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On the cover: *Nectar Drinking Bats of Arizona* by Amanda Myers, McCain Library & Archives, University of Southern Mississippi. This 5-color relief print shows the Mexican long-tongued bat and the long-nosed bat, the two species of nectar drinking bats found in Arizona. These bats pollinate various cactus species such as agave, saguaro, and the organ pipe cactus. You can find more works by this artist on Instagram at [acmyers621](https://www.instagram.com/acmyers621) or at [etsy.com/shop/admers](https://www.etsy.com/shop/admers)

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# President's Page

"Mississippi Libraries: The Heart of Our Communities" is the theme of the Mississippi Library Association 2016 Annual Conference that will be held in Vicksburg, 18-21, 2016. Your vice president, Jenniffer Stephenson, and her committees have planned a great schedule of events. As always, there will be a wide range of programs and events that will be of interest to library staff from public, academic, school, or special libraries. While professional development and continuing education are well-known benefits of our annual conference, perhaps one of the most important parts is the ability to network with colleagues across the state. The MLA executive board recently passed a conference cancellation policy to formalize policies and to clarify our procedures for accepting purchase orders. You can find additional information about the conference in this issue of *Mississippi Libraries* and on our association website at <http://www.misslib.org>.

Hattiesburg is the location for our 2017 conference and our Vice President-elect, Sarah Mangrum, will be soliciting the help of volunteers. Please contact her if you want to volunteer to help with the conference. The executive board is in the midst of collecting RFPs for our 2018, 2019 and 2020 conferences. We hope that many locations throughout the state will submit proposals. The conference site selection committee will begin the review process after the conference.

I'm delighted to report that our association membership is currently



at 465. The membership committee recently conducted a survey to see what current and former MLA members expect from and hope to gain by MLA membership. In the survey, we were happy to see that 'overall satisfaction' with MLA is high with 41% of respondents 'mostly satisfied' and 35% of respondents 'extremely satisfied'. A lack of communication outside of conference was an area of concern and some suggested regional or multiple events throughout the year. Although 71% of those responding thought that their return on investment of membership was fair, many lapsed and non-members mentioned the cost of membership as a deterrent to joining. The executive board and membership committees will continue to use the survey results to inform decisions. If you have any suggestions about MLA, the conference, or membership, please contact me or any member of the executive board.

# Virtual Reference Services in Level VI Higher Education Institutions in the SACS Region: A Content Analysis

**Michael Mounce**

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## ABSTRACT<sup>1</sup>

This study examines virtual reference services in academic libraries of Level VI higher education institutions in the SACS region. A content analysis study was used to analyze the web sites of the institutions' libraries. When analyzing the web sites, the author collected information pertaining to the libraries' virtual reference services. The purpose of this article is to provide the results of the study. In addition, this article also includes a review of the literature, a discussion regarding the results, conclusions, and recommendations.

## INTRODUCTION

Virtual reference services have become more common in academic libraries in recent years. The libraries of Level VI higher education institutions in the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) region have provided those services via email, live chat, and other electronic methods. Level VI institutions are the universities and other institutions in the SACS region that grant four or more types of doctoral degrees. The purpose of this study

is to examine the extent to which virtual reference services are available in Level VI institutions in the SACS region. In this study, the author presents data and information pertaining to those services in 107 Level VI institutions. These institutions were located in eleven states in the southeastern and south central United States. Also, some institutions were excluded from this study. The institutions there were excluded were institutions at other levels (i.e. Level V), unaccredited institutions, and institutions outside the SACS region.

## LITERATURE REVIEW

### *VIRTUAL REFERENCE SERVICES IN PARTICULAR UNIVERSITIES*

In the library literature, the author found examples of academic libraries providing virtual reference services to their patrons. Some of the articles found in the literature discussed various academic libraries providing those services via live chat. In one article, Powers et al. discussed librarians' experiences of providing virtual reference services via live chat at the Mississippi State University Libraries. Powers et al. discussed their participation in live chat with other libraries in a consortium from the fall of 2004 – early 2008, their transition to a local live chat service in 2008, and the use of a local live chat service. The article concluded by stating that the

librarians at Mississippi State “continue to investigate effective ways to provide virtual reference services where our patrons are, when they need us.” (Powers et al. 2010).

Other articles in the literature included examples of institutions providing virtual reference services via text messaging. For example, Brooks and Zubarev discussed the implementation and use of those services via text messaging at the John Jay College of Criminal Justice, a college within the City University of New York. The authors mentioned that their institution's library had used a Blackberry phone to provide those services. Sometime later, the library staff decided to make a change by switching to a software interface instead of continuing to use a phone for providing the services (Brooks and Zubarev 2012).

Some articles in the literature focused on changes or improvements that have been made to services provided by librarians. For example, Nicol and Crook discussed some improvements made to the virtual reference services at the libraries of Washington State University – Pullman. In the past, librarians at this institution had answered patrons' online questions, such as live chat questions, in separate online locations. However, a decision was made to centralize their virtual reference services. In 2011, the libraries implemented the LibAnswers service,



which become the location for all of those services. After implementing LibAnswers, librarians began answering patrons' questions sent to the library via email, texting, chat, and Twitter in one location. After one academic year of using the centralized method of virtual reference services, librarians at Washington State University – Pullman noted a 61.03% increase in patron questions received in their libraries (Nicol and Crook 2013).

### **STUDIES IN VIRTUAL REFERENCE SERVICES**

Some articles in the published literature provide a broad picture of virtual reference services by discussing those services in general. Devine, Paladino, and Davis, for instance, discussed a comprehensive survey of academic libraries in the United States that focused on live chat virtual reference services. The survey was sent to 451 higher education institutions and about 50% of the recipients responded. The results of their study included a few findings. First, 85% of the respondents stated that their libraries provide live chat virtual reference services independently, instead of in consortiums with other libraries. Second, institutions with doctoral degrees have generally offered those services via live chat longer than non-doctoral institutions. Third, the methods of training library staff to prepare them for providing those services via live chat differed among institutions. Some institutions provided their library staff with training sessions while others required on the job training (Devine, Paladino, and Davis 2011).

Another article focused on the topic of text messaging virtual

reference services. Vecchione and Ruppel discussed an anonymous web based survey that they conducted on the topic of text messaging virtual reference services in libraries. The survey was sent to various email listservs, and 221 people responded to the survey. Since the survey was anonymous, there was no information given about the respondents, such as the types of libraries in which they worked. Approximately 43% of the survey recipients responded. One of the results of the study included a few findings from respondents. First, the respondents indicated that ready reference and circulation questions were the most common types of questions received via text messages in their libraries. Second, the respondents reported that various technological tools were used in their libraries for providing text messaging virtual reference services. Third, most of the respondents reported that they received "10 or less questions per month" via text messages. Fourth, a majority of the respondents indicated that the library staff in the respondents' libraries received training to prepare them for providing text messaging virtual reference services (Vecchione and Ruppel 2012).

In the literature, the author also found some articles that discuss virtual reference services in general. For example, Yang and Dalal wrote an article about a content analysis study they conducted which discussed those services in academic libraries. The authors of that study obtained a list of 362 institutions via a random sample method. Afterward, they scanned the web sites of those institutions' libraries to find out what library web pages have the

links to virtual reference services and the terminology used in those links to virtual reference services. Also, they found out the locations of virtual reference chat boxes, how chat services are provided (locally or via consortiums), and all modes of virtual reference services that are offered. In the results of their study, the authors stated that most of the examined institutions placed their links to those services on their main library web pages. Other results of the study included the following: most of the examined institutions using at least one mode of virtual reference services, almost half of those institutions providing those services via live chat, and the institutions with higher enrollments or more advanced degrees being more likely to offer those services via live chat (Yang and Dalal 2015).

### **METHODOLOGY**

This study focused on Level VI higher education institutions in the SACS region. Therefore, the first step of this study was to find a list of all of those institutions. The author conducted a search for those institutions on the SACS Commission on Colleges web site. In the search, the author limited the search results to Level VI institutions. After clicking the search link, the author viewed a list of all of the Level VI institutions, which included 110 institutions. The institutions included universities, one college, and a few medical schools.

The second step of this study was to collect and record the data. Using the content analysis research method, the author collected data from the web sites of the Level VI institutions and their libraries. The author



collected the data and recorded it in an Excel spreadsheet. For the study, the author found the following virtual reference services data: modes of virtual reference services (such as live chat), the locations of links to those services on the web sites, and terminology used in those links, such as “Ask a Librarian.” Also, the author found the following demographic data: geographic locations, number of libraries at the institutions, number of library staff at the institutions, number of reference or research librarians/staff at the institutions, and the institutions’ student enrollment numbers. The author collected and recorded the data for this study in March and April 2015. Also, it should be noted that two institutions were excluded from the study because of lack of data and another institution was excluded because it was located outside the United States. Therefore, this study actually focuses on 107 of the 110 institutions.

## RESULTS OF THE STUDY

### VIRTUAL REFERENCE SERVICES

For this study, the author examined the web sites of the libraries of the 107 Level VI institutions to find out what methods of virtual reference services the institutions’ libraries provided. Eighteen institutions (16.8%) provided those services via email only. The remaining 89 institutions (82.4%) provided those services via email plus one or more other methods. Besides email, the other electronic methods included live chat, text messaging, Twitter, Skype, and Facebook. In their provision of virtual reference services, 87 of the institutions used live chat and 58 used text messaging. Ten

**Table 1: Virtual Reference Services**

Methods	Number of Institutions	Percentage of Institutions
Email only	18	16.8%
Email and chat	28	25.9%
Email and texting	2	1.85%
Email, chat, and texting	47	43.5%
Email, chat, texting, and Twitter	8	7.4%
Email, chat, texting, and Skype	1	0.92%
Email, chat, and Twitter	2	1.85%
Email, chat, and Facebook	1	0.92%
<b>Total</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>100%</b>

institutions provided those services via Twitter. One institution used Skype and one used Facebook. In Table 1, the methods of virtual reference services provided in the Level VI institutions are listed. The numbers and percentages of institutions providing those methods of virtual reference services are also listed.

In addition to discovering the types of virtual reference services used at these institutions, the author examined how the libraries connected users with these services on their web sites. The term “Ask a Librarian” was used far more than any other term. Fifty-six of the 107 institutions (52.3%) used “Ask a Librarian” to market their virtual reference services. The term “Ask Us” was used by 19 institutions (17.75%) and the term “Contact Us” was used by 12 institutions (11.2%). Several other terms, such as “Ask a Question” and “Ask Us Anything” were used at the libraries of the other institutions.

There was not much variation in regard to where the links to virtual reference services were located on the libraries’ web sites. Each

institution with one library linked to those services on the library’s home page. The institutions that had two or more libraries placed their links either on the “University Libraries” home page or on the home page of the main library.

### DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

The 107 Level VI institutions that were included in this study were located in several states in the southeastern and south central United States. Of all the geographic locations, Texas had the largest number of Level VI institutions that were included in this study with 27 institutions (25.23%). The U.S. states of the institutions and the numbers and percentages of institutions in those states are listed in Table 2.

The institutions in this study varied in regard to how many libraries they had. Twenty-nine of the institutions (27.1%) had only one library while 34 of them (31.77%) had five or more libraries. The remaining 43 institutions (40.18%) had two, three, or four libraries. The author was unable to determine the number of



**Table 2: Geographic Locations**

States	Number of Institutions	Percentage of Institutions
Alabama	8	7.47%
Florida	14	13%
Georgia	9	8.4%
Kentucky	2	1.86%
Louisiana	9	8.4%
Mississippi	5	4.67%
North Carolina	9	8.4%
South Carolina	3	2.8%
Tennessee	10	9.34%
Texas	27	25.23%
Virginia	11	10.28%
<b>Total</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>100%</b>

libraries for one of the institutions in the study.

The 107 institutions had various numbers of library staff members. In this study, the term “library staff members” refers to all types of library staff, including faculty. The author found that 38 of the institutions (35.5%) had a staff size of less than 50 employees. Twenty-six of the institutions (24.29%) had a staff size of 50 – 100 employees, while 38 of the institutions (35.5%) had over 100 employees. Also, the author was unable to obtain the exact numbers of library staff members for five of the institutions.

The numbers of reference or research staff members at the institutions in this study also varied. The author found that 39 of the 107 institutions (36.4%) had less than 10 reference or research staff members. Also, 41 institutions (38.3%) had 10 – 19 reference or research

staff members and 21 institutions (19.6%) had 20 or more. No exact numbers of reference or research staff members were found for six of the institutions.

Student enrollment numbers were collected for 104 of the 107 institutions. Three of the 107 institutions were excluded from the enrollment data because they were medical schools that were within larger universities. Thirty-five of the 104 institutions (33.6%) had small student enrollments with less than 10,000 students. However, a large majority of the 104 institutions had large student enrollments of 10,000 or more students. As many as 69 of the institutions (66.3%) had more than 10,000 students enrolled. More specifically, 23 of the institutions (22.1%) had enrollments of 10,000 – 19,999 students and 21 of those institutions (20.1%) had 20,000 – 29,999 students enrolled. There

were 15 institutions (14.4%) with enrollments of 30,000 – 39,999 students. The remaining 10 institutions (9.6%) had enrollments of 40,000 or more students.

## DISCUSSION

In this study, the author examined virtual reference services offered by Level VI institutions in the SACS region. Also, this study analyzed possible connections between those services and the following factors of the institutions: number of libraries, number of library staff members, number of reference or research staff members, and student enrollment. A search of the published literature found no information suggesting a connection between any of those factors and higher education institutions’ provision of virtual reference services. However, some data gathered in this study suggests that there may be a connection between the factors and the virtual reference services that are provided at SACS accredited Level VI institutions.

Regarding the number of libraries, the author assumed that the institutions with two or more libraries would offer more types of virtual reference services than those with only one library. Some data in the study suggests that generally, the institutions with two or more libraries offered more types of those services, although there were some exceptions. The author found that 65.5% (19 out of 29) of the institutions with only one library offered those services via email and at least one other method. In contrast, 89.6% (69 out of 77) of the institutions with two or more libraries offered those services via email and at least one other method. The percentage



of institutions that had two or more libraries providing virtual reference services in more ways than just email is about 24% higher than the percentage of single library institutions providing those services in more ways than email.

In regard to the number of library staff members, the author's assumption was that the institutions with large library staffs offer more types of virtual reference services than the institutions with small library staffs. Some data in the study generally supports that assumption, although there were some exceptions. The author found that 65.78% (25 out of 38) of the institutions that had less than 50 library staff members provided virtual reference services in more ways than just email. On the other hand, 96.1% (25 out of 26) of the institutions that had 50 – 100 library staff members provided those services in more ways than just email. The percentage of "50 – 100 staff member" institutions providing more than email virtual reference services is about 31% higher than the percentage of "less than 50" institutions providing those services in more ways than just email. Also, 92.1% (35 out of 38) of the institutions that had over 100 library staff members provided those services in more ways than just email. The percentage of institutions that had over 100 library staff members providing virtual reference services in more ways than just email is about 27% higher than the percentage of institutions with less than 50 staff members providing those services in more ways than email.

A more specific focus of this study was on the number of reference or research staff members

at the institutions. The author's assumption was that the institutions with large numbers of reference or research staff members offer more types of virtual reference services than those with small numbers of those types of staff members. Some data in this study suggests that the author's assumption is generally true, although there were some exceptions. Sixty-six percent (26 out of 39) of the institutions that had less than ten reference/research staff members provided virtual reference services via email and at least one other method. In contrast, as many as 95.1% (39 out of 41) of the institutions with 10 – 19 reference or research staff members provided those services in more ways than just email. The percentage of "10 – 19" institutions providing virtual reference services in more ways than just email is about 29% higher than the percentage of "less than 10" institutions providing those services in multiple electronic methods. Also, 90.4% (19 out of 21) of the institutions with 20 or more reference or research staff members provided those services in more ways than just email. The percentage of "20 or more" institutions providing virtual reference services in more ways than just email is about 24% higher than the percentage of "less than 10" institutions providing those services in multiple electronic methods.

Regarding enrollments, the author assumed that the institutions with large student enrollments offer more types of virtual reference services than the institutions with small student enrollments. Some data in this study supported that assumption, although there were some exceptions. Enrollment data was

found for 104 of the 107 institutions. Regarding the smaller institutions, the author found that 65.7% (23 out of 35) of the institutions with enrollments of less than 10,000 students offered virtual reference services via email and at least one other method. In contrast, 92.7% (64 out of 69) of the institutions with enrollments of 10,000 or more students offered those services via email and at least one other method. The percentage of "10,000 or more" institutions providing virtual reference services in more ways than just email is about 27% higher than the percentage of "less than 10,000" institutions providing those services in multiple electronic methods.

## CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

In conclusion, a large majority of Level VI institutions in the SACS region, 83.1%, were found to provide virtual reference services in more ways than just email. That high percentage suggests that virtual reference services of most academic libraries are no longer limited to the email method. Also, the two methods that were used the most for providing those services in the Level VI institutions besides email were live chat and text messaging. Furthermore, the author found that other electronic methods, such as Twitter, have started being used in the provision of those services in some academic libraries of the institutions in this study. The use of live chat, text messaging and other methods in the libraries of Level VI institutions indicates that academic libraries have and continue to branch out in various ways in order to provide virtual reference services to their patrons.

The author has a few recommendations for anyone who needs more information about virtual reference services. The author recommends reviewing the document "Guidelines for Implementing and Maintaining Virtual Reference Services." This document, which was created by the Reference and User Services Association, provides helpful tips for those who need to implement those services at their libraries or manage their existing services. For those wishing to implement new virtual reference services in their libraries, the author also recommends

viewing the web sites of other libraries which have already implemented those services. Further research in this area may expand beyond this study to consider how much users are taking advantage of these virtual reference services at these institutions. Other studies may need to explore any connection between traditional reference services (face-to-face help or phone calls) and newer services (virtual reference) to determine if virtual reference services provided by larger academic institutions are a fad or a good investment.

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# Mississippi Library Association Annual Conference Vicksburg October 18 - 21, 2016



**Mississippi Libraries:  
The Heart of  
Our Communities**

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## Mississippi Authors' Awards



### **Kiese Laymon: Winner for Fiction – *Long Division***

Kiese Laymon is a black southern writer, born and raised in Jackson, Mississippi. Laymon attended Millsaps College and Jackson State University before graduating from Oberlin College. He earned an MFA in Fiction from Indiana University and is currently a Professor of English and African American Studies at the University of Mississippi. Laymon is the author of the novel *Long Division* and a collection of essays *How to Slowly Kill Yourself and Others in America*, the UK edition released in 2016. Laymon has written essays, stories and reviews for numerous publications including *Esquire*, *ESPN the Magazine*, *Colorlines*, *NPR*, *LitHub*, *The Los Angeles Times*, *Ebony*, *New York Times*, *PEN Journal*, *Oxford American*, *The Best American Series*, and *Guernica*. *Long Division* was named one of the Best of 2013 by *Buzzfeed*, *The Believer*, *Salon*, *Guernica*, *Contemporary Literature*, *Mosaic Magazine*, *Library Journal*, *Chicago Tribune* and the *Crunk Feminist Collective*. It was also short-listed for the *Believer Book Award*, the *Ernest Gaines Award* and the *Morning News Tournament of Books*. *Long Division* won the 2014 *Saroyan International Writing Award* on November 10th. Three essays in *How to Slowly Kill Yourself and Others in America* have been included in the *Best American series*, the *Best of Net award*, and the *Atlantic's Best Essays of 2013*. He was selected a member of the *Root 100* in 2013 and 2014 and *Ebony Magazine Power 100* in 2015. Kiese Laymon has two books forthcoming, including a memoir called *Heavy* which will be released in 2017 and the novel called *And So On* which can be expected in the Spring of 2018, both from *Scribner*.



### **Hester Bass: Winner for Juvenile – *Seeds of Freedom: The Peaceful Integration of Huntsville, Alabama***

Hester Bass is the author of *Seeds of Freedom: The Peaceful Integration of Huntsville, Alabama* (NCSS Woodson Honor, Parents' Choice Silver Honor, and Junior Library Guild) and *The Secret World of Walter Anderson* (NCTE Orbis Pictus Award and SIBA Book Award). She lives in Santa Fe, New Mexico, but as a native of Georgia and former resident of Alabama and Mississippi, she often craves turnip greens.



### **Suzanne Marrs: Winner for Non-Fiction – *Meanwhile There Are Letters: The Correspondence of Eudora Welty and Ross Macdonald***

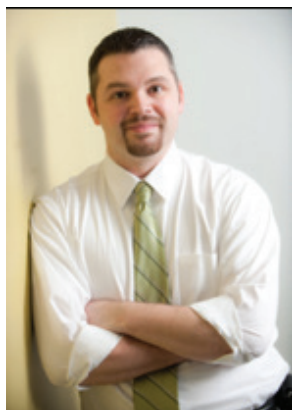
Professor Emerita of English at Millsaps College where she taught for twenty-seven years, Suzanne Marrs received the 1998 Phoenix Award for Outstanding Welty Scholarship from the Eudora Welty Society, and she was Mississippi's Humanities Scholar of the Year in 2009. Marrs is the author of *Eudora Welty, A Biography*, for which she won a Mississippi Author Award, and of *One Writer's Imagination: The Fiction of Eudora Welty*. She is the editor of *What There Is to Say We Have Said: The Correspondence of Eudora Welty and William Maxwell* and the co-editor (along with Tom Nolan) of *Meanwhile There Are Letters: The Correspondence of Eudora Welty and Ross Macdonald* (July 2015), which was a finalist for *Edgar*, *Anthony*, and *Macavity Awards*.

Marrs met Eudora Welty in 1983, and they became good friends; once Marrs moved from the State University of New York – Oswego to Jackson, the two met on an almost daily basis, discussing literature and travel, exchanging anecdotes, and welcoming visiting writers and scholars to Mississippi.

Though she has now retired from the faculty of Millsaps College, Marrs continues to serve as Welty Foundation Scholar-in-Residence at the Eudora Welty House and has a number of book projects in the offing.



## Keynote Speaker



**Zachary Benedict** is a managing partner at MKM architecture + design, a firm dedicated to enhancing community health. As a son of a librarian, Zach grew up understanding the importance of libraries and has dedicated his career to understanding the connection between people and places. With an appreciation towards the likes of Charlie Munger and Monty Python, he has lectured internationally on various topics – discussions whose primary focus is to encourage communities to reevaluate the importance of inclusive civic space. At this year's conference, Zach will be focusing on the evolving role of libraries and how their presence is critical for the future sustainability of the communities they serve. More importantly, he will share his work exploring why libraries are the hearts of every community.

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## Poster Sessions

### Wednesday

Crafting Collections: Supporting the Student Success Initiative at Southern Miss

*By Elena Azadbakht, Tracy Englert, and Sarah Mangrum (University of Southern Mississippi)*

Searching for Answers: Using Student Searches to Determine Engagement

*By Jacqueline Reed and Ashley S. Dees (The University of Mississippi)*

Self-Published Books and Libraries: Should We or Shouldn't We Buy?

*By Jennifer Culley (The University of Southern Mississippi)*

Keeping the Door Open – Ensuring Library Materials Are Accessible to All

*By Michael Paulmeno (Delta State University)*

Usage Comparison of Print and Electronic Theses and Dissertations at The University of Southern Mississippi

*By Sarah Mangrum and Elizabeth La Beaud (The University of Southern Mississippi)*

The Value of Oral History beyond Discovery and Preservation

*By Neil Guilbeau, Nickoal Eichmann-Kalwara, Hillary Richardsons (Mississippi State University)*

### Thursday

Fandom Hearts Unite

*By Antoinette Giamalva and Evanne Flanders (Madison County Library System)*

Serving Mississippi's Communities Since 1914: An Exploration of Mississippi's Extension Service

*By Denise A. Wetzel (Mississippi State University)*

Read Your Way Across Mississippi

*By Elisabeth Scott and Amanda Redmond (Mississippi Library Commission)*

The Impact of Academic Libraries' Usage of Instructional Technology on Student Learning via Embedded Librarianship and Information Literacy

*By Vanjury "V" Dozier (Madison County Library System)*

Telling your library's story: By the numbers

*By Joy Garretson (Mississippi Library Commission)*

Jumpstarting Creativity - Pinterest for Ideas

*By Megan Fleming (Bolivar County Library System - Robinson-Carpenter Memorial Library)*

Schedule at a Glance				
Tuesday, October 18th				
1:00 - 4:00 PM		Registration Open		
1:00 - 4:00 PM		Pre-conference - Health & Retirement Fair for Mississippi Librarians - Main Hallway		
4:00 - 5:00 PM		MLA Executive Board Meeting - Room 6		
Dinner		Dinner on your own. Find some friends and discover a new place to dine!		
8:00 PM (arrive by 7:45 PM)		Haunted Vicksburg Ghost Walk - Ticketed \$ (Tour begins at the southwest corner of the Old Court House Museum at the corner of Monroe and Grove Streets at the small circular park.) Address is 1022 Monroe Street, Vicksburg.		
Wednesday, October 19th				
8:00 AM - 9:30 AM		Coffee & Doughnut Social - Near the Registration Desk Sponsored by		
8:00 AM - 5:00 PM		Registration Open		
8:30 AM - 9:30 AM	Welcome to the MLA Community: A Guide for New Members - Room 4 (New Members Roundtable) MAGNOLIA Steering Committee Meeting - Room 6	8:30 AM - 9:30 AM	Southern Miss SLIS Alumni Breakfast - Room 7 Ticketed \$	
9:30 AM - 10:30 AM	Past Presidents Brunch - Ticketed \$ (Limited to MLA Past Presidents) Off-site at The Nogalas House at Walnut Hills Restaurant	9:30 AM - 10:30 AM	Librarianship 101 & 201 Reunion - Ticketed - Room 3 Poster Session Lightning Round 1 Room 4	9:30 AM - 10:30 AM Spread the Word - Room 5
10:30 AM - 12:00 PM	Using the Framework for Information Literacy for Higher Education in Instruction  ACRL Featured Speaker: Sharon Mader  Room 2	10:30 AM - 11:30 AM	Building a Bookmobile on a Shoestring Budget - Room 3 Connecting the Branches - Overcoming Communication Barriers Using WordPress - Room 4	10:30 AM - 11:30 AM Everyday Advocacy - Room 5
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM	University Library Directors' Business Meeting - Room 4	11:00 AM	Exhibits Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting	
		11:30 AM - 1:00 PM	Public Library Section Luncheon Featured Speaker: Cal Shepard, State Librarian State Library of North Carolina Room 3 - Ticketed \$	11:30 AM - 12:30 PM Integrating Southern Miss Gulf Coast Library Into the Local Community Room 7
12:00 PM - 1:30 PM Pre-Ordered Boxed Lunches available for pickup at the Concession Stand (No outside food may be brought into the Vicksburg Convention Center per management.)				
1:00 - 2:30 PM		MLA BUSINESS MEETING & GENERAL SESSION Zachary Benedict, Partner at MKM Architect + Design Rooms 1 & 2 - <i>Sponsored by a LSTA Grant from IMLS</i>		
2:30 PM - 3:30 PM	All That Glitters: The Southern Miss Children's Book Festival Approaches Its Golden Anniversary - Room 3 Virtual Reality in the Library - Room 5	2:30 PM - 3:30 PM	Advocacy with Friends - Sponsored by the Friends of Mississippi Libraries, Inc. Room 4 Long Range Planning Committee Business Meeting - Room 6	2:30 PM - 3:30 PM The Jacqueline House African-American Museum - Room 6
3:30 PM - 4:30 PM	Keep Mississippi Weird: Unusual "Jewels" in Special Collections - Room 3 USM SLIS Focus Group - Room 5	3:30 PM - 4:30 PM	Friends of Mississippi Libraries, Inc. Business Meeting - Room 4 Public Library Section Business Meeting Room 7	3:30 PM - 4:30 PM Beta Phi Mu, Beta Psi Chapter Business Meeting - Room 6
4:30 PM - 5:30 PM		Fay B. Kaigler Children's Book Festival 50th Anniversary Celebration Exhibit Hall A - Ticketed		
6:00 PM		President's Reception and Scholarship Bash - Ticketed \$ B'nai B'rith Literary Association (The BB Club), 721 Clay Street, Vicksburg		

Exhibits & Silent Auction Open 11:00 AM - 5:00 PM!

Exhibits &amp; Silent Auction Open 11:00 AM - 5:00 PM!



Schedule at a Glance			
Thursday, October 20th			
8:00 AM - 5:00 PM		Registration Open	
8:30 AM - 9:30 AM	Mississippi Dept. of Education Update & Mississippi School Library Section Business Meeting Featuring Limeul Eubanks, MDE Room 2	8:30 AM - 9:30 AM	More Than a Building of Books: Reaching Babies to Seniors and All That Is In Between - Room 3
		8:30 AM - 9:30 AM	What is Your Effort? Measuring the Effective Use of Social Media in Mississippi Libraries - Room 5 Creating a Pop Up Library: We're More Than Just Books! - Room 6
9:30 AM - 10:30 AM	Collaboration Between School & Public Libraries Featuring Anna Brannin Room 2	9:30 AM - 10:30 AM	The Virtuous Circle of Student Research: Harnessing the Productivity of the Classroom to Create New Local History Collections - Room 3
		9:30 AM - 10:30 AM	Poster Session Lightning Round 2 Room 4
10:30 AM - 11:30 AM	Research Projects from the Heart Room 2	10:30 AM - 11:30 AM	Sharing Science - Room 4
		10:30 AM - 11:30 AM	Social Media Marketing Plan: How to Bring Life Into Your Social Media Tools Room 3
11:30 AM - 1:00 PM	YPSRT Luncheon The Heart of Our Communities Featuring Anna Brannin Room 3 - Ticketed \$	11:30 AM - 1:00 PM	William Carey University Libraries: Growing and Adapting to Support New Academic Programs - Room 4
		11:30 AM - 1:00 PM	Library Management & Its Effects on Community - Room 5 Getting Interviewed for the Job You'd Love - Room 7
12:00 PM - 1:30 PM Pre-Ordered Boxed Lunches available for pickup at the Concession Stand (No outside food may be brought into the Vicksburg Convention Center per management.)			
1:00 PM - 2:00 PM	Recruiting Librarians for Your Community Featuring Dr. Teresa Welsh from The University of Southern Mississippi Room 2	1:00 PM - 2:00 PM	Digital Preservation: Keeping the Heart of Your Collection Accessible - Room 5
		1:00 PM - 2:00 PM	Librarian Outreach: What Works and What Doesn't - Room 7
2:00 PM - 3:00 PM	Beyond Accelerated Readers: Great Books for your Core Collection Featuring Dr. Stacy Creel (USM) and Dr. Catharine Bomhold (USM) Room 2	2:00 PM - 3:00 PM	Curating Storytelling - Imagine Mississippi Room 3
		2:00 PM - 3:00 PM	Statewide VUC/ILL Update and AutoGraphics User Group Meeting Room 5
3:00 PM - 4:00 PM	Innovative Ways to Use Maps to Enhance Student Learning Room 2	3:00 PM - 4:00 PM	SirsiDynix Users Group Room 4
		3:00 PM - 4:00 PM	Police In Libraries Room 7
4:00 PM - 5:00 PM	The Magnolia Award: Mississippi Children's Choice Award for the State of Mississippi Room 2	4:00 PM - 5:00 PM	Mississippi Public Library History: A Photographic Tour - Room 3
		4:00 PM - 5:00 PM	Programming & Community: What You Learn From Failure - 5
		5:00 PM - 6:00 PM	Pop Up Library: Taking the Library to Them - Room 4
		6:00 PM - 7:00 PM	Getting Books into Prisons! Room 7
5:00 PM			
6:00 PM - 8:00 PM		Reception - Outside the Exhibit Halls - Cash Bar	
		Mississippi Author Awards Dinner honoring <i>Long Division</i> by Kiese Laymon (Fiction), <i>Meanwhile There Are Letters: The Correspondence of Eudora Welty and Ross Macdonald</i> by Suzanne Marrs (Nonfiction), and <i>Seeds of Freedom: The Peaceful Integration of Huntsville, Alabama</i> by Hester Bass (Juvenile) Exhibit Hall A -- Ticketed \$	
Friday, October 21st			
9:00 AM - 11:00 AM		MLA Awards Breakfast -- Exhibit Hall A -- Ticketed \$	

Exhibits & Silent Auction Open 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM!





THE UNIVERSITY OF  
SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI

School of Library and Information Science presents the  
50th Annual Fay B. Kaigler

# CHILDREN'S BOOK FESTIVAL

COME CELEBRATE 50 YEARS OF PROMOTING EXCELLENCE  
IN CHILDREN'S LITERATURE WITH  
**SOUTHERN MISS MEDALLION WINNER**

## NATE DICAMILLO

**April 5-7, 2017**

### ADDITIONAL SPEAKERS INCLUDE

Kwame Alexander, Louise Borden, Bryan Collier,  
Pete Hautman, Pat Mora, Phyllis Reynolds Naylor  
and Andrea Pinkney.

### FEATURING THE EZRA JACK KEATS NEW WRITER AND NEW ILLUSTRATOR AWARDS

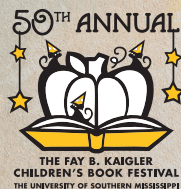
The Magnolia Award winners will be  
announced at the festival.



### USM.EDU/CHILDRENS-BOOK-FESTIVAL

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## News Briefs

### Sarah Mangrum

Access Services Librarian /  
Assistant Clinical Professor  
University of Southern Mississippi

### MSU LIBRARIES ADDS HOOD'S PAPERS TO COLLECTION

Colleagues, family, and friends gathered Thursday, July 14th, at Mississippi State to celebrate the life and accomplishments of a beloved Mississippi journalist whose papers will be housed at the university's Mitchell Memorial Library.

"Orley was very special to journalism work in the state of Mississippi and even beyond," said MSU Dean of Libraries Frances Coleman, who officially welcomed the family of late Vicksburg native and award-winning newspaper columnist Orley Mason Hood Jr. to Mississippi State. "One of our main goals here at Mississippi State University is not only to preserve Orley's papers, but we want to share them on behalf of teaching and research, and especially on behalf of our students."

MSU President Mark E. Keenum also expressed joy, pride, and honor in welcoming the Hood family into the MSU Bulldog family, as well as accepting the papers of one of Mississippi's accomplished writers and storytellers.

"Over the course of his very accomplished career, many thousands of Mississippians would get up in the morning and read his columns and start their day with Orley Hood," Keenum said. "Everyday Mississippians could get a sense and feel about how everything rang true and was real to them and their life by reading through Orley's stories

and experiences."

Sid Salter, MSU chief communications officer and public affairs director, knew Hood for many years.

Salter noted that Hood was a big fan of MSU basketball legend Bailey Howell, whom Hood referred to as "my first hero" in a column he wrote in October 1997.

Hood wrote, "All these years, I've kept that windbreaker stored in plastic. Last year, I gave it to my 10-year-old. I told him how important it was to me. I told him about Bailey. I told him it was the only autograph I've ever gotten. That it was the only one I ever wanted."

To read this and other Hood columns, visit <http://msfame.com/category/orley/>.

Hood's wife and fellow Mississippian, Mary Ann Hood, also shared fond memories of her husband. She said he remained a strong, committed family man up until his death on Feb. 21, 2014 at age 65 from complications of acute myeloid leukemia.

"The only thing missing today is Orley, but I know what he would say if he were here," Mary Ann said. "He would flash that grin, and he would say, 'Isn't this great?' 'Great' was one of his favorite words. I know Orley would be very happy."

Hood wrote for *The Meridian Star*, *Memphis Commercial Appeal* and *Jackson Daily News* as a sportswriter, columnist, sports editor, Southern Style editor, senior editor and features editor. He later joined *The Clarion-Ledger* in Jackson, where he wrote features and a general interest column.

Mary Ann Hood said her beloved

husband was "a walking encyclopedia of knowledge and fantastic Trivial Pursuit and Scrabble player who knew sports, history, literature, art, and anything about World War I or World War II."

"Orley never really stressed about writing. It seemed to come easy to him," she recalled. "He had such a passion for writing, for telling people stories and getting it right. That was so very important to him—getting it right. Spelling peoples' names right. Getting the score in the first paragraph, and expressing his opinion, of which he had many."

In addition to being a talented journalist, Hood said her husband was great at relating to people.

"Many of the things he wrote about -- our family and the experiences we were having -- readers were having, too. He just made it a lot funnier for them," Mary Ann said. "Orley loved talking to people. A simple trip to the grocery store for a gallon of milk could take an hour because he would run into somebody that he had to talk to."

She said along with loving sports -- especially soccer, which sons Hunter and Tucker played -- her husband was an avid walker. Even after being diagnosed with leukemia in 2011, Hood maintained a walking diary he began nine years prior. He ultimately recorded 22,176 miles, or a little more than 2,000 miles a year.

"Orley loved Hunter and Tucker, and they loved him back," Mary Ann said, choking back tears as she commended her sons for being "standup guys" during their father's illness. "Orley got to see Hunter get into

medical school and Tucker graduate with honors from Ole Miss. Both of them got to spend a year at home after graduation, and those were two great years that Orley had.”

Billy Watkins, features columnist and storyteller for *The Clarion-Ledger* in Jackson, also praised Hood for his kindness toward others and ability to “paint pictures” with his writing.

“I loved Orley Hood. The man changed my life. Whenever I finished reading his columns, I would say ‘I wish I’d written that,’” Watkins said. “I worked with him in sports and features every day for more than 25 years, but I never got over being in awe of Orley. I’m still in awe of Orley. He’s my hero.”

Orley Hood knew more than journalists’ bylines; he knew them as people, Watkins said.

“It was like traveling with a rock star because everywhere you went, people would want to talk to him.

You could see the genuine respect that other writers from other states had for him,” Watkins recalled.

Even so, Watkins emphasized that “writing is what Orley did; it’s not who he was.”

*Submitted by  
Angela Patton  
Library Associate  
Mississippi State University Libraries*



### HORN LAKE LITTLE FREE LIBRARY

A new Little Free Library is now open in Horn Lake, MS! This is the result of a community partnership project between First Regional Library, The City of Horn Lake, and Career Tech West High School. First Regional Library provided the materials for the library, the city of Horn Lake approved the library to be placed in the city park, and the construction students at Career Tech designed and built the Little Library

with input from library staff. It has been placed close to the Parks and Recreation office and members of their staff are going to be the “stewards” to make sure it is stocked with books.

First Regional Library received a grant from First Book Mid-South to stock the Little Library with new books for the first few months. The Little Free Library will be registered on the national Little Free Library site soon. Since this project has been such a success, First Regional Library plans on doing more collaborations around the 5 counties to install more Little Free Libraries.



*Savannah Sheley, daughter of Amy Lay, from the Horn Lake Board of Alderman, and Carolyn Hobbs, Friend of the Horn Lake Public Library, choose a book from the new Little Free Library.*

*Submitted by  
David Brown  
Public Relations Specialist  
First Regional Library*



*Photo by: Megan Bean, Mississippi State University*

MSU President Mark E. Keenum officially accepts papers of legendary Mississippi newspaper columnist and Vicksburg native Orley Mason Hood Jr., who died in 2014. Making the donation are wife Mary Ann Hood, and two sons, Tucker and Hunter Hood. The papers are becoming part of the Mississippi Journalism Collection housed in Mitchell Memorial Library’s Special Collections Department Manuscripts Division.



## REMEMBERING MARSHA CASE



Mississippi lost a librarian and a staunch advocate Saturday, August 6, 2016. Let's choose to celebrate her life and the impact she had on so many lives.

Marsha A. Case was born March 1, 1957 and as far as I know, lived all of her years in her home state. She passed from this sphere in the same home in which she grew up in Jackson, MS. Marsha leaves behind family, numerous friends, and Hershey and Beau, her two "fur babies." Her parents, James and Zora Case; and two brothers, James Case, Jr. and John Albert Case, preceded her in death. She is survived by her brothers, Charles Fredrick Case and Michael Anderson; sisters, Peggy Case Mott and Jeannine Case Schneider; 5 nieces, 8 nephews, their families, and many great-nieces and -nephews.

Jackson/Hinds Library System, the Mississippi Library Association, and the Beta Psi Chapter of Beta Phi Mu have all benefited greatly from her energy and talent. Marsha worked for 37 years for the Jackson Metropolitan Library System and the Jackson/Hinds Library System beginning as a Clerk in Technical Services; by the time of her retirement, Marsha had worked herself

into the position of Assistant Director for Technical Services. At her retirement party at the Eudora Welty Library not quite two years ago, so many of her coworkers throughout the years were there to help celebrate her career and her life.

It seems that she entered into the library field by accident like so many of us and stayed because she enjoyed it. Marsha began her library career as a Student Assistant at the Mitchell Memorial Library at Mississippi State University. Marsha and I didn't meet until years later at the MLA annual conference in 2000 or so when our mutual friend Jennifer Smith introduced us. Jennifer Smith remembers that Marsha helped her get a better job at Jackson/Hinds. Jennifer was all set to be a Shelver at the Northside Branch and Marsha helped her get the Children's Librarian job at Byrum instead. Speaking of jobs, Elisabeth Scott remembers that her first paying job was working in Technical Services at Welty for Marsha. Elisabeth's memory of Marsha is being amazed at her ability to pack up and move a library and how years later that Marsha would make an effort to speak to her whenever she happened to be visiting at MLC.

Her impact on MLA speaks for itself. At the time of her death, she was serving as Parliamentarian, she held Lifetime membership, and she was on both the Legislative and the Nominating Committees. She twice served as MLA Secretary, Public Library Section Chair again twice (word to the wise: always attend the business meeting lest you get appointed to things!), and Public Relations Awards Committee chair. This is just a snapshot of her service; her list of participation in MLA is

impressive. Do you remember the record breaking year that the Scholarship Committee had a few years back on the Silent Auction? Marsha volunteered to get items donated to the cause; it was Marsha and her crew that got that pearl necklace donated.

Marsha believed in the future of librarianship. Through her long association with Beta Phi Mu that began in 1995, she tried to identify and develop leaders. Her work and her time helped ensure that Beta Phi Mu had a program at conference and gave back to the profession. I know that she delighted in giving scholarship checks out to deserving MLIS students – she really liked to surprise them. It was one of the joys of being Secretary/Treasurer since 2003.

Marsha was more than a librarian, she was a real person who enjoyed life and valued personal relationships. Kim Corbett, Branch Manager of The Quisenberry Library, had this to say: "Marsha was one of my favorite people to work with because she always told you exactly what she thought. She was one of the most genuine people I have ever met. When I had a health issue earlier this year, she was constantly checking on me and sending cards and notes. That support meant a great deal. She will be missed."

So this October in Vicksburg, I know we'll be missing our friend Marsha. I'm so glad that she always had time for me.

*Submitted by*

*Mac Buntin*

*Consultant*

*Mississippi Library Commission*

# People In The News

## **Sarah Mangrum**

*Access Services Librarian /  
Assistant Clinical Professor  
University of Southern Mississippi*

**Tom Henderson**, College Librarian and Associate Professor at Millsaps College, retired in June 2016. Mr. Henderson joined the faculty at Millsaps College in 1997, and he has served as the College Librarian since 2000. He now holds the rank of Emeritus College Librarian at Millsaps College. He previously worked at the Mississippi Library Commission, Mississippi State University Libraries, and the Mississippi Department of Archives and History.

Mr. Henderson earned his MSLS from Florida State University in 1975 and his BA from the University of Southern Mississippi in 1971.

Mr. Henderson served as the Treasurer of Mississippi Library Association in 1993-1994. At various points, he chaired the following MLA committees and roundtables: Internal Audit Committee, GODORT, Special Collections Roundtable, Library Instruction Roundtable, Conservation Committee, Education Committee, and Northeast Region. He coordinated the Private Academic Libraries of Mississippi (PALMS) group for ten years. He was also active in many other professional organizations.

Please join the Millsaps College community in congratulating Mr. Henderson on the occasion of his retirement. We thank Mr. Henderson for his dedication and contributions to the field of librarianship, and we will always appreciate his leadership and guidance.



**Mariah West Grant** was recently named the Public Services and Instruction Librarian at the Millsaps-Wilson Library, Millsaps College. Ms. Grant joined the faculty at Millsaps College in 2015 as the Acquisitions and Serials Librarian. Ms. Grant was previously employed with the Mississippi Valley State University Library as the University Archivist and as the Collection Development and Reference Librarian.



**Jamie Bounds Wilson** was recently named College Librarian at the Millsaps-Wilson Library, Millsaps College. Ms. Wilson had previously worked as the Electronic Resources & Web Services Librarian and as the Acquisitions Librarian at Millsaps College. Prior to joining the faculty at Millsaps College, Ms. Wilson was employed with the Biloxi Public Libraries, Harrison County Library System as the Local History & Genealogy Librarian and as the Branch Manager of the Margaret S. Sherry Memorial Library.



**Jackie Quinn**, Administrative Librarian for the Jackson ATC Campus, has been selected to be the director of the Copiah Lincoln Community College Library beginning August 1st. Ms. Quinn has worked for Hinds



since 1989. She earned her associate's degree from Hinds in 1989 and began working at one of the Hinds' libraries shortly after. She began as a library technical assistant and in the late 1990s, went back and earned her BA. In early 2000, she continued graduate work earning her MLIS from USM in 2003. Because of her knowledge and quality service, she was immediately assigned an administrative library position at Jackson ATC where she has worked since. Besides running ATC's library, Ms. Quinn has taught Developmental classes for Hinds many semesters. She continues her education working on her doctorate in Library Science. She is well loved by faculty and student alike at ATC where she was heavily involved with her faculty and campus helping with M2M, ASG, campus registrations, and Black History programs. Ms. Quinn has also been involved in many professional organizations through the years including WHEM, ACRL, ALA and MLA (the state library association) including The Black Caucus and Two Year College Roundtables.



**Jennifer Todd** joined Hinds Community College Libraries July 18, 2016 as the Circulation Librarian at the McLendon Library on the Raymond Campus. She comes from the Mississippi Library Commission where





she previously served as the Digital Services Consultant for over four years. Aside from the state agency, she has previous experience working in both academic and public libraries as a circulation assistant, reference assistant, and cataloger. She received her Master's Degree in Library and Information Science from the University of Southern Mississippi in May 2012. She is currently pursuing a Computer Network degree from Hinds.



**Amanda Clay Powers** is the new Professor and Dean of Library Services at Mississippi University for Women.



Dean Powers has a Masters in Library Science from Simmons Graduate School of Library and Information Science, and Bachelors from Wellesley College in English Literature. Prior to joining MUW, she was the Coordinator of Research Services at Mississippi State University. Dean Powers has served as President and Treasurer of the Mississippi Library Association and is currently the Convener of the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) Public Services Discussion Group. Her research interests include reference assessment, virtual reference, and the use of social media in academia.



**Cecilia Botero** is the new Dean of Libraries and Professor at the University of Mississippi. For the past seven years, Cecilia has served as the Director of the University of Florida Health Science Center Libraries

and Associate Dean of Smathers Libraries. She received her Master of Library and Information Science degree in 1986 from the University of Texas at Austin.



**Cecelia Parks**

started at the University of Mississippi Libraries in July as a research and instruction librarian with liaison responsibilities to the departments of history and political science. Originally from Harrisonburg, Virginia, Cecelia received her MLS from the University of Maryland, College Park, in 2016.



**Travis Cowart** is the new Collection Application Developer at the University of Mississippi Libraries. Travis previously served as a network design engineer and project manager for AT&T in Texas. He received his Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering in 2012 from the University of Alabama.



**Lakesha Smith**

is the 2016 recipient of the Peggy May Scholarship. Lakesha graduated from Hinds Community College in May 2007 with an Associate's Degree in General Studies, earned a Bachelor's degree in History at Jackson State University in May 2010 and is currently pursuing a Master's in Library Science at the University of Southern Mississippi. She is acting Administrative Librarian for Hinds



Community College's Jackson Academic and Technical Center.



**Mona Vance-**

**Ali** was elected to a three-year term on the Mississippi Historical Society Board of Directors at their 2016 conference this past March. She currently works as the archivist over the Local History Department at the Columbus-Lowndes Public Library in Columbus, MS.



**Jessica Perkins**

**Smith** joined Mississippi State University Libraries in May 2016, as Manuscripts Archivist in the Mitchell Memorial Library Special Collections department.



Jessica received a B.A. in History from Millsaps College in Jackson and an MLIS with an Archives concentration from Louisiana State University. She comes to MSU from the Amistad Research Center in New Orleans, where she was a processing archivist working primarily on African American Science, Technology, and Mathematics (STEM) collections.

Jessica's research interests include Mississippi Civil Rights, African American history, and improving access to archival collections. Jessica is from New Orleans but has Mississippi roots, with family from the Delta and Golden Triangle areas. Her grandfather graduated from Mississippi State, so cheering for the Bulldogs is in her blood. She also

enjoys running, is an avid Saints fan, and is having a great time exploring Starkville with her husband and two-year-old daughter.



### Jennifer

**Jones** is the new graphic designer for the Mississippi State University Libraries. Born in Columbus, Mississippi, she moved with her family to Alabama in the fourth grade. Jennifer received her degree from the University of Alabama in 2001. After graduation, she moved to Mobile, Alabama, where she worked at an advertising agency for five years before taking a job at the University of South Alabama in the Publications department where she worked as part of a team that was responsible for the design and printing of most of the University's marketing communication pieces. Jennifer is excited for this new opportunity to support the Library and University and is looking forward to spending time with her family cheering on the Bulldogs and making herself a part of the Starkville community.



### Laura Harper,

Associate Professor and Head of Government Publications at the University of Mississippi's J. D. Williams Library, retired on August 31, 2016 after 45 years of dedicated service. She held various positions during her career at the University, including Interlibrary Loan Librarian, Reference



Bibliographer, and Head of Online Search Services, before becoming the Regional Depository Librarian in 1988. She holds a B.S. in Secondary Education (1968) and an M.L.S. (1969) from Louisiana State University. Before moving to Mississippi in 1971, she was a public librarian in her hometown of Monroe, LA.

Over the years, Laura has been an active member of MLA, serving as chair of the Automation & Networking Roundtable (1983), of MLA-ACRL (1992), and of MLA-GODORT (1991, 2003, 2008, and 2012). She was also active in ALA as a member and chair of several ACRL, RASD, and GODORT committees. From 2007 to 2011, she served on the inaugural Steering Committee for ASERL's Collaborative Federal Depository Library Program. In 2011, she was honored as the recipient of the Bernadine Abbott Hoduski Founders Award by ALA-GODORT.

Laura says she knows she will miss her colleagues at the library and in the depository community in Mississippi but is looking forward to participating in volunteer activities in retirement and continuing to serve on the board of Friends of the Library.



### Patsy Brew-

**er** was given the Award of Meritorious Leadership in Mississippi History and Genealogy for 2016 during a recent event.

Brewer was honored during the June 11 Spring General Assembly of the Order of the First Families



of Mississippi (OFFM), which was held in Natchez. The morning welcome party was held at one of the well-known historic homes of Natchez, The Elms. A luncheon, program and business meeting followed at the Carriage House, with Governor General Barbara Gilbert Haigh presiding.

Brewer was nominated for the award by OFFM member and Waynesboro resident Becky Rhinehart. She described Brewer as a visionary who is always willing to give of her time and talents. The presentation was made by OFFM Registrar General and 2013 award recipient Virginia Brickell of Indianola.

Brewer is a graduate of the University of Southern Mississippi. She currently serves as the Director of the Waynesboro-Wayne County Library and served in 2015 as the state president of the Mississippi Library Association.

Under her leadership, a Genealogy Room was planned to house research materials, family histories and displays of historical items at the library. As a member of the Wayne County Genealogy Organization, Brewer realized that there was only one small book written on the history of Wayne County. She worked with this organization to compile information and publish three books — History of Wayne County 1809-1909, History of Wayne County Volume 2 and a Pictorial History of Wayne County. She is working with the Wayne County Genealogy Organization to identify and record forgotten cemeteries in the county, working to clean and preserve them.

Under Brewer's leadership, a Mississippi Country Music Trail Marker was dedicated to Jimmie Roger's



cousin Jesse Rogers. The Wayne County Genealogy Organization worked with the Mississippi Department of Archives and History to complete this project.

Brewer also serves as Treasurer for the Wayne County 4-H Advisory Council and is a member of other civic organizations, as well as a lifetime member of the USM Alumni Association and a member of the JCJC Alumni Association. She currently serves as the Chairman of the Wayne County Relay for

Life committee. She shares her musical talent playing the piano at her church.

Brewer has had a life-long interest in history. She is member of the Daughters of the American Revolution and the Cameo Society. She is also active in the Fine Arts Club of Wayne County and TEAM W, which stands for Together Energizing and Motivating Waynesboro. TEAM W sponsors the Whistle Stop Festival each year in April.

The Award of Meritorious

Leadership in Mississippi History and Genealogy was established by the Order of the First Families of Mississippi in 1994 to honor persons who have made significant contributions to the preservation of Mississippi history. Members of the organization have the opportunity each year in March to nominate persons who have been leaders in preserving Mississippi history.

Past recipients of the award who are also members of the organization comprise the selection committee.

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## Book Reviews

**Michele Frasier-Robinson**

*Librarian for  
Education & Psychology  
University of Southern Mississippi*

**Berrey, Stephen A.**

*The Jim Crow Routine: Everyday Performances of Race, Civil Rights and Segregation in Mississippi*

Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 2015. 331 pp. \$29.95 (paperback)

*The Jim Crow Routine* focuses on race relations in Mississippi over several decades. This work steps away from the typical approach of historical research on how race affected the daily lives of Mississippians during these time periods. The author focuses less on dramatic events and more on simple, daily exchanges. Berrey utilizes interracial interactions from everyday life as well as public narratives to illustrate the racial performances that frequently occurred in the Jim Crow

South. The physical performances highlighted in the book emerged any place where blacks and whites interacted. The narrative performances mentioned are stories that individuals shared in regards to their experiences regarding race.

Through extensive research that included examining over 600 interviews, the author provides a thorough and effective study of segregation and desegregation in Mississippi as well as the South. Berrey begins with an exploration of how these routines developed based upon the existing laws and then shifts to an examination of the stories that provided the significant narrative performances which are central to the work. He then proceeds to provide insight into the societal transformations that occurred in light of the Civil Rights Movement and the end of legal segregation. Attention is then placed on the increased prominence of the police as well as the passage of new laws by

the state post Jim Crow. Berrey concludes by once again using narrative performances to provide a concise discussion regarding race in the civil rights era.

Additional photographs would have greatly assisted in the visualization of the subtle as well as the blatant performances in the Jim Crow routines.

*Chameka Robinson  
Head, Access Services  
Rowland Medical Library  
University of Mississippi Medical Center*

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**Jacobs, Lily**

*The Littlest Bunny in Mississippi: an Easter Adventure*

Naperville, Illinois: Sourcebooks Jabberwocky, 2015. 32 pp. \$9.99 (Hardcover).

Written by Lily Jacobs and illustrated by Robert Dunn, this book was fun and colorful. The main character is a small white bunny

named Flop who was adopted by two children, May and Joe, from a pet store in Mississippi. On the eve of Easter he escapes his cage, because he has a secret identity. He is the Easter Bunny and must go hide eggs all over Mississippi for the kids to find Easter morning. He hops and jumps all around the state identifying several city stops as he goes, finally stopping by your house, before he rushes Easter morning back to his new home with May and Joe.

This book is colorfully illustrated by Dunn and it was exciting to see recognizable Mississippi city names that could be educational for children. He also hid eggs throughout the book as the story went on in hopes that readers would find them among the illustrations. The back of the book contains hints to where they are hidden to help out those that could not find them all.

This is a good book for all libraries that have children's collections, or purchase children's books about rabbits, Mississippi or Easter. It was a delightful story sure to entertain children ages four to seven years old.

Jennifer R. Culley  
Collection Management and  
Acquisitions Librarian  
The University of Southern Mississippi



**Osburn, Katherine M.B.**

*Choctaw Resurgence in Mississippi: Race, Class, and Nation Building in the Jim Crow South, 1830-1977*  
Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 2014. 323 pp. \$65.00 (hardcover)

Despite plans for removal as dictated by the 1830 Treaty of Dancing Rabbit Creek, some Choctaw

Indians in the state of Mississippi resisted removal. For those who resisted, it was more important to live in their sacred homeland than to go with the larger group and receive land west of the Mississippi River. They relied on Article 14 in the removal treaty which allowed any Choctaws who remained in the state the right to apply for land allotments. After removal of the main portion of the tribe to Oklahoma, the government refused to grant the allotments which left the Mississippi Choctaws without land and without a way to make a living.

Osburn tells the remarkable story of how the Choctaw managed to maintain their Indian identity and eventually gain significant resources for themselves. She paints a picture of how the Choctaws identified themselves as both citizens of the state of Mississippi and as a sovereign nation negotiating with the federal government in order to receive the benefits offered to each group. For example, when the government did not give them the promised land allotments, 67 Choctaws filed suit in 1833, as citizens of Mississippi, to receive redress. They also had support from the Choctaw Nation in filing federal suit. Over time, from the 1830 treaty through the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s and 1970s, the Choctaw consistently used both their identity as Indians, as Americans and as Mississippians to achieve their economic and political goals.

The Choctaw received support from white Mississippians because of their history of military service, both to the United States and to the Confederacy. They resisted identification with African Americans

in the state and kept the support of staunch segregationists because of their own desire to be separate. Osburn makes the case that the Choctaw and other southern tribes represent a "third race" in the historically biracial region. Osburn argues that the Choctaw Miracle of the 1970s in which the Choctaw were able to create a strong economy in the Philadelphia area is "part of a broader Choctaw history...of adroit political activism in which Choctaw leaders...and communities successfully lobbied for their interests at all levels of government." (p. 213)

This work is useful for academic libraries and for local history collections. It is well researched with extensive use of tribal documents, letters and minutes of various meetings, and other primary documents. This title is an entry in the series *Indians of the Southeast*.

Caroline Barnett  
Head Librarian  
M.R. Davis Public Library  
Southaven, Mississippi



**Smith, Timothy B.**

*The Mississippi Secession Convention: Delegates and Deliberations in Politics and War, 1861-1865*  
University Press of Mississippi, 2014. 296 pp. \$60.00 (hardcover)

*The Mississippi Secession Convention* is a thoroughly researched historical reenactment of the three week convention that led to the secession of Mississippi from the United States of America and ultimately led to membership in the Confederacy, the onset of the Civil War, and years of reconstruction. Timothy Smith is a well-regarded historian,



having written several other texts related to Mississippi and the Civil War. He states that his text is unique because most other histories of the time refer only to the period leading up to the Convention and to the secession decision, which actually took place on the third day of the convention. He further argues that no other text goes into such detail about who the delegates were, what their arguments were at the convention, what happened during the two weeks after the declaration of secession and the follow up session later that year.

I believe that academic libraries should purchase this title as a historical reference book; however, there were a few disappointing issues

with the text that should be considered. Mr. Smith states that this text is not about the secession crisis but its consequences and how it effects Mississippi even now. Be that as it may, over a third of the book does detail the beginning of the convention and what different delegates and newspapers reporting on the convention thought about secession. The text does offer a very detailed review of each day of the rest of the convention, however, almost every day was taken up by debates and arguments that led to them tabling almost every decision until the very last day. I was disappointed in the end of the text, because I thought the book would consider the economic, political, and social issues of

Mississippi today--those that Smith attributes to the secession convention. But aside from a brief conclusion, the promised connection was lacking. The extra material in the back of the book was extremely valuable and includes pictures and brief biographical information about many of the key players at the convention, the Ordinance of Secession and the Declaration of Causes. The book also contains over forty pages of notes and a bibliography so that readers can follow the author's research trail and presumably take it even further.

*Anne Hudson  
Assistant Professor, Librarian for the College  
of Arts and Letters  
University of Southern Mississippi*

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## Mark your Calendars

MS Lamp Workshops: Tupelo, Batesville, Pearl, & Hattiesburg, **September 26-29**

Joint GA COMO/SELA Conference: Athens, GA, **October 5-7**

MLA Board Meeting: Vicksburg Convention Center, **October 18**

MLA Annual Conference: Vicksburg, **October 18-21**

Association For Rural & Small Libraries Conference: Fargo, ND, **October 27-29**

2016/2017 MLA Executive Boards Joint Meeting: Jackson, **December 9**



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**2016 MLA Executive Board Minutes:**

**<http://misslib.org/Meeting-Minutes-2016>**

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