MISSISSIPPI LIBRARIES

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For additional information and a list of committees and roundtables, see the Mississippi Library Association's Web site at http://www.misslib.org/.

PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Susan Cassagne

What an eventful year this has been! We are still working to recover from the horrific losses caused by Hurricane Katrina. Indeed, for many of us, this will take several years. To those who were so severely affected, we all stand ready to assist in any way we can. ALA is continuing to solicit and collect funds for all states affected by the several hurricanes. Friends of Mississippi Libraries is also continuing to solicit and collect funds for Mississippi libraries. If you have not donated, it is not too late. Please consider helping a fellow librarian by offering to help pay their dues; donate what you might have spent on one meal (or more) during MLA's Annual Conference to the Rebuild Mississippi Libraries Fund. Every little bit helps! Ask your local Friends group to make a donation or solicit funds locally for the cause. It is imperative for us all to work together to rebuild our state, our communities, and our libraries.

The outpouring of offers for assistance has truly been inspiring. Civic organizations across the state are working together to help rebuild our communities. Junior Auxiliary and Rotary clubs are collecting books and raising funds for school libraries. Other states have offered bookmobiles for public libraries. We are blessed that our worth is recognized and appreciated.

By now, and as is mentioned in this issue, all MLA members should be aware that the 2005 Board will continue on for 2006. This issue will go to print before the changes some of you have requested regarding committee assignments have been made. Please check the MLA Web site at http://www.misslib.org for updates. Also remember that the MLA office has moved, along with the Mississippi Library Commission, to their new building. That (physical) address is 3881 Eastwood Drive, Jackson. The MLA office is on the third floor, in room 329. Please be sure to come by and see our new office. MLA's new mailing address is PO Box 13687, Jackson, MS 39236-3687, the new telephone number is 601-981-4586, and the new fax number is 601-981-4501. At press time, the date for MLA Midwinter/Legislative Day had not been set. That information will be sent out via the listserve. The date of the dedication of the new Mississippi Library Commission building is Monday, January 9, 2006. More information concerning that event will also be sent out via the listserve.

While a president serving two terms is not unprecedented, the entire Board serving an extra term is, as was canceling the conference. The events of the past few months were definitely unprecedented, and we will be recovering from those for years.

People who agree to run for office and accept positions realize the demands of their volunteer jobs are often not understood by those who have not had the good fortune to experience those demands. Yes, I used the term "good fortune" as I feel most fortunate to have had the experience of serving as your president. As we begin another MLA year, thank you to everyone who served on a committee and to the section and roundtable members. I look forward to working with you all again! I will tackle this year with the same enthusiasm with which I began this past year. Let us hope the new year brings us all good fortune.

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This month's cover is one half of the diptych *Treeline I* by Norma Sanders Bourdeaux. Bourdeaux recently received her Master of Fine Arts degree in painting from the University of Mississippi in Oxford, Mississippi. Currently she is painting smaller landscapes in oil and egg tempera paints on panels. Bourdeaux has shown her paintings in various exhibits including the 2003 Mississippi Invitational in Jackson, Mississippi. Her work is in numerous collections, including the aircraft carrier *John C. Stennis*. She resides in Meridian, Mississippi. Bourdeaux can be reached at 601-482-2964 or 662-234-0022.

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

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

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

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

Dues must be paid by March 1 in order to receive the Spring issue of *Mississippi Libraries*.

Library Accessibility and Hurricanes

Elizabeth Stephan
Editor, Mississippi Libraries
Business Reference Librarian
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In this year's last issue of *Mississippi Libraries*, we are addressing two separate topics: library accessibility and Hurricane Katrina. While these may not be related, both are important.

As we all know – and as I have mentioned before – librarians make information accessible. Sometimes this is achieved by simply buying the materials our users need, other times we navigate packages and licenses to arrange access to Web resources, and there are always ethical and political topics that we must follow like the USA PATRIOT Act. Sometimes, despite our best efforts to arrange access for all, we forget that some of our users are unable to access our most basic resources due to physical and visual disabilities. Making a library fully accessible to all patrons isn't easy. We all have limitations, whether they are building design, budget, or administrative constraints, but we have to do what we can to make our collections available to all patrons. In this issue we look at equipment, Web design, policies, and library services we can use to ensure that our patrons with disabilities have access to our collections.

Jill Ethridge, a registered and licensed occupational therapist at Mississippi State University, was slated to give a preconference workshop at MLA entitled "Adaptive Technology." In this issue, Ethridge addresses this topic in her article, *Removing Barriers for Visually Impaired Users through Assistive Technology Solutions*. Ethridge covers different types of assistive technology that can make using a library easier for patrons with visual impairment, including low-cost items as well as more expensive software and equipment.

One of the simplest ways a library can address accessibility is to create an accessibility policy. In *Writing an Accessibility Policy: One Library's Experience*, I discuss how the University of Mississippi developed an accessibility policy, including some of the challenges we faced. Also included are resources to assist libraries in the development of a policy.

With more and more information available online, making sure that a library's Web site is accessible is becoming more important, but not every library has been able to do this due to lack of money and/or expertise. In *Web Accessibility: What Your Library Can Do*, Molly Signs McManus discusses free Web resources that can help librarians ensure that their Web pages are accessible.

The Blind & Physically Handicapped Library Services (BPHLS) provides services to more than 6,000 individuals in Mississippi. In her article, *Not Just for the Blind: Free Library Services through the Mississippi Library Commission*, Rahye Puckett discusses the services offered by the BPHLS and how they are offered to more than just the visually impaired.

HURRICANE KATRINA

Normally, *Mississippi Libraries* focuses on one theme for each issue. In the wake of Katrina we decided to continue with our assigned theme for this issue, but with a few exceptions. We are all fully aware of the level of destruction caused by Hurricane Katrina – it directly affected MLA by disrupting our annual conference. Many librarians' homes were damaged and their lives disrupted when Katrina came ashore in August. Numerous libraries were damaged – some beyond repair. In this issue of *Mississippi Libraries* we address these damages and the long-term recovery that many libraries are facing.

Hurricane Katrina Damage is a compilation of libraries affected by Katrina, damages sustained, and an update of services offered as of November 2005. Many people throughout the state emailed pictures and updates of damages and experiences. In addition to this summary, Patricia Furr, the director of the William Carey College Library, writes about her first-hand experience dealing with library damages in her article *Katrina First-hand: A Report from William Carey College*.

Lauren Young, assistant editor of *Mississippi Libraries*, compiled an annotated list of resources for libraries affected by Katrina. *Resources for Libraries in the Aftermath of Hurricane Katrina* focuses on the long-term planning concerns such as funding sources and material salvage and replacement. URLs to guides prepared by librarians around the state and URLs for corporations, associations, and organizations that offer services for libraries in need are also included.

CHANGES

As we reach the end of 2005, we have some editorial changes at *Mississippi Libraries*. Sherry Laughlin has stepped aside as editor for this issue and is serving as a consultant. I am the new editor and will continue to be editor for the 2006 year. Lauren Young, Outreach Services Librarian at The University of Mississippi Medical Center's Rowland Medical Library, is the new Assistant Editor. Tisha Zelner, Information Services Librarian at The University of Southern Mississippi, is the new Copy Editor and Business Manager. Rebecca Campbell Holland is finishing up her tenure as Book Review Editor. Book reviews for the Spring issue can be submitted to Christina Torbert at ctorbert @olemiss.edu.

UPCOMING ISSUES

In 2006, *Mississippi Libraries* will continue to do theme issues. The Spring issue will focus on school libraries. Some other areas we are considering are technical services, archives and special collections, and any others that you, the readers, might suggest. In either the Fall or Winter issues in 2006, we plan on doing an update of libraries affected by Katrina. We want to look at how far they have come since August 2005. If you have any suggestions for upcoming issues, please email Elizabeth Stephan at estephan@olemiss.edu or Lauren Young at lmyoung@rowland.umsmed.edu.

Removing Barriers for Visually Impaired Users through Assistive Technology Solutions

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Reading provides individuals with access to a world of information. However, for individuals with a sensory impairment, particularly low vision or blindness, accessing reading materials that are in a printed format can present specific challenges. While certain statistics vary, it is estimated that there are 10 million individuals with low vision and blindness within the United States. The assistive technology (AT) currently available – screen magnification, screen readers, scanning and reading software, and Braille technology – can greatly make using a library much easier. But, even with the advance of technology, equal access to information to those with low vision continues to be an issue for all libraries.

Reading provides individuals with access to a world of information. However, for individuals with a sensory impairment, particularly low vision or blindness, accessing reading materials that are in a printed format can present specific challenges.

While certain statistics vary, it is estimated that there are 10 million individuals with low vision and blindness within the United States, and every seven minutes an individual becomes visually impaired or blind. Of the 10 million individuals with low vision and blindness, there are an estimated 1.3 million who have been diagnosed with legal blindness (American Foundation for the Blind, 2005).

IMPACTS OF ADA ON LIBRARIES

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) was signed into law in 1990 and prohibits individuals with disabilities from facing discrimination on the basis of a disability in employment (Title I), state and local government services (Title II), public accommodations (Title III), commercial facilities (Title III), public transportation (Title IV), and telecommunications (Title V). Title II specifically addresses public and state funded entities including libraries and state-funded schools. Title III addresses private institutions, which have different standards to uphold than the standards required of public facilities (Wade 2003). The ADA specifically addresses that goods and services must be accessible to individuals with disabilities.

Since the signing of the ADA into law, there have been many advances for increasing access to facilities. However, until every individual, regardless of ability, has equal access to the services and goods (books, printed materials, etc.) within all public institutions, including libraries, there will be areas that continually need to be identified and improved.

FACTORS AFFECTING ACCESS TO TECHNOLOGY

Opportunity barriers and access barriers are two factors that can directly prevent individuals with disabilities from successfully accessing information. According to Beukelman and Mirenda (1998, 148), opportunity barriers that limit access to technology for individuals with disabilities are typically found within policies and practices of institutions, attitudes of personnel, and knowledge and skill levels of staff. Access barriers encompass environmental barriers, sensory/perceptual skills, motor skills, cognitive skills, communication skills, and literacy.

Best visual acuity is considered to be 20/20. Individuals with severe visual impairments have visual acuity between 20/70 and 20/200 and have varying functional visual abilities. Legal blindness is classified as having visual acuity of 20/200 or less with best correction. According to Randall Jose in *Understanding Low Vision*, eighty-five percent of individuals with legal blindness have some useful vision. Some individuals with blindness have the ability to perceive light while others have no light perception (1983, 68). The type of assistive technology (AT) necessary for accessing written information is directly related to the individual's visual abilities. This article focuses on issues related to the AT needs and modifications that can be made to existing services within libraries to better allow individuals with visual disabilities to access written information.

ACCESSING WRITTEN INFORMATION

For individuals with visual disabilities, assistive technologies, also referred to as adaptive technologies, increase independence in accessing printed information. To better understand how AT can assist individuals with visual disabilities in accessing printed information, both computer-based and non-computer based assistive technologies will be discussed.

COMPUTER BASED TECHNOLOGY

There are many possibilities available for providing access to computer-based information. The categories of computer based AT for visual disabilities are screen magnification, screen reading software, scanning and reading software, and Braille displays.

Screen Magnification Technology

Screen magnification software assists individuals with visual impairments by magnifying everything on the computer screen. With this type of technology, Windows-based online catalog systems can be

viewed by the user, along with any document that is in an electronic format. The magnification level can be adjusted to meet the user's needs.

There are many different screen magnification programs available, ranging in price from $200-$700. A few of the more widely used screen magnification programs are ZoomText, MAGic, Lunar, Microsoft Magnifier (built into newer versions of Windows), and BigShot. Some screen magnification programs now have built-in auditory output features that can provide some auditory cues about what is being viewed on the computer screen.

ZoomCaps are large-print stickers for a keyboard with high contrasting letters.

Many users that benefit from screen magnification software also benefit from having a simple low-tech modification added to the keyboard called ZoomCaps. ZoomCaps are large print stickers with high contrasting letters that assist individuals with visually accessing the keys on a keyboard. While this type of technology can be very beneficial for individuals with some functional vision, it may not meet the specific needs of others with more severe visual impairments.

Screen Reading Software

Screen reading software has the ability to provide auditory feedback by reading icons, menus, dialogue boxes, and text. Instead of using a mouse for navigation within the Windows environment, the user navigates within Windows by using keystrokes, such as ALT + F to access the File menu and then the arrow keys or appropriate keystrokes for accessing each item. The screen reading program provides the necessary auditory supports required for independent navigation within Windows. Such systems can cost as much as $1000-$1300. A few examples of this type of software are JAWS for Windows, HAL, and Window-Eyes.

Scanning and Reading Software

Through the use of scanning and reading software, librarians and/or users can convert printed documents or chapters from a book into an electronic computer text file by using a scanner. After the printed material has been scanned, the Optical Character Recognition (OCR) Software translates the scanned information into a format that the computer can then read aloud by way of speech engines. Systems such as this vary in price from $1200-$1700. Kurzweil 1000, Open Book, and Cicero are a few examples of scanning and reading software systems that are available. Scanners must be purchased separately to use with the scanning and reading software.

Braille Technology

Refreshable Braille displays are options for individuals who can read Braille. This type of technology connects directly to a computer system and, by using specialized software, converts electronic text into a Braille format. The text is then displayed on the keyboard type device through small vibrating pins. As the text is converted into Braille, the Braille display continuously changes as the user reads the displayed information. While this type of technology works well for individuals that know how to read Braille, only ten percent of individuals with severe visual impairments and blindness learn how to read Braille (Cook and Hussey 1995, 649).

AT that uses Braille translation software is also available for converting music scores into Braille. Translation software can also turn graphic information into tactile graphics. Computer text files can also be converted into Braille through translation software. A specialized printer, called a Braille embosser, is used to print the tactile information. There are also low-tech solutions such as Braille keyboard stickers that can be placed on top of keyboard keys to assist the user in accessing a standard keyboard. The stickers have raised dots that allow the user to use their Braille skills for identifying the keys.

ALTERNATIVE MEDIA TECHNOLOGY

Alternative media provides options for individuals to have access to written technologies. Large print books are one option that can meet the needs of certain individuals with low vision. Books on tape, books on CD, and e-books are all additional options for accessing written information.

Human Ware's Clear Vision Classic is an example of a CCTV.

ELECTRONIC MAGNIFICATION SYSTEMS

Electronic video magnification systems, formally called closed circuit television systems (CCTV), assist individuals who need magnification to access printed text. Electronic video magnification systems can be stand-alone units, computer-based systems, or hand-held systems. An electronic video magnification system can have color options and/or black and white options. Magnification capabilities can also vary between each system.

CONCLUSION

Assistive technology can provide access to written information and electronic text for individuals with disabilities. While assistive technology solutions are readily available on today's market, having appropriate access to the assistive technology within libraries continues to be an issue of concern. Many libraries have developed action plans for addressing these issues. These action plans include providing certain types of assistive technologies within the facility, training staff on how to use the assistive technology, and training staff on how to work with individuals with disabilities. By increasing the ability of individuals with disabilities to access information, libraries will become a better resource for all individuals within our communities.

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NOTES

- American Foundation for the Blind, "Blindness Statistics" is available at http://www.afb.org/Section.asp?SectionID=15 (accessed November 3, 2005).
- Extensive information can be found on Adaptive Computer Products at http://www.makoa.org/computers.htm (accessed November 3, 2005).
- The text of the Americans with Disabilities Act is available at http://www.usdoj.gov/crt/ada/adahom1.htm (accessed November 3, 2005).

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Writing an Accessibility Policy: One Library's Experience

Elizabeth Stephan
Editor, Mississippi Libraries
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ABSTRACT

Writing an accessibility policy may not be at the top of the list of things to do, but it will let patrons know your librarians and staff can and will accommodate patrons with disabilities. Writing an accessibility policy isn't as difficult as it may seem. Using resources developed by ALA and viewing policies from other libraries can make it much easier and less time consuming. The University of Mississippi implemented a disability policy in the Fall of 2004 after it became clear that patrons with disabilities didn't know who to contact when they needed assistance in the library.

In 2004 several University of Mississippi librarians met with the Office of Student Disability Services to discuss library services to students with disabilities. Some issues that were touched on were signage problems (lettering too small), photocopying services, and retrieval of books from shelves that were too high. It had been reported that some patrons didn't know where to go for assistance when it was needed, and those of us in the meeting realized that we didn't know who to go to when someone needed assistance, either. This is when we realized we needed an accessibility policy. The policy could be distributed within the library letting all employees know which areas were responsible for what. It could also be distributed to students through Disability Services, letting them know that the library would accommodate their needs.

An accessibility committee was formed of people from different areas of the library: reference, access services/circulation, the science library, systems, and government documents/media-microforms. The committee was to write an accessibility policy that would make all services available to our users.

WHERE TO START?

What exactly is an accessibility policy? According to ALA's Office for Information Technology Policy (OITP), "[a] well-drafted policy identifies how the library intends to accommodate the needs of patrons with disabilities and establish specific procedures for responding to requests in a timely manner." (http://www.ala.org/ala/washoff/oitp/emailtutorials/accessibilitya/22.htm).

The first thing we needed to do was figure out what we wanted to include in our policy. We did this by looking at other university accessibility polices. Using ALA's Office for Information Technology Policy (OITP) Web page, we found several policies to use as examples. The section titled "Creating an Accessibility Policy" was the most useful to us when we were developing our policy. The points we found most helpful were:

- Make sure all participants (patrons, staff, etc.) are covered by the policy
- Review existing policies at other institutions
- Develop a broad policy that commits the library to making all programs accessible to patrons with disabilities
- Disseminate plan throughout the library, and in our case, to the Office of Student Disabilities

We reviewed policies listed on the ALA site: South Carolina State University (http://www.state.sc.us/scsl/policies.html), The University of Texas at Austin (http://www.lib.utexas.edu/services/assistive/policy.html), and University of Waterloo (http://www.lib.uwaterloo.ca/News/UWLibDocs/access/).

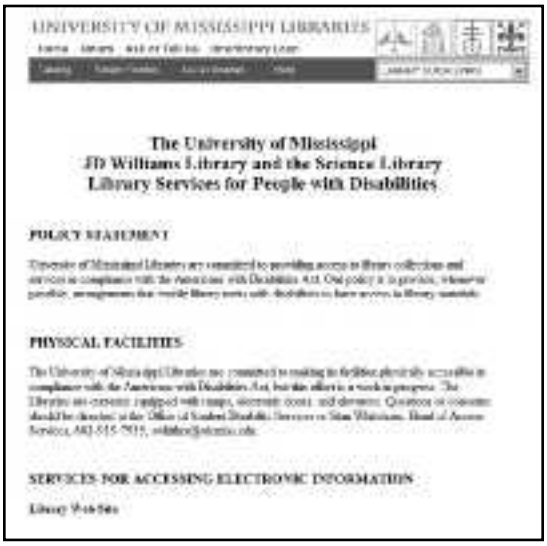
We wanted something that would act as a guide to students with disabilities; something that would instruct them where to go and who to ask when they needed assistance. Of the three policies we viewed, University of Texas' policy was the most like what we wanted. Because we saw no need to re-invent the wheel, we took UT's policy and adapted it to our libraries and our services.

All public service areas – Circulation, Reference, Government Documents, Special Collections and Archives, and Library Instruction – were considered when developing the policy. We kept the same basic organization that UT had and altered it to fit our needs. We focused in on several areas: Policy Statement, Physical Facilities, Services for Accessing Electronic Information, Services for Accessing Print Materials, Reference Services, Library Instruction, Borrowing Materials, Interlibrary Loan, and Copying Services. We made sure every aspect of public service was covered and that there was a contact person for every area of the library. This meant going to every department head to discuss what would be said in the policy, as well as what they could do to help someone who needed assistance. Everyone involved with the project – both department heads and members of the committee – worked hard and made sure everything that needed to be discussed was discussed.

We tried to include every service a student might need when visiting the library: photocopying, book retrieval, viewing videos, using computers, etc. If there was a service we thought might be needed but we were not able to provide, we said that. Some services that were normally not provided to students were changed to accommodate users with disabilities, such as Proxy card availability. Currently, faculty can get a proxy card for their student assistants so students can check out materials for professors without using their student IDs. We made sure proxy cards would be available to students with disabilities thus allowing someone to check out materials for them if they are unable to get to campus. Interlibrary Loan said they would borrow books in alternate

formats, like Braille or large print, if requested (and if the materials were available).

Throughout this process we were in constant contact with the Office of Student Disabilities. They helped us with university policies. What were professors required to provide for students with disabilities? What had other departments within the university done? Do we have sign language interpreters? They were able to show us what they could offer students and how the library could provide similar and complementary services.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The University of Mississippi
J.D. Williams Library and the Science Library
Library Services for People with Disabilities

POLICY STATEMENT

PHYSICAL FACILITIES

SERVICES FOR ACCESSING ELECTRONIC INFORMATION

Screen shot of UM's Accessibility Policy.

After the policy was complete, it was circulated to the heads of all library departments for review. All suggestions were considered and a few changes were made. At that point a final draft was distributed to all library staff. We wanted everyone to know what we were doing and what the library would do in order to meet all of our patrons' needs. The final copy of the policy was posted on the library home page: http://www.olemiss.edu/depts/general_library/files/ref/accessibility.html. The policy is also available at the Office of Student Disabilities.

THE FUTURE OF THE POLICY

One of the most difficult things to do once a policy is created is to keep it up to date. With the numerous contacts listed in the policy, keeping it up to date is critical. After several retirements within our library system, contact changes had to be made. It can be difficult to remember to do these as they happen.

After we wrote the policy we were able to acquire assistive technology for the University Libraries. This was added to the policy shortly after it was posted online.

CHALLENGES

No accessibility policy is perfect. There were some limitations to what we could do. We have some building issues that we can't change – lighting, heavy doors, and staircases – which is why we are more than willing to assist those who request our help. We also have some online issues that have yet to be addressed and these will be addressed as time moves on. Accessibility policies are organic – they change as time passes and those involved with creating them must realize that it is an ongoing task that should be reviewed and updated.

MORE INFORMATION

- **Trace Center, University of Wisconsin**
  http://trace.wisc.edu/
  The Trace Center's mission is "[t]o prevent the barriers and capitalize on the opportunities presented by current and emerging information and telecommunication technologies, in order to create a world that is as accessible and usable as possible for as many people as possible. The Center is currently working on ways to make standard information technologies and telecommunications systems more accessible and usable by people with disabilities."

- **The University of Washington's AccessIT**
  http://www.washington.edu/accessit/index.php
  "AccessIT promotes the use of electronic and information technology (E&IT) for students and employees with disabilities in educational institutions at all academic levels. This Web site features the AccessIT Knowledge Base, a searchable, growing database of questions and answers regarding accessible E&IT. It is designed for educators, policy makers, librarians, technical support staff, and students and employees with disabilities and their advocates."

- **Accessibility Basics for Librarians**
  http://www.ala.org/ala/washoff/oitp/emailtutorials/accessibilitya/accessibility.htm
  Developed by the ALA Office for Information Technology Policy, this site is an online tutorial on library accessibility. "This tutorial will help librarians begin to understand the range of accessibility issues, especially those arising as libraries provide Internet access and electronic services to patrons. Additionally, this tutorial will suggest best practices for improving library access for patrons with disabilities."

- **Creating an Accessibility Policy**
  http://www.ala.org/ala/washoff/oitp/emailtutorials/accessibilitya/22.htm
  Section 22 of ALA's online accessibility tutorial, this Web page outlines what libraries need to do before developing an accessibility policy. It includes a list of accessibility policies developed by other libraries.

- **WebAIM**
  http://webaim.org
  Web Accessibility in Mind (WebAIM) is part of the Center for Persons with Disabilities at Utah State University. They provide services and products to numerous organizations. They provide a list of universities with accessibility policies at http://www.webaim.org/coordination/policies/postsec.

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Web Accessibility: What Your Library Can Do

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ABSTRACT

A Web site that is "Web accessible" is a Web site that can be used by people with disabilities. It is important that libraries make sure their Web resources are available to all of their users, including those with disabilities. Many libraries have made their Web sites accessible to those with disabilities, but others haven't due to lack of money or expertise. There are numerous free Web resources that can be used to test a Web page for accessibility as well as give a user a different perspective when viewing a page.

A Web site that is "Web accessible" is a Web site that can be used by people with disabilities. More than 2.1 million Americans with disabilities use the Internet at home or on some other computer (Kaye 2000, 13). People with disabilities often use the Web in unique ways or with specialized technology. According to the Adaptive Technology Resource Centre at the University of Toronto:

> People who are blind can use the Internet by listening to synthesized speech from their computer. They do this by using a Screen Reader, software that vocalizes text by converting it to speech. Those with physical disabilities who have difficulty typing or using a mouse can browse the Internet by manipulating switches or wireless pointing devices attached to their heads. People who are deaf can understand sound on the Internet by reading visible text and image captions. These are examples of technologies, known as Assistive Technologies, which improve the accessibility of the Internet to people with disabilities. Unfortunately, smooth operation of these technologies is often prevented by how a Web page is designed and created. (http://aprompt.snow.utoronto.ca)

WHY WEB ACCESSIBILITY IS IMPORTANT

Many librarians have redesigned their library Web sites to be more accessible, but many have not because of lack of money or expertise. It is possible that at some point libraries will be faced with Web accessibility requirements enforced by laws like the Americans with Disabilities Act or Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act. Even if libraries are not taken to court, there are other reasons to strive for Web accessibility. According to the World Wide Web Consortium's (W3C) Web Accessibility Initiative, "An accessible Web is essential for equal opportunities for people with disabilities. Web accessibility benefits others, such as older people with changing abilities due to aging" (http://www.w3.org/WAI/). The W3C also makes the case that accessible Web sites are often high quality Web sites because Web accessibility solutions can:

- Improve technical performance
- Reduce time spent on site maintenance (in the long-term)
- Reduce server load
- Enable Web sites to be used on different devices
- Help organizations use advanced Web technologies now and in the future

WEB ACCESSIBILITY GUIDELINES

Librarians who want to make Web accessibility improvements to their Web site should become familiar with the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 1.0 (WCAG), which can be found at http://www.w3.org/TR/WCAG10/. These guidelines were developed by the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines Working Group, which is part of the W3C's Web Accessibility Initiative. Librarians should also become familiar with Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act, which can be found online at http://www.section508.gov/. Section 508 requires that federal agencies' electronic and information technologies are accessible to people with disabilities. Section 508 is based primarily on the WCAG guidelines, so there is overlap in the two guidelines. These guidelines can seem overwhelming at first, but there are relatively simple changes that librarians can make to their existing Web sites to make them more accessible. A good place to start is the W3C's "Quick Tips to Make Accessible Web Sites." These tips and more information about them can be found at http://www.w3c.org/wai/.

The "Quick Tips to Make Accessible Web Sites" from the W3C Web Accessibility Initiative provides some simple ways to start following the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines.

EVALUATION AND REPAIR TOOLS

It will always be necessary to use human judgment to evaluate and maintain an accessible Web site, but there are tools that can help. The following are some of the many free evaluation and repair tools that librarians can use to test their Web site for accessibility. These tools can help identify areas where intervention is needed to improve accessibility.

- HiSoftware Cynthia Says (http://cynthia.contentquality.com/)
- AskAlice by SSB Technologies (http://askalice.ssbtechnologies.com:8080/askalice/)

- Hermish Accessibility Evaluation Tool (http://www.hermish.com/)
- WebXACT by Watchfire (http://webxact.watchfire.com/)

These free accessibility evaluation tools are designed to identify errors in Web content related to Section 508 and/or the WCAG. These evaluation tools can be a good way to get started testing a Web site for accessibility, but they have the disadvantage of only testing single pages of Web content at a time. All of these companies also offer more full-featured Web accessibility software for purchase.

A-Prompt is free desktop software that evaluates Web sites for Web accessibility and helps make some of the necessary repairs.

Another resource is A-Prompt. A-Prompt 1.0 is free desktop software provided by the Adaptive Technology Resource Centre of the University of Toronto that identifies and helps correct errors in Web content related to Section 508 and/or the WCAG. Multiple files can be selected for testing and repair, making the software convenient for testing an entire Web site. A-Prompt 1.0 is great for beginners because it can automate some of the accessibility repairs and offers help for repairs that need to be made manually. It can be downloaded at http://aprompt.snow.utoronto.ca/download.html.

Temple University Institute sponsors WAVE. Wave is an accessibility evaluation tool that tests and displays Web sites and uses icons to identify possible accessibility errors. WAVE 3.5 can also show Web pages in a text-only view that can be examined to ensure that the Web pages make sense without images or media. WAVE can be used by submitting the URL of a page online, uploading a page, installing a WAVE toolbar in a Web browser or adding a WAVE bookmarker to a browser. The Web site can be found at http://wave.webaim.org/index.jsp.

The icon view of WAVE shows the W3C Web site is free of accessibility errors.

EXPERIENCE WEB SITES IN DIFFERENT WAYS

When evaluating the accessibility of a Web site, it is helpful to view the Web site as people with disabilities would view it. The following are some techniques and software that can help librarians experience their Web site in different ways.

It is important to view a Web site in different screen sizes to see it as it might be experienced by users with different browsers or different monitors. Testing a page using other browsers will give you a different perspective. At http://www.anybrowser.com/, Web sites can be tested in various screen sizes.

People who are disabled and other Web users sometimes use text-only browsers. Text-only browsers do not display the pictures or media on a Web site. Viewing a Web site in the Lynx browser is one way to test to see if a Web site is usable when viewed as text-only. A free copy of the text-only Lynx browser is available at http://lynx.isc.org/. There is also a free Lynx simulator available to see how Web sites display in a text-only format at http://www.delorie.com/web/lynxview.html.

An easy way to view a Web site as text-only is to view it with the images turned off in the browser. In Internet Explorer go to: Tools > Internet Options > Advanced, scroll down, and uncheck the box for Show Pictures. Click Apply and refresh the browser. In Mozilla Firefox go to: Tools > Options > Web Features > Images and select option to Show No Images. Click OK and refresh the browser.

You can experience a Web site the way a blind person might by using a screen reader that can read information from the screen aloud. A free trial version of JAWS Screen Reader can be downloaded at http://www.freedomscientific.com/fs_downloads/jaws.asp. JAWS stands for Job Access with Speech and is one of the most popular screen readers. Home Page Reader is another screen reader and incorporates features for low vision such as magnification and highlighting. A complimentary trial version is available at http://www-3.ibm.com/able/hpr.html.

The text view of WAVE can display Web pages without images as many disabled people may experience them.

Low vision users may need to increase the text size of a Web site. To test the ability to change font size in a Web site go to Internet Explorer's View menu and select Text Size. Make sure that the Web site is still usable at larger font sizes.

Low vision users may have their screen resolution set at different settings. To test a Web site at different screen resolutions, change the display properties in the

computer's control panel. Also test the Web site by resizing the browser window to make sure the Web site does not require horizontal scrolling.

Users who cannot use a mouse may navigate Web sites using only the keyboard. To test this, use the tab, enter and arrow keys on the keyboard to test Web sites to see if they can be navigated properly without the mouse.

HTML AND CSS VALIDATION

Although a Web site may be readable and look good in one browser, it may not be readable in another browser. It is impossible to test a Web site in all browsers and with all screen readers and other assistive technologies. A good way to increase the likelihood that a Web site will be accessible in most browsers is to check it with an HTML and/or CSS validator. The W3C describes validation in their online publication "Why Validate?":

> Validation is a process of checking your documents against a formal Standard, such as those published by the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) for HTML and XML-derived Web document types...It serves a similar purpose to spell checking and proofreading for grammar and syntax, but is much more precise and reliable than any of those processes because it is dealing with precisely-specified machine languages, not with nebulously-defined human natural language.

The W3C's HTML validation service can be used at http://validator.w3.org/. Another software program to help clean up HTML code is HTML Tidy at http://tidy.sourceforge.net/. For validation of Cascading Style Sheets try the W3C's CSS Validation service at http://jigsaw.w3.org/css-validator/.

WHERE TO START

Repair of accessibility problems and ongoing accessibility maintenance are important parts of Web design. Small improvements to Web sites using the resources above can make a big difference in Web accessibility. A great way to start is to pick one accessibility evaluation and repair tool and try it on one Web page on your library's Web site. You will find that some of the repairs are relatively easy to complete on your own. If you are not able to make accessibility repairs a priority for your library at this time, keep Web accessibility in mind next time you redesign your Web site.

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Not Just for the Blind: Free Library Services through the Mississippi Library Commission

Rahye L. Puckett
Blind & Physically Handicapped
Library Services Director
Mississippi Library Commission

ABSTRACT

Blind & Physically Handicapped Library Services, part of the Mississippi Library Commission, provides services to the blind and visually impaired as well as individuals with reading disabilities. More than 6,000 people in Mississippi are registered with BPHLS. BPHLS is a free service to all Mississippians who qualify for their services. Their collection consists of recorded cassettes, Braille, print/Braille, large print, digital books, and descriptive video.

The Blind & Physically Handicapped Library Services (BPHLS) provides services to the blind and visually impaired as well as those with physical limitations and individuals with reading disabilities. For the more than 6,000 readers in the State of Mississippi registered for service, books on tape ("talking books") may be their only way of reading. Customers range from age three to 104 and their reading interests are just as varied. While many enjoy bestsellers, others only want poetry or biographies. Some request books narrated only by women. A few don't want a narrator with a British accent. Others want books in foreign languages – Spanish and French are the most popular, but Vietnamese is also one of the various languages available. All of these specific requests can be, and are, honored. Circulation statistics reflect readers' appetites with more than 164,000 items circulated during the 2005 fiscal year.

ELIGIBILITY

As a division of the Mississippi Library Commission (MLC), Blind and Physically Handicapped Library Services provides free public library service to visually and print impaired citizens of Mississippi. BPHLS is also a regional library within the Library of Congress, National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NLS). As one of 58 such regional libraries throughout the United States, services are offered on a temporary or permanent basis to eligible applicants. Reading materials and playback equipment are mailed to customers and returned to the library by postage-free mail. Service is provided to adults and children who are unable to read or use standard print materials because of blindness, visual impairment, physical limitations, and organically-caused reading disabilities. A national survey sponsored by NLS determined that two million U.S. citizens with visual impairments may qualify and that another million with physical limitations – such as lack of muscle coordination, prolonged weakness, missing arms or hands, or paralysis – could benefit from the use of reading materials in a recorded format.

REGISTRATION

To initiate service in Mississippi, a completed application with an original signature must be submitted to BPHLS. It must be signed by a qualified authority certifying that the applicant has met one of the eligibility requirements. A list of professions eligible to certify readers is provided on the last page of the application. Librarians may certify all applications except those with reading disabilities, which require a medical doctor. Upon receipt of the properly completed application, the customer is contacted to discuss services offered, to determine equipment and accessory needs, and to tailor the level of service to reflect their reading interests.

COLLECTIONS

Materials circulated through the library include recorded cassettes, Braille, print-Braille, large print, digital books, and descriptive video.

Many books are delivered through the mail, like this illustrated children's print-Braille book. This allows both the sighted and visually impaired to read books together. Photo by NLS

Book titles for the national collection are selected by NLS staff on the basis of reviews and appeal to the varied interests of readers. The Braille and talking book (audio cassette) collections, similar to those found in a medium-sized public library, are quite large. More than 61,000 unabridged recorded titles are included in the talking book collection and 16,000+ titles comprise the Braille collection. Textbooks are not selected for these collections, but are available from other sources. Large Print books, through the Library Services Division of MLC, are offered to customers registered with BPHLS.

Books of regional interest – either about Mississippi or by Mississippians – are provided to customers through the local recording program. Books and magazines are recorded, duplicated and circulated to customers by members of the BPHLS's Friends group, Friends of Handicapped Readers.

The collection isn't limited to just print items. Digital books are offered to interested customers registered for the service. BPHLS participates in the Lobe Library consortium which provides books that have been downloaded onto an MP-3 digital player. Descriptive videos (DV) are offered to all Mississippi and Alabama residents registered for DV service. The collection exceeds 750 titles.

BPHLS has free subscriptions to more than seventy periodicals in specialized formats such as Braille, cassette, computer disk, electronic Braille, electronic text, large print, and Moon type. Titles include *National Geographic*, *Sports Illustrated*, *People, Consumer Reports*, *Ebony*, *U. S. News and World Report*, and *Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine*.

While many books are sent through mail, services can also be provided in the mail. A librarian in Maryland discusses with a blind patron the various services offered to readers. Photo by NLS

Circulation of Braille materials to Mississippi customers has been outsourced through the Program for the Blind and Disabled of the Utah State Library. However, the print/Braille and Braille Mississippiana collections were retained and are available for circulation. Resource sharing, initiated in the 2004 fiscal year with the Alabama Public Library Service (APLS), has resulted in improved service levels for both states. Recorded cassette titles numbered less than 40,000 are provided to Mississippi readers through Alabama Regional Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (LBPH) Division of the APLS. Descriptive video service is provided by BPHLS to registered readers of the LBPH. Titles unavailable locally are available through interlibrary loan from other network libraries and/or organizations serving people with disabilities. A limited number of books in Spanish and other foreign languages are produced by NLS for readers whose primary language is not English. BPHLS customers are made aware of new titles added to the national collection through two bimonthly publications produced by NLS, *Talking Book Topics* and *Braille Book Review*. Customers learn of new locally produced books and magazines through the BPHLS quarterly newsletter, *The Reading Light*. Public, school, and academic libraries are encouraged to maintain book deposit collections to aid local customers.

EQUIPMENT

Because talking books are recorded at a different speed than commercially produced tapes, playback equipment is also provided. Two pieces of equipment – the standard cassette player (plays NLS and commercial cassettes) and an easy player (plays only NLS cassettes) – are currently available. This equipment is loaned free of charge to customers registered for recorded cassette format as long as they continue to borrow recorded materials from BPHLS or are provided magazines through the library. NLS machines no longer under warranty are repaired free of charge by local Telecomm Pioneer volunteers. Additional accessories are available, such as breath switches, headphones, extension levers, amplifiers, and remote control units.

PUBLICITY MATERIALS

Upon request, free NLS publications may be provided to libraries, institutions, individuals, and agencies. These include reference circulars on topics ranging from building a library collection on blindness and physical disabilities to Braille literacy. If available, posters, bookmarks, back issues of Braille magazines, and Braille alphabet cards can be mailed for special displays, classroom projects, and outreach activities. Please give as much advance notice as possible for bookmarks and alphabet cards. Free aids and appliance publications of interest to people with disabilities are also available.

VOLUNTEERS

Two volunteer groups also assist in meeting the needs of BPHLS. The Capitol Life Chapter of the Telecomm Pioneers (formerly known as Telephone Pioneers) repairs cassette players and Braillers at no charge. Brailler repair expenses are offset by support of the Mississippi Council of the Blind. The Chapter has received statewide recognition for their work in assisting this library program. Contact Hugh Sisson at 601-432-4091 for additional information. Friends of Handicapped Readers supplements the resources and services of the library and provides recorded books of local and regional interest to customers. Recording teams also provide the following magazines on audio cassette tape: *Mississippi, MS Outdoors, Parents and Kids***.** Other volunteers assist by rewinding tapes, filing, and duplicating tapes. For more information, contact Al Williamson at 601-957-1694.

WHAT'S ON THE HORIZON?

NLS is currently involved with the development of digital talking books utilizing flash memory for use with a specialized digital player designed for accessibility by individuals with visual and physical disabilities. The digital program is set to be launched by October 1, 2008. Updates regarding the progress of this project are available at http://www.loc.gov/nls.

CONTACT US

BPHLS may be reached by any of the following methods to answer additional questions, to provide applications or bibliographies, or to answer reference questions concerning people with disabilities:

Mississippi Library Commission
Blind and Physically Handicapped Library Services
3881 Eastwood Drive
Jackson, MS 39211-6473

Local telephone number:
601-432-4111
Outside the Jackson area (nationwide):
1-800-446-0892
Fax: 601-432-4476
Internet**:** http://www.mlc.lib.ms.us
E-mail address: lbph@mlc.lib.ms.us

MINIMIZE DISASTER. PLAN AHEAD.

It's NEVER too soon! The **more** we understand about disaster preparedness, and the **sooner** we get a disaster plan in place, the **better** off we'll be when disaster strikes. Learn **now** how to protect our cultural collections.

To help library staff and archivists get started with this process, SOLINET is offering a series of classes on disaster planning and recovery and hurricane preparedness, starting in March 2006. Mississippians can look forward to taking one of the series, Disaster Preparedness, at the Mississippi Library Commission in Jackson. The cost per session is only **$25** – *a very small price to pay* compared to the cost of losing valued collections.

For more information about the series and how to register, visit the SOLINET website at www.solinet.net/disasterseries. Register now to learn and prepare. Mississippians are welcome to attend the disaster planning and recovery and hurricane preparation classes anywhere in the region during March and April at the same great rate. Watch that website for other dates and places.

These classes are made possible thanks to support from the National Endowment for the Humanities, Division of Preservation and Access.

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Hurricane Katrina Damage: A Summary

Numerous libraries were damaged by Hurricane Katrina. Some, like Cook Library at University of Southern Mississippi, were well inland yet still suffered damages. With the help of MLA president Susan Cassagne, University Librarian Kay Wall at the University of Southern Mississippi, and Sharman Smith at the Mississippi Library Commission, we were able to put together a list of libraries damaged by the storm. A special thanks to Gloria Washington, John Carter, Patricia Furr, Pat Yuen, Pamela Ladner, and Mary Perkins for sending updates and photos of their libraries and collections.

PUBLIC LIBRARIES

The Mississippi Library Commission has been compiling information on public libraries damaged by Katrina. The libraries and systems listed are those that had the most damage. Other library systems, including the Jackson/Hinds, Kemper-Newton Regional, Lamar County, Laurel-Jones County, Madison County, Mid-Mississippi Regional, Pearl River County, Pine Forest Regional, Hattiesburg, Petal, and Forrest County, and the Yazoo Library Association, all reported minor damages ranging from leaks to roof damage. A few of them have reported some loss of inventory due to damage.

EAST MISSISSIPPI REGIONAL LIBRARY

Shubuta. The Shubuta Public Library was condemned and is considered a complete loss.

HANCOCK COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM

Bay St. Louis. The public library suffered severe roof and water damage, but the building will be restored for use as a library. **Waveland Library.** The building is still standing, but it is gutted and suffered structural damage. **Pearlington Library.** The building is still standing, but gutted; everything was lost. **Kiln Library.** The building received window and roof damage. Library staff has been checking out books by hand. The meeting room was used as a Visitors Reception Center by members of the Florida Emergency Management Agency. The Bay St Louis and Kiln libraries opened mid-September and began offering services from Monday through Saturday. They were able to offer free wireless Internet, free phones, copy and fax services, and books and other items for check out. Library cards were issued, and preschool story hours have resumed.

HARRISON COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM

Gulfport. The lower part of the library is completely gone; the upper area is still standing but with some water damage. Personnel, catalog, file servers, and business operations were saved. Approximately 60,000 volumes were lost, but the director hopes to use a restoration company to salvage about 30,000 volumes located upstairs, including the Mississippi collection. **D'Iberville.** The library is structurally sound, but there was water damage; the collection is safe. **Orange Grove.** The library is in good shape and the building sound. **Biloxi.** Headquarters was relocated to the Margaret Sherry Memorial Library in Biloxi which had only minor damages. The Division Street Study Center is completely ruined. The Biloxi Library took a heavy hit, but is structurally sound. It was closed due to toxic sludge and no one was allowed to enter without biohazard gear. The public library in West Biloxi had minor damage, but air conditioning has not been working. **Pass Christian.** The library in Pass Christian is in ruins with water damage destroying the collection, shelving, and equipment. As of November they were open in a double-wide trailer. **Saucier.**

Damage to the roof of the Bay St. Louis Public Library. Photo by Gloria J. Washington

The Waveland Public Library. Photo by Mary Perkins

Damage to the Dr. Joseph Rillens Lee Children's Library at the Waveland Public Library. Photo by Mary Perkins

The Pearlington Library had 20 feet of water and was gutted. Photo by Mary Perkins

Roof and window damage to the Kiln Public Library. Photo by Gloria J. Washington

The Children's Library survived and was able to open three days a week by September. As of October, the system had Internet connectivity and was open for 32-hour weeks. Total, the system lost 190,000 volumes and 98 computers.

Damage to the front windows of the Gulfport Public Library. Photo by Gloria J. Washington

Hurricane Katrina destroyed the first floor of the Gulfport Library. Photo by Gloria J. Washington

Hurricane Katrina destroyed the roof and wall of the Division Street Study Center in Biloxi. Photo by Gloria J. Washington

Contents of the Division Street Study Center. Photo by Gloria J. Washington

The Pass Christian Public Library was destroyed. Water damage destroyed the collection. Photo by Gloria J. Washington.

LONG BEACH PUBLIC LIBRARY

The building has been condemned. All equipment, furniture, and equipment was destroyed or is in the condemned building. The director and staff moved into a forty-by-eighteen-foot building and restored some library services.

Damage to the side Long Beach Public Library; the red marks mean the building had been checked for survivors. Photo by Gloria J. Washington

JACKSON-GEORGE REGIONAL LIBRARY SYSTEM

Pascagoula. The public library survived but took on about four to six inches of water. They lost about 200 volumes and were in danger of losing 60,000 due to the air conditioning not working. They lost all their furniture, but 99% of shelving was saved. The other seven libraries suffered minimal damage and are opened and operational. All libraries were offering full Internet service by September. They estimate that between 20,000 and 40,000 library materials were lost, not counting items in Pascagoula. **Moss Point.** The library suffered minor roof problems and is serving as headquarters.

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI

University of Southern Mississippi Libraries suffered damage at three teaching sites.

USM, Hattiesburg: Joseph Anderson Cook Library. The Director for the School of Library and Information Science's office window was blown out during the storm and her office destroyed. There was minor water damage, ceiling tiles were down, and the carpet was damp, but collections were not exposed to water. **William David McCain Library and Archives.** The facility had no significant damage from rain or wind; there were some leaks around windows on the third floor work area where carpet was damp.

USM Gulf Coast, Long Beach: USM Gulf Coast Library. The facility had little if any structural damage. The first floor received 12 to 18 inches of water. There were some minor leaks around windows on the upper floors, and the carpet and upholstered furniture were soaked, and there was mud on the floor. Items on the bottom shelves received water damage, but the flood waters did not reach the level of the second shelves. Mold/mildew grew rampantly due to lack of power and air conditioning. Library services are being provided in the Student Services Center at the former Garden Park Hospital.

USM Gulf Coast Research Laboratory, Ocean Springs: Gunter Library. Gunter Library, located in the Caylor Building, received flood water of approximately eighteen inches. There were items on the bottom shelves that were ruined, in both the main part of the library and the stack tower, and there was more mud left in this facility. There was more initial collection damage at Gunter Library than at the Long Beach Library, but the earlier restoration of power and climate control meant fewer items had mold growth at Gunter than at Long Beach. Nearly 1300 damaged items from the collection have been identified for

The most severe water damage to USM's Gulf Coast Library was in the computer lab. This picture shows the high-water line. The dark spots on the wall are mold. Photo by Barton Spencer

Damage to the processing area in the Gulf Coast Library. Photo by Barton Spencer

replacement. Library operations returned to normal for the beginning of classes.

MISSISSIPPI GULF COAST COMMUNITY COLLEGE LIBRARIES

The total cost of books damaged or destroyed at both campuses was approximately $55,000. Library services were restored but access to some areas is limited. When classes started at the Jackson County Campus on September 14, library services were provided in the back hallway.

Katrina cause structural damage at the Jackson County MGCCC Library. Photo by Pamela Ladner

Water damage and humidity caused mold to grow in the stacks of the MGCCC libraries. Photo by Pamela Ladner

Jackson County Campus Library of MGCCC. The Jackson County Campus had considerable water and wind damage to the library. Extensive leakage occurred in the east stacks where at least one-third of the roof was blown off. Water damage to the mezzanine was caused by two holes in the roof and a blown out east window. One of the windows on the north upper level was blown out, causing carpet damage in the reading area of the library. There was structural damage to the east wall of the building and the entire wall has to be replaced. Two-hundred and fifty-six books of the open collection were destroyed plus another 400 reference books were also affected by humidity.

Perkinston Campus Library of MGCCC. Book loss totaled $11,000 to $12,000 due to mold and water damage. The security system at the entrance received extensive water exposure, but is still functioning. The Media Center floor was soaked and all carpet in that area was ruined and removed. The Community College Network (CCN) room suffered water damage to the floor and all carpet was removed. A number of ceiling tiles were also water-damaged.

JONES COUNTY JUNIOR COLLEGE, ELLISVILLE

A tree fell on the library. Approximately 180 books were damaged beyond repair, with another 15 that may be salvageable; six pamphlets were ruined. All the books damaged were works of fiction, and most of the collection of short stories is beyond repair, as are the few children's books. Most of the works by Eudora Welty and Tennessee Williams, plus those by James Street, a local author from the early twentieth century, are total losses.

A tree fell on JC Junior College causing some damage to their collection. Photo by Rebecca Patrick

SCHOOL LIBRARIES

The Mississippi Department of Education reports the following school losses:

- Total or severe structural losses: 27 elementary schools, 16 middle/high schools
- Moderate to severe instructional losses with building damage: 46 elementary schools, 48 middle/high schools
- Total schools impacted: 73 elementary, 64 middle/high schools
- Estimated expenditures for library media centers:
  - Books: $32,455,480
  - Additional media materials including periodicals, trade books, and supplies: $6,183,900

Katrina First-hand: A Report from William Carey College

Patricia Furr
Director
William Carey College Library

The William Carey College campus in Gulfport was heavily damaged by the Hurricane Katrina storm surge and the library building was deemed a total loss.

We first saw McMullen Library about ten days after the storm, as the area was deemed unsafe and inaccessible to non-rescue personnel before that time. Most of the roads were initially impassable and many of us were trying to cope with damage at our homes as well. When we finally made it down to the Gulfport campus, we had no idea what to expect.

The bookstore at William Carey College on the Coast (foreground) was destroyed by Katrina. The Fairchild Administration Building (background) took the brunt of the storm and was deemed a total loss. Photo by Pat Yuen.

The location of the library building is the third in line from the beach. The main administration building, located directly on the beach, took the brunt of the storm surge. The whole first floor of the solid brick structure was gutted. The college bookstore, located behind the administration building and in front of the library, completely collapsed. Those two buildings probably took much of the force of the wave and prevented more damage to the library.

The library building itself remained intact, but the roof on the front section was missing and many windows were broken. The first thing we noticed when we entered the library building was the smell. The sewers had backed up through the bathrooms and onto the books that had been washed from the lower shelves onto the floor. The floor was covered with a semi-dry three-to-four inch coat of mud, sand, books, and sewage. There were overturned tables and heaps of debris with chairs, boards, library signage, etc. all swirled together in piles. It was an unbelievable sight.

The floor of the library was covered with a layer of mud, sand, sewage, and books. Photo by Pat Yuen.

After making a sweep to check for hazards, we cleared some pathways. We had to be very careful not to step on the piles of trash, as they often contained nails and library shelves. I was not anticipating that anything would be recoverable, as mildew usually grows quickly in wet materials. When we made it back to the stacks, we were amazed to find that the books on the top four shelves of each section were clean and dry. Most, in fact, were pristine with not even a page ruffled. The only exceptions were those next to broken windows.

We were puzzled and wondered why there was not a uniform growth of mildew over the entire collection, but believe the clean, dry shelves were a result of unusually low humidity for the first ten days after the storm. It was about 100 degrees in the building most of the four days we worked and a dry breeze occasionally blew through the building. The broken windows also helped the air circulate in the building. We knew we had only a very short window of opportunity to recover the undamaged materials before the mildew would spread from the lower shelves, so we set to work quickly.

We used gloves, long pants, alcohol and boots in an effort to remain clean. The smell and the flies generated by the sewage made it very tough to work. Masks quickly became wet from sweat and glasses fogged. In fact, it was so hot working in this environment that staff members' clothing became completely

(continued on page 99)

Resources for Libraries in the Aftermath of Hurricane Katrina

Lauren M. Young
Assistant Editor, Mississippi Libraries
Instructor/Outreach Services Librarian
Rowland Medical Library
The University of Mississippi
Medical Center

While bearing in mind that many Mississippi libraries affected by Hurricane Katrina are still reeling from the blow and are unable to begin the arduous process of rebuilding, the *Mississippi Libraries* editorial staff wanted to compile a list of resources available for affected libraries. Long-term planning concerns such as funding sources and material salvage and replacement are covered, along with URLs for guides prepared by librarians around the state and URLs for corporations, associations, and organizations that offer services for libraries in need. Though not exhaustive, the list includes resources offered and compiled by some of the most trusted names in librarianship and disaster planning and recovery.

FUNDING SOURCES

- *Before and After Disasters: Federal Funding for Cultural Institutions*. FEMA 533/September 2005, Federal Emergency Management Agency
  http://www.heritagepreservation.org/Update/2005/05faBefore.htm.
  From the Heritage Emergency National Task Force, this new publication provides information for cultural institutions and historic sites on where to find funding needed to develop an emergency plan, buy disasters supplies, or train staff to be prepared for hurricane season and other disasters. The publication is available from the FEMA publications office by calling 800-480-2520; it can also be downloaded free as a PDF at the Web site listed above.

- *Corporate Relief Opportunities for Libraries Affected by Hurricane Katrina*, American Library Association
  http://www.ala.org/ala/cro/katrina/katrinacorprelief.htm
  ALA provides a list of corporations and organizations who have offered to help libraries in the Gulf Coast region recover and rebuild.

- *Extended Grant Deadlines for Applicants Affected by Hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Wilma*, National Endowment for the Humanities
  http://www.neh.gov/grants/katrinaextension.html

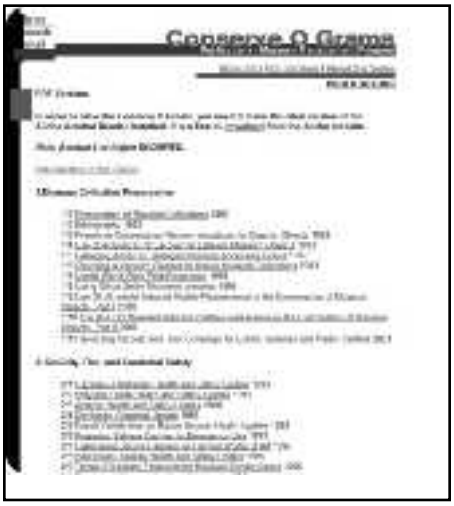
- *Grant Opportunities for Libraries Affected by Hurricane Katrina,* American Library Association
  http://www.ala.org/ala/cro/katrina/katrinagrants.htm

- *Humanities Endowment Offers $1 Million in Hurricane Relief for Gulf Coast Cultural Resources*, National Endowment for the Humanities
  http://www.neh.gov/news/archive/20050907.html
  Affected institutions can apply for emergency grants of up to $30,000 to preserve books, records, manuscripts, art, and cultural artifacts damaged by Hurricane Katrina and the flooding that followed.

- *Hurricane Response: Information on Grants*, Solinet
  http://www.solinet.net/Disaster_templ.cfm?doc_id=3789

MATERIAL PRESERVATION, SALVAGE AND REPLACEMENT

- *Library of Congress: Preservation*
  http://www.loc.gov/preserv/
  This Web site includes resources for ongoing preservation of materials. The LOC provides new links to resources on hurricane recovery: http://www.loc.gov/preserv/pubsemer.html. Included is a link to the National Archives' "A Primer on Disaster Preparedness, Management and Response: Paper-Based Materials" at http://www.archives.gov/preservation/emergency-prep/disaster-prep-primer.html.



Conserve O Grams from the National Park Service

- *Conserve O Gram Listing*, National Park Service
  http://www.cr.nps.gov/museum/publications/conserveogram/cons_toc.html
  Conserve O Grams are technical leaflets produced by the National Park Service. Geared towards museums and museum collections, libraries and archives may find some of their preservation information useful following Katrina. Pertinent titles are available in HMTL and PDF format at http://www.cr.nps.gov/museum/publications/conserveogram/cons_toc.html.
  - *Health and Safety Hazards Arising from Floods 2002*
  - *An Emergency Cart for Salvaging Water-Damaged Objects 2002*
  - *Salvage of Water-Damaged Collections: Salvage at a Glance 2002*
  - *Salvage at a Glance, Part I: Paper Based Collections 2002*
  - *Salvage at a Glance, Part II: Non-Paper Based Archival Collections 2002*
  - *Salvage at a Glance, Part III: Object Collections 2002*

- *Salvage at a Glance, Part IV: Natural History Collections 2003*
- *Salvage at a Glance, Part V: Textiles 2003*

■ *Conserver®*
http://Library-Dust.com/conserver
Information on a vacuum packing system for natural disaster preparation and recovery produced by the Italian company RGI.

■ *Disaster Mitigation and Recovery Resources*, Solinet
http://www.solinet.net/preservation/preservation_templ.cfm?doc_id=71
Links to materials available in various formats from Solinet including HTML and PDF leaflets in both English and Spanish, such as the following:
- *Disaster Preparedness and Recovery: Selected Bibliography*
- *Preservation Resources on the Internet: Disaster Preparedness & Recovery*
- *Disaster Recovery Services & Supplies*
- *Contents of a Disaster Plan*
- *Disaster Planning Process*
- *Invasion of the Giant Mold Spore*
- *Disaster Prevention & Protection Checklist*
- *Drying Techniques for Water-Damaged Books and Records*
- *Decision-making Tree for Disaster Recovery*
- *Drying Wet Books and Records*
- *In-House Supply Stockpile Checklist*

■ *Disaster Preparedness and Recovery*, Solinet
http://www.solinet.net/preservation/preservation_templ.cfm?doc_id=139
Links to numerous internet resources.

■ *Replacements for Resources Lost from Hurricanes Rita and Katrina*, Thomson Publishing Group, Inc.
http://www.thompson.com/sitedocs/hurricane_replacements.html
From Thomson: "For our subscribers, we want you to know that we will resume service and replace key resources as soon as you are ready. As a special service to subscribers whose businesses were damaged or destroyed, TPG publications will be replaced at no cost. We are working with the U.S. Postal Service to determine where delivery is suspended and have stopped sending updates and newsletters to that area. Where delivery is taking place we are maintaining service. Please call 800-677-3789 to speak with someone about replacements, to reactivate your subscription or with any questions about your account."

GUIDES FROM LIBRARIES AROUND THE STATE

■ *Health Information Related to Hurricane Katrina and Its Aftermath*
University of Mississippi Medical Center Rowland Medical Library/Consumer Health Education Center
http://chec.library.umc.edu/

MSU Library's Hurricane Katrina resource guide.

■ *Hurricane Katrina: Picking Up the Pieces*
Mississippi State University Libraries
http://library.msstate.edu/content/templates/?a=885&z=310

■ *Hurricane Katrina: A Guide to Resources*
University of Mississippi Libraries
http://olemiss.edu/depts/general_library/files/katrinaguide.html

ORGANIZATION AND ASSOCIATION WEB SITES

■ American Library Association
Libraries and Hurricane Katrina
http://www.ala.org/ala/cro/katrina/katrina.htm

■ American Red Cross
http://www.redcross.org

■ Friends of Libraries U.S.A.
Katrina – How Friends Can Help
http://www.folusa.org/html/Friendsinneed.html

■ Institute of Museum and Library Services
Hurricanes Katrina and Rita: Information for Museums and Libraries
http://www.imls.gov/whatsnew/current/katrina.htm

■ Medical Library Association
Medical Libraries and Hurricane Katrina
http://www.mlanet.org/hurricane_katrina.html

■ Mississippi Library Association
Hurricane Katrina Resources
http://www.misslib.org/index.php

■ Mississippi Library Commission
Hurricane Katrina Damage to Mississippi Libraries
http://www.mlc.lib.ms.us/AboutMLC/NewsKatrinaDamage.htm
Images of damage from affected libraries.

■ National Park Services
Hurricane Katrina: NPS Resources
http://www.nps.gov/katrina/
Donate and Volunteer / Health and Safety / What NPS is Doing

■ The Salvation Army
http://katrina.salvationarmy.org/usn/www_usn.nsf

■ Solinet
Hurricane Response
http://www.solinet.net/Disaster_templ.cfm?doc_id=3761

■ Special Library Association
Disaster Relief: SLA Hurricane Response
http://www.sla.org/content/resources/disasterrelief/index.cfm

KATRINA FIRST-HAND...

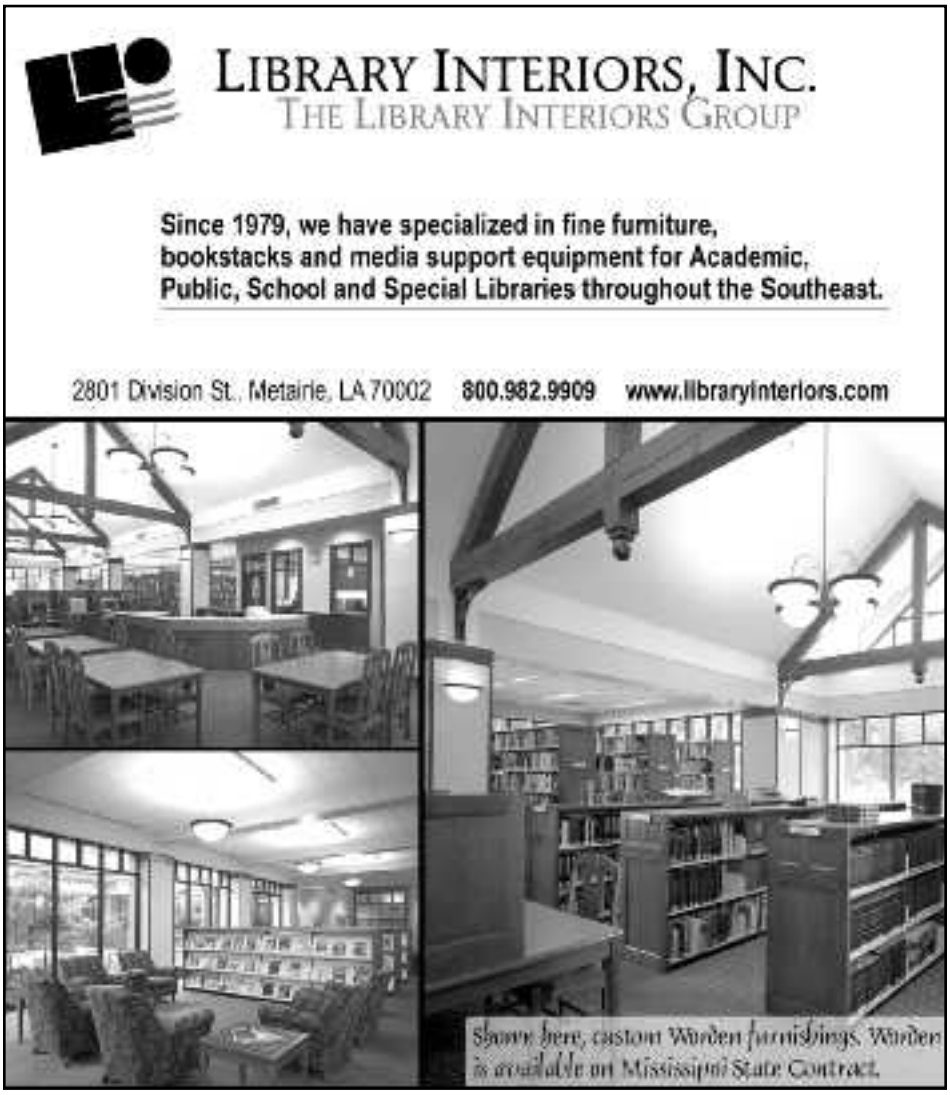
(continued from page 96)

soaked with sweat within the first twenty to thirty minutes and all of us stayed wet most of the day. From time to time, we ran a box fan from a car inverter to bring fresh air into the building and provide relief from the heat. There was no electricity, no running water, no working plumbing and no place to take a break that was uncontaminated. We left our drinks covered in coolers, as the flies would swarm anything that was edible in a short time.

As we removed the books from the shelves, we put them on tables covered with plastic to protect them. We tried to choose the books that were the newest and the most relevant to coursework at the college. We were racing against the clock and ever increasing humidity. We had such a limited time to work; we knew we could not save all of the items that we saw. We tried to choose the most expensive reference sets and art books. The Coast campus has an extensive program to teach painting, sculpture, etc. and the art book collection was irreplaceable. Art students helped us transport the art books to a temporary storage facility in World War II Quonset huts that, surprisingly, survived the storm surge. The rest of the collection awaited transport in the library building with plastic draped everywhere in case of rain.

At the end of the week, campus maintenance crews and volunteers helped pack up the books for transport back to the main campus in Hattiesburg. We spent about ten days back at headquarters examining the books for damage, resorting them, and packing them for storage. We were able to save about 4,500 items out of our original 11,000.

The college is planning on relocating its Gulfport campus to an inland location. We are storing the books at the main campus while we wait to rebuild. We will undoubtedly spend some time in the next year thinking more about disaster preparedness. We feel fortunate to have all survived unharmed with even part of the collection intact, but we are sure that next time, we will be more prepared.



Join MLA!

Don't forget to pay 2006 MLA dues. Dues must be paid by March 1 in order to vote in the officers' election and receive the spring issue of *Mississippi Libraries.* A membership form is located on the inside back cover of *ML.*

News Briefs

AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION AND THE ASSOCIATION FOR LIBRARY TRUSTEES AND ADVOCATES NATIONAL ADVOCACY HONOR ROLL BANQUET

The American Library Association and the Association for Library Trustees and Advocates held the First National Advocacy Honor Roll Banquet June 2000 in Chicago, and the Second National Advocacy Honor Roll Banquet, also in Chicago, in June 2005 during the American Library Association's Annual Conference. The purpose of the first banquet was to honor advocates from the last half of the twentieth century, and states were invited to submit up to ten advocates. The names of those honorees are now engraved on plaques hanging in each state library. For the 2005 Honor Roll, each state was invited to select up to three additional advocates to be honored at the banquet, particularly those who have been active throughout the past five years.

The purpose of the National Advocacy Honor Roll is to identify and celebrate those individuals and groups who have actively supported and strengthened library services at the local, state or national levels. The honorees are advocates who have led major initiatives or sustained efforts to enhance library development and/or public awareness. Their accomplishments are noteworthy and provide models for others who wish to expand advocacy efforts. Although librarians were eligible for the Honor Roll, states were encouraged to include advocates outside the profession as well. Both individuals and groups were eligible.

Using the same process in 2000 and 2005, the National Advocacy Honor Roll Committee asked that the director of each state library and the president of each state's library organization work together to select the honorees. Mississippi National Advocacy Honor Roll 2005 honorees are Dancing Rabbit Library Consortium, Richard O. Greene, and Josie D. Roberts.

The Dancing Rabbit Library Consortium (DRLC) includes twelve public library systems, three community college libraries, one public school library, and two university libraries in sixteen counties. The DRLC mission is to make library resources available to all area residents through a reciprocal borrowing card.

Richard O. Greene directs the Mid-Mississippi Regional Library System serving five counties with thirteen branches. He spearheaded a statewide effort to obtain state-funded health insurance for public library employees.

Josie D. Roberts, Purvis Elementary School Librarian, worked closely with former Senator Jim Bean, to secure the passage of historic legislation to require certified school librarians in every school. This year she helped lead a statewide effort with the Mississippi Legislature to ensure that school standards continue to require school librarians.

HURRICANE KATRINA – PARTNERSHIP IN CARING ANNOUNCED

In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, Ocean County Library (OCL) in New Jersey and Hancock County Library (HCL) in Mississippi have formed an extraordinary partnership.

According to OCL Director, Elaine McConnell, this staff-driven initiative will lend support to Hancock County Library and staff while building lasting relationships between both communities. HCL Director, Prima Plauché, sees the partnership as "an overwhelming act of kindness and support for our library system and to staff members."

Hancock County and Ocean County are coastal communities, both relying heavily on tourism. The libraries are true focal points of the respective communities with strong public service reputations. But when Hurricane Katrina passed directly over Hancock County, entire areas, including the towns of Bay St. Louis, Pearlington, Kiln, and Waveland, where the library system's branches are located were devastated and thousands were left homeless.

"The library's collection of more than 100,000 books, all audio and video materials, computers and furniture have suffered a high loss. In addition, all four library buildings were severely damaged," Plauché said. "Most of our staff has lost everything."

"But in true commitment to service, we are coming to work, helping the National Guard and FEMA, and providing assistance to all county residents," she said.

This is a long term commitment which will provide a multitude of opportunities for everyone at Ocean County Library to participate, McConnell said. "There are so many little ways that we can make a big difference in the futures of the Hancock County Library, the staff and the entire community."

OCL Assistant Director, Mary Ellen Pellington, is a former Mississippi State Librarian. "Through this partnership of hope and helping, the catastrophic devastation of Hurricane Katrina will have a face, but will also have many hands and hearts working together for a brighter tomorrow, building friendships in the process," Pellington said.

Michael Ballard and Tom Cockrell

RED CLAY READERS BOOK CLUB SPONSORS BOOK SIGNING

On October 18, 2005, book lovers in the North Mississippi area attended a "Meet the Authors and Book Signing" sponsored by the local Red Clay Readers Book Club and hosted by Blue Mountain College (BMC). The club featured the newest book by Thomas Cockrell and Michael Ballard. Cockrell, BMC professor and author, co-edited *Chickasaw, A Mississippi Scout for the Union, The Civil War Memoir of Levi H. Naron* with long-time friend and collaborator Michael Ballard of Mississippi State University. Published by Louisiana State University Press, Naron's memoir recounts a story of espionage, clandestine spying, and convictions of a pro-Union southerner trapped inside the Confederacy.

About Books

Ramsey, Dave. *Battle of the Chores, Junior Discovers Debt*; Marshall Ramsey (illustrator), Brentwood, TN: Lampo Press, 2005. 32 pp. $9.99 (hardcover)

Author Dave Ramsey depicts how it is not a good idea to lend money to family. Furthermore, he exemplifies the consequences of doing so, on both the part of the lender and the borrower. Junior, the borrower, and his sister, the lender, try and work out a family deal. Junior's sister wants Junior to reimburse her for his loan by doing her chores for one week. Of course, this means that Junior would have to do his chores and his sister's chores in this same week. Junior soon discovers he has to work double to pay off his debt. Junior didn't even get to enjoy his reward until the following week. This teaches him that if he could just save up until next week, he would get to enjoy his reward and not have to work so hard to pay off his debt.

Marshall Ramsey's illustrations are brilliant from the cover to the very end. The myriad of emotions expressed through these illustrations conjure the true thoughts and feelings of the characters, including sadness, happiness, and exhaustion.

This book is a great motivational tool to encourage children to learn the principles of Dave Ramsey's financial plan for a debt free life. *Battle of the Chores, Junior Discovers Debt* is an excellent book for children, ages six to eight, who will truly appreciate the lesson and importance of a financial plan. Additionally, this book is recommended for all Mississippi libraries with children's collections.

Alicia Jenkins
Reference Librarian
Mississippi Library Commission

Barr, Nevada. *Hard Truth,* New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons, 2005. 324 pp. $24.95 (hardcover)

Heath Jarrod, a recently paralyzed and wheelchair-bound mountain climber, finds more than a peaceful vacation with her aunt, Dr. Gwen Littleton. She and her dog, Wiley, accidentally discover two of three missing girls, alive and frightened, near her RV campsite. Jarrod, tough and resentful from her new condition, finds herself resisting the help of Anna Pigeon, the new park ranger, during the initial investigation in which Jarrod becomes "protector" of one of the girls, Beth. Both Beth and her friend Alexis have reverted to a state of infancy following an unknown trauma of the past month and Jarrod instinctively moves to buffet any questions perceived as aggressive. Though their third companion, Candace, is still missing, neither Beth nor Alexis are able to provide any answers.

Anna Pigeon, newly married to her Mississippi sheriff husband, Paul Davidson, three days earlier, has been assigned a post as the district ranger at Rocky Mountain National Park, Colorado. While investigating the reappearance of the two girls and the absence of the third, Anna discovers a level of terror and control within not only the community the girls live in, but also within the park itself.

Heath responds to the growing attachment to Beth, whom she calls "the limpet." Her attachment and interest lead to a terrorizing night under her RV with only Wiley as an injured protector. Someone wants her to leave and they are willing to harm her to achieve this goal. Who terrorized her that night? Is it the community that Beth lives in or something else unknown and more sinister?

Heath Jarrod and Anna Pigeon form an alliance as they investigate the separate facets of the problem, while also sharing the discoveries of unraveling pieces of this frightening puzzle. While their individual investigations lead them in different directions, their paths cross in the final moments, where life and death are a certainty and instant choices are made for survival.

Hard Truth by Nevada Barr brings a new character into Anna Pigeon's life, one that adds a new level of interest for the readers. Heath Jarrod made a choice during a climb which nearly caused her death as it took away her mobile freedom. Through her new experiences helping Beth and working with Anna, Jarrod realizes that though paralyzed, she does not have to be helpless. The friendship she and Anna form as co-investigators holds promises of a friendship with future adventures.

In *Hard Truth,* Barr brings a new depth of suspense to her work. With heart-pounding intensity she moves the reader into the deranged mind of a terrorizing killer as the often gruesome, evil events move toward a highly climatic finale.

As it is well-written with excellent characterizations and plot, this book is recommended for all Mississippi libraries with a suspenseful mystery patronage.

Donna Phelps Fite
Purvis Branch Manager
Lamar County Library System

Fried Lettuce, Leadership Mississippi, Class 2005. *Mississippi Meltdown: Traditional Recipes for a Healthier You!* Oxford: Leadership Mississippi, 2005. [277 pp., illustrated]. Price not available (Soft cover, spiral binding)

Mississippi Meltdown: Traditional Recipes for a Healthier You! was created and produced by the Leadership Mississippi Program through the Mississippi Economic Council. This book provides traditional Mississippi recipes modified for healthier consumption. Mississippi leads the nation in heart disease-related deaths as well as diabetes and its adults rank first in obesity prevalence while its youth,

grades 9-12, run a 16% risk of becoming overweight. One of five teams formed within the Leadership Mississippi class of 2005, Fried Lettuce decided to attack these health issues head on.

These young Mississippi leaders chose to seek healthier eating alternatives for their home state cooks and traditional diners. After requesting the favorite traditional Mississippi recipes of several prominent Mississippians, the members of the team Fried Lettuce developed a cookbook by modifying these same recipes into healthier dishes, while still preserving the traditional tastes.

Edited by Chef Valerie Morris, *Meltdown: Traditional Recipes for a Healthier You!* fills each page with tempting, delicious dishes that include breakfast items, appetizers, soups, salads, vegetables, entrees for beef, pork, poultry, and seafood, and desserts. As an added bonus, health information follows each recipe with not only caloric, fat, and cholesterol intake but also diabetic exchanges.

Mississippi Meltdown: Traditional Recipes for a Healthier You! is recommended as a welcome addition to Mississippi libraries with an interest in recipes, cooking, and healthier lifestyles. To obtain a copy of this book, contact Leadership Mississippi, Post Office Drawer 707, Oxford, MS 38655, or call 662-234-8775.

Donna Phelps Fite
Purvis Branch Manager
Lamar County Library System

Evans, Mary Anna. *Relics*. Scottsdale, AZ: Poisoned Pen Press, 2005. [296 pp., map]. $24.95 (hardcover)

Relics is a well-written who-done-it set in an isolated, rural community in the hills of East Alabama. The book's main character, Faye Longchamp, has returned to graduate school to pursue her dream of becoming an archaeologist when she is asked to join the NIH (National Institutes of Health)-funded Sujosa Genetic History and Rural Assistance Project. The Sujosa are a dark-skinned, poor people with Caucasian features and many secrets. Their origin is unknown, and no one is particularly interested in them until a local doctor discovers "their inherited ability to fend off disease" [p. 4] – namely AIDS. The NIH, under the guise of providing assistance to the Sujosa, puts together a team of scientist to learn why they are genetically incapable of contracting the disease. As chief archaeologist, Faye Longchamp is assigned the task of digging up the Sujosa's past.

When a member of the team dies in a house fire and a young boy commits suicide, Faye begins to suspect foul play – the Sujosa people clearly resent this intrusion from the outside world. There is no simple plot here. Mary Anna Evans has cleverly blended history, science, and mystery to create an enjoyable and convincing read.

Mary Anna Evans is a native of the Oak Grove Community near Hattiesburg, Mississippi. She currently resides in Florida with her husband and three children. Her debut novel, *Artifacts,* is the first in the Faye Longchamp archaeological mystery series. It has won the following awards: the Benjamin Franklin Award for excellence in mystery and suspense, the Patrick D. Smith Florida Literature Award – Florida Historical Society. Although *Artifacts* is considered an adult novel, VOYA (Voice of Young America) recognized it as having "young adult appeal." *Relics* is a sequel to *Artifacts* – and highly recommended.

Alisa S. St. Amant
Oak Grove Branch Manager
Lamar County Library System

People in the News

MILLSAPS COLLEGE LIBRARY

Molly Signs McManus is now the Coordinator of Public Services and Systems Librarian overseeing reference, circulation, AV equipment, and interlibrary loan, as well as managing the Library's Sirsi system. Before coming to Millsaps in 2001 as Systems Librarian, McManus worked at the Gates Foundation and the Seattle Public Library. She is currently the MLA webmaster and is active in MLA and the Mississippi Sirsi Users Group.

Allison Mays is now the Coordinator of Acquisitions and Cataloging and oversees acquisitions, journals, cataloging, and gifts. Mays came to Millsaps as Acquisitions Librarian in 1999 from the Ohio State University Law Library and had previously worked at the Memphis-Shelby County Library. She has served as MLA Secretary, Chairperson of the MLA Author Awards Committee, and is active in NASIG and the Mississippi Sirsi Users Group.

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UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI

Margaret Tate has been hired as a Senior Library Assistant for Government Information Services/Media. Tate has a Masters of Fine Arts and a Bachelor of Fine Arts from the Art Institute of Chicago. She has held teaching positions and has worked as a circulation assistant at the Ryerson and Burnham Libraries.

Leigh McWhite is now the Curator for Political Archives. McWhite has been the interim coordinator for the political archives this past year. She has a PhD in history from the University of Mississippi.

Committee Appointments

Susan Cassagne
President
Mississippi Library Association

During the October 26, 2005 Executive Board it was decided that there was a need for continuity in our association during this time of upheaval. Upon the recommendation of a former president and attorney approval, a motion was made and seconded to have the elected officers continue on in their present position for another year. There was some discussion on the subject, but the Board voted and approved the recommendation. I think that each of us, individually, was looking forward to moving into the next position, but most agreed that at this time of uncertainty, leaving the "status quo" was the best option for the Association. I do hope that the membership approves this decision.

We also determined that Sections and Roundtables may be governed by their own by-laws regarding their officers. The MLA web site, http://www.misslib.org, now includes the respective members of each. You may go to http://www.misslib.org/org/main.php and click on the Roundtables and Sections links and then go to each particular one to view the members. Sections and roundtables may choose to keep their current officers for the coming year or continue their rotation of officers.

With the exception of the Mississippi Authors' Awards Committee, the current committee appointments will remain as is. The members of the Mississippi Authors' Awards Committee serve a two-year term. That committee had already selected the award winners and had notified the recipients. They will be recognized at the 2006 MLA Conference. Under normal circumstances, the second-year members of the Mississippi Authors' Awards Committee rotate off and the first-year members move up. Therefore, first year members will need to be appointed. Please let me know if you are interested in being a member of this committee or if you are a second-year member and wish to remain. If you had already sent in a committee preference form to Catherine Nathan requesting a change, I will be in touch.

Please remember the MLA web site contains a great deal of information about the organization. The answer to almost any question you may have about the organization can be found there. Please refer to the Handbook if you have a question about the sections, roundtables or committees. If you are not a current MLA member, it is not too late to join. The membership form can be found on the MLA web site.

The 2006 Conference will be held in Tunica and the 2007 Conference will be held in Vicksburg. Thank you for your continued support of our association.

Have an article or theme issue idea for *Mississippi Libraries*? Contact us!

E-mail story suggestions and comments to editor Elizabeth Stephan at estephan@olemiss.edu

Get involved in MLA by joining a committee!

Mississippi Library Association

2006 Committee Preference Form

Active participation by the membership is critical to the success of our Association.

Name _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Library _____ Position _____

Work Phone _____ Home Phone _____

Email Address _____

Section: ❑ ACRL ❑ Public ❑ School ❑ Special ❑ Trustee ❑ Friend

2006 MLA COMMITTEES

Current membership in MLA is required for committee assignments. Please rank, in order of preference, the committee(s) on which you would like to serve. Indicate whether you have previous experience. Please use the back to explain your experience and what you would bring to the committee. Committees are defined in the MLA Handbook, Chapter Four, at http://www.misslib.org. Additional information may be added to the back of this sheet, or on an attached sheet.

RANK	Committee	Experience/Expertise	RANK	Committee	Experience/Expertise
	Archives & History			Intellectual Freedom	
	MLA Awards			Legislative	
	Mississippi Author Awards			Constitution Bylaws & Organizational Review	
	Membership			Handbook	
	Continuing Education			Long Range Planning	
	Copyright Review			National Library Week	
	Nominating			Conservation	
	Election			Publications	
	Information Literacy			Publicity	
	Fiscal Management			Scholarship	
	Internal Audit			Web Page	
	Insurance				

MLA ANNUAL CONFERENCE COMMITTEES

The MLA annual conference will be held in October 2006, in Tunica. Catherine Nathan, 2005 Vice President/President elect, will coordinate the conference. If you are interested in serving on a conference committee in addition to, or instead of, the above MLA Committees, please indicate your preference.

RANK	Committee	Experience/Expertise	RANK	Committee	Experience/Expertise
	Local Arrangements			Poster Sessions	
	Registration			Exhibits	
	Hospitality			General Volunteer	

Return completed form to: Catherine Nathan, First Regional Library System, 370 West Commerce Street, Hernando, MS 38632, or fax to 662.429.8853, or email cnathan@first.lib.ms.us.

MLA Executive Board Minutes

AUGUST 19, 2005

Board members attending:
Susan Cassagne, *President*
Catherine Nathan, *Vice President/President-elect*
Carol Green, *Treasurer*
Helen J. Flanders, *Past President*

Others in attendance:
Mary Julia Anderson, *MLA Executive Secretary*
Jennifer Smith, *Public Libraries Section/Local Arrangements Co-Chair*
Jana Breeden, *ACRL/SCRT/Archives & History Committee*
Randy Sherard, *Trustees Section*
Marsha Case, *Hospitality Committee*
Carol Phares, *YPSRT*
Billy Beal, *BCRT*
Jeff Slagell, *MLA Vice President/President-elect*
Margaret Jane Stauble, *Author Awards Committee*
Robert Lipscomb, *ALA Councilor*
Kathy Buntin, *Local Arrangements Committee*
Deb Mitchell, *Local Arrangements Co-Chair*

Susan Cassagne, President called the meeting to order in the Meeting Room of the Warren County – Vicksburg Public Library. The agenda was presented and a quorum was declared.

OFFICER AND STAFF REPORTS
President Cassagne asked voting members of the Board if they had received the March 18, 2005 minutes. Everyone agreed that they had received the minutes. A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

A. Treasurer – Treasurer Carol Green reported on MLA income, including membership income and conference exhibit income. A copy of her report was distributed to the Board. It was noted that the income from exhibits was running behind from last year. There was a motion and a second to accept the report as presented. Motion passed.

B. President – Susan Cassagne gave a brief report on the National Legislative Day trip to Washington, D.C. in early May. She noted that the delegation visited each of the Mississippi congressional offices. She also reported on her trip to ALA in Chicago.

C. Past President – Juanita Flanders said she had enjoyed attending the ALA Conference in Chicago. She also mentioned that she had recently made a SACS site visit and learned a lot about accreditation.

D. Vice President – Catherine Nathan gave an update on the MLA Conference planned for Vicksburg in October. She thanked Jennifer Smith and Deb Mitchell for doing the local arrangements for the annual meeting. She talked about the plans for Scholarship Bash that would kick-off the conference and gave the highlights for the meeting. Catherine indicated that there were twenty vendors signed up so far. She also announced that Tunica would be the site for 2006.

E. ALA Councilor – Bob Lipscomb gave a brief ALA update.

F. Executive Secretary – Mary Julia Anderson reported that the association currently has 565 members. She also reported that she and President Cassagne had toured the new Mississippi Library Commission building to get a look at the new MLA office. The space was fine. The move in anticipated for early November.

SECTION REPORTS

A. ACRL – Jana Breeden gave highlights of the ACRL conference program. Barton Spencer will present a program on marketing libraries. She also reported that they had a few problems with election procedures because their by-laws were not being followed. The section plans to meet at conference to discuss the election process in the by-laws and possibly make changes.

B. Public – Jennifer Smith reported on the conference program featuring Charlaine Harris. She also indicated that there would be a business session for the section.

C. School – Bettie Cox sent a written report that was distributed by President Cassagne. She noted in her report that the AASL submitted by the section was currently being reviewed and they hope to get a response very soon.

D. Trustee – Randy Sherard asked the group if there should be an effort made to contact trustees about the conference. He will work with Mary Julia Anderson to contact the trustees. There was a discussion about how to attract more trustees to the annual conference.

E. Special – Clara Joorfetz could not be present to report, so Jana Breeden reported on the conference program for this section.

ROUNDTABLE AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Black Caucus – Billy Beal reported that W. Paul Coates with Black Classics Press would be the speaker at their conference lunch. Billy also requested that income for the Black Caucus be divided into several categories, including membership, conference income, and scholarship donations. He also expressed the need for roundtables to have e-mail lists established.

B. ANRT – A written report was submitted by the roundtable. Stephen Cunetto will present a conference program on federated searching.

C. YPSRT – Carol Phares reported that the roundtable planned to swap ideas on teen programming at conference. She also gave an overview of their conference activities.

D. SCRT – A written report was submitted by Jennifer Brannock.

E. Election Committee – The Election Committee gave their report of the election and requested that the board ratify the election results. Election ratified.

F. Internal Audit Committee – Deb Mitchell reported on behalf of the Internal Audit Committee. A written report was submitted to the board.

G. Mississippi Author Awards Committee – Jane Stauble reported on the winners of the awards. These were Charlaine Harris, fiction; Gayden Metcalfe and Charlotte Hays, non fiction; Harris Barnes, special.

H. Hospitality/Public Relations Committees – Marsha Case reported that the Public Relations Awards would be presented at conference. She also reported on the plans for the hospitality booth at conference. There was a discussion about how to encourage more members to visit our vendor booths.

I. Poster Sessions – Jeff Slagell reported that he had received 12 abstracts for poster sessions. He said there would be special call for student poster sessions.

NEW BUSINESS
There was some discussion about the need to get started on selecting a site for the 2007 conference. Suggestions were made to return to Hattiesburg or Natchez. It was noted that Meridian was building a new convention center and might be ready by 2008.

ANNOUNCEMENTS
The date of the next MLA Board Meeting will be Wednesday, October 26, 2005 at the Vicksburg Convention Center.

ADJOURNMENT
There being no further business by the Board, a motion was made, seconded and unanimously passed to adjourn. All in attendance then attended a Dutch treat lunch at The Tree House Café.

Minutes taken by Deb Mitchell

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Milner, Secretary

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