



## Contents

Information Entrepreneurs: Nonproprietary resources in the academic library (2)

*Ashley Dees*

Searching For Carnegie: A Visit to the World's Oldest Carnegie Library Calls to Mind a Chapter of Mississippi's Library History (4)

*Matthew Griffis*

News Briefs (10)

People in the News (15)

Book Reviews: (19)

*Delta Dogs: Photographs by Maude Schuyler Clay*

*Shaking the Sugar Tree*

*The Civil War in Mississippi: Major Campaigns and Battles*

*Rivers*

*Medgar Evers: Mississippi martyr.*

Cover image: WPA poster for the Illinois Art Project in Chicago, encouraging reading in the new year. Image modified from an original in the Library of Congress collections ([loc.gov/pictures/item/98510133/](http://loc.gov/pictures/item/98510133/)).

# Information Entrepreneurs:

## Nonproprietary resources in the academic library

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### Introduction

Libraries are always looking for ways to ingratiate themselves to their patrons and if they are not they should be. Without the students and faculty who frequent the academic library, the library itself would have no purpose. To further add value to the library, most academic librarians teach library instruction sessions for those professors understand the importance of the library in their students' academic careers. It is in the request for library instruction sessions on the topic of career resources and projects that this article is interested.

A novice business library beginning her first full semester as an academic librarian was asked by two separate professors in completely different disciplines to introduce students to career resources. One professor simply asked for the librarian to show the students the library's career resources while the other named specific resources that they wanted demonstrated, none of which were propriety library resources. In both instances the librarian more than delighted to have been asked for assistance readily agreed to the sessions for each instructor.

While preparing for each of the instruction sessions the librarian realized that the vast majority of the

resources that would be most beneficial to the students were in fact not library resources. Was that acceptable? Should she try harder to wiggle in more library resources just because they are library owned? In the end, relevant library resources along with many non-library resources were added to research guides and demonstrated before the various classes.

### Proprietary vs. Nonproprietary Resources

The professors were happy with the resources shown and all ended well, but the question lingered. Should librarians push proprietary resources over non-library resources? It seemed that the two faculty who had asked for the career resources sessions viewed the business librarian as the person to introduce career resources to their students even though the resources could have been accessed from their own classrooms or by the students themselves from any location as can most proprietary library resources can these days. Perhaps that makes the two different types of resources less distinguishable.

If the library were to promote free and user friendly resources on it guides and web site, would it then lead to students using more proprietary library resources as well. Can the academic library rebrand itself as not the gatekeepers of proprietary information but as the ushers to a vast array of information resources both free and proprietary? Should academic librari-

ans step outside of the library and become information entrepreneurs? More and more universities are looking toward OERs as a way to save students money and libraries are supporting those efforts along with efforts for open access journals. Fister (2014) acknowledges the shift in academic libraries toward open access, by way of institutional repositories, providing access to open access materials and OERs through the library, and by helping users understand copyright (p. 45). These are lofty and noble pursuits. The fact remains that faculty support for institutional repositories and OERs can be difficult for some institutions to obtain. In this light the promotion of free resources directly to students via library instruction sessions seems a worthwhile and potentially easier endeavor. Colon-Aguirre and Fleming-May (2012) reported finding that "library avoiders", students who avoid the library, purposely avoid using that library because of the fear of feeling bewildered with library resources and instead search out free online resources (p. 394). Can the promotion of free easy to use resources bring these avoiders into the library?

### Conclusion

It seems that at least a portion of the population on academic campuses view librarians as the ones who should show and instruct students with their information searches whether the resources are library owned or not. Many librarians are

already actively promoting non-proprietary resources on their research guides. The question remains, however, is that the best that can be done and should be done? The navigation of free resources is an opportunity for librarians to demonstrate their value beyond restricted library resources and teach students how to use and access real world resources that will continue to prove useful long after they have lost access to their university libraries.

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## Selected List of Resources

Brookings  
 CareerLeak  
 CNN money: Calculators  
 Glassdoor  
 Guide Star  
 Internships.com  
 LinkedIn  
 Marketwatch.com  
 Peterson's Grad School Bound  
 Pew Research Center  
 Sperling's Best Places  
 U.S News & World Reports  
 YahooFinance

# SEARCHING FOR CARNEGIE:

A Visit to the World's Oldest Carnegie Library Calls to Mind a Chapter of Mississippi's Library History

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## Introduction

On the morning of July 16<sup>th</sup>, Drs. Matthew Griffis and Teresa Welsh, both of the University of Southern Mississippi's School of Library of Information Science, and eight MLIS students from the school's British Studies program toured one of Dunfermline, Scotland's most famous landmarks, the Carnegie Library of 1883.

The library was originally a gift from the town's most famous native, the American steel mogul Andrew Carnegie, and has the distinction of being the first Carnegie library opened anywhere in the world. The tour, made possible by special arrangement with the library, ended up a highlight of this year's LIS British Studies program, for it not only emphasized the value of studying library history as part of librarian education, it also served as an introduction, for some participants, to the story of Carnegie libraries.

It is well documented that Andrew Carnegie's library grant program played an important role in the spread of free public libraries in many parts of the world, most particularly in the United States (Bobinski, 1969; Van Slyck, 1995). This writer, whose work to date on the subject has focused almost exclusively on the Carnegie libraries

Figure 1 - Carnegie statue in Pittencrieff Park



of his native Canada, has begun to look more closely at those in the American south, particularly in this state. The purpose of this article is to review what information is currently available about Carnegie libraries in Mississippi and begin to assess what contribution, if any, Carnegie's program made to the state's public library development.

Although Mississippi did not receive nearly as many grants as other states, the eleven Carnegie public libraries that opened here between 1910 and 1916 appear to have made some contribution to library progress. However, despite the available work on the subject, to date no scholarly study can be located that explores the full extent of this contribution.

## The "Patron Saint" of Public Libraries

There was perhaps no greater stimulus to modern public library development in the United States than the Carnegie library grant program, which funded the construction of 1,689 public and academic libraries at the turn of the last century (Jones, 1997). In their day, Carnegie libraries were more than just charming buildings; they fueled a growing enthusiasm among the masses for the existence of free, tax-supported public libraries that would enrich their communities.

Until the early twentieth century, however, usually only larger centers could manage the tax demand of funding a free public library. Many smaller centers, partic-

ularly in more rural parts of the country, could not. And even when they had a desire to establish such a library, these communities were sometimes unaware how to design an efficient and attractive facility, where to place it in the community, and how to properly maintain it.

Enter America's Steel King. Born in 1835 in Dunfermline, Scotland, Andrew Carnegie was the son of a handloom weaver. The family knew no life above hand-to-mouth poverty. Leaving Scotland in hopes of a better life, the Carnegies settled in Pittsburgh, where young Andrew was put to work in factories to help the family survive. Lacking a formalized education, Carnegie sought his own through the connections he made in his community.

He borrowed books from his superiors, some of whom opened their private libraries to young workers in hopes of identifying and shaping young talent for their growing companies. Time and time again Carnegie passed the test. Making his way up the ranks of several businesses, by his early twenties the young man had made his way through several prominent positions in the telegraph and railroad industries and began investing his early wealth in manufacturing. By middle age, he had founded the Carnegie Steel Company in Pennsylvania, and was poised to become one of the richest men of the modern age.

A longtime advocate of philanthropy, Carnegie sold his steel empire to J. P. Morgan in 1901 and dedicated his efforts full-time to redistributing his wealth to causes that he believed "advanced" society. Even before 1901 Carnegie gave liberally to technical schools, concert halls, and other cultural and

educational institutions.

However, Carnegie saw free public libraries as the most worthy recipients of his gifts since, in his opinion, wherever they existed anyone would have access to education. After funding the construction of several free libraries in Scotland in the 1880s, Carnegie funded several more in his Pennsylvanian steel towns in the 1890s. In 1898 he hired an assistant to manage his many philanthropic projects, among them his evolving library grant program. By 1920, this program had funded the construction of over 2,500 public (and some academic) libraries throughout the English-speaking world: 1,689 in the United States, 126 in Canada, and hundreds more across the UK, Australia, and parts of the West Indies.

### **Libraries In Mississippi Before Carnegie**

Mississippi opened eleven Carnegie public libraries and two Carnegie-funded college libraries between 1906 and 1916. However, Mississippi's library history began over one century before. Private libraries were the only type of library in the region pre-statehood. In 1818, Port Gibson's Mississippi Literary and Library Company became the first library in the new state to receive its charter (Halsell, 1975). Social libraries, for example the Franklin Library and Debating Society, the Holly Springs Library Society, and the Louisville Circulating Library, became common and continued to organize throughout the state as late as 1860. These libraries are sometimes referred to as "public libraries", since they were libraries in the public before the age of modern, tax-supported public libraries. But

these libraries were not free to use; collections were small by today's standards and rarely occupied more than a couple of rooms.

The small collections of various academies and literary societies also account for many of Mississippi's antebellum libraries (Rice, 1924). Common and high school libraries later appeared in great numbers but were often without fixed support from their schools (Davis, 1916) and were normally not for public use. Social libraries, for instance the Fisk Memorial Library of Natchez and the Yazoo Library Association of Yazoo City, continued to thrive in the years before 1900.

The first entirely free public library in the state appears to have been Biloxi's, established in 1898 by the King's Daughters (Davis, 1916; Rice, 1924). Indeed, Whittman Davis's survey of Mississippi libraries shows that free public libraries were scarce in the years before the Carnegie grant program. "It is an incontrovertible fact that Mississippi ranks very low among the states that are making use of the public library as a means of popular education," Davis would later write (1916, p. 3). "There are many people in the state who realize that the libraries are not being developed as they should be, but they seem not to have been able to impress this fact upon the general public forcibly enough to arouse them to the point of action."

For many American communities, the cost of a library was so great that even fee-based public libraries were considered a luxury rather than a necessity. So when news of Carnegie's grant program spread outside his Pennsylvanian steel towns, communities felt en-

1904	Meridian (main) Meridian (segregated)	\$30,000 \$8,000	1913 1913	Art museum Razed (2008)
1908	Houston	\$6,000	1910	Library
1909	Mound Bayou	\$4,000	1910	Destroyed by fire (1930s)
1911	Clarksdale	\$10,000	1914	Still standing, use unknown
1911	Greenwood	\$10,000	1914	Still standing, use unknown
1911	Jackson	\$25,000	1915	Razed (date unknown)
1913	West Point	\$10,000	1915	Still standing, use unknown
1914	Okolona	\$7,500	1915	Library
1914	Vicksburg	\$25,000	1916	Still standing, use unknown
1916	Gulfport	\$10,000	1916	Art school

Table 1. Carnegie Libraries in Mississippi

couraged to contact the willing donor.

### Carnegie Libraries in Mississippi

It is unclear which Mississippi community was the first to apply for a Carnegie grant. Meridian received its offer from Carnegie as early as 1904. While Carnegie favored funding public libraries, he did fund a relatively small number of college libraries in the United States, and Millsaps College opened its Carnegie-funded library in 1906.

However, it appears the first Carnegie public library in the state to open its doors was Houston's library of 1910. The city's school superintendent, L. B. Reid, had first heard about Carnegie's gifts while living in Texas (Beal, 1975). Certain that Houston, Mississippi would benefit from a grant, Reid began a campaign to secure one.

The process of securing a library grant was simple though not always easy. Interested communities applied directly to Carnegie's offices in New York and corre-

sponded only with his assistant, James Bertram. Basing grant amounts directly on population size, Bertram approved or declined applications based on a number of conditions.

First, any libraries built with Carnegie funds were to be new, standalone facilities. The library had to be entirely free to the public, and local governments had to pledge an annual support rate of at least 10% of Carnegie's gift. Communities also had to supply evidence of a suitable site for the library. In the later years of the program, and concerned with the "wasteful" spending of Carnegie's money, Bertram also exerted increased control over the designs of Carnegie libraries, eventually publishing a pamphlet of model floor plans for local architects to follow (Van Slyck, 1995). The process of fulfilling all conditions sometimes took only months, depending on local factors. More typically it took one or two years. In some cases, the process took more than a decade.

A total of ten Mississippi communities successfully applied

for grants and opened eleven Carnegie public libraries from 1910 to 1916. Table 1 gives basic information about each of them; it is based on figures from Bobinski (1969) and Jones (1997). Further information was obtained from Halsell (1972) and various chapters in Peebles and Howell (1975). The current status of each library has been included where possible.

Carnegie also gave funds to two college libraries: Millsaps College (\$15,000) and the University of Mississippi (\$25,000). The Carnegie Corporation of New York, the organization Carnegie founded in 1911 to administer his philanthropic programs after his death, helped fund Mississippi Industrial College's auditorium of 1923.

Although Mississippi's final Carnegie library count seems small (some states received over 100 grants), it would be premature to assume that Carnegie's contribution to Mississippi's library development was also small. In his landmark study, Bobinski (1969), whose conclusions have been supported by further work by Van



Figure 2—Carnegie Library, Meridian

Slyck (1995) and Jones (1997), claims that among the Carnegie library program's contributions to the development of public libraries in the United States was its ability to supply funds to communities at a time when these communities had little or no funds for a public library. The program also placed an unprecedented emphasis on the necessity of public libraries in smaller communities and also broadened the acceptance of the principle of municipal responsibility for the library. In later years, when James Bertram's architectural control of the libraries increased, Carnegie's program also made substantial contributions to modern library design and planning standards (for a more detailed explanation of this contribution, see Griffis [2013]).

Although it is somewhat difficult with so little information at hand, one may speculate how, and to what extent, these contributions apply to Mississippi's situation. Certainly, Mississippi's eleven Carnegie buildings were among the first purpose-designed modern library facilities in the state. To what

extent they were well-designed in comparison to others is not clear. Still, when drafting his architectural guidelines for Carnegie libraries, James Bertram consulted with some of the country's most experienced and knowledgeable library architects (among them, Edward Tilton) and it is clear that Bertram approved most of Mississippi's library grants after adding this condition.

The point about broadening acceptance of the free public library model is the other, and probably more important, point to consider. It is likely that the progressive spirit in which these ten communities received their grants, agreeing to Carnegie's condition that their libraries be free public libraries, encouraged the spread of the "free library" concept in the state. Before Carnegie's grants reached Mississippi, there were only three public libraries in the state (Beal, 1975). Carnegie's gifts added eleven more. By the early 1920s, the number of public libraries in the state unaided by Carnegie funds totaled eleven (Bobinski, 1969), which suggests that acceptance of the free public

library concept broadened during these years. However, numbers alone cannot paint an accurate picture of the "acceptance" of anything, since a deeper consideration of various economic and social factors is missing.

One further point about the "impact" of the Carnegie program in Mississippi is worth considering. As Bobinski (1969) points out, of the more than 130 southern communities that received Carnegie library grants, only nine opened segregated branches for African-Americans. Meridian was one of them. The opening of the Meridian segregated branch was undoubtedly a landmark in the history of library services to African Americans in the state. Such branches, though smaller in size and often stocked with smaller, sometimes inferior collections, were, as Malone (1996, p. 1) explains, nevertheless a "confirmation of African Americans as literate, reflective, striving human beings"—a small light in the darkness of pre-civil rights Mississippi.

### A Need for Research

The conclusions above are hardly conclusions at all, based as they are on piecemeal information from secondary sources. Understanding the impact of Carnegie's gifts in any state or region must entail a much deeper and more thorough consideration of local factors and conditions. The problem at present is that no such study is known to exist.

Therefore, earlier this year, this writer began reviewing all surviving correspondence pertaining to Mississippi's ten public and two college Carnegie libraries. These records are now held at Columbia

University. His work is far from complete, and will entail visiting each of the ten communities at a later time for more intensive research. But already some discoveries have encouraged further digging. For instance, it appears that both Armory and Laurel successfully applied for Carnegie library grants—even though neither town ever opened a Carnegie library.

The likely question, then, is why these communities either declined Carnegie's offer or failed to live up to his conditions. Bobinski (1969) believes that Laurel simply wanted more money, and Carnegie refused, thus ending the application. There is, however, no apparent explanation for Armory, and when this writer searched for the Armory correspondence in the Carnegie records, it was missing.

It also appears that the Mound Bayou library, which was funded by Carnegie at the request of Booker T. Washington and Charles Banks (Jones, 1997), never opened as a library. While Bobinski (1969) believes the reason was a lack of local funding, more recent

sources imply that local organizers in Mound Bayou never intended to open the building as a library (Jackson, 2002). And then there is the question of why some Carnegie libraries in Mississippi were (apparently) allowed to deviate more than others from the stringent architectural specifications enforced in the later years of the program.

There is also the subject of public reaction to Carnegie's gifts in Mississippi, something which has received little mention in any of the existing literature. In many American communities some groups or individuals objected vociferously, and sometimes even successfully, to free public libraries on economic grounds, and to Carnegie libraries specifically on ethical grounds. Carnegie had a reputation among many labor groups as a "robber baron", and his library grants were sometimes referred to as "blood money"—the term referring to the deadly strike of 1894 at Carnegie's steel factory in Homestead, Pennsylvania. It is unclear if and to what extent these issues prompted any similar reaction here.

It is hoped that, with more work, answers to these and other questions will emerge and be added to the historical record. In the meantime the author of this article welcomes any questions, corrections, or even suggestions for further places to look for information.

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CARNEGIE LIBRARY, WEST POINT, MISS.

Figure 3—Carnegie Library, West Point

Jackson, D. H. (2002). *A chief lieutenant of the Tuskegee machine: Charles Banks of Mississippi*. Gainesville: University Press of Florida.

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## News Briefs

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### MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES SPECIAL COLLECTIONS OFFERS INCREASED ACCESS TO MANUSCRIPT COLLECTIONS

The Mississippi State University Libraries Special Collections Department is proud to announce the inclusion of over 300 manuscript collection finding aids to the Library's online catalog and OCLC Worldcat. These collection finding aids, which were previously accessible only in-house, have been linked to the library's website and corresponding bibliographic records added to the Libraries' online catalog and OCLC Worldcat.

The digital finding aids, most of which were developed using Archivist Toolkit, cover a wide variety of subjects from the nineteenth and twentieth centuries that will be of interest to both scholars and the general public alike. Subjects include: agriculture, slavery, the Civil War in Mississippi, the lumber industry, African-American history, clubs and organizations, the Civil Rights movement, journalism in Mississippi, church histories, and numerous other subjects.

Frances Coleman, Dean of Libraries, said, "The release of these digital finding aids represents many hours of work on behalf of a variety of people in the Library's

Special Collections department. The addition of these finding aids will ensure that these exceptional and unique collections are discoverable by researchers worldwide." Types of materials found in the manuscripts collections include: correspondence, diaries, journals, plantation records, slave schedules, ledgers, newspaper articles, photographs, audio and video recordings, microfilm, and a variety of articles of clothing and artifacts.

Examples include the Eugene Butler papers (Progressive Farmer editor-in-chief Eugene Butler); the Charles Johnson Faulk papers (Pulitzer prize-winning reporter and later editor of the Vicksburg (MS) Evening Post); the Turner Catledge papers (journalist, and editor of The New York Times); the Douglas Conner papers (prominent

African-American physician and civil rights activist in Mississippi); and the Lenoir Plantation papers featuring the Lenoir family who migrated to Mississippi from South Carolina in the 1830s, eventually building a plantation home in the late 1840s on 3500 acres at Prairie, Mississippi.

For assistance with finding resources in Special Collections, please visit their website at [library.msstate.edu/specialcollections](http://library.msstate.edu/specialcollections) or call the Special Collections at 662-325-7679.

*Submitted by  
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MSU Libraries*

### ST. MARTIN LIBRARY SHOWING WOOD CULPTURES OF LOCAL ARTIST FERANDA

The St. Martin Public Library showed the art of local artist Vincent Feranda during the month of December and January.

Vincent, a patron of the library for many years, is a resident of St. Martin and showed several wooden sculptures in the library. Most are hand-carved items of discarded logs, boards, and other wood scraps that are crafted to look like animals and fantasy characters with many suspended on poles.

He began his wood working craft by checking out books on the subject from the library back in 2010. Vincent started with hand tools carving smaller items. Recent-



Vincent Feranda

ly, he added chain saw sculpting to his new-found talent and is still learning new techniques.

For more information on his work, call the library or visit at 15004 Lemoyne Blvd.

*Submitted by  
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### **THE DE GRUMMOND COLLECTION HOSTED EXHIBIT FOR ARTWORK OF ROSEMARY WELLS**

The de Grummond Children's Literature Collection at The University of Southern Mississippi featured 60-plus original watercolor and mixed media art pieces of Rosemary Wells, award-winning children's book author and illustrator, at an exhibit in February.

Wells' illustrations, featuring some of her most famous characters such as Max and Ruby, Yoko and Mother Goose, displayed from Feb. 7-28 at Oddfellows Gallery in downtown Hattiesburg. The public was invited to attend a reception to celebrate the opening of the Wells exhibit Saturday, Feb. 7. Wells was in attendance at the reception for a book signing, and selected pieces of her artwork were available for purchase.

During a recent visit to Hattiesburg, Wells donated illustrations from her personal collection to the de Grummond Collection.

"Having Rosemary Wells here in Hattiesburg provides us with the opportunity to have a high-caliber exhibition. Wells' work has been read and loved by children all over the world," said Ellen Ruffin, curator of the de Grummond Chil-

dren's Literature Collection. "We are also fortunate to have a gallery like Oddfellows in which to present the work of this noted artist. People attending this event will see a first-class exhibit."

Wells has won many awards for her work, including the Golden Kite Award for Forest of Dreams, an International Reading Association Children's Choices citation for Max's Chocolate Chicken; Edgar Allan Poe Special Award, Mystery Writers of America, 1981, for When No One Was Looking; many of her books have been named among the best books of the year by School Library Journal or received American Library Association Notable Book citations or American Bookseller "Pick of the Lists" citations.

In 2002, Wells received The University of Southern Mississippi Medallion, an award for distinguished service in the field of children's literature. Unique among literary prizes, the medallion is awarded for an individual's total body of work, rather than for one particular work. Since the first award at the second annual Children's Book Festival, the Southern Miss Medallion has been presented to an outstanding array of children's authors and illustrators.

Wells' career as an author and illustrator spans more than 40 years and 120 books. She has given readers such unforgettable characters as Max and Ruby, Noisy Nora and Yoko. She also gave Mother Goose new life in two definitive editions, and created an unforgettable world for grown-ups and kids alike in *Voyage to the Bunny Planet*.

For more information on the Rosemary Wells exhibit, contact

the de Grummond Children's Literature Collection at 601.266.4349.

*Submitted by  
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### **MSU LIBRARY TO FEATURE PRESTIGIOUS AFRICAN AMERICAN COLLECTION**

At places like Walt Disney World and the Smithsonian National Museum of American History, more than four million people have viewed The Kinsey Collection's artifacts, manuscripts, books and art documenting African American history.

Soon, the collection, comprising one of the largest private collections of African American pieces in the world, will make its first visit to the Magnolia State at Mississippi State University. Free, public viewings of The Kinsey Collection's "African American Treasures" will be open March 21-June 20 in the John Grisham Room at Mitchell Memorial Library.

Because the collection is private, not a permanent public display, viewing "African American Treasures" is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, according to organizers. They suggest residents, schools and media make plans to see the pieces during its short three-month visit.

Pieces in The Kinsey Collection, owned by Bernard and Shirley Kinsey of Los Angeles, celebrate African Americans' achievements and accomplishments throughout U.S. history, especially through their impacts on culture and art.

Highlights of the "African American Treasures" display coming to MSU include an early copy of the Emancipation Proclamation and a signed copy of *Brown v. Board of Education*. Also, rare works from early 19th century African American artists will be displayed.

The Kinsey family, including son Khalil, will visit campus to celebrate the opening of The Kinsey Collection at MSU. Bernard Kinsey will speak at a 3 p.m. public presentation on March 22 to offer insights into the respective pieces on display at the university, as well as why he and his wife are so passionate about gathering items for the collection.

The collection is presented by the Bernard and Shirley Kinsey Foundation for Art and Education. The organization seeks to educate the public about African American history by highlighting African American accomplishments over time, closing societal and cultural gaps between African Americans and other populations, and eroding the stereotypes undercutting equality.

The exhibit is made possible by MSU Libraries, African American Studies at MSU and grants from Visit Mississippi, Starkville Visitors & Convention Council and the Mississippi Humanities Council, through support from the Mississippi Endowment for the Humanities. Any views, findings, conclusions or recommendations expressed in this exhibition do not necessarily represent those of the National Endowment for the Humanities or the Mississippi Humanities Council.

To discover more, schedule group tours or view exhibit hours



## AFRICAN AMERICAN TREASURES

from

*The Kinsey Collection*

Made possible by the  
Bernard and Shirley Kinsey Foundation  
for Art and Education

**MARCH 21 - JUNE 20**

John Grisham Room, Mitchell Memorial Library  
Mississippi State University

This exhibit features authentic and rare art, artifacts,  
books and documents that tell the untold story of  
African-American achievements.

For more information, including exhibit hours and tours:

[library.msstate.edu/Kinsey](http://library.msstate.edu/Kinsey)

**MISSISSIPPI STATE  
UNIVERSITY**

*University Libraries*

for "African American Treasures" from The Kinsey Collection at MSU, visit [library.msstate.edu/Kinsey](http://library.msstate.edu/Kinsey). More information about the Kinseys, The Kinsey Collection and its history is available at [www.thekinseycollection.com](http://www.thekinseycollection.com).

*Submitted by  
Stephen Cunetto  
Administrator of Systems  
Mississippi State University  
Libraries*

### MSU LIBRARIES ANNOUNCES THE 9TH ANNUAL CHARLES TEMPLETON RAGTIME & JAZZ FESTIVAL

This spring, you'll want to "ankle" quickly to Mississippi State University Libraries for the ninth annual Charles Templeton Ragtime & Jazz Festival— it's the "bee's knees!" Dress up in '20s fashion and be an "Oliver Twist" on the dance floor at the second annual Gatsby Gala, enjoy performances from some of the country's most talented pianists, and learn more about ragtime, jazz

and early American music at a number of lectures.

Previously an event exclusively featuring piano and concentrating mainly on ragtime, the festival is spreading its wings to include more instruments and styles. Look forward to the sounds of Stride, Boogie, Blues, Novelty, Swing, New Orleans Jazz, some Gershwin and of course, a healthy serving of Ragtime. From the wild, hot piano of Dr. Dave Majchrzak to the pastel-tinged Art Deco pianisms of Richard Dowling, from the torrid New Orleans Rag, Jazz and Blues heritage of Scott Kirby to the impressive eclecticism of Ivory&Gold®, this year's Templeton Festival truly has something for everyone!

The festival features the Charles H. Templeton Sr. Collection and Museum in MSU Libraries, which houses over 22,000 pieces of sheet music, 200 musical instruments, and unique musical memorabilia from the 1880s to the 1930s. The collection highlights the industry during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, when

ragtime dominated popular American music.

Events kick off with the Gatsby Gala on Thursday, March 26 at 6 p.m., featuring a fashion show of '20s designs created by students in the Apparel, Textile and Merchandising program. A series of Templeton Museum tours, seminars and silent movies will be held throughout the day and evening concerts featuring our guest performers will be held in the evenings, Friday, March 27 and Saturday, March 28. Daytime events and the Gatsby Gala will be held in Mitchell Memorial Library, and the concerts will be held at the McComas Hall Auditorium on the MSU Campus.

The Festival is sponsored by grants from the Starkville Area Arts Council, Greater Starkville Partnership Development and the Mississippi Arts Commission, a state agency, and the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency. Tickets are available for daily events, evening concerts, and for the entire festival online at [library.msstate.edu/ragtime](http://library.msstate.edu/ragtime). For questions or concerns, contact Lynda Graham at [lgraham@library.msstate.edu](mailto:lgraham@library.msstate.edu) or (662) 325-6634.

*Submitted by  
Stephen Cunetto  
Administrator of Systems  
Mississippi State University  
Libraries*

## MISSISSIPPI LIBRARY LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE 2014 CLASS

The Mississippi Library Commission is pleased to announce the graduation of the 2014 class of the Mississippi Library Leadership Institute. Twenty rising stars in the

library profession participated in a year-long program designed to grow the next generation of library leaders in the state of Mississippi.

The Mississippi Library Leadership Institute is a transformational experience requiring participants to attend four three-day training sessions, study leadership theory between sessions, and undertake a community project. The Institute emphasizes experiences that build strong relationships with community partners and involve a very high level of intensity and risk-taking.

"Through MLLI, I was given the extraordinary opportunity to create a meaningful project for my library and my community, which I would not have pursued otherwise. In doing so, I learned about managing my first large-scale project, met dedicated and talented librarians from around the state, and tested my potential as a leader. For these things I am so very grateful." – Hilary Richardson, Mississippi State University

2014 Mississippi Library Leadership Institute class:

- Ashley Biggs, Central Mississippi Regional Library System, Flowood, Miss.
- JoAnn Blue, Carnegie Public Library of Clarksdale & Coahoma County, Clarksdale, Miss.
- Jamie Elston, Jackson-George Regional Library System, Moss Point, Miss.
- Antoinette Giamalva, Delta State University, Cleveland, Miss.
- Crystal Giles, Northwest Mississippi Community College, Senatobia, Miss.
- Joshua Haidet, East Mississippi Regional Library, Quitman, Miss.
- Shivon Rockward Hess, Mississippi Library Commission, Jackson, Miss.
- Lisa Justis, East Mississippi Community College, Mayhew, Miss.
- Sarah Mangrum, University of Southern Mississippi, Hattiesburg, Miss.



2014 MLLI Class. Photograph by Joy Garretson

- Erica McCaleb, Mississippi Library Commission, Jackson, Miss.
- Lindsey Miller, Columbus Lowndes County Library System, Columbus, Miss.
- Darlene Morgan, Pike-Amite Walthall Library System, McComb, Miss.
- Jennifer Parker, Magee High School, Magee, Miss.
- Jesse Pool, First Regional Library System, Horn Lake, Miss.
- Hillary Richardson, Mississippi State University, Starkville, Miss.
- Elizabeth Simmons, Puckett Attendance Center, Puckett, Miss.
- Violene Williams, Coahoma Community College, Clarksdale, Miss.
- Jamie Wilson, Millsaps College, Jackson, Miss.
- Callie Wiygul, The Library of Hattiesburg, Petal, & Forrest County, Hattiesburg, Miss.
- Abbie Woolridge, Meridian Lauderdale County Public Library, Meridian, Miss.

The Mississippi Library Leadership Institute was made possible in part by a Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Program grant from the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services to the Mississippi Library Commission. For more information about the Institute, visit [mlc.lib.ms.us/ServicesToLibraries/mlli.html](http://mlc.lib.ms.us/ServicesToLibraries/mlli.html)

*Submitted by*  
*Lacy Ellinwood*  
*Public Library Consultant*  
*Mississippi Library Commission*

## UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI LIBRARIES BEGIN GROWD-FUNDING CAMPAIGN FOR DIGITAL RECORDING STUDIO

The University of Mississippi Li-



braries we has a vision to get more technology into the Library. To that end they have kicked off a crowdsourcing campaign through Ignite Ole Miss, the university's crowdfunding platform.

The goal is to fund Studio One, a simplified video recording studio and digital editing suite. UM students and community members have often asked for more technology in the library, particularly video creation technology, and the current Ignite Ole Miss campaign is a result of that.

Better still, in an incredible act of solidarity and generosity, Ole Miss Athletics has committed to match every contribution up to a total of \$10,000, so all contributions up to that level will essentially be doubled. The initiative is not receiving any funds from university central administration; the effort is entirely one of individual sponsors and generous matching donations.

The University of Mississippi Libraries invites you to help us spread the word about the Ignite Ole Miss Campaign for Studio One by sharing this news item with your contacts, friends, family, and on social media through the hashtag #UMStudioone.

More information can be found at the official campaign page: [ignite.olemiss.edu/studioone](http://ignite.olemiss.edu/studioone) . If

you or your library is interested in putting together a similar crowdsourcing experience, The University of Mississippi Libraries would be happy to share any information and expertise it can.

*Submitted by*  
*Brian Young*  
*Reference Librarian & Assistant*  
*Professor*  
*University of Mississippi Libraries*

## People in the News

### **Tina Harry**

*Catalog & Assistant Automation Librarian and Associate Professor  
University of Mississippi*

**Jennifer Blalock** has been named as the new Branch Manager of the Jesse J. Edwards Public Library in Coldwater, a branch of First Regional Library. She recently obtained her Masters in Library Information Services from the University of Southern Mississippi. Blalock has worked in Tate County school libraries and as a sales representative for Rainbow Books. The Tate



County native currently resides in Cockrum, MS with her husband and two children. "I'm looking forward to meeting the people of Coldwater and finding out what they want out of their public library," she said. "This is already a great library with a great staff, and I'm excited to find ways we can provide even more

support to this community."

Blalock replaces Tasha Jackson-Sow, who is now Branch Manager of the Tunica County libraries of First Regional Library.

The Jackson-George Regional Library System has hired **Tonja Johnson** as Assistant Director of Human Resources and Branch Development.



She was previously employed with North Pontotoc School System and held the position of Librarian/Media Specialist in Ecu, MS. Tonja was also Library Director for the Union County Library System in New Albany, MS. While at the school system, she was selected as 2013-2014 Educator of the Year.

Her education includes a Bachelor of Arts in History from Samford University in Birmingham, AL, and has a Masters of Library and Information Science from the University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg.

She has a strong background in library services to bring to the Library System with experience in literacy and library skills, budgets and collections, cataloging, library and professional development, and more.

For information about libraries, branch locations, and phone numbers, visit the library website at [www.jgrls.org](http://www.jgrls.org).

**Mariah Grant** has joined the Millsaps-Wilson Library staff as Acquisitions and Serials Librarian.

**Jamie Wilson**, formerly Acquisitions Librarian at Millsaps College, is now Electronic Resources and Web Services Librarian.

**Michael Davide** joined the Mid-Mississippi Regional Library System in November 2014 as System IT Coordinator. Originally from Baton Rouge, Louisiana, Michael received a B.S. in Computer Engineering from Mississippi State University and a M.S. in Computer Science from the University of Southern Mississippi. Before joining the library system, Michael served in



the U.S. Air Force for 18 years, reaching the rank of Major. While in the Air Force Michael was stationed throughout the U.S. including: Eglin AFB, Florida; Pensacola NAS, Florida; Andrews AFB, Maryland; Keesler AFB, Mississippi; Peterson AFB, Colorado; Scott AFB, Illinois; Randolph AFB, Texas; and served two deployments in Baghdad, Iraq. Michael and his wife Peggy are the parents of four boys.

After 23 years of outstanding service, **Carolyn Steen** has retired as System Technology Coordinator of the Mid-Mississippi Regional Library System (MMRLS). Carolyn served in several positions throughout her years at MMRLS, including Youth Services Coordinator, Reference/ILL Coordinator, and Administrative Assistant before assuming the position of System Technology Coordinator in 1999. Carolyn received a B.S. and M.E. in Educational Psychology from Mississippi State University and a M.D. from Asbury Theological Seminary in Kentucky.



In a competitive application process, **Jennifer Brannock** has been selected as a participant in the 2015 Archives Leadership Institute (ALI).

ALI is a program funded by the National Historical Publications and Records Commission, a statutory body affiliated with the National Archives and Records Administration, and is being hosted at Luther College for the years 2013-15. The Archives Leadership Institute at Luther College (ALI@Luther) will provide advanced training for 25 emerging and innovative leaders, giving them the knowledge and tools to transform the archival profession in practice, theory and attitude. To learn more about ALI@Luther see

[www.archivesleadershipinstitute.org](http://www.archivesleadershipinstitute.org).

In support of the project, Luther College Archives was awarded \$216,150 by the National Historical Publications and Records Commission, the granting agency of the National Archives and Records Administration.

Participants were selected for the 2015 ALI@Luther program participant based on their leadership skills and potential, ability to influence policy and change within an organization and the archival field, commitment to the archival profession, career progress and history, organizational involvement, professional motivation and goals, a collaborative and innovative spirit and diversity and specialization within the profession.

Jennifer Brannock is an Associate Professor and Curator of Rare Books and Mississippiana at the University of Southern Mississippi. Prior to joining Southern Miss, she was the Kress Fellow in



Art Librarianship at Yale University. She currently serves as president of the Society of Mississippi Archivists, steering committee member of the Regional Archival Associations Consortium (RAAC), chair of the RAAC education subcommittee, and is the former chair of the Mississippi Library Association chapter of the Association of College & Research Libraries. Jennifer holds an M.A. in Art History and an M.L.S. from the University of Kentucky.

The Leadership Intensive held at Luther College is a week-long immersion program that embraces a distraction-free, focused opportunity for emerging archival leaders to develop necessary theories, skills and knowledge. Participants will engage in daylong workshops focusing on current and vital strategies for archival leadership such as new leadership thinking and methods, strategies for born digital resources, project management, human resource development and advocacy and outreach. Participants will also take part in team building activities that embrace the beauty and fresh-air of the Upper Iowa River bluff country in northeast Io-

wa.

Following the weeklong intensive at Luther College, participants will return to their institutions to develop a post-intensive practicum project. The chosen practicum project will serve as the primary focus for all ALI@Luther participants in the following year and will meet the goal of connecting archival leadership skills with practical application. Throughout this process, an ALI steering committee mentor will provide guidance and support for the proposed project.

The institute will conclude with a practices workshop to be held in conjunction with the Society of American Archivists' annual meeting in August 2015 in Cleveland, Ohio. The content of the practices workshop will consist of facilitated conversation focused on applying leadership learning to ongoing projects and practicums.

**Jennifer J. Meister** has accepted the position of Cataloging Librarian at Hinds Community College in Raymond, MS. Jennifer has been employed as an Administrative Librarian with Hinds at the Vicksburg campus since 2013. Previously, she has worked as a Branch Manager for the Central Mississippi Regional Library System and as a Technology Librarian in her home state of New Jersey. Jennifer received her MSLIS from Drexel University (Philadelphia, PA) in 2007.

**Sheeji Kathuria** became the Social Sciences Librarian at Mississippi State University in January 2014. She was formerly a Reference and Instruction Librarian at the University of Alabama in Huntsville. Sheeji received her MLIS from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville

in 2011.

**Nickoal Eichmann** became Mississippi State University Libraries' first History Research Librarian in June 2014. Her specializations include early modern history, digital humanities, and scholarly communication. Nickoal received her MLS from Indiana University in May 2014.

**Justin Kani** has been named Assistant Professor and Business and Interim Education Librarian of the Mississippi State University Libraries effective October 1, 2014. He has served as a reference and information literacy librarian in Albany, NY since 2010. Justin received his MLS from Clarion University of Pennsylvania in 2010.

Initially hired as Assistant Librarian/Instructional Services Librarian in August of 2013, **Hillary Richardson** was appointed to Humanities Librarian in the Research Services Department at the Mississippi State University Libraries in November of 2013. She received her MA in English from the University of Mississippi in 2009, and her MLIS from the University of Southern Mississippi in 2011.

**Fred C. Smith**, former owner of Choctaw Books of Jackson, Mississippi, has joined the staff of Special Collections at the Mitchell Memorial Library at Mississippi State University. In his position of Rare Book Consultant and Researcher, his responsibilities include acquisitions and collection development with emphasis on enhancing and publicizing the Mississippiana Collection. Other duties include the identification of rare and important

books and materials within the Library Collection.

**Neil Guilbeau** has been serving as Coordinator of University Archives, Mississippiana, and Rare Books for Mississippi State University Libraries since October 2013, and interim Coordinator of Manuscripts since April 2014. He received a MLIS from Louisiana State University in 2007, and served as Assistant Archivist from 2007-2013 at Nicholls State University in Thibodaux, Louisiana. Guilbeau holds memberships in the Society of American Archivists, Academy of Certified Archivists, Society of Mississippi Archivists, Mississippi Library Association, National Oral History Association, Mississippi Historical Society, Mississippi Genealogical Society, and the Southern Archivists Conference.

**Jim Kalwara** has been named Assistant Professor, Monographic Cataloger effective January 16, 2015. He is from Indianapolis, IN and received his MLS degree from Indiana University, Bloomington in August 2014.

**Dr. Matthew Griffis**, Assistant Professor at SLIS, was awarded a 2015 OCLC/ALISE Library and Information Science Research Grant. Griffis' project, entitled "The Place of the Librarian in the Deskless Library: Do Roaming Reference Models Create a More User-Centered Library?", will investigate the spatial relationships between library users and roaming (also known as "roving") reference librarians in public and academic libraries. An extension of his PhD dissertation, Griffis' new study explores whether roaming reference

service models create a more “user-centered” library than traditional, stationary reference models.

Griffis will be visiting libraries this spring and summer to collect data and will be presenting his findings at the ALISE Annual Conference in Boston, MA in January, 2016. Griffis joined the faculty at SLIS as a tenure-track Assistant Professor in August of 2013. His research interests include the library as place, library buildings as social architecture, public libraries as community spaces, the history of public libraries and librarianship, and Carnegie libraries. His teaching interests include library foundations, archives and archival science, library history, research methods, and information technology in libraries.



**Clay, Maude Schuyler.** *Delta Dogs: Photographs by Maude Schuyler Clay*. Jackson, Mississippi: The University Press of Mississippi, 2014. 96 pp. \$35 (hardcover)

Maude Schuyler Clay is a resident of the Mississippi Delta. Her work is represented in the collections of the Museum of Modern Art, the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, and the National Museum for Women in the Arts. In *Delta Dogs* she gives us a companion volume to her work *Delta Land* published by the University Press of Mississippi in 1999. This new publication maintains the same format as the previous work, but includes more dogs, the subject of only an occasional image in *Delta Land*. Clay created this book when she "... began to realize that the 'indigenous canine presence' in the Delta was something I was very interested in and needed to concentrate on." (p. 94)

Although primarily about the dogs of the Delta, Clay's work also captures the spirit of the empty farmland and ruined buildings that form the scenery of the Delta countryside. In some places dogs play a secondary role, disappearing into the plowed fields, and in other photographs the dog is very much front and center and are clearly the focus of their pictures. With a sure instinct the photographer finds the setting that calls forth the personality and the characteristics of the dog.

Clay's use of black and white photography gives the viewer an uncluttered picture that expresses her love of the beauty and sparseness of her chosen home. The gray tones of the book's cover and the transparent dust jacket introduce the reader to the barrenness of the area, leaving us with the impression of winter skies and the sense of things to come. Although short on words, Clay's images of dogs – travelling, on guard, or sitting singly or in groups - against empty fields and abandoned buildings fills us with nostalgia for our childhood homes and the animals that filled our lives.

This book would be a good addition to libraries that support art research, those that have strong Mississippi collections and those whose copies of *Delta Land* have seen a lot of use.

***Sheila A. Cork***

*Librarian*

*New Orleans Museum of Art*

**Wilgus, Nick.** *Shaking the Sugar Tree*. Dreamspinner Press, 2014. 304 pp. \$17.99 (paperback)

*Shaking the Sugar Tree* is at its core a romance story set in Tupelo, Mississippi. However, much of the narrative centers around the main character's wish to have a modern family as well as his ability to retain a sense of humor in the wake of life's challenges. Wiley is a single father struggling to make ends meet on a part-time, minimum wage salary. The majority of Wiley's time is devoted to providing care to his son Noah, who was born with a meth addiction and is deaf. In addition to the challenges of caring for a special needs child, Wiley faces a myriad of judgments from family and others within the community concerning his homosexuality and capability of being a good parent. The tension increases substantially when Wiley begins a relationship. Jackson, originally from Boston, relocates to Tupelo where he meets Wiley and the two soon begin dating. The cultural shock Jackson experiences provides both humor and insight into how the concept of modern families and homosexuality is perceived in the south.

Overall the book was a fun, easy read that is full of memorable characters. Chapters one and two were a little slow and it was difficult to become interested in the main characters. This was mostly because it started off with a familiar plotline where the child is an active participant in recruiting a partner for their single mom or dad. At this point a reader can imagine that the story will run the course of a fairy tale or harlequin-esc romance initiated by a child. Once the reader gets to know Noah as more than just a wingman for his father; the story progresses to highlight the fantastic father/son dynamic they share. The notion of a fairy tale romance takes a back seat to the importance of family and the daily struggles that the father/son duo face together.

*Shaking the Sugar Tree* is meant for an adult audience and would be appropriate for a public library.

**Jennifer J Crawley**

LIS Administrator

The University of Southern Mississippi

**Ballard, Michael B.** *The Civil War in Mississippi: Major Campaigns and Battles*. Jackson, MS: University Press of Mississippi, 2011. 300 pp. \$28.52 (hardcover)

In *The Civil War in Mississippi: Major Campaigns and Battles* historian Michael B. Ballard recounts details of the western theatre of the American Civil War. Though his work is dedicated to the war in Mississippi, he is able to paint a full picture of Mississippi's role in the War of Northern Aggression.

While not everyone in Mississippi agreed on secession, most in the state unified after the decision to secede was made. Upon secession, Mississippi began preparing for war. Though unable to contribute financially, Mississippi was able to provide an honorable amount of troops for the war.

Defeated at the Battle of Shiloh, a large portion of the Confederate Army was forced to flee Tennessee. At Corinth, in Northern Mississippi, the Confederate effort to regroup was hindered by the inability of the commanders to agree on their next move. Eventually, the decision was made to split the force and send the troops to more strategic locations. After these events, Vicksburg became a key location in the minds of both the Confederate and Union leaders.

The chapters in the book center on important locales in Mississippi during the Civil War: Corinth, Vicksburg, Iuka, Brice's Crossroads and more. Generally, the book moves at a good pace and does a thorough job of explaining the facts and staying on topic. It relates how other aspects of the war impacted Mississippi and still manages to provide a detailed account of all the skirmishes and key events that took place within Mississippi's borders.

Ballard's book would intrigue most local historians. The author claims that the book is written in a scholarly manner, but is for a general audience; that description is quite appropriate. The author provides extensive notes to back his claims and yet does not stifle a relaxed reading experience. Both academic and public libraries throughout Mississippi should consider this book for their collections.

**Erin Moulds**  
*Cataloging Specialist*  
*University of Southern Mississippi*

**Smith, Michael Farris**, *Rivers*. New York, NY: Simon & Schuster, 2013. \$11.99 (paperback)

*Rivers* is an apocalyptic tale set on the Mississippi Gulf Coast, post-Katrina, after violent storms have devastated the Southern region. The devastation of the area leaves you wondering how Cohen, the main character, and many others manage to survive at all. The copious amounts of rain leave the area wet and soggy, and the Gulf Coast has been brought to its knees. Through many years of catastrophic hurricanes the area has been depleted of many of its resources causing a desperation among the people stranded there. People must make a choice on whether or not to live their life “below the line” which offers no services, no electricity, and no resources, in which you must survive on your own or to leave.

Cohen, who has lost his wife and unborn child during the evacuation attempt, is ambushed and his home is ransacked. He is forced to flee from his home and begins traveling on the road north of the coastline with limited resources. The loss of his wife and unborn child weigh heavy on his mind. During his journey, Cohen is captured by Aggie, a fanatical, snake-handling preacher who has a colony of captives and dangerous visions of repopulating the barren region. Cohen must decide how he is going to survive, as well as how he is going to protect the other prisoners from this madman, as a huge hurricane is bearing down on them.

Michael Farris Smith writes this wonderful novel with natural ease, it grabs your attention with drama and suspense, allowing the reader to be pulled in immediately through a fast-paced narrative. Michael Farris Smith won the 2014 Mississippi Authors Award for Fiction from the Mississippi Library Association (MLA). He has also won various other awards through Best Books of 2013 (Daily Candy, Book Riot, and Hudson Booksellers) and Top Ten Books of 2013 (The Capital Times).

I would recommend this novel for all Public Libraries. Readers who like adventure and a book to keep them on the edge of their seat will enjoy reading Michael Farris Smith, *Rivers*.

***Elaine Smith***

*Reference Services*

*Lee County Library*

**Williams, M. V.** *Medgar Evers: Mississippi martyr*. Fayetteville, Arkansas: The University of Arkansas Press, 2011. \$24.95 (paperback)

*Medgar Evers: Mississippi Martyr*, by Michael Vinson Williams, extensively recounts the role Evers played in the Civil Rights movement in Mississippi. This work is not merely of biographical interest but also offers detailed insight into the state of Mississippi's impending role in the progression of the Civil Rights Movement in the 1950s and 1960s. Through documented memoirs of close family members, friends, and fellow Civil Rights activists along with historical records, Williams traces Evers' life as a fiercely devoted Civil Rights leader who knowingly and selflessly offered his life for a better future for all Americans.

In easy-to-read dialogue, Williams recreates a picture of Evers as a family man vehemently dedicated to an improved Mississippi. He used his leadership in the NAACP to allocate for black voters in a time when Jim Crow was above the law. Williams provides great detail into Evers' relationship with the NAACP and how his position as field secretary helped, and sometimes impeded, his goals as a Civil Rights advocate.

While this book is of biographical and historical nature, it is written in a narrative fashion that is easy to read. While the chapters can be rather long, the extensive and comprehensive index lends itself to the serious researcher. All quotes and claims are well documented with notes and citations gathered at the end of the book, following the concluding chapter. Also included are 24 unnumbered pages of black and white photographs of Evers, his family, and places of importance during Evers' life, as well as places honoring his legacy.

This book would be of use to any library, public, school, or academic, having collections related to the Civil Rights Movement, Mississippi history, and/or the NAACP. One would be hard-pressed to find such an exhaustive and authoritative look into the life of Medgar Evers as presented by Michael Vinson Williams in *Medgar Evers: Mississippi Martyr*. This book can be enjoyed cover to cover.

***Durless A. Works***

*Interlibrary Loan Specialist*

*The University of Southern Mississippi*