy U" initiative, which offers every member of MLA an opportunity to set real objectives in real settings at our local levels to advocate why libraries matter.

As we share real life examples of the differences we make in the lives of Mississippians, we are sharing the economic value of our libraries. Investing in Mississippi libraries is investing in the future of every citizen's education and lifelong learning.

For 2009, our legislative goals include securing continued and increased funding for MAGNOLIA, which provides to all Mississippians access to electronic information databases through publicly supported libraries, securing full funding for the Mississippi Library Commission's operational budget, increasing funding for the Personnel Incentive Grants Program (PIGP), broadening legislative understanding of the importance of the Health/Life Insurance Program for public library employees, increasing support for K-12 schools, community college, and university libraries, advocating bond funding for capital improvements in public libraries, increasing public awareness of the role of all types of libraries in the educational, informational and economic development of Mississippi, raising awareness of the need for professional librarians and qualified staff in libraries, and monitoring state and federal legislative and other initiatives that pertain to library services to Mississippians.

We can best celebrate our centennial anniversary by sharing our story with our state. Join us, for we matter more than ever before in 2009! ■

# Technology, the Ever-changing Constant

Tisha M. Zelner, Editor,  
Mississippi Libraries

Volume 73 of *Mississippi Libraries* opens with a technology themed issue, as did the spring issues of volumes 71 and 72. This is a pattern worth repeating, as technology permeates all aspects of librarianship. Librarians are constantly challenged to maintain awareness of new technologies, to keep up with the patrons they serve, as well as to remain current in the practice of librarianship. The articles in this issue are a step toward meeting that challenge.

In "Digital Collections: Design and Practice," digital archivist Laura Capell and catalog librarian Linda Ginn team up to describe the metadata policies and procedures developed for the digital collections of the University of Southern Mississippi and for the Mississippi Digital Library. Oprah Winfrey mentioned Amazon's Kindle e-book reader on her television show in October 2008 and Amazon introduced the Kindle 2 in February 2009, making electronic services librarian Stephen Patton's article, "The Kindle and More: The Impact of E-Paper on Libraries" especially timely. The adoption of e-book readers by libraries will be an interesting trend to watch and Patton's article introduces the topic to those unfamiliar with the technology. Another emerging trend in libraries is the addition of video games and video game consoles to library collections. Central Mississippi Regional Library System is

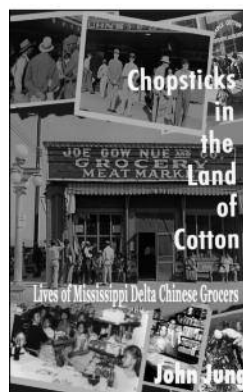
the first in Mississippi to create a collection of video games and Dorothy Vance writes about that experience in "Playing Games for Fun and Learning @ your library™." To round out this year's technology issue, Deborah Lee summarizes the trends identified in the sixth annual *Horizon Report* conducted by the New Media Consortium in her article, "A Glimpse into the Crystal Ball: The 2009 Horizon Report." The report identifies six technologies expected to become mainstream in "teaching, learning, research, or creative applications" in the next one to five years and, certainly, these are trends that librarians should be monitoring.

For the editorial staff of *Mississippi Libraries*, this issue marks both beginnings and endings. It is my pleasure to welcome Blair Booker to the ML staff as assistant editor, beginning with this issue. She has a BS in English from the University of North Alabama and a MLIS from the University of Alabama. Ms. Booker is currently the assistant librarian at McMorrough Library on the Goodman Campus of Holmes Community

College. At the conclusion of this issue's preparation, Christina Torbert resigned as book review editor. Ms. Torbert served in the position for three years and I wish her well as she turns her attentions to new activities. Jennifer Brannock is joining the staff as the new book review editor. Ms. Brannock has a BA in art history and MLIS from the University of Kentucky and is currently special collections librarian at McCain Library and Archives at the University of Southern Mississippi.

The next issue of *Mississippi Libraries* will be theme-free. While theme issues are important, the flexibility to share information about important topics that do not lend themselves to a broad, theme-based issue is also a valuable asset. Consequently, I've decided to give Mississippi librarians the opportunity to express their scholarly creativity in the next issue. If there's an article you've wanted to write, now is your chance. All topics are fair game for the summer issue of *Mississippi Libraries*. After all, summer is the perfect time to have a little fun. ■

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**Chopsticks in the Land of Cotton:  
Lives of Mississippi Delta Chinese Grocers.**  
John Jung, Yin & Yang Press, 2008. \$17.95

Plunging into the history of Chinese grocers in the Mississippi-Yazoo Delta, he traces their migration history, work, families, and social lives...anchored in a creative mix of oral history, community historical documents and public records, and includes a generous fill of photos.

Greg Robinson, *By Order of the President: FDR and the Internment of Japanese Americans*. Harvard University Press, 2001.

More Info: <http://tinyurl.com/johnjung>

Also by John Jung: "Southern Fried Rice" and "Chinese Laundries:"

# Digital Collections: Design and Practice

Laura Capell and Linda Ginn

## Abstract

*This article addresses workflows and metadata practices used at the University of Southern Mississippi Libraries. These practices are designed to make materials available quickly while ensuring consistency. The primary focus of the article is practices used for entering metadata for the USM Digital Collections.*

## Introduction

The University of Southern Mississippi Libraries have long been active in digitizing unique items from their Special Collections to make them available to a worldwide audience online. The libraries use CONTENTdm (<http://www.contentdm.com/>) to manage this growing digital repository, the USM Digital Collections ([http://cdm.lib.usm.edu/cdm\\_usm/index.php](http://cdm.lib.usm.edu/cdm_usm/index.php)). The digital items are arranged into collections that reflect the holdings and formats in Special Collections, such as Historical Manuscripts & Photographs, the DeGrummond Children's Literature Collection, Oral Histories, and Editorial Cartoons.

The libraries at USM also use CONTENTdm to host the Mississippi Digital Library (<http://www.msdiglib.net/>), a statewide collaborative that includes digital materials from libraries, archives, and other cultural institutions in Mississippi. Each institution is given its own online collection, such as the First Regional Library collection, which helps each institution retain its own distinct identity within the collaborative.

The collections in the USM Digital Collections and the Mississippi Digital Library range in size from a single item to thousands of items. They also contain a variety of formats, including scanned photographs and documents, PDF files of oral history transcripts, finding aids in HTML, and

audio files. Due to the variety within and across collections, consistency in the metadata is important, both for efficiency and to enhance the searchability of the materials.

This paper addresses workflows and metadata practices used at the USM Libraries that are designed to make materials available quickly while ensuring consistency. The primary focus is practices used for entering metadata for the USM Digital Collections. The metadata and workflows have been fashioned to work with CONTENTdm version 4.3, but they can be adapted to work with other systems.

## Metadata Fields

The metadata fields used in the USM Digital Collections and the Mississippi Digital Library are designed to provide consistency within and across collections and facilitate image management while maximizing searchability for users. A core set of forty metadata fields based on Dublin Core is used for both the USM Digital Collections and the Mississippi Digital Library.

The fields contain a blend of descriptive, administrative, preservation, and structural metadata. The descriptive metadata fields, such as Title, Creator, and Description, enable users to find each item and understand what it is. The administrative and preservation metadata facilitate the management and preservation of the digital objects and include information such as rights management and how each item was digitized. Structural metadata is used to maintain the relationship between images in digital objects that consist of multiple pages, such as books. Within CONTENTdm, metadata fields can be set to be either publicly viewable or hidden, so that the descriptive metadata is accessible in the public Web interface but much of the other metadata is not.

For each metadata field, CONTENTdm allows for the creation of controlled vocabularies that contain a standardized list of terms that can be either locally generated or imported from a thesaurus such as *Library of Congress Subject Headings*. The controlled vocabularies facilitate standardization, accuracy, and consistency, and

also speed up the metadata entry process because a term can be selected from a drop down list rather than entered manually. A controlled vocabulary can be set up for any metadata field, and it can be specific to a particular field in one collection or across multiple collections. For example, the field Resource Type has a controlled vocabulary that lists formats such as text, image, audio, and video. That list of terms is the same for every collection, so the controlled vocabulary is shared across all the collections. This is beneficial because, if a new term needs to be added to the list, entering it once can automatically update that controlled vocabulary field in all of the collections. The contents of certain metadata fields, however, are specific to a particular collection, such as the Creator field. Each collection has a controlled vocabulary for the Creator field, but it is not shared across collections.

In addition to customized controlled vocabularies, specialized metadata fields can be added as necessary, as CONTENTdm version 4.3 allows up to one hundred fields. For example, the USM Oral History Digital Collection contains several fields that are specifically used to enhance the description and to administer oral histories. Some of the fields, such as Interviewer, are visible in the public Web interface, but other fields, such as administrative fields concerning the recording and transcription of the oral histories, are hidden from the public view.

Several metadata fields were developed specifically as workarounds to handle quirks within CONTENTdm. One example is the Custom Searches field, which contains a controlled vocabulary of terms used for building custom methods of searching and browsing the collections. One of the terms in this field is Civil War, which is added to every record from the Civil War. A custom search was built within CONTENTdm resulting in a link that users can follow to see a list of all of the Civil War materials in the USM Digital Collections.

Another workaround involves dates. In order to accommodate the way CONTENTdm handles dates, two date fields

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were created: Date Searchable and Date. The Date Searchable field is a hidden field set as a Date Type field within CONTENTdm, allowing users to search by date on the advanced search page. This requires specific formatting when entering dates, such as YYYY-MM-DD or YYYY-YYYY, and does not allow for approximate, or circa, dates. In contrast, the Date field is visible in the public interface and it is not searchable. Because it is not a Date Type field, it does not have the strict formatting requirements and that allows approximate dates to be entered. For example, if a record is dated 12 March 1956, it would be entered in the Date Searchable field as 1956-03-12 and in the Date field as 12 March 1956. The date circa 1940s would be entered in the Date Searchable field as 1940-1949 and in the Date field as circa 1940s. Handling dates in this manner has

helped to eliminate confusion about dates for end users.

### Metadata Best Practices

Librarians at USM have developed *Metadata Best Practices for Mississippi Digital Library* (Best Practices 2009), a content standard to assist in the creation of metadata and to help promote standardization within metadata fields and across collections. The document lists all of the metadata fields, providing background information on the purpose of each field and how it is used. It spells out instructions for completing each field and gives examples of data entry.

Though *Best Practices* is a content standard, it is also an organic document that evolves as our understanding of and experience with CONTENTdm, metadata, and digital collections grows. For example,


it is sometimes necessary to reshape the definition of a given field or to change the way data should be input.

The metadata field Resource Type provides an example. When the document was written, the resources being digitized were textual, image, or both. *Best Practices* instructed that Text be entered if the original item contained text, that Image be entered if the original item was a photograph, or that both terms be entered in the field if the item was a combination. More recently, other types of resources have been added to USM Digital Collections and the Mississippi Digital Library. The Resource Type field now contains seven entries in its controlled vocabulary: audio, image, map, object, text, text (HTML), and video.

Another example of change (and flexibility) is in the area of subject terms. *Best Practices* instructs the cataloger to "Record four to eight subject headings in alphabetical order." The instruction worked well for some collections, but not for all of them. When work began on the USM Association of American Editorial Cartoonists (AAEC) Editorial Cartoon Digital Collection ([http://cdm.lib.usm.edu/cdm\\_usm/cartoon.php](http://cdm.lib.usm.edu/cdm_usm/cartoon.php)), the nature of the cartoons themselves was the impetus for another change in *Best Practices*. First, four to eight subject headings could not adequately represent the concepts expressed or the metaphors employed in the artwork of the editorial cartoons. Fifteen to twenty headings were often needed for adequate coverage. Discussion among the catalogers resulted in a reinterpretation of "four to eight" subject headings as a guideline instead of a limitation. Second, if so many headings were needed, then a strict alphabetical arrangement of them was problematic for completeness of entry and also for proofreading. Now, the headings are entered alphabetically by type: personal name, corporate name, topical, geographic, and genre. The result is a more streamlined process of subject analysis, data entry, and quality control.

### Workflow in the Digital Lab

The workflow begins in the Digital Lab, which is part of the McCain Library and Archives at USM. The lab is staffed by a digital archivist and a digital specialist. All





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items added to the USM Digital Collections are digitized in the lab using a Microtek flatbed scanner, a Microtek negative scanner, or a Pentax K10D digital camera. Oversized items and bound volumes are photographed in the RAW format and then converted into TIFF files using Adobe Photoshop CS3. Photographs and documents are scanned at 600 dots per inch (dpi) and negatives are scanned at 1200 dpi with 24-bit color using either a red-green-blue (RGB) or grayscale colorspace. Processing in Photoshop is minimal and typically involves rotating and cropping the image and sometimes adjusting the contrast or sharpening the image. Master TIFF images are saved on the library's digital image server. A 200 dpi JPEG or JPEG2000 access image with no resizing is derived from the master image and uploaded into CONTENTdm.

For the Mississippi Digital Library, most institutions do their own scanning and provide the images to the USM digital lab to be uploaded into CONTENTdm. The digital lab has scanned small amounts of materials for other institutions on occasion, but lacks the staff to digitize large quantities for other institutions. No matter where the scanning is done, the contributing institution must provide metadata for the images, preferably in a spreadsheet that can be imported into CONTENTdm.

The digital lab is responsible for uploading images into CONTENTdm and adding metadata. Digital images are imported into the CONTENTdm project client desktop application, where metadata is entered before the record is uploaded into the database. Metadata can either be keyed in for each item individually, or it can be imported and attached to images in batches using a spreadsheet that has been converted into a tab-delimited text file. Much of the administrative, structural, and preservation metadata is automatically generated when the record is imported into the project client, and the remaining technical fields are completed using drop-down lists containing standardized terms. Creating the descriptive metadata is the most time-con-

suming part of the process. For items that are already described in a finding aid or a MARC record, descriptive data can be copied; but if the item has no existing description, basic descriptive information has to be created. This is just the first step in the metadata process, though, and digital lab staff try to add enough descriptive metadata to make the item findable without spending too much time on each record. Catalogers in the library's Bibliographic Services Unit will later review the records, adding name and subject authorities, and enhancing the descriptions as necessary.

In addition to adding metadata, digital lab staff also determine the permissions status of the items and set any necessary access restrictions (due to copyright issues, not all of the digitized images in the USM Digital Collections are currently available via the public Web interface). After the metadata is entered and any necessary restrictions are set, the items are uploaded and made available online.

A list of the uploaded items is maintained on a wiki (MDLDigiProjects) that is accessible by staff in the digital lab and bibliographic services (see Figure 1).

ID	Collection name	# of items	Cataloging needed	Restricted	Notes	Date Updated
rg002	RG002 University of Southern Mississippi Photographs.	396	yes	public		12/16/08
yfb	University of Southern Mississippi Yearbooks.	163	yes	public		12/17/08
rg118	RG118 School of Nursing	5	yes	public		5/15/2008
rg032	RG032 University Union and Student Activities.	7	yes	public		1/15/09
mus.scb000001	Photos from Dearly Bought Deeply Treasured	21	yes	public		4/4/08
rg004	University of Southern Mississippi History	9	yes	public		4/4/08
rg042	University Memorabilia	4	yes	public		4/4/08
m209	Cook (Joseph Anderson) Papers	2	yes	public		1/16/08

Figure 1. A wiki is used to maintain a list of the collections which are ready for enhancement of descriptive metadata.

The wiki allows the catalogers to see what items need to be reviewed and it is also a convenient way for both units to track their progress. The library decided to make items available online before the catalogers review them in the interest of making as much material accessible to users as quickly as possible. Although the metadata may lack enhanced descriptions and name and subject authorities when it is first made available online, it does contain enough descriptive content to make the items searchable.

## Workflow in Bibliographic Services

Catalog librarians in bibliographic services are responsible for enhancing the descriptive metadata that represents the digital resources in USM Digital Collections and, to some extent, Mississippi Digital Library. As already described, much of the metadata (technical, structural, administrative, and some descriptive) is entered in the digital lab. The focus in bibliographic services is on fields such as Title, Alternate Title(s), Description, Creator, Searchable Date, Date, Coverage (time period), Time Period, and Subject.

Metadata work waiting to be completed is found by viewing the digital projects wiki. A collection is selected and the librarian enters a note on the wiki page to show that work is in progress on that group of records. Later, when work on that collection is finished, a completion note is entered on the wiki page.

To work on a group of records in CONTENTdm, a project folder must be created in the desktop client and linked to a collection. Some or all of the records of a collection (up to one hundred records at a time) are selected and loaded into the project folder, where they remain while they are analyzed and enhanced, reviewed for quality, and then uploaded back to the server. While records are in a project folder, they cannot be accessed by another person in CONTENTdm, but the digital resources they represent remain available to the public.

A recommended first step, once the records are in the folder, is to select all the records and click **Hold**. The rows on hold will be highlighted in red and will not be uploaded until the hold is released. Use of Hold on all rows that have not yet been enhanced can make it easy to see which rows still need work. In addition, there will be no accidental uploading of rows which have not yet been enhanced and controlled for quality.

Examples of workflow in this section come from the work in progress on the USM AAEC Editorial Cartoon Digital Collection. Enhancement work on the cartoon

records begins with an overall visual and conceptual review of the cartoon. Readily available online resources, such as authoritative Web sites, and easy reference tools, such as Wikipedia, are valuable for verifying facts, dates of events, and contextual clues in the cartoons.

Metadata is entered (or enhanced) based on guidance from *Best Practices*. The title as entered in the digital lab is verified, and the original date of the cartoon, if known, is entered into the Title field following the title. A detailed description of the images, characters, and actions portrayed in the cartoon is entered in the Description field. Dates of original production and the time period addressed in the cartoon (a day, a month, a range of years, etc.) are entered or verified in a combination of hidden fields and public view fields.

Subject headings are constructed to represent the concepts portrayed or employed in the cartoon. The controlled vocabulary for subject headings for the AAEC Editorial Cartoon Digital Collection is *Library of Congress Subject Headings*. Subject headings can be single terms, or they can contain multiple terms (pre-coordinated headings). Headings address not only the context and topics of the cartoon, but also the metaphors and images used to portray the topics. For example, if a cartoonist uses an image of Uncle Sam, it is readily understood that it is the people and/or politics of the United States that is being portrayed. That context is represented in subject headings, and we also include the heading Uncle Sam (Symbolic character) in the list of headings.

Authority work on the names of cartoonists is performed. Cartoonists whose names are already represented by authority records in Library of Congress Authorities are entered as specified in the authority record. When a cartoonist's name is not supported by an authority record, online research is conducted so that an authority record can be created.

The metadata at top right (Table 1) is from the record for "Old Man and the Sea," a cartoon by John Riedell, published in the *Peoria (Illinois) Journal Star* on February 18, 1969 (Riedell 1969). The number of subject headings entered (seventeen) is fairly typical.

Identifier	mus.aaec0814
Title	Old man and the sea; February 18, 1969
Description	From the AAEC Editorial Cartoon Collection; Cartoon by John Riedell. Uncle Sam is sitting in a small boat holding a fishing pole in his lap. A swordfish labeled "U.S. interests" is tied to the side of the boat, and the swordfish has a large hole in its side through which its ribs are showing. Circling the boat is a shark labeled "Peruvian hostility" The cartoon caption reads, "The old man and the sea."
Creator	Riedell, John.
Date	18 February 1969
Coverage (time period)	1968-1969
Subject	Hemingway, Ernest, 1899-1961. Old man and the sea. Nixon, Richard M. (Richard Milhous), 1913-1994. Republican National Committee (U.S.). Republican Party (U.S. : 1854- ). Fishers. Fishing. International relations. Sharks. Shark attacks. Swordfish. Swordfish fishing. Uncle Sam (Symbolic character). Peru – Foreign relations – United States. Peru – History – Coup d'état, 1968. Peru – Politics and government. United States – Foreign relations – Peru. United States – Politics and government – 1969-1974 – Caricatures and cartoons.

Table 1. Sample metadata

Quality control on metadata records is performed before the records are uploaded back to the server. As metadata enhancement is carried out, a log of the cartoons is created in a word processing document. Identifier and Title data are copied from CONTENTdm and pasted into the document. Questions about the cartoon that could not be resolved during enhancement are noted in the log, as well as name authority proposals. Once the metadata records are reviewed for quality, they are uploaded to the server.

### Workflow Efficiencies

In CONTENTdm, an open project folder shows a row and column grid that

resembles a spreadsheet, with a thumbnail image of the digital resource in the first column. Data can be keyed directly into the grid (see Figure 2). A second way to enter metadata is via the Media Editor window. Double click the thumbnail image in the grid, and key the metadata into the database form (see Figure 3).

Icon	Object name	Identifier	Alternate ID	Title
		mus.aaec0453	cartoon_item_0453	Most ambitious balancing act; September 26, 1972
		mus.aaec0475	cartoon_item_0475	I have been trying to put the Vietnam experience behind me, but every night I have the
		mus.aaec0476	cartoon_item_0476	I think he's trying to size me up to find out what kind of person I am; 1975

Figure 2. In CONTENTdm, an open project folder shows a row and column grid that resembles a spreadsheet, with a thumbnail image of the digital resource in the first column.



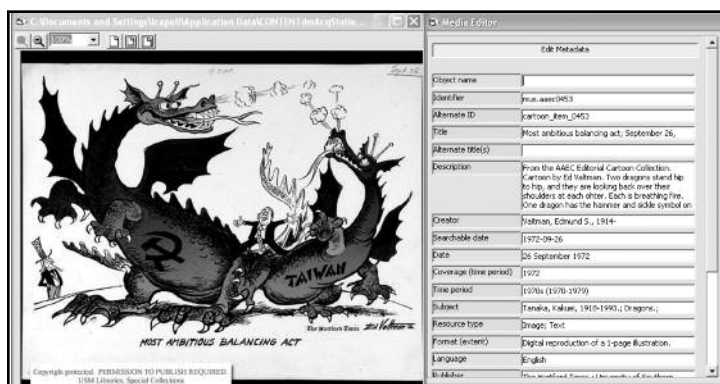


Figure 3. The CONTENTdm Media Editor window shows the image of the digital resource and the metadata entry form.

Each method of data entry has efficiencies and hazards. For example, the grid view provides an easy way to fill each cell of a column (such as the hidden field Cataloged by) with the same text using the Fill Down function. But a too-hasty **Enter** keystroke when the text of a cell is selected will delete that text without hope of recovery, and the text must be rekeyed. In the form view, there is no Fill Down function, and pressing **Enter** saves the record. In the grid view, columns and rows can be varied in width and height, but only a thumbnail image is available to see. In the form view, the image can be seen much larger, but the size of the data fields cannot be varied. These different properties mean a workflow can be developed to suit the individual.

Different methods of selecting records for work are also worth consideration. If the number of records in a collection is less than one hundred, or if the records are of a relatively similar nature, selecting all of them at once can be a good strategy. This strategy worked well for the metadata work done during 2007 on civil rights documents.

Another selection strategy can be helpful if there are many more records in the collection than one hundred, and especially if they do not all have a central unifying theme (such as civil rights). The AAEC Editorial Cartoon Collection, with 1,052 records, has items that address many subjects (presidents, elections, countries, social conditions, economic conditions, space exploration, and more). When metadata enhancement of this collection was begun during October 2008, the first one hundred records (in order of Identifier)

cartoon often resulted in the entry of many more than eight subject headings. Better organization of this workflow was needed for efficiency and productivity.

After the first one hundred records were completed and uploaded, a keyword strategy was tried to select records. A search for keyword "Apollo" retrieved fourteen records, and those were loaded into the project folder. Eight had already been enhanced during the work on the first one hundred records, so those were deleted from the folder. (Because metadata enhancement calls for addition of the cartoon's date to the title field, it is easy to see which records should be deleted from a new group using this keyword strategy.) The remaining six cartoons had many similarities, and enhancing their metadata was completed quickly. The next keyword used to select records was "Supreme," and it retrieved twenty-two records. "Wallace" retrieved fifteen records, and "Carter" retrieved twenty-five. Selecting records in this manner provides some opportunity for efficiency of thought process, analysis, and research of historical context. The work on one cartoon about the Supreme Court may inform the work on the next cartoon. In addition, if enhancement work is being done in the grid view, copy/paste can be employed for some fields.

An element of workflow that has significantly increased productivity is the use of two screens for cataloging. Current practice is to do the data entry in the grid on Screen 1 with the cartoon displayed on Screen 2. The same two-screen display can be accomplished with the use of a wireless laptop – metadata work on a desk-top computer, with the cartoon being dis-

played from the Web site on the laptop. That digital documents and images are made available to the public before metadata enhancement is complete makes this flexible aspect of the workflow possible.

## Summary

This article has described the collaborative workflow at University of Southern Mississippi Libraries that is being used to provide digital collections to the populations served by USM Libraries and the Mississippi Digital Library. Using CONTENTdm to manage the images and metadata, an in-house content standard to guide metadata creation, and a wiki to organize and communicate work priorities, librarians and staff in the Digital Lab and Bibliographic Services work together to make digital resources available efficiently and continuously. ■

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# The Kindle and More: The Impact of E-Paper on Libraries

Stephen A. Patton

## Abstract

*Amazon's Kindle is one of many e-book readers currently available to the public. These e-book readers implement an electrophoretic display or e-paper technology which may have ramifications for libraries and publishing. Due to its low energy consumption, low heat production, and thin and portable form factor, e-paper stands to revolutionize how we access and consume information.*

## Introduction

The Amazon Kindle has caused a media frenzy about a technology that is not even cutting edge, though the Kindle has combined several different technologies to produce a truly practical device. The Kindle actually uses a little known display called e-paper that has the possibility to transform how we read, write, publish, and consume information. This article examines the Amazon Kindle, the technology behind the Kindle's e-paper display, and the potential impact on libraries and publishing.

## The Kindle

While the Amazon Kindle has received a lot of recent media attention, the devices with the most market penetration in portable readers is, unsurprisingly, Apple's iPhone and iPod. There are several other e-book reader devices on the market, including Sony's Reader Digital Book. Sony has partnered with NetLibrary and others to release publications electronically.<sup>1</sup> It is an individual choice whether the reader (or the library) wants a singular device capable of many applications, like the iPhone, or a specialized device to access only e-books, like the Kindle.

The hardware type that has influenced

how users access information is the Ultra-Mobile Personal Computer or UMPC. The generic term UMPC describes ultra small PC-like devices that generally have specific or limited capabilities along with low heat and power consumption. Most UMPCs are geared to a specific task, e.g., GPS devices, iPods, and Internet surfing devices. The Amazon Kindle is a UMPC type intended to be used primarily as a device for accessing published information. The Kindle is designed primarily with the needs of the reader in mind and has a number of advantages which suggest the wider potential and longevity of this type of device. Foremost among the advantages is the fact that the Kindle is highly specialized to display text. Also, when text loads onto the screen, no further energy is required to keep it displayed indefinitely. Not only does the Kindle weigh under a pound, the battery-life is impressive, as the factory issued battery can last up to one full week without recharging if the wireless function is off.

The Kindle uses a wireless system called Whispernet to transmit new material to the device. Amazon partnered with Sprint to allow use of Sprint's EVDO (Evolution Data Only or wireless broadband Internet service) as the backbone for Whispernet.<sup>2</sup> Using a Kindle to access services is similar to using a cellular phone with broadband access. The user can be anywhere as long as he or she can receive a connection from a cell tower. The Kindle can update downloadable content continuously, which is useful for such publications as newspapers, blogs, and Web feeds.

Amazon deserves much praise for what they have already accomplished with the Kindle, but there have been complaints about the formatting of some of their titles and that they are charging far too much.<sup>3</sup> However, as soon as other UMPC-type devices are available on the market in a non-proprietary file format, it is likely that prices will drop substantially. While many people in technology have predicted the

demise of print text for years, devices such as the Kindle may actually signal the death knell.<sup>4</sup>

## E-Paper

The real difference between the iPhone and the Kindle as far as libraries, publishers, and users are concerned is the type of display. The Kindle uses electrophoretic display, also known as electronic paper or e-paper, while the iPhone uses a liquid crystal display (LCD). E-paper had its beginnings in Xerox's Palo Alto Research Center (PARC), though they never fully developed it. Xerox's problem was that it could not mass-produce the spheres required for the gyriconic displays. MIT subsequently picked up the idea, but decided instead to use charged particles contained within capsules filled with oil. These capsules contain positively charged and negatively charged particles. Underneath the capsules are two fine wires (one positive and one negative) and either one or the other will be activated at a time. When activated, the wire pulls down the particles with the opposite polarity and pushes up the particles with the same polarity. The particles have two different colorings: black and white. Thus, when the white particles are pushed up, they cover the black particles and when the black particles are pushed up, they cover the white particles. Millions of these capsules placed side by side and sandwiched in between two layers of plastic produces a display. These displays are only consuming power when a charge is sent through the wires under the capsules and once the capsules are polarized, they retain their orientation. So unlike LCDs, electrophoretic displays do not constantly consume energy. Another energy-saving feature of electrophoretic displays is their use of ambient light instead of the backlight used by LCDs. The LCD backlights consume much more energy and produce more heat. Yet another advantage of e-paper over LCD is its pliability. For instance, e-

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paper can be rolled into a sturdy tube containing all of the electronics, thereby producing an UMPC with an incredibly large display and a very portable form factor.<sup>5</sup>

About five years ago, RFID (radio frequency identification) was a buzzword in libraries. The story from vendors at the time was that the more libraries and businesses purchased RFID tags, the cheaper the tags would become. This technology has not been implemented on a mass scale in libraries. The same philosophy and outcomes may apply to e-paper technology, though there is reason to believe the technology might in fact become cheap enough to implement on a mass scale so that more libraries will be able to take advantage of it. As with RFID, the U.S. Army was one of the first implementers of e-paper technology. More importantly, Hewlett-Packard is working on a production method that should dramatically decrease the price of e-paper. There are also other technologies in the same genre that will help drive down costs simply through greater mass production of these types of displays. One of these is electrowetting, which is similar in theory to electrophoretic displays but it involves water and oil and produces pixels with different colorations, so it has multimedia applications. This will have more of an effect on color displays, but as this type of technology is more widely produced, the more accessible and cheaper it becomes. If, for instance, electrowetting catches on in television, this will open up an even greater market.<sup>6</sup>

### Libraries

E-paper is poised to have a great impact on e-book and serials vendors. Most libraries have been using an e-book vendor, such as NetLibrary, to give users wider access to materials for a while. But patrons complain that they do not like to read large amounts of text on a computer. Such complaints come from many of the current generation of students in my academic library, not only from older patrons. Users also complain they cannot print more than a few pages at a time and cannot highlight or take notes on the text. Despite such objections, libraries continue to offer this service to keep up with other libraries that are doing the same and, in many cases, as

an easy (and sometimes cheaper) way to increase the volume count while saving precious shelf space. E-paper potentially provides a means to help alleviate the typical complaints and the perceived problems associated with the delivery of electronic books. Portability coupled with extremely long battery life, lessened eye strain due to refracted instead of projected light, the ability to take notes on the electronic document without printing, as well as completely circumventing the need to print the electronic document at all due to its intrinsic portability, are all qualities that will likely contribute to e-paper's success as a delivery method for electronic books.

There is also a related concern in the decentralization of collections related to the acquiring of e-books. Instead of a library owning both materials and the associated

catalog records, the vendor may be solely responsible for the records and the search interface used to locate the titles. There is the possibility that bibliographic metadata owned by publishers and e-book vendors may have an unforeseen impact on the ability of the user to search for and locate materials. For instance, the vendor could favor the finding of materials that would financially benefit the company, as is the case when they charge a cost per use of a particular title.

There is a concern that if libraries slowly stop housing print collections, patrons will be less attracted to the facilities and the services offered by the library. There are also concerns over whether librarians and their skills will be as integral to the workings of a library as more information is available electronically. One might ask if

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technology will adversely impact whether librarians keep their jobs. In tough economic times, it is not unheard of for non-MLS staff people to do reference work full-time, as they can be hired for much lower wages. The research into "library as place" does tend to counter at least some of these concerns, however.<sup>7</sup> One must also be assured that if electronic publishing becomes the norm, libraries will provide access to more publications, making it more important than ever to have someone available to help differentiate between authoritative and non-authoritative sources, whether this is done in person at the reference desk, in the classroom, over the phone, or on the Internet. The increase in the electronic delivery of information will also further blur the line between Web sites, books, and journal articles, so students may have difficulty distinguishing among various information sources. As with RFID, a potential panic over the impact of a technology on the future of libraries and whether librarians will still be relevant in a world where you do not actually have to enter a library, may be a little presumptuous.

### Publishers

The October 2008 cover of *Esquire* was an electrophoretic display cover.<sup>8</sup> Many publishers, especially those of serials, are aware of this technology. In the case of the *Esquire* magazine publication, electrophoretics allowed them to cycle through different displays on the cover of the magazine. Wal-Mart uses this on aisle ads as well. Eventually, magazine publishers could sell their publications on one sheet of e-paper and have the e-paper cycle through each page of the publication. They would also have more control over forcing the consumer to view advertisements to help subsidize their publication. Publishers are invariably going to favor formats like Amazon's AZW<sup>9</sup> that allow them to strictly control access to their product through DRM (digital rights management). Eventually many publishers may want their own file format, but the hardware makers will have considerable control over this.

DRM formats are not necessarily in the best interest of libraries or consumers, but the publishing community has been influ-

enced by the advent of the MP3 format and its effect on the music industry. Publishers are likely to try to prevent the sharing of publications in a library setting or to institute advertising for each viewing of protected material. Libraries should carefully watch publishers and how certain formats are utilized so that in the far future the library will still have access to programs that can read the file formats that they have purchased.

In the article, "Here Comes the E-book Revolution," the author discusses six reasons why e-books are becoming ubiquitous: the current economy, the push to go green, the rise in self-publishing, the marketing of the Kindle, more publications being released electronically, and the downfall of the newspaper publishing industry due to the Internet. Individuals no longer have to be reliant on publishers to produce their publications. In fact, the Kindle store already allows writers to self-publish and sell their works, with a small commission to Amazon. This is a great new way for self-published authors to reach consumers. In the end, I think publishers stand to lose the most. Consumers will have access to twice the content they had before and, in most cases, cut out a very expensive middle man. With the rise of digital, downloadable music available electronically, the music industry saw a drop in record sales. The publishers of the music industry, the record companies, took the hit. But the same rise in electronically available print publications can be good for libraries, but libraries must work to protect the interests of patrons. Libraries, the largest mass consumers of publications, can influence the path of future electronic print technologies.

### Conclusion

Library technology has been in a continuous flux in the past generation due to the advent and advancement of the computer. In order to stay relevant, we need to concentrate on the services and environment we provide to patrons. The library community needs to band together to make sure that vendors and other producers and developers of technology do not take advantage of consumers. This e-paper technology may impact jobs, but should not be feared; it is an improvement and for

every manufacturing job lost to automation, technology potentially produces more service-based employment. ■

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- <sup>2</sup> Baig, Edward C. "Amazon Prepares for Next Kindle." *USA Today* (January 28, 2009): 03b. (accessed February 8, 2009 from Academic Search Premier).
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- <sup>4</sup> The Kindle 2 has not yet been released as of this writing. From all accounts it will be a very similar product, just thinner and more ergonomic since the location of some of the keys was the main complaint with the first Kindle. It also apparently looks a lot more like the iPod with rounded edges.
- <sup>5</sup> Gibbs, W. Wayt. "The Reinvention of Paper." *Scientific American* 279, no. 1 (September 1998): 36.
- <sup>6</sup> "Flexible Display Screens." *The Economist* (January 22, 2009). [http://www.economist.com/science/displaystory.cfm?story\\_id=12971020](http://www.economist.com/science/displaystory.cfm?story_id=12971020) (accessed February 7, 2009). One thing to note is that all of this technology currently has low refresh rates, which means if you tried to watch a movie it would have a choppy feel to it.
- <sup>7</sup> See Buschman, John and Gloria J. Leckie, eds. *The Library as Place: History, Community, and Culture*. Westport, CT: Libraries Unlimited, 2007.
- <sup>8</sup> Lenatti, Chuck. "Esquire's Flashing Cover Points to an E-Paper Future." *Seybold Report: Analyzing Publishing Technologies* 8, no. 18 (September 25, 2008): 5-14.
- <sup>9</sup> This is an e-book file format similar to .txt or PDF except it is proprietary and Amazon will get royalties from its use.



# Playing Games for Fun and Learning @ your library™

*Dorothy M. Vance*

Video games at your library? Yes! Wii™, Playstation® 2, Playstation® 3, Xbox 360®, PlayStation®Portable or PSP®, and Nintendo® DS – at your library!

Central Mississippi Regional Library System (CMRLS), with funding from a 2008 Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) grant administered by the Mississippi Library Commission, added more than 300 video games in six of the most popular game formats to the collection. This pilot project placed a circulating collection of approximately 75 video games in each of the largest branch libraries in Rankin, Scott, Simpson, and Smith counties: G. Chastaine Flynt Memorial Library in Flowood, Rankin County; the Forest Public Library in Scott County; the Magee Public Library in Simpson County; and the Evon A. Ford Library in Taylorsville, Smith County.

## The Collection

This collection was initially created in an effort to keep up with evolving technology and to meet the interests of a particular demographic group within the nearly 200,000 citizens in the CMRLS service area, that of boys between the ages of 10 and 17. This group is widely recognized as not using traditional library services. However, research conducted in preparation for the grant application revealed that this age group represents only 23% of the gaming generation (techsource.ala.org, 2006). Over 90 million people can be included in the generation that considers video games as an essential part of their entertainment (techsource.ala.org, 2006). It was also discovered that 38% of “gamers” are women over the age of 18 (techsource.ala.org, 2006). This discovery

meant that titles intended for a wider audience and age range would be needed.

The decision to purchase only those titles rated “E” (suitable for everyone age 6 years and older) through “T” (for teen, an audience age 13 years and older) by the Entertainment Software Rating Board (ESRB) was made early in the development of this project and did not change with the awareness of an older and more diverse audience. The ESRB ratings for a mature (M) and adult only audience (AO) both contain intense violence, sexual content, and strong language (ESRB, 2006). Games with a rating of AO are described as suitable only for persons 18 years or older. These games contain prolonged scenes of excessive violence, graphic sexual content, and nudity (ESRB, 2006).

The research for collection development, as with any medium, consisted of looking at various online and print sources, reading reviews, and talking to patrons to determine the most popular titles in the most long-lived gaming formats to purchase for the project. Library staff members familiar with video games were also asked to suggest games for the collection.

The circulation policy for the games was set for one week loans to library card holders 16 years of age and older. The age limit is in line with the CMRLS circulation policy for videos and DVDs. At this time, the length of the check out is also based on the video and DVD policy, which may change as the game collection grows. The demand on this collection is such that the shorter periods are warranted. A few patrons have voiced opposition to the short check out time, but most see it as a reason to try a new game the next week.

## Equipment

In addition to the video game collection, the grant application called for four Clean-n-Play Professional Grade Disc Cleaners and four Cleaning Supply Kits at a cost of \$1,118.00. These were to be

placed in each of the four branches receiving the collection. Further review and conversations with libraries across the nation convinced CMRLS that the needed equipment should also repair the discs. The decision was made to amend the grant for the purchase of one Venmill VMI 3500 Disc Cleaner/Repair to be housed at the headquarters building, with branches sending any damaged discs there to be cleaned and repaired. The Venmill VMI 3500 is a dry machine that works by melting the top layer of the disc and buffing it back out. The cost of the Venmill machine, \$2,299.00, was justified by the fact that all disc formats purchased by CMRLS, including all data, audio, or video CDs and DVDs, and the smaller format CDs used by the PSP®, and Nintendo® DS, could be economically cleaned and repaired with the Venmill machine.

## Cataloging Video Games

Video games are not among the most commonly cataloged materials. It was determined by CMRLS technical services department that all MARC records for the video game collection, whether original cataloging or downloaded from OCLC, would have the following common fields and subfields. The 245 (h) field shows [video games]. Any additional titles will occupy the 246 field, as with other materials.

A list of platform names was given to catalogers with the intention of standardization for the 250 field. This list consists of the six platforms that were initially purchased and other known platforms that may be added to the collection in the future by purchase or gift. The 521 field shows the ESRB rating of the video game while the 538 field shows a minimum of three items: platform; memory card requirements with the number of megabytes (MB) needed; and any additional controllers or equipment needed for single play.

CMRLS branches are making plans to

continue to add to the video game collection as budgets permit. Branches are even setting aside a portion of their audio/visual budget for the purchase of video games.

### Reader's Advisory Materials

Reader's advisory brochures were developed matching books to the genres of games and different age groups. These brochures were placed in all 20 CMRLS branches.

Games that are based on sports such as College Hoops and Major League Baseball were paired with titles such as *Catch that Pass* and *Soccer Hero*, by Matt Christopher for the juvenile reader; and *The Comeback Season*, by Jennifer E. Smith and *The Youngest Hero*, by Jerry B. Jenkins for the young adult reader.

Books suggested for the K-6 reader who enjoys playing video games based on cartoons, fairy tales, and super heroes are the *Captain Underpants* series, by Dav Pilkey; *The Original Adventures of Hank the Cow-dog*, by John R. Erickson, and *Beauty and the Beast*, retold and illustrated by Jan Brett.

For those teens and young adults that enjoy video games that are science fiction, fantasy, or adventure based, there are both classic and new literatures to suggest. Real-life adventure stories such as *Holes*, by Louis Sachar and *Lord of the Flies*, by William Golding are just a few that can be found in the library. Military, espionage, or techno adventures, such as the games Splinter Cell, Tomb Raider, or Ace Combat are paired with the *Alex Rider* series, by Anthony Horowitz and *Sphere*, by Michael Crichton. Science fiction titles of interest to these gamers may include *War of the Worlds*, by H. G. Wells and the *Ender's Game* series, by Orson Scott Card. If fantasy is more likely to interest the gaming patron, such titles as *Maximum Ride*, by James Patterson and *Airborn*, by Kenneth Oppel are suggested.

Gamers who enjoy games such as GrimGrimoire, Brave: The Search for Spirit Dancer, and the Harry Potter games may enjoy *Artemis Fowl*, by Eoin Colfer,

*Wild Magic*, by Tamora Pierce, and the Patricia C. Wrede titles *Snow White* and *Rose Red*. The story line for these games and books revolve around a magical kingdom complete with fairies, monsters, or immortals.

Reader's advisory service to these 'gamer' patrons should be conducted in the same manner the service is offered to any group of readers. Lists of books are not what are bringing this group into the library, but sooner or later they may notice the remainder of the collection. Finding a title a 'gamer' is interested in may take a little more time and research than the average reader's advisory request, but with a little practice all staff should have no trouble offering this service to the gamers.

### Programming

CMRLS Administrative Council also wanted to create a gaming kit that could be sent to any CMRLS branch for programming. A Wii™ console was purchased, plus two guitars and two steering wheels, along with the Wii™ Sports, Wii™ Play, Guitar Hero®, and MARIOKART® games. The console and items fit in a foam partitioned, hard-sided case on wheels. A liquid crystal display or LCD projector was also purchased to complete the programming kit. The game console is connected to the LCD projector so that the image can be projected onto a blank wall or screen giving an entire room full of gamers a view of the game. Tournament games have been scheduled for the K-6 age group, as well as teens and adults. One such tournament brought the Morton High School Principal and Librarian to the Morton Public Library to spar in front of students. This was a very well attended program!

Programs scheduled in branches during the next few months include more tournaments and an adult only program entitled "What the Heck IS Wii™?" at the G. Chastaine Flynt Memorial Library in Flowood. Adults will have the chance to try out the Wii™ Sports games to possibly discover a new exercise regimen or source of family fun. Pearl Public Library has

planned times to set up the game system in the children's area so that children visiting the library might play and parents can get an idea of the system and games that are available, much like Best Buy® and Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. Forest Public Library has planned monthly Family Game Nights where kids can challenge parents, siblings, or each other to Wii™ Sports games.

### Surprising Uses of Video Games

One use for video games, and especially the Wii™ that libraries' across the nation have found involves outreach programming to nursing homes. Even when bystanders do not wish to play, they have been found to take an active part in encouraging those that are playing (Gritten, May 2008). It tends to be a social activity with many forms of participation. Branches at CMRLS have planned this type of programming to be held in the future. However, just like an outreach story time program to daycares, programs like this must be coordinated with nursing home personnel and resident's schedules.

*Library Technology Reports* (Sept.-Oct. 2006) lists different kinds of literacy: audio, video, media, and information. "It's easy to see how playing hours and hours of multimedia games would hone a child's skills for interacting within an audiovisual environment" (<http://www.techsource.ala.org>). Hand-eye coordination, recognition of numbers as well as text, following instructions, and the ability to pick up clues from a multi-media environment are all valuable skills found in games for even the youngest gamer (<http://www.techsource.ala.org>).

Verena Dobnik, of MSNBC.com, reported in April of 2004, "Researchers found that doctors who spent at least three hours a week playing video games made about 37% fewer mistakes in laparoscopic surgery and performed the task 27% faster than their counterparts who did not play video games." Dr. James Rosser at Beth Israel Medical Center, developer of Top Gun, a game format where "trainees warm up their coordination, agility and accuracy

before entering the operating room, said "It's like a good football player, you have to warm up first" (Dobnik, 2004).

### Results of Pilot Program

A three question survey was placed in the video game cases each time a game circulated for the first three months the collection existed. Patrons were asked to help determine interest and success of the gaming collection by returning the survey when the game was returned. The patrons were asked how likely they were to visit the library in the future; did they borrow other library material during this visit; and for any suggestions of additional game titles to add to the collection. The games circulated more than 1,200 times in the three month period. Approximately 200 surveys were collected during that period.

One hundred percent of the surveys returned stated the patron would "very likely" visit the library in the future and almost 50% said they checked out additional material during the visit. The libraries received suggestions of titles, additional formats to include in the collection, and several 'thank you' notes written by boys who also said they liked the library! CMRLS has issued 8,952 new library cards to the targeted audience since the beginning of this program. This, in itself, makes the project a success.

One comment received through customer service e-mail highlighted an unknown benefit of the video game collection. This was a heartfelt 'thank you' from a mother who wrote: "My 5 year old son with autism really lights up and participates with us when we play our Wii. I am really grateful that these games are available at the library now."

As with all new material, there have been a few losses; a couple of empty cases were found lying around the library and there have been damaged game discs returned to the library. Branches now display only the game cases on shelves and the game discs are retrieved from the circulation desk. This storage arrangement has halted theft of the discs and all damaged

discs have been repaired using the Venmill VMI 3500 Cleaner/Repair machine.

### Conclusion

CMRLS feels that by enhancing the gaming and library experience for this new generation, our patrons will one day provide new community leaders who view the public library as a community center that reached out to them and recognized their needs to be part of the community, too. In addition to the future benefits of serving teens, it is also important to serve teens now, as teens. It shows that they matter to us.

The ultimate goal is giving this targeted audience the resources they want, when and where they want them. As gamers of all ages are team players and view themselves as part of the solution, feedback from these patrons regarding this collection and programming will help to enhance the future of the project and give the patrons a sense of ownership in the project and the library. The game is on! ■

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## CALL FOR PARTICIPATION: *Artists in Libraries*

The Mississippi Library Association will sponsor an art exhibit, *Artists in Libraries*, at the MLA 2009 Annual Conference this fall in Hattiesburg, Mississippi. All employees of Mississippi public, school, academic, or special libraries are eligible to participate. All types of art media will be considered. The juried exhibit will be shown in The University of Southern Mississippi Museum of Art (<http://www.usm.edu/visualarts/museum.php>) during the 2009 MLA Conference, October 19-23, 2009.

To submit artwork for review, please send a digital image of 300 dpi or higher on CD-ROM to Dr. Jan Siesling, Museum of Art, 118 College Dr. #5033, Hattiesburg, MS 39406 before June 27, 2009. Add contact information and the title of the work, as well as its technique (media), size, and date. The CD-ROM can be returned to sender if an addressed stamped envelope is included.

Selected artists will be contacted by the museum by early September. They will be responsible for delivery of their work to the USM Museum of Art one week prior to the exhibit.

The MLA President's Reception will be held in the USM Museum of Art on Wednesday, October 21 from 5 to 6 o'clock in the evening. All artists will be recognized at that time. ■

# A Glimpse into the Crystal Ball: The 2009 Horizon Report

Deborah Lee

## Introduction

It seems every month brings a new technological breakthrough or a nifty new gadget. While exploring new technology can be fun, wouldn't it be nice to "peer into the crystal ball" of technology and get a sense of what's coming down the road? That's exactly what the Horizon Report is designed to provide!

The annual Horizon Report is jointly sponsored by the New Media Consortium (NMC) and the EDUCAUSE Learning Initiative (ELI). For the last six years, a committee composed of leaders in the fields of business, industry, and education have worked together to develop an annual report that identifies the six technologies most likely to have an impact on higher education in both the short and long run. While the focus of the six annual reports produced to date has been on technological innovation in higher education, the highlighted technologies are projected to have an impact on every aspect of life: economic, social and educational. This makes the report a valuable tool to all libraries. The reports have become one of the most highly anticipated technology documents each year and have spawned interest in allied reports. For 2009, there will also be a K-12 edition. The Horizon Project is managed through a wiki, with most parts open to anyone who wishes to participate in the project. The wiki also provides free access to all of the reports published to date: [http://horizon.nmc.org/wiki/Main\\_Page](http://horizon.nmc.org/wiki/Main_Page). The K-12 project is maintained on a separate wiki: [http://horizon.nmc.org/k12/Main\\_Page](http://horizon.nmc.org/k12/Main_Page).

## The 2009 Report

So what does the 2009 *Horizon Report* highlight? As with past reports, the Advisory Committee identified six technologies, which are then divided into three time frames or adoption horizons. Each section includes an overview of the technology under consideration, a discussion of the relevance of the technology to some aspect of higher education, a listing of sample applications drawn from multiple disciplines, a listing of examples available on the Web, and selected sources for further reading. New to the 2009 report, each section also provides a link to additional tagged resources in the social tagging network Delicious.

The first adoption horizon is the most immediate, focusing on technologies likely to make a significant impact in one year or less. Mobiles and cloud computing are the two "first adoption" technologies featured in the 2009 *Horizon Report*. The inclusion of mobile devices should come as a surprise to no one considering patrons come into a library practically glued to their cell phones. The ability to integrate sophisticated applications into smart phone technology has moved the mobile technology revolution into the shortest adoption horizon used by the *Horizon Report*. An example of such integration is Columbia University's "Mapping the African American Past" (MAAP). This free resource (<http://maap.columbia.edu/m/index.html>) is specifically formatted for use with iPhones, although it is also viewable on other mobile technologies and PCs. The application uses the global position system (GPS) and mapping functions found in mobile devices to map out key locations in New York City and provide reference text and podcasts from researchers who discuss the importance of the locations.

Cloud computing is the other technology selected by this year's Advisory Board as having an adoption horizon of less than one year. The report defines the cloud as

"the term for networked computers that distribute processing power, applications, and large systems among many machines" (page 11). As an attendee at the 2008 Educause Annual Conference, I can attest to the popularity of this technology! We often use cloud computing without being aware of its presence. Applications such as Flickr, Google, YouTube, and others take advantage of this approach to distributed computing. The examples for cloud computing applications are a bit more technical in nature but still interesting. One example is the Virtual Computing Lab at North Carolina State University (<http://vcl.ncsu.edu/>).

Geo-Everything is the third technology identified by the 2009 *Horizon Report*. With an adoption time frame of two to three years, this technology refers to the growing applications for geo-location technology. Spurred in part by the widespread use of mobile technology, the ability to use GPS-enabled devices to teach, sell, and even create art has enormous potential. One example highlighted by the report is Next Exit History (<http://nextexithistory.org/>), developed by the Departments of History and Engineering and Computer Technology at the University of West Florida, WUWF Public Media, and the University of South Florida Libraries' Florida Studies Center. The project pulls together scholarly content on historic sites and communities and reproduces it as rich metadata that can be downloaded either to computer or (with the use of GPS information) to mobile computing devices. The goal is to promote interesting historical sites that are easily accessible from major highways and are often overlooked by tourists.

The second technology with a two to three year adoption horizon is the personal Web. According to the report, the personal Web is an umbrella concept "coined to represent a collection of technologies that confer the ability to recognize, configure and manage online content rather than just viewing it" (page 19). As available

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Web content mushrooms, the need to manage content takes on critical importance. The educational applications of these loosely connected Web tools are almost unlimited. The *2009 Horizon Report* includes a number of interesting and innovative examples. One is SmARThistory (<http://smarthistory.org/>), an online art history resource. The site includes podcasts, video clips, images, and commentary while introducing readers to a particular artist, creative work, style, or theme. Like many of these sites, SmARThistory has integrated content with Flickr. A more generic example is OpenSophie (<http://opensophie.org/>), open source software designed to foster the development and distribution of rich media documents. Working across multiple platforms, this Web 2.0 application allows users to create content and to participate in the content of others through the comments function.

The last two technologies discussed by the *2009 Horizon Report* fall within the four to five year adoption horizon. Looking this far down the road can be problematic. The goal is to identify technologies that will have a major impact on society and higher education up to five years from now. The first long-range technology selected by this year's *Horizon Report* is semantic-aware applications. "Semantic-aware applications are tools designed to use the meaning, or semantics, of information on the Internet to make connections and provide answers that would otherwise entail a great deal of time and effort" (page 23). Librarians are often confronted with the semantic challenges of data sources – for example, if a patron searches "Saturn" in *Academic Search Premier*, is he or she looking for the planet or the car? Semantic Web applications attempt to incorporate context awareness to allow for a more precise search of Internet resources. The SemanticFind Web browser plugin available for the Google search bar in the Mozilla Firefox browser (<http://www.semanticfind.com/>) is one example of this type of application. Once installed, the user can select terms from a drop down menu that should improve Google searches.

The final technology identified by the *2009 Horizon Report* is smart objects.

Smart objects include a unique identifier that can track information about the object. (E-Z Pass cards used on many tolls are one type of smart object.) While smart objects have been used within industry for some time, their application to educational and end-user environments is only now beginning to be tapped. One example included in the *Horizon Report* is ThinkeringSpace (<http://www.id.iit.edu/ThinkeringSpaces/>). Sponsored by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation Digital Media and Learning Initiative, this project focuses on school-aged children in libraries. The idea is to combine physical and virtual components to create a "third" space in libraries where items such as books can be annotated with contextual information. While still in a fairly early stage of development, it offers an intriguing view of future collaborative projects that involve both physical and virtual collections.

You can participate in the Horizon Project by visiting the project's wiki site at [http://horizon.nmc.org/wiki/Main\\_Page](http://horizon.nmc.org/wiki/Main_Page) to join the dialogue surrounding the project, add your thoughts to the research agenda (produced each year after the annual report), and find information about related projects. You can also access *Horizon Reports* back to the beginning of the project in 2004. And, beginning with this year's report, you can participate in the process by tagging related resources with the appropriate Delicious tags (see each technology section for additional information).

Each year, the Advisory Board also identifies and prioritizes a number of trends effecting teaching, research and creative expression. The 2009 trends include (page 5):

- Increasing globalization and its effect on the way we work, collaborate, and communicate.
- The role of collective intelligence in redefining how we think about ambiguity and imprecision.
- The continued growth of games as learning tools, both within higher education and the work place.
- The increasing role for visual literacy and the importance of visualization tools.
- The rapidly increasing dominance of

mobile phones, especially smart phones, and the resulting innovation derived from such a rapidly expanding market.

A number of critical challenges come with these new technologies and associated trends. The 2009 Advisory Board identified the following challenges likely to face higher education (among others) during the next five years (page 6):

- The growing need for enhanced formal instruction in three critical areas of literacy: information literacy, visual literacy, and technological literacy.
- The need to adapt educational material and curriculum to the changing students of the twenty-first century.
- A need for leadership and innovation in higher education as related to new methods of scholarship and research.
- The need to develop meaningful assessment measures of student learning and outcomes.
- The need to deliver higher education services and resources to a diverse and geographically mobile clientele, with an increased need for content and services designed for mobile devices.

## Conclusion

No one has a crystal ball that can illuminate the technology that will drive our libraries in the future. The Horizon Project, however, provides some well-researched suggestions and offers a tantalizing glimpse into what *might* be the next dominant technology. It also raises some challenging issues for both higher education and other types of educational institutions to address, especially in times of limited financial resources. At the very least, it challenges all of us to think about the role of all types of libraries and the impact technology will play within the next five years. ■

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## MLA 2009 Conference Planning

# Eco-Friendly Libraries: Greener for the New Century

Plans for special events are well underway for the 2009 Annual Conference of the Mississippi Library Association to be held in Hattiesburg, Mississippi, October 21-23, 2009. This year, the one hundredth anniversary of our association, is a wonderful opportunity to remember our past with pride in all we have done to make MLA the viable organization it is today. In spite of the challenges of the past and the present, librarians have served our state professional association with enthusiasm, imagination and integrity for one hundred years. As we look forward to our future, and keeping in mind the special theme of environmental sustainability in libraries, let's plan to attend this very eventful conference. Please check the MLA Web site [www.misslib.org](http://www.misslib.org) for additional updates as information about conference events and programming is made available. ■

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# News Briefs

Tina Harry, Editor

## Hattiesburg Public Library Hosts Benjamin Franklin

*Benjamin Franklin: In Search of a Better World* proved to be the most successful humanities based program ever hosted by The Library of Hattiesburg, Petal & Forrest County. This traveling exhibition is based on a larger exhibition of the same name developed by the Benjamin Franklin Tercentenary (<http://www.benfranklin300.org/>). The traveling panel exhibit consists of six sections of colorful, freestanding photo-panels incorporating representations of artifacts from the original Franklin exhibition and a new text written by the curator. The library supplemented the materials sent with the exhibit by inviting local organizations who had a tie to one of Franklin's inventions or civic improvements to contribute items to the display. The post office, electric power company, insurance agencies, the Mississippi Armed Forces Museum at Camp Shelby, the University of Southern Mississippi, and a local optician all participated. Sponsors for the project are the American Library Association (ALA) Public Programs Office in collaboration with the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Benjamin Franklin Tercentenary. Local support was provided by the Mississippi Power Foundation and the Friends of the Library.

The Library mounted an extensive PR campaign in conjunction with the "In Search of a Better World" exhibit. At the top of the library's home page "100 Franklin Facts in 100 Days" counted down to the opening of the exhibit with a new informational tidbit each morning, as well as a link to the Franklin section of the Web site. The local newspaper maintained a link about the exhibit for the one hundred days preceding the exhibit and while the exhibit was at the library. Radio interviews were aired not only in the Forrest County

area, but also on Mississippi Public Broadcasting's *Mississippi Edition*. Digital billboards, direct mailings, civic club meetings, and local television appearances all helped publicize the event.

Public programs held in conjunction with the exhibit attracted large crowds. The grand opening featured renowned colonial America scholar Gordon Wood and Benjamin Franklin reenactor Christopher Lowell. Over two hundred people filled the library meeting room, standing in the back and sitting on the floor, enthralled as Benjamin Franklin (Lowell) described his amazing life and then answered questions from the audience. Following a break and cake to celebrate the three hundred and third birthday of Franklin, Pulitzer Prize winner Wood discussed the events that turned a one-time unabashed supporter of the British Empire into a real American revolutionary.

Educators and students were a special audience the library targeted in providing activities that supplemented the exhibit. In partnership with the Central Mississippi Consortium for Excellence in Educational Development, the library sponsored a teachers' workshop. Forty South Mississippi teachers attended. Gordon Wood described for them what created Franklin's character and outlook. He paid special attention to what made Franklin decide on an inevitable break between England and the colonies. Christopher Lowell, in the character of Franklin, described his activities in Paris that resulted in financial, and eventually military, support for the Revolution. Sean Farrell, assistant director for The Library, presented a program on using MAGNOLIA and other Web-based services to teach about Franklin. David Booz, a member of the American Institute for History Education, went over multiple teaching strategies for engaging students in study of Franklin and his life.

Youth services librarian Shellie Zeigler headed efforts to involve children in the exhibit. *Ben and Me* was selected for story time, the DVD *Liberty's Kids* was shown

on multiple occasions, and an art contest for library users up to age eighteen was held.

The University of Southern Mississippi worked with the Library on two programs to promote the exhibit. In January, assistant professor of history Kyle Zelner selected *A Rabble in Arms*, a novel on the American Revolution for the monthly War & Society book club. Zelner also delivered an evening lecture, *A Tale of Three Cities: Franklin's Boston, Philadelphia and London*, that looked at how Franklin's life in each city created his worldview.

Several teachers took advantage of the workshop and exhibit to schedule field trips for their students. Petal Middle School, Perry Central High School, Sumrall High School, and the DuBard School all sent students for a visit and programs. In addition to the educational organizations, area churches and Scout troops attended special visits. Hundreds more visitors attended the exhibit simply by walking into the library.

– Submitted by Sean Farrell, assistant director, The Library of Hattiesburg, Petal, and Forrest County

## Southern Miss Libraries Co-host Exhibit

During the month of February, the University of Southern Mississippi Libraries and the Hattiesburg Tourism Commission co-hosted an exhibit, "Hattiesburg Remembers the Freedom Summer of 1964." The exhibit, which was mounted at the Historic Hattiesburg Train Depot, featured fifty Herbert Randall photographs from the Libraries' collection.

Mississippi was a focal point in the struggle for civil rights in America, and Hattiesburg had the largest and most successful Freedom Summer project in 1964. The headquarters of the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party was located on Mobile Street, as was the headquarters for Victoria Jackson Gray's U.S. Senate campaign. Local residents and visiting volunteers risked violence to establish Free-

dom Schools and to hold voter registration activities.

The fifty photographs in the exhibit brought to life that pivotal time in American history, as documented by Herbert Randall, Jr., an African and Native American from New York City. In 1964, Randall was awarded the prestigious John Hay Whitney fellowship for creative photography. He chose to spend his fellowship in Hattiesburg that summer.

The Randall photographs are part of the collections at The University of Southern Mississippi Libraries, along with many other materials documenting the civil rights movement. These photographs, diaries, letters, and other documents illustrate a local history with truly national significance.

– Submitted by Sherry Laughlin, associate dean for McCain Library and Archives, University of Southern Mississippi

### Papers of President Grant Find a New Home at MSU Libraries

Through an agreement signed recently with the Ulysses S. Grant Association, correspondence, photographs, books, memorabilia, and other documents related to the military career and presidency of Ulysses S. Grant now are being housed at Mitchell Memorial Library on the campus of Mississippi State University.

In December 2008, MSU Libraries officials took delivery of nearly ninety filing cabinets of original and photocopied manuscripts, the largest single Grant collection in the world. Formerly housed at Southern Illinois University, the material includes letters written to leading political and military figures of the day, as well as epaulets, headgear, diaries, and other war memorabilia.

Civil War scholar John F. Marszalek, a Mississippi State University Giles Distinguished Professor Emeritus of History, is assuming the duties of executive director and managing editor of the Ulysses S. Grant Association. He continues a 46-year-old project begun by the late John Y. Simon, another nationally renowned scholar who died in 2008 in Illinois. Marszalek said Mississippi State University now becomes one of only a few U.S. institutions to house a collection of presidential papers.

Over the next five years, Marszalek and MSU Libraries will be leading efforts to produce a supplementary volume, as well as a scholarly edition of *Memoirs*, the Union Army general-in-chief and eighteenth president's autobiography. The libraries also will be working to develop a digitized version of the entire series and a cumulative index, which will precede a formal opening of the collection to visiting scholars.

"Mississippi State is now the premier source of materials for research about a seminal figure in the nation's history," the veteran historian observed. "This is a remarkable accomplishment for our institution."

In early May 2009, Mitchell Memorial Library will be the host for the Grant Association's first national meeting to be held in the South.

Ulysses S. Grant (1822-1885) is renowned for a military career in which he rose through the officer ranks ultimately to lead all Union forces during the 1861-65 conflict. He was architect of the 1863 Vicksburg campaign, among others, that effectively split the Confederacy and is considered a key battle in the war.

The Grant Collection at Mitchell Memorial Library joins those of former U.S. senator John C. Stennis and other more contemporary political figures in the Libraries' Congressional and Political Research Center.

"We are very grateful for the support of our administrative leadership, who saw the importance of the collection and helped provide resources necessary to secure its placement at Mississippi State," said Frances N. Coleman, Dean of Libraries. "These papers have a significant place in our nation's history, and it is a major honor for Mitchell Memorial Library to house them."

Organized in 1962 during the Civil War centennial, the Ulysses S. Grant Association has maintained ownership of the papers during their earlier sojourns at Ohio State and Southern Illinois universities. Rhode Island Chief Justice Frank J. Williams, winner of Mississippi State's 2006 MSU Distinguished Jurist Award, is the association president. A former commissioner of the U.S. Internal Revenue



MSU President Mark Keenum and First Lady Rhonda Keenum view a portrait of Ulysses S. Grant at Mitchell Memorial Library prior to a program officially accepting the Grant Collection for MSU. Photo by Jim Tomlinson



MSU President Mark Keenum shares remarks during the January 30, 2009, program officially accepting the Grant Collection for MSU. Photo by Jim Tomlinson



Ulysses S. Grant Association Executive Director John F. Marszalek (left) and Mississippi State University President Mark Keenum sign the official documents accepting the Grant Collection for MSU. Dean of Libraries Frances N. Coleman stands to the president's left. Photo by Jim Tomlinson



Service and a New York Metropolitan Museum of Art vice president, as well as two direct Grant descendants, are other officers.

For more information on the Ulysses S. Grant Collection, including photographs of memorabilia and photographs from the official signing of the acceptance agreement, and more information on MSU Libraries, please visit <http://www.library.msstate.edu>.

– Submitted by Lyle Tate, special events coordinator, Mississippi State University Libraries

### MLA Library Advocacy Day, a.k.a. Pie Day 2009

On February 10, 2009, librarians, library trustees, and library friends converged on the Capitol in Jackson for Mississippi Library Association Advocacy Day. At the December meeting of the MLA Executive Board there had been a discussion about changing the Advocacy Day activities of the association. One idea that came out of that meeting was to deliver a slice of pie to each member of the legislature. The MLA Legislative Committee took that idea and began making preparations. On the designated day, members of the association walked the halls of the Capitol to personally deliver gift bags filled with information about Mississippi libraries' needs and a miniature pecan pie to members of the state legislator.

Over thirty-five Friends of the Library groups from around the state made a donation to underwrite the cost of the activities, generating enough money to purchase all the necessary pies. Deb Mitchell, Legislative Committee Chair, commented that, "It was very gratifying to have so many groups step up to the plate to make sure the day was a success."



Stephanie Holdiness, Ann Branton, and Mary Julia Anderson prepare to deliver gift bags. Photo by Jennifer Smith

Because of these donations, MLA did not have to charge a registration fee for the day's activities. Our thanks go out to these supportive Friends groups.

The MLA Legislative Committee has gotten positive feedback from many MLA members about the changes to our Advocacy Day activities. Many legislators also commented that they appreciated us coming to them rather than the other way around. The MLA Legislative Committee is recommending that MLA try something similar in 2010.

– Submitted by Deb Mitchell, director, Warren County-Vicksburg Public Library



Stephen Cunetto, Catherine Nathan, Glenda Segars, Deb Mitchell, and Pamela Pridgen attend Advocacy Day. Photo by Jennifer Smith

### Library Commission and Public Libraries Suffer Budget Cuts and Service Reductions

The state funding for public libraries and the Mississippi Library Commission was not exempt when the Governor cut state agency appropriations in November 2008 and January 2009. The November reduction of 2% resulted in a loss of \$130,325 (-4.5%) in state funds for Library Commission operations/statewide programs and a 2.4% (-\$142,000) loss in personnel grant funds for public libraries. In January, an additional 3% cut cost public libraries another \$224,668 (-3.9%) in personnel grant funds and the Library Commission an additional 4.6% (-\$183,819) in operations and services.

To date in fiscal year (FY) 2009, state budget cuts have resulted in a total loss of \$680,000 in state funds for public libraries and the Library Commission. These cuts have impacted library services statewide:

- Book budgets have been reduced,

meaning some libraries can now buy only one new adult title and one new juvenile title a month.

- In some cases, substitute worker positions have been eliminated. In the case of one-person libraries, this means the library will be closed if the librarian is unable to work.
- Vacancies are not being filled.
- To prevent employee layoffs, at least one public library system has initiated 2% across-the-board salary reductions for all library employees.
- Training for staffs has been reduced or eliminated.

For public libraries, the situation is made even worse with local revenues declining at the same time.

Ironically as public library budgets are being reduced, libraries are experiencing tremendous increases in demands for service. Some Mississippi public libraries have seen increases of 25% to 30% or more over usage one year ago. As the economy worsens, more and more people are using public libraries instead of buying books, going to the movies, subscribing to the Internet at home, etc. The impact is even greater as unemployment rises and community residents are using public libraries to update resumes, look for jobs, and take online courses for retraining.

By all accounts, the state's and nation's economies will continue to decline for the remainder of FY 2009 and at least the first half of FY 2010. Further reductions in library budgets will result in layoffs and possible branch closings. All this happens at a time when Mississippians have an even greater need for quality library services.

– Submitted by Sharman Smith, executive director, Mississippi Library Commission

**Note:** Biographical information for nominees to fill 2010 MLA officer vacancies was unavailable at press time. Please check the MLA Web site for information (<http://www.misslib.org/>).

**Note:** Minutes of the MLA Executive Board meetings held in October and December 2008 were not approved at press time. ■

# People in the News

Tina Harry, Editor

**Carol C. Hewlett** has been appointed director of the Jackson-George Regional Library System (JGRLS). D.L. "Chic" Anderson, chairman of the JGRLS Board of Directors, said the board unanimously appointed Hewlett at its November 25, 2008 meeting. Hewlett had been manager of the Ina Thompson Moss Point Library since 1999.

Anderson said, "Ms. Hewlett's leadership skills bode well for the future of our library system. She brings a rare combination of talent, technology, and energy that together will help us serve our public."

Hewlett, who has served as interim director since August, brings to the position a strong and diverse background of experience and proven leadership.

"My goal is and always has been to make a positive difference in the community," she said. "Specifically, I welcome the opportunity to demonstrate to our local and state government officials, business owners, educators, senior citizens, the families and the children in our service area what it can mean to an individual and to a community to have quality library services." At Moss Point, Hewlett worked with city and library officials, the Friends of the Library and Advisory Board Members, and a private foundation board in a successful effort that resulted in a major expansion of the library in a new location in 2004. Her community involvements include: Rotary Club, Moss Point Active Citizens, River City Cultural Foundation, Moss Point Celebrations Committee, Moss Point Women's Club, P.E.O., and advisory committees for the Moss Point School District. Under her leadership, the Friends of the Moss Point Library became one of the most effective Friends groups in the library system.

A graduate of the University of South Alabama, Hewlett earned a Master of Library Science degree at the University of Tennessee. Upon graduation, she became UT's first librarian for its Career Planning and Placement Office, which led to a position with the Municipal Technical Advisory Service, providing information services to elected and appointed officials in each of the more than three hundred cities in Tennessee.

In Tennessee, Hewlett honed her public speaking and networking skills to communicate and execute her agency's mission statewide, and was active in library and local government professional organizations on the local to state levels. She was named as one of the University of Tennessee's outstanding public services professionals and is a past president of the East Tennessee Library Association and the Tennessee Library Association.

Hewlett is of the second generation in her family to serve JGRLS. Her mother, Lou Hewlett was hired as bookmobile librarian in 1963 and was quickly promoted to assistant director on the recommendation of Lura Currier, director of the Mississippi Library Commission (MLC) at that time.

"Lura Currier became my mother's friend and mentor and trained her in all the details of librarianship. Their friendship lasted throughout Lura's tenure at MLC and even until her death several years afterwards. The local library director at that time was Kathleen McIlwain and she and Lou became life-long friends, as well, until Ms. McIlwain's death just a few years ago," said Hewlett.

Lou Hewlett's tenure at JGRLS stretched from 1963 to 1989. Carol Hewlett's sister, Martha Hewlett Carrow, worked in the technical services department at the library from 1970 until 1985. She started out pasting pockets in books and worked her way up to head of the technical services department before she left in 1985.

Carol's dad, Duell Hewlett, was a frequent library handyman that traveled from branch to branch fixing things and doing carpentry work at the branches during the summers when he wasn't acting as principal of Orange Lake Elementary or Ed Mayo Junior High School, and her brother, Tom Hewlett, has conducted training sessions for JGRLS staff and has presented programs to the Friends of the Library on a few occasions.

A reception for Carol C. Hewlett was held in January 2009 at the Ina Thompson Moss Point Library and was open to the public with refreshments served by the Friends of the Library.



Carol Hewlett was presented the key to the Jackson-George Regional Library System by board chairman D.L. "Chic" Anderson (right) and vice chairman Bruce Grimes at the reception held in her honor. Photo by R. Bridges

— ♦ —

The Columbus-Lowndes Public Library would like to welcome **Alice Shands** as the new director of a growing library system. Former director of the Sunflower County Library System and department manager for the Memphis Public Library & Information Center in Tennessee, Shands began work in Columbus on November 3, 2008. Shands looks forward to her new position saying, "The Columbus-Lowndes Public Library has a reputation in the state for excellent service, collections, and well-trained staff. We want to maintain that through the economic crisis in the country and continue to flourish."

— ♦ —

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

**Dr. Bob Wolverton, Jr.**, authority control librarian at MSU Libraries, was honored during a recent awards ceremony at Mississippi State University with a 2008 Outstanding Action Team Mentor Award for his work with MSU's Day One Leadership Community. MSU's Day One is a program created by the university in 2007 to develop the leadership potential of Mississippi State University's entering freshmen so they may lead Mississippi and the nation today and in the future.



**Bob Wolverton**

Dr. Wolverton served as a mentor for a team of seven students who nominated him for the Mentor Award. Wolverton's Action Team's service-learning project with the community was to partner with the Christopher Randolph Stark and Annie Reynolds Stark Annex of the Starkville-Oktibbeha Public Library. With the library, the students performed preservation work on historical scrapbooks; photocopied Starkville High School yearbooks; and worked on extracting and indexing birth, marriage, and death information from 1950s issues of the *Starkville Daily News*.

"This was my second year to volunteer as a mentor with MSU's Day One program," said Wolverton, a faculty member with MSU Libraries' Technical Services Department since 2001. "I thoroughly enjoy working with the Day One students and getting to watch their progress as they learn about and give back to the Starkville and MSU communities."

To learn more about MSU Libraries, please visit <http://library.msstate.edu/> and to learn more about MSU's Day One Leadership Community, please visit <http://www.dayone.msstate.edu/>. ■

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# About Books

Christina Torbert, Editor

## FICTION

**Barr, Nevada.** *Winter Study*. New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons, 2008. 370 pp. \$24.95 (hardcover)

Nevada Barr's novel, *Winter Study*, follows park ranger Anna Pigeon as she studies wolves at the Isle Royale in Lake Superior. Soon after her arrival, strange and troubling events begin to disrupt the study; these events eventually culminate in the death of one of her colleagues. While trying to solve the mystery she has found herself embroiled in, Anna clings to her logic and scientific knowledge as fear and superstition threaten to dissolve the research group and turn them against each other. As Anna discovers who – and what – is responsible for the tragedies that plague the study, she learns that not all monsters are supernatural and that humans are the most vicious of predators.

*Winter Study* is the fourteenth novel in Barr's Anna Pigeon mystery series. While Barr does allude occasionally to Anna's previous adventures, readers who have not read the other books in the series will not be inconvenienced by their lack of familiarity. Barr's descriptions of the harsh landscape and even harsher weather that Anna and her colleagues must contend with instantly pull the reader into the story. Similarly, her portrayal of the daily minutia of the researchers' lives as they strive to collect and analyze data about the island's wolf population is fascinating and helps the reader sympathize with characters that are often otherwise unlikeable.

Due to some graphic language and descriptions of violent and sexual acts, this book might not be suitable for some

younger or more sensitive readers. The plot twist toward the end is especially disturbing. However, *Winter Study* is an enthralling mystery that would make an excellent addition to any public or university library.

Jessica Minihan  
Electronic Resources Librarian  
University of Mississippi



## NONFICTION

**Barner, William G.** *The Egg Bowl: Mississippi State vs. Ole Miss*. Jackson: University of Mississippi Press, 2007.

Catching the school bus from our home on Southaven Circle to Horn Lake High School from 1962 to 1965, even a newly transplanted Memphis, Tennessee native knew Vaught Circle and Conerly Drive were names related to sports in Mississippi. Not until reading *The Egg Bowl* did I realize it was an Ole Miss fan that put his stamp on the streets of the third Southaven subdivision to open, using names like Hovious, Kindard, Tad, and Gibbs Coves. After reading this book you might pay more attention to street names in your part of Mississippi.

All of these names and many more are in the index of *The Egg Bowl*. Arranged chronologically from the first in-state Mississippi rivalry game in 1901 through the 103rd game in 2006, each game is given two to four pages of statistics, black and white pictures, quotes, and highlights. This book gives the history of the Ole Miss. vs. Mississippi State rivalry through quotes from coaches, players, and newspaper reports. It is filled with reporters' writings from local newspapers across the state and from those out-of-state papers

that covered Mississippi sports, including the *Memphis Commercial Appeal*, the *Memphis Press-Scimitar*, and the *New Orleans Times-Picayune*. The fifth oldest in-state trophy in Division IA, this game is the sixteenth oldest in-state rivalry nationwide.

Supporters of each school will find interesting tidbits, old and new, to throw into the endless discussion of Mississippi football. 'The Egg Bowl' name came from the golden football trophy first presented to the winner in 1927 in an effort to end the game in a more dignified manner than the brouhaha that occurred after the 1926 game. Slightly rounder and more oval than a present day football, the 'egg shaped' trophy has been replaced several times and modified with additional base pieces to provide room for the scores of future games.

The first chapter, "The First Feud, the First Protest, the First Delay, and Finally the First Game," gives a hint of the contentious nature of the series to come. The start of that first game was delayed over a forty-minute debate on the eligibility of A&M's [State's] Billy Green who had played for the University's team the previous year. One veteran observer said of the traditional game, "A rivalry? Ole Miss and Mississippi State are war."

Giving no offense to the 'Good Book,' this title belongs on the bedside table of every fan of either of these two schools. Reading a short chapter every day or two will take the reader from the last of the bowl games in January through spring practice and right into fall football fever. In addition to the statistical attention given to each game, appendixes provide even more fascinating facts and records. Barner's book allows Mississippi libraries to provide the answer to most trivia questions and bar bets about the Egg Bowl games. It is a great gift book for alumni of these



schools and is recommended for most medium to large school, public, and college libraries as needed.

Linda Hopper Jowers  
Retired Librarian  
M. R. Davis Public Library

— ♦ —

**Hollandsworth, James G.** *Portrait of a Scientific Racist: Alfred Holt Stone of Mississippi*. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 2008. 318 pp. \$45.00 (hardcover)

Hollandsworth has written such varied books as *Physiology and Behavior Therapy: Conceptual Guidelines for the Clinician* and *An Absolute Massacre: The New Orleans Race Riot of July 30, 1866*. In *Portrait of a Scientific Racist: Alfred Holt Stone of Mississippi*, the author presents information on Alfred Holt Stone and paints a portrait of this racial theorist in his political and social context. Further, the author presents findings from correspondence between Stone and his close friend, Walter F. Willcox, a fellow scientific racist and statistician, to provide a more in-depth biographical sketch. Both Willcox and Stone believed that the black race was less than the white race. Willcox theorized that the end of slavery would be the extinction of the black race in America and Stone agreed. Stone believed that slavery presented opportunities to improve the black race, as it provided blacks with shelter and protected them from white competition. This view helped Stone feel free to use the black race as a productive, low-wage labor force on cotton plantations in Mississippi.

Hollandsworth presents an interesting view of Stone and how he may have arrived at his unique point of view (although not unique to his times). The author presents this information in a descriptive and easy to understand manner. While this straightforward portrayal of Stone may make readers uncomfortable, the narrative presents a unique understand-

ing of Stone. Instead of simply providing a chronological history of Stone and his undertakings, the author gives insight into his person.

This book is recommended for academic readers, as it provides important insight into racism. It is also recommended for anyone seeking to understand racism and how it can develop in the first place. As such, the book is recommended for high school, public and academic libraries.

William L. Bahr  
Assistant Director  
Pike-Amite-Walthall Library System

— ♦ —

**Kellum, Jo.** *Southern Shade: A Plant Selection Guide*. Jackson: University Press of Mississippi, 2008. 144 pp. \$25.00 (paperback)

Gardening for shade is a tough challenge for many gardeners in the South. Shade changes from morning to night, from season to season, and from yard to yard. Landscape architect, garden writer, and photographer Jo Kellum provides expert guidance for southern gardeners in *Southern Shade: A Plant Selection Guide*.

Kellum has taken care to craft a manual specific to the southernmost regions of the country by carefully choosing plants that can handle the South's climate and, specifically, the shady areas of any garden or landscape. Plants are grouped into bedding plants, shrubs, trees, groundcovers, and vines. Each individual entry is a well-detailed sketch of all facets of the plant. Kellum includes a thorough description of the plant's desirable and undesirable qualities, the scientific genus and species, common names, optimal growing conditions, and suitable plant pairings. Tips on how best to create shade and protect plants from harsh sunlight are abundant.

If Kellum's written descriptions are not enough to help with plant selection, the

accompanying photographs should do the trick. Kellum's masterful photography captures each plant with amazing clarity. Many plants are shown in varying degrees of growth to better assist the gardener in choosing the right plants to enjoy for years to come. Additional tips can be found along with the photographs to correlate what is being shown.

Though this guide is by no means an exhaustive account of all your plant possibilities, Kellum has included a wide range of many useful shade plants. With this book, the novice gardener can discover the right way to begin gardening for shade, and the seasoned gardener can utilize Kellum's incredible knowledge to expand on the shade plants they already enjoy.

The stunning visuals, easy-to-read language, and incredible depth of gardening and landscape knowledge make this guide a must for any collection. Kellum's vivid descriptions and photographs of each plant help take the guess work out of picking the right plants for the right spots. This handy manual can help turn tricky gardening into a day in the shade.

Blair Booker  
Assistant Librarian  
Holmes Community College

— ♦ —

**Morgan, Kathleen O. and Scott E. Morgan (eds).** *Mississippi Education in Perspective 2008-09*. Washington, DC: Congressional Quarterly Press, 2008. 25 pp. \$25.00 (paperback)

Scott and Kathleen Morgan are the editors of Morgan Quitno's annual state and city statistical reference books. They publish books on state rankings, state trends, health care state rankings, crime state rankings, city crime rankings, and education state rankings. The general state ranking books allow the reader to compare individual states in terms of education, health, crime, transportation, taxes, government finance, and other areas. The

education books provide information about how each state compares with the other in terms of teachers' salaries, reading and math scores, graduation rates, per pupil spending, special education, class size, and more.

Information contained in this volume represents the most recent data available and covers the areas of districts and facilities, finance, graduates and achievement, safety and discipline, special education, staff, and students. Sources of information are numerous and include the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Bureau of the Census, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Federal Bureau of Investigation, College Board, National Center of Education Statistics, National Library of Education, National Education Association, and more. Tables are described, and a glossary is provided to explain terms used.

The book is bound with a simple coil and serves as more of an extended pamphlet than a bound book. While Morgan and Morgan attempt to present a vast amount of statistics in a descriptive and easy to approach manner, the amount of data is so large that it is not as easy to understand as one might anticipate. While the book can be criticized for its failure to provide a clear understanding of the overall picture, the data itself can be useful to teachers and others with an interest in education.

This book provides important data needed to understand the current state of education in Mississippi. As such, it is recommended for educators and anyone seeking to understand the latest statistics related to education in Mississippi. This book is recommended for academic, public, and high school libraries, especially in Mississippi.

William L. Bahr  
Assistant Director  
Pike-Amite-Walthall Library System

— ♦ —

**Polk, Nicey Hentz.** *Memories of the Mississippi Delta*. Denver: Outskirts Press, 2008. 102 pp. \$11.95 (paperback)

In *Memories of the Mississippi Delta*, Nicey Hentz Polk presents a view of life in Mississippi from the period of slavery to the 1960s. The book blends poems and essays depicting the author's childhood in Lambert, Mississippi, and her experience coming of age in Marks, Mississippi during the 1960s. This book places the author's life in a historical context using discussions of cotton production, slavery, the Civil Rights Movement, the Jim Crow Era, the 1968 Poor People's Campaign, the effect of northern migration on the

decline of small towns, and the machinery that replaced workers.

The author presents an interesting view of the times and her life experiences in Mississippi. The story is told in short quips followed by poems. For example, a passage will describe the countryside, and then a poem will describe what took place there, such as fishing. Some passages are longer, such as the description about love and work, but even these were too brief and broken up by poems. Thus, the book is interesting, but lacks coherency and does not present an organized view of events. A more chronological view of the experiences, with a slight interjection of poems, would have been clearer and more informative.

This book is a valuable source for anyone interested in life in Mississippi during slavery and the following eras or an account of the author's life. It also provides insight into race relations in Mississippi. As such, the book is recommended for public, high school, and academic libraries.

William L. Bahr  
Assistant Director  
Pike-Amite-Walthall Library System ■

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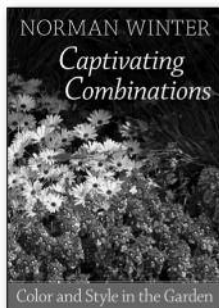
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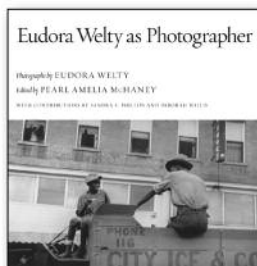
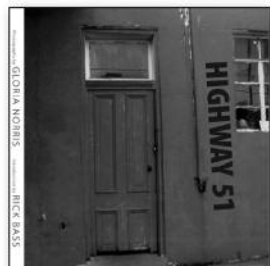
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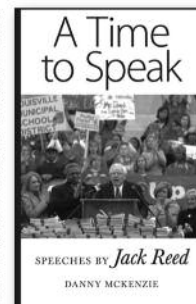
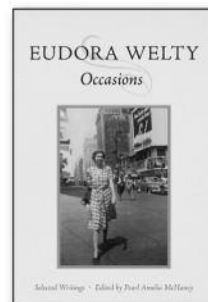
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