

AISSISSIPPI LIBRARIES

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Mississippi Library Association

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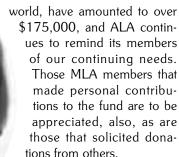
For additional information and a list of committees and roundtables, see the Mississippi Library Association's Web site at http://www.misslib.org/.

PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Thank you for your cooperation and support during the past two years. MLA is a wonderful organization because vou make it so. The circumstances that resulted in the 2005 Executive Board members, and Section, Roundtable and Committee Chairs remaining in office for another year were unprecedented. My sincere gratitude goes to each of you for agreeing to remain in your same position for another vear.

Our state has endured an unprecedented disaster. I am certain that each of us who was not directly affected by Hurricane Katrina knows someone who was. And while recovery may take years, the worthiness of our profession has never been so appreciated. In the frightening days immediately after Katrina ravaged the Louisiana and Mississippi Gulf Coast and damaged other parts of our state, evacuees from areas affected by Katrina began to arrive. It would come as no surprise to us that some of the first places these evacuees went were to public libraries. Whether needing information on missing loved ones, frantically trying to reach and communicate with friends and families around the world, needing to see pictures of the damage to their homes, or simply seeking assistance from any and every source available, they came to libraries their one source for information.

After canceling the MLA conference last year, many vendors and exhibitors made donations to the Rebuild Mississippi Libraries Fund. They, too, are to be thanked. The Rebuild Mississippi Libraries fund has distributed over \$226,000 to libraries in the coastal counties, with plans to distribute nearly \$100,000 more. The American Library Association's donations, made up of contributions from librarians around the



We entered this MLA year with a great deal of uncertainty. Katrina-affected libraries' budgets made recurring memberships and confer-

ence attendance questionable. Conference registration numbers and attendance were much higher than we had hoped. The conference was wonderful and we should all be appreciative of the efforts of Catherine Nathan and her Conference Committee members for their dedication to our organization. MLA is ending another year positively, with a successful annual conference and both new and continuing memberships.

While most of us have full-time jobs, those that volunteer to serve and take that extra step by becoming an officer, chair, or committee member are to be more than just appreciated, they are to be commended. This volunteer effort results in great rewards. Make no mistake - a commitment of time is required. But, the payback is tremendous. In my three years serving MLA, one as Vice President and two as President. I have met and worked with so many wonderful people - people I might never have crossed paths with under other circumstances. I hope I have made lasting friendships. Serving as your MLA President has truly been a magnificent experience - one that I would not trade for anything. Thank you, again, for this opportunity. I am looking forward to another successful year, working with our new President, Catherine Nathan, and our new Vice President/President-elect, Jeff Slagell. ■



Susan Cassagne

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The cover of the winter Mississippi Libraries is Daybreak Cow by Lyn Kartegainer.



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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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*.

The Mystery of Archives and Special Collections

Elizabeth Stephan Editor, Mississippi Libraries Business Reference Librarian J. D. Williams Library The University of Mississippi

I went to library school to become an archivist. Prior to applying to library school I had done some research on careers and an archivist fit everything I was looking for. While I was in school I never intended to become a librarian; I was going to be an archivist. I did several practicums, I took extra courses. I did everything I was supposed to, but when it came to finding a job I was out of luck. All of my coursework was in archives but all of my working experience was in a library – a business library, at that. So here I am now, a business librarian.

What I found while I was in school was that not all librarians (or libraries) knew what happened in an archives. Much of the theory was the same, but the handling of information was different. Items in an archives are cataloged at the collection level, not the item level. Archivists weed collections. In past classes this lead to discussions of censorship – was an archivist practicing a form of censorship by weeding a collection?

In this issue we wanted to give some archives and special collections their due. We are looking at three different types of institutions: archives, special collections, and special libraries. While a special library doesn't fit with the definition of an archives, special collections, or even a rare book collection, we still felt it would be an interesting topic to explore.

In her article "The Democratization of Special Collections," Peggy Price, Head of Special Collections at the University of Southern Mississippi, discusses what an archives is and how it operates. Additionally, she discusses access. In the past, items in an archives could only be accessed on site, but with advances in

technology, more collections are accessible via the Internet.

In 2004 the Mississippi Department of Archives and History (MDAH) and Tugaloo College collaborated to preserve and provide access to several different civil rights collections including The Tougaloo Nine Collection, the Gladys Noel Bates Papers, and the L.C. Dorsey Papers. In her article "A Civil Rights Collection Is Preserved," Jane Phillips, Head of the Published Information Section of the Archives and Library Division of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, outlines the evolution of this collaboration and discusses the highlights of each collection.

Different archives will collect and preserve different items. Shugana Campbell, Visual Curator in Archives and Special Collections at J. D. Williams Library at the University of Mississippi, works primarily with visual materials such as photographs and film. In her article, "Identifying Moving Picture Films," Shugana discusses the different types of film, including 35mm, 16mm, Regular 8, and Super 8. Campbell lists the identifying features of each type and includes a glossary of film terms.

In her article, "The Museum Library at the Mississippi Museum of Natural Science," Jennifer Wann, a student in the SLIS program at USM, looks at the structure and make up of the Mississippi Museum of Natural Science, including its history, patronage, collection, budget, services and administration.

The winter issue also features coverage of the Mississippi Library Association Annual Conference in Tunica. David Brown from First Regional Library shares highlights and pictures from the conference. MLA was a chance for me to put faces with the names of those who have written for *Mississippi Libraries*.

The topic for the spring 2007 issue will be technology and libraries. How has technology helped (or hindered) you and

your library? What new systems have been implemented or designed, and did they work? The deadline for submissions is February 2, 2007. Other topics for upcoming issues include, collaboration (summer) and grants and grant writing (fall). Any suggestions or comments should be sent to me at estephan@olemss.edu or assistant editor, Lauren Young, myoung@rowland.umsmed.edu.

Corrections

In the story, Hurricane Katrina: One Year Later, the wrong photograph was run under the Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College – Jackson County section. The correct photograph follows:



The replacement and relocation of the bookshelves enabled the library to change its layout, affording a larger student study area upstairs. Photo by Elizabeth Minter.

In People in the News, Brooke Roberts' picture was omitted. Brooke was awarded the 2006 Peggy May Scholarship.



We apologize for any inconvenience these errors may have caused. ■

The Democratization of Special Collections

Peggy M. Price Head, Special Collections McCain Library & Archives The University of Southern Mississippi

Abstract

Peggy Price discusses how an archives operates and what makes up both an archives and special collections. Special collections librarians and archivists strive to find the balance between protected and accessible collections. Price discusses how technology has allowed more people to easily access collections, including the collections at the University of Southern Mississippi.

"The particular genius of North American librarianship has been to develop a library network whose essential value is democratization of access to sources of information, knowledge, and entertainment. Librarians in American special collections by and large share this value."

 World Encyclopedia of Library and Information Services

In the beginning, we had *rare books* and *manuscripts*. Curators collected important printed books and pre-printing press texts known as manuscripts. Incunabula, or the books printed in the

first decades of the printing press, were especially desirable. Often, private collectors donated rare editions to libraries. Rare book librarians carefully handled each volume, understood the nuances of the bindings, collations, and inscriptions, and built reputations for appearing to secretly hope that no patron would arrive and request to do something as preposterous as read the work. Rare book rooms impressed donors and added a certain intellectual mystique to increasingly bland and functional libraries, but they were intimidating and inconvenient.

Archival repositories evolved from the tradition of collecting and preserving the documents created in the life of governments, organizations, institutions, businesses, and individuals. Incidentally, the notion itself is a democratic one in that the records of a government are preserved and made available for review by its citizens. A different use of the word manuscripts now defines collections of historical documents. We generally refer to historical manuscript collections as papers which are sorted and processed in an archival setting according to established standards. American archivists are less famous than rare book librarians for not wanting folks to get their hands on their goods, but there are still quite a few hoops to jump through, all in the name of preservation.

Since we need to preserve these rare and unique items – keep in mind that a

letter written by Gustave Flaubert or Theodore Roosevelt or Terry Jones is the only one of its kind - we must separate such items from the general collection and place them in a secure environment where both the climate and use are carefully monitored and controlled. We certainly want our researchers to use the materials but we want researchers in a hundred years to be able to use them too. Over time, an assortment of materials that require such a setting (think maps, posters, original art, and even artifacts) have found their way to special collections. The term special collections, which at one time referred only to special subject collections, now commonly describes the gathering of a library's archival, rare, unique, ageing, and fragile materials.

Democratizing Access

The first thing we do is whisk the books and manuscripts away to another floor or another library or several other libraries and make the materials very complicated to use. We force patrons to sit in reading rooms instead of coffee shops or comfy couches at homes and apartments. We ask them to separate themselves from their backpacks and purses. We make them use pencil. None of this is popular. We nod. We know. After all, we went to graduate school once, maybe a couple of times.

Because of the separation, rules and regulations, and general intimidation factor related to using these seemingly sacred materials, rare books and manuscripts collections developed a reputation as an elitist effort with only the privileged few allowed access. The Huntington Library still requires a letter of recommendation, for example, and there are stories of armed guards monitoring the use of a Gutenberg Bible. By democratizing access to special collections we attempt to retain the deserved venerability of the materials yet allow a wide range of users to learn about and come in contact with the collections.



This photo from a brochure for the McCain Library & Archives shows some of the items one might find in an archives, special collections, or rare book collection.

We do this with:

- Descriptive finding aids and guides
- Bibliographic records for the online catalog
- Detailed instruction sessions
- Smiles
- Partnerships with teaching faculty
- Exhibitions
- Public programs
- Humorous references to Fort Knox
- Publications
- Digital surrogates
- Central location
- Demonstrations of fore-edge painting on text blocks

While limiting access to materials in ways that might be unfamiliar to many patrons, the lengths we go to in order to counterbalance this sometimes negative perception demonstrates the great value and necessity of such items and the true desire of librarians to share the knowledge and research potential with the larger population.

Technology revolutionized access to Special Collections at Southern Miss. Twelve-year-olds in New Hampshire may use USM's civil rights materials or browse the Missisippiana vertical file listing, should they have a reason. Maybe a researcher in Chicago needs to know how many editions of Cinderella we have. Visitors to the Special Collections Web site may also conduct research with primary source documents via the digital archive. The Mississippi Digital Library (MDL), a consortium of several institutions of higher learning and the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, will allow users to search primary sources across participating institutions' collections. Currently, the MDL contains civil rights materials and finding aids, but plans for growth include a variety of subjects. All of these online efforts are part of the

democratization process and encourage the use of the collections in person. Once online patrons become familiar with the types of books and documents they may expect to find in a special collections repository, the "scariness" of a visit to the reading room may fade away entirely.

Another method to promote the collections and disseminate knowledge is through class- or subject-specific instruction. At the McCain Library & Archives, we've partnered with faculty members from history, English, anthropology, art, library science, and other departments to create actual, physical, dynamic interactions with rare books, facsimiles and historical documents. Teaching with primary source materials is a growing trend and one that special collections librarians should eagerly pursue. Book history is another field gaining popularity and special collections create the perfect environment for instruction in this arena.

Democratizing Collections

The rise of cultural studies and social history in the latter part of the twentieth century necessarily altered the types of materials in which researchers were interested. Being good special collections types, we responded to the needs of our user group by shifting our perspective and reaching out to different communities for material. Women's studies exploded in the eighties, for instance, bringing attention to such primary sources as diaries and not-so-rare printed matter like cookbooks and popular magazines. This change in attitude toward what might be indeed "special" or worth preserving for posterity is an influential aspect of the democratization of special collections.

Former USM Archivist Bobs Tusa developed the Civil Rights Collection by recognizing the great value the photographs, newsletters, correspondence and other materials would be to those exploring twentieth-century U.S. history and culture. Papers were not donated

from famous writers, entertainers or other notable individuals, but by members of a society who, for longer than we would like to think, were not permitted to use the facilities in which the documents are now stored. These documents are important and compelling and powerful. The foresight and keen awareness of one special collections professional, coupled with the generous contributions from the civil rights movement participants, blossomed into one of the finest examples of democratization I've seen.

Book history is another research trend which alters the types of materials collected and the ways in which those materials are used. Years back, rare book librarians would not consider romance novels or science fiction as viable subjects for collection policies, until researchers began appreciating the historical components of such publications and the cultural implications of everything from dust-jacket covers to typography. As digital technology transforms texts into zeros and ones, the book, and all printing for that matter, as artifact becomes increasingly important. Special collections librarians are nabbing 'zines, graphic novels, restaurant menus, telephone books, brochures, and flyers.

Once materials such as those described above hit the radar as valuable and worthy of preservation, smaller institutions with shoe-string budgets can get into the special collections game with the biggest, greenest, most admired libraries in the world. Simply put, even the most modest of libraries might easily collect community cookbooks and solicit donations of papers from local entities. Create a Web site, convert the finding aids to HTML, and the materials instantly become available to the greater scholarly community. Because of proactive participation in advancing the democratization of special collections, we have made our materials more relevant to our institutions and our patrons.

A Civil Rights Collection Is Preserved

Jane Phillips
Director, Published Information Section
Archives and Library Division
Mississippi Department
of Archives and History

Abstract

Collaboration between Tougaloo College and the Mississippi Department of Archives and History has ensured the preservation of Mississippi civil rights memorabilia. Jane Phillips, director of the MDAH discusses the nature of the collaboration and describes several of the collections, including the Tougaloo Nine Collection, Gladys Noel Bates Papers, and the L.C. Dorsey Papers.

Clarence Hunter is passionate about preserving Mississippi history. As Tougaloo Archivist at the Mississippi Department of Archives and History (MDAH), he's in charge of a project to reprocess and preserve the Tougaloo Civil Rights Collection, a large collection of personal papers, oral histories, photographs, and other memorabilia of the Civil Rights Movement in Mississippi.



William Winter, president, Mississippi Department of Archives and History Board of Trustees, and Beverly Hogan, president, Tougaloo College, signing papers in 2004 for the transfer of the Tougaloo Civil Rights Collection to MDAH. Photo by Chris Goodwin, MDAH

Through an innovative collaborative agreement, Tougaloo College has placed its Civil Rights Collection at MDAH on long-term loan for cataloging, reprocessing, and conservation. The collection is currently housed in MDAH's new archival facility in downtown Jackson, Mississippi, where it is being reprocessed and made

available to researchers from all over the world.

This extraordinary and varied group of materials had its beginnings at Tougaloo College in the 1960s and 1970s, when librarian and activist Virgia Brocks-Shedd began encouraging civil rights leaders to donate their personal papers and memorabilia to Tougaloo College. Brocks-Shedd, who had established a personal relationship with such well-known activists as Fannie Lou Hamer, was instrumental in acquiring the papers of such leaders as Aaron Henry, Rims Barber, Gladys Bates, Robert G. Clark, and James J. Loewen. According to Hunter, "Tougaloo College was pivotal to all changes that were being made in the state, and this in turn affected national events. Virgia Brocks-Shedd had the foresight to realize that nearly all events in the Civil Rights Movement in Mississippi will lead back to Tougaloo College."

The collection was maintained at Tougaloo College through a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. Brocks-Shedd was Director of Library Services at Tougaloo from 1985-1991, and her papers are now included in the Tougaloo Collection.

Tougaloo College was founded in 1869 by the American Missionary Association and has a long and distinguished tradition of higher education accessible to all persons regardless of race or creed. The college worked closely with MDAH for many years to preserve the collection. In 2003, recently appointed college president Beverly Hogan and H.T. Holmes, director of the MDAH Archives and Library Division, agreed that the collection was deteriorating. Hogan and Holmes developed a collaborative agreement for presentation to their respective boards of trustees. The agreement, approved by both boards, provided for placement of the collection on long-term loan at MDAH. The agreement was signed in 2004, and Hunter was hired as curator. According to Holmes, now director of MDAH, "I am pleased that Tougaloo College and this Department are deepening the cooperative relationship we have had for many

years. This partnership will provide for the continued preservation of these valuable collections that document the major movement of modern times and the lead role that Tougaloo College played in that movement."

Overall, the Tougaloo Civil Rights Collection comprises approximately seven hundred cubic feet and is now made up of thirty-nine discrete collections. To date, twelve of the collections have been reprocessed and are open for research. A few of these will be described here, and more information can be found in the MDAH online catalog at www.mdah.state.ms.us.



Dr. Abdul Turay, Vice President for Academic Affairs, Tougaloo; Clarence Hunter, MDAH archivist and former Tougaloo College archivist; Bruce O'Hara, art history professor at Tougaloo College and designer of "Celebrating the Tougaloo Nine" exhibit in 2006 at the Eudora Welty Library in Jackson. The exhibit used images from the Tougaloo Civil Rights Collection. Photo by Chrissy Wilson, MDAH.

The Tougaloo Nine Collection, 1960-1991

The Tougaloo Nine Collection contains correspondence, legal documents, legislation, pamphlets, and news clippings relating to the Tougaloo Nine library sit-in and other Mississippi civil rights demonstrations and protests, especially during the early 1960s. The collection was assembled by the Tougaloo College Archives.

The Tougaloo Nine were a group of students who attended Tougaloo (then known as Tougaloo Southern Christian College) during the early 1960s. The members of the group were Ethel Sawyer (Adolphe), Meredith Coleman Anding, Jr., James Cleo Bradford, Alfred Lee Cook, Jeraldine Edwards (Hollis), Joseph Jackson, Jr., Albert Earl Lassiter, Evelyn

Pierce, and Janice L. Jackson (Vails). On March 27, 1961, they staged the first sitin at the Municipal Library on State Street in Jackson. The municipal library system was segregated, and certain branches were off-limits to African Americans. When officials asked the students to leave, they refused to obey and were arrested and jailed for thirty-two hours. They were tried in municipal court and found guilty of disturbing the peace. They were each given a thirty-day suspended sentence and ordered to pay a fine of one hundred dollars.

The library sit-in was followed by other civil rights demonstrations in Jackson, including sit-ins at the Mississippi State Fair, businesses on Capitol Street, and the Capitol Street Methodist Church. The collection includes items such as photographs of sit-in participants, an NAACP leaflet condemning police actions at the trial of the Tougaloo Nine, and materials relating to a Tougaloo Nine reunion in 1991. (Tougaloo Nine)

Images of items from the collection were recently used in an exhibit at the Eudora Welty Branch of the Jackson-Hinds Library System in Jackson. The exhibit, entitled "The Jackson Movement and the Tougaloo Nine," was part of a citywide series of events, *Remembering the Jackson Movement*. The series was sponsored by The Fannie Lou Hamer National Institute on Citizenship and Democracy, Jackson State University, Tougaloo College, MDAH, Veterans of the Mississippi Civil Rights Movement, and the Mississippi Humanities Council.

Gladys Noel Bates Papers, 1947-1998

Gladys Noel Bates was born March 26, 1920, in McComb, Mississippi. After her family moved to Jackson, Mississippi, she completed her elementary education in Jackson and then attended high school at Alcorn Agricultural and Mechanical High School in Lorman, Mississippi. She and her husband, John Milton Bates, taught in Jackson public schools from 1942 through 1948, when she filed suit in federal court demanding equal pay for black teachers and administrators. The case continued for three years and went through two appeals. The Bates remained in Jackson until 1960,

when they moved to Denver, Colorado, and they have lived there since that time. Mrs. Bates taught in Colorado until 1979 and has been actively involved with community projects and with the Tougaloo College Alumni Association, Tougaloo, Mississippi.

This collection consists of scrapbooks, a photograph, news clippings, a transcript of an oral history interview, a court brief from the United States Court of Appeals, Fifth Circuit, and film. Two different individuals compiled the scrapbooks. The first scrapbook contains materials collected by Mrs. Bates during the period when her lawsuit was started. Included among the materials are official letters between her and school officials, congratulatory letters, and correspondence regarding her work with the Mississippi Teachers Association. Newsclippings are interspersed with the letters. The second scrapbook contains correspondence and materials collected by Gladys Bates' father, Andrew Jackson Noel. The correspondence is addressed to him in his capacity as an officer of the Jackson Branch of the NAACP, with the majority being from James A. Burns of Meridian, Mississippi. There are also a number of letters from Robert Carter of the Legal Defense Fund of the NAACP. The correspondence in the second scrapbook is arranged as a chronological record of the legal case from the first filing to the final decision of the United States Supreme Court. (Bates)

L.C. Dorsey Papers, 1979-1992

L.C. (Lula Clara) Warren was born on December 17, 1938, in Tribbett, Washington County, Mississippi. She married Hildery Dorsey in 1956 and they had six children. Dorsey became active in the Civil Rights Movement and participated in voter registration and citizenship education activities, formed a food cooperative in Bolivar County, joined the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party, and in various ways worked for change in the community. She earned a master's degree in social work at the State University of New York and a doctorate in social work from Howard University. During the 1970s, Dorsey worked as administrative director of the Mississippi Prisoners' Defense Committee and as state director of the Southern Coalition of Jails and Prisons. She was also the associate director of the Delta Ministry from 1977 to 1983. Dorsey married Richard Arnold Young in 1996. She is presently the assistant director for the Delta Research and Cultural Institute at Mississippi Valley State University, Itta Bena, Leflore County, Mississippi.

This collection consists of printed materials, correspondence, and an autographed program arranged in three series. The printed material includes a copy of "'Unwomanly' Behavior: The Politics of Incarcerating Women in America"; an article written for Grapevine, the newsletter of the Joint Strategy and Action Committee (1984); an article written for the Jackson Advocate (1979); and a poem written for her friend, Virgia Brocks-Shedd (1992). The correspondence consists of a photocopy of one letter and a photocopy of three letters to the editor, probably from the Jackson Advocate, concerning a conflict between Dorsey and Ronald R. Welch of the Mississippi Prisoners' Defense Committee. There are two copies of a typewritten program for a Tougaloo College assembly on September 10, 1980, at which L. C. Dorsey was the principal speaker. Mrs. Dorsey autographed both copies. (Dorsey)

Accessing the Collection

The Tougaloo Civil Rights Collection has already been of invaluable assistance to many researchers. In addition to the collections described above, the following are currently available for viewing in the MDAH Archival Reading Room:

- Jane M. Schutt Papers, 1957-1984
- Julius Thompson Papers, 1974-2002
- Marilyn Lowen Head Start Records, 1963-1938
- Hilda C. Wilson Papers, 1950-1975
- Republic of New Africa Collection, 1965-1993
- Annie Rankin Papers, 1965-1980
- James F. McRee Papers, 1950-1955; 1965-1967
- Lance Jeffers Papers, 1957-1986
- Charles Horwitz Papers, 1936-1973

The Mississippi Department of Archives and History is located in the William F. Winter Building at 200 North Street, Jackson, Mississippi, 39201. Library hours are

(continued on page 97)

Identifying Moving Film Collections

Shugana Campbell Curator of Visual Collections and Assistant Professor University of Mississippi

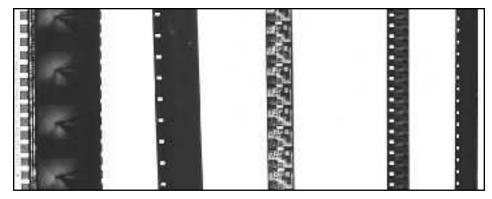
Abstract

Managing moving film collections can be an overwhelming task for some curators and librarians. Chemical composite alone can prove a challenge. Just the thought of nitrate film suddenly bursting into flames is frightening. Planning where and how to store film, funding considerations, and manpower demands can cause an archives to reluctantly accept film. But thanks to professional organizations such as the Association of Moving Image Archivists, the Society of American Archivists and the Kodak Institute, which all disseminate information about moving images, archivists, curators, and librarians can put their minds to rest as to how to care for film. This article provides a basic introduction on how to identify film formats and chemical compositions in order to accurately set preservation priorities. To assist with the film terminology throughout the article, a glossary is located at the end.

Film Anatomy

Identifying moving film requires understanding the film's physical structure and chemical composition. Film, unlike photographs which have four layers of support, only has two layers - the base for support and the emulsion for transferring photosensitive materials. Over the years a number of film bases have been manufactured (National Film Preservation Foundation). Archives and libraries may have one or all of the following types of film bases in their collections: cellulose nitrate, cellulose acetates, and polyester. Identifying film bases is an important step in planning for preservation. The first base, cellulose nitrate, releases harmful toxic

fumes, and when stored in an unstable environment can ignite a fire virtually impossible to extinguish. Cellulose acetate, or safety film, releases a distinctive vinegar odor upon deterioration, producing an effect called "vinegar syndrome." Safety film should be stored separately because the fumes can cause damage to surrounding materials. Polyester film is always safe and the most durable. To determine film type, look for the words "nitrate," "safety," or "safety film" along the edge of the film (National Park Service). In some instances markings may be absent from film, in which case, different tests may be performed to confirm identification. The National Park Ser-



Examples of film types, left to right: 35mm, 16mm, 9.5mm, regular 8mm, and super 8mm. Photo by Shugana Campbell.

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vice's Conserve-O-Gram Number 14/0 September 1999 outlined various test techniques.

Film also has several distinctive basic elements. The first element is the negative. The film negative can be compared to the photographic process. Negative elements are captured in the camera and can be distinguished by clear edges along the strip. The second element is the positive. The positive element is what is projected. The third element is reversal, on which a large amount of amateur films were shot. Reversals are unique originals, not copies or negatives. Reversals can be identified by black edges on the strip. Lastly are sound elements that can be magnetic or optical. Sound can be identified by straight or squiggly lines or strips located on the edge of one or both sides of the film: when the film does not contain a strip then it is silent (National Film Preservation Guide).

The number of perforations or sprocket holes between frames can assist with the identification of film. When images are captured onto film strips, each image is stored in a frame. In order for the film strip to navigate in a projector or camera, sprocket holes or perforation are located on one or both sides of the strip (Becker and Trainor).

References

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Table 1

Identification

Common film gauges are 35mm, 16mm, 8mm and super 8mm. The table below breaks down the various clues that can assist with identifying various film gauges (Becker and Trainor).

35mm film

- May be cellulose nitrate, cellulose acetates or polyester
- Four perforations per frame
- May be silent or sound
- Associated with commercial films
- May be positive or negative
- 35mm film from the early 1950s and earlier may be nitrate. If "nitrate" is on the edge or a star by the manufacturer's name, it is possibly nitrate.
- Soundtrack stripe is usually located on the edge of the frame

16mm film

- Common format for educational films, amateur films and student films between 1923 and the present
- One perforation per frame
- 16mm is always safety film
- May be color or black and white
- May be positive, reversal, or negative
- Sound or silent

Regular 8mm

- One perforation per frame perforations are same size for 16mm
- 8mm is always safety
- May be color or black and white
- Usually reversal
- Usually silent

Super 8

- One perforation per frame smaller perforations than 8mm, running perpendicular to the image
- Super 8 is always safety
- Usually color
- Usually reversal
- May be silent or sound

Table 2

Definitions

Acetate or cellulose acetate: Film base introduced as safe, non-flammable substitute for nitrate base film.

Film gauges: Width of the motion picture film from edge to edge, expressed in millimeters.

Film base: In motion picture film, transparent layer that supports the photographic emulsion.

Nitrate or cellulose nitrate: Transparent plastic used as the base in the earliest 35mm film stock.

Silent film: Film made without a sound track. Also used to describe commercial motion pictures produced before the widespread adoption of the sound film in 1929.

Sprocket holes: Holes, usually along the film edge, used to advance the film strip through a camera, printer or projector. Also know as perforations.

Positive: Film that is a positive image of the motion picture subject. The positive is generally produced from a negative and used for viewing.

Negative: Film carrying the reverse image of the motion picture subject. The negative is exposed in the camera or created from a positive in the laboratory. It is printed to produce a positive for projection and viewing.

From the National Film Preservation Guide.



The Museum Library at the Mississippi Museum of Natural Science

Jennifer Wann MLIS Student University of Southern Mississippi

Abstract

The Mississippi Museum of Natural Science Library is a special library that serves researchers and the public alike in the pursuit of historic and current natural science information resources. Author Jennifer Wann looks at the structure and make up of the MMNS, including its history, patronage, collection, budget, services and administration.

Background

The Mississippi Museum of Natural Science (MMNS) is a division of the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks (MDWFP). A state agency, MDWFP administers Mississippi's state parks, enforces compliance with the state's fish and game regulations, conducts hunter and boater safety education, issues licenses for hunting and fishing, and researches the state's natural resources. Within the context of the MDWFP, the museum's mission is to, "promote understanding and appreciation of Mississippi's biological diversity through collections, research, scientific data bases, education, and exhibits; and to inspire the people of our state to respect the environment and to preserve natural Mississippi" (Mississippi Museum of Natural Science 2000, n.p.).

The Mississippi Museum of Natural Science is located on the grounds of the LeFleur's Bluff State Park in Jackson, Mississippi. The museum is a modern 73,000-square foot facility nestled in a lush 300-acre woodland. The museum library was created in 1965 when Fannye A. Cook, the museum's first director, donated her personal collection of science materials to the museum. The library is housed in a bright room alongside the offices of the biologists and administrators of the MMNS.

The library's mission, "to provide high quality information services on natural history subjects" (Mississippi Museum of Natural Science) is contextualized by the library's service community and cannot be understood outside of this community. The Mississippi Museum of Natural Science is a vital resource to the state of Mississippi as a cultural and educational tool and also as an instrument of conservation through its research endeavors. The museum library is an imperative tool in the execution of such research.

History

The library was founded in 1965 with the donation of the personal collection of Fannye A. Cook, the museum's first director. Originally housed on bookshelves in a conference room, the library's collection was initially administered by the Mississippi Library Commission and in the late 1970s a librarian was hired to manage the growing collection. The library has evolved with the museum and moved with the museum in the mid-1990s to its current location in LeFleur's Bluff State Park.

Patronage

The library serves the staff of the Mississippi Museum of Natural Science, including a professional staff of more than three dozen. According to the museum's librarian, over one hundred patrons visit the library each month, and the librarian receives an average of 220 information requests per month. The research biologists employed by MMNS have diverse research areas, but all are concerned with the study of the state's natural resources. Of chief concern to the staff of MMNS are rare and endangered species of Mississippi.

Although the biologists of MMNS are the primary patrons of the library, other users include members of the museum's foundation, scientists from other institutions, and individuals from other government agencies. The museum library is a state institution, and, as such, is open to the public. However, members of the general public are rare users and must make an appointment to use the library. Library hours are Monday-Friday 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

Collection

The collection of the museum library consists of more than fifteen thousand volumes and includes books, journals, and papers written by museum scientists. The library holds subscriptions to over one hundred scientific journals and newsletters. MAGNOLIA, Mississippi's statewide consortium funded by the state legislature, provides access to full-text databases. Researchers may also conduct searches through Dialog, Ingenta, Absearch, Wildlife Nisc, and Fish Nisc. Personal article collections of the professional staff of MMNS are cataloged with ProCite software. Currently over twentythousand in-house records are searchable through the library catalog. An archive of administrative documents generated by MMNS and early writings by Mississippi scientists are maintained by the museum librarian.

The collection of the library at the Mississippi Museum of Natural Science is geared to the research needs of the scientists at the museum, and the scientific community plays a large part in building the collection. The library's mission, "to provide high quality information services on natural history subjects" (Mississippi Museum of Natural Science), defines the content of the collection. The collection of the library reflects the museum's research interests in flora and fauna, paleontology, and non-game wildlife including birds, invertebrates, fish, mammals, reptiles and amphibians.

The museum's scientists play an active role in the library's collection development. Holdings reflect the current research interests of the museum's scien-

tists and are therefore of a scholarly nature. Because the holdings are not intended for general research, items are collected that will not often be found in local public libraries or at the Mississippi Library Commission. Like the original donation of materials from Fannye A. Cook, many of the materials collected by the museum are personal collections donated by retiring scientists from the museum as well as from the university system.

An additional area of collection development is concerned with the law. The museum's parent institution, the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks, is charged with enforcing the state's game and fish laws as well as the state's conservation laws. Many of these laws are written by the scientists at MMNS – especially those regarding the protection of endangered species and fragile eco systems. To this end, a specialized law collection is maintained by the museum library.

Budget

The director of the Mississippi Museum of Natural Science sets the library budget with approval from the director of the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks. In turn, the Director of MDWFP authorizes the museum's budget with approval from the Mississippi legislature.

The largest portion of the library's budget is directed toward periodicals, which is twice the amount allocated for books. Libraries of all types and sizes have been affected by the inflation of journal prices. However, this is especially troublesome in a library oriented towards the sciences where a great deal of the information needed by researchers is found in journals rather than books. In recent years, when journal subscriptions were threatened by inflation, individual departments have often donated a portion of their budget to the library to ensure continuous subscription delivery.

Services

The library at the Mississippi Museum

of Natural Science offers traditional information services such as reference assistance and interlibrary loan. Checkout privileges are reserved for museum staff and members; however, the general public may use materials in the library. In addition to traditional library services, the museum library sponsors the Naturalist Lecture Series which is held on the first Tuesday of each month at noon. Finally, the library hosts a rotating exhibit in the library of naturalist art. Such exhibits help to make the public aware of the existence of the museum library and thus serve as a PR tool.

Administration

Currently the museum library employs only one full-time librarian and no assistants. Regular volunteers assist with a wide variety of tasks such as a shelving books and sorting donations. The museum librarian reports directly to the museum director who in turn reports to the commissioners of the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks.

Conclusion

The library at the Mississippi Museum of Natural Science is a gem that is little known to the public, but well used by its specialized clientele. This unique library is an essential part of its parent institution offering services tailored to the Mississippi Museum of Natural Science's needs. The MMNS library faces unique challenges arising from the special relationship that museum libraries have with their parent institutions. Although the library functions in much the same way as its public and academic counterparts and is publicly funded, the MMNS museum library is a truly unique, specialized library.

Sources

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A Civil Rights...

(continued from page 93)

9 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, and 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday. For more information, call 601-576-6876 or e-mail refdesk@ mdah.state.ms.us. ■

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2006 MLA Conference Coverage

David Brown Public Relations Specialist First Regional Library

The 2006 Mississippi Library Association Annual Conference was held October 24-27 at the Grand Casino Conference Center in Tunica, Mississippi, and by all accounts it was a success. The conference began on the evening of Tuesday, October 24, with a Presidential Bash honoring MLA President Susan Cassagne, held at the First Regional Library headquarters in Hernando. Vice President/President-elect Catherine Nathan and her staff hosted a night of art, music, and food.



First Regional Library's David Brown and Catherine Nathan at the Presidential Bash held Tuesday night at FRL Headquarters. Photo by First Regional Library.

Wednesday

Wednesday was the first full day of the conference. Over forty exhibitors were present. The annual Peggy May Scholarship Fund Silent Auction enticed many conference goers to bid on donated items, and a total of \$2,600 was raised by the end of the week. That first morning, Allisa Beck, Elizabeth Doolittle, and Edward McCormack presented a program about how they coped with the Hurricane Katrina aftermath at the University of Southern Mississippi Gulf Coast Library. In addition to the box lunches available, many attended the Virginia Brock-Shedd



MLA President Susan Cassagne, MLA Vice President Catherine Nathan, Harrison County Director Bob Lipscomb, and ALA's Michael Dowling at the First General Session. Photo by First Regional Library.

Scholarship Luncheon, sponsored by the MLA Black Caucus, featuring motivational speakers and authors Willie and Terica McKennis.

The First General Session took a closer look at how Hurricane Katrina impacted Mississippi's coastal libraries. A short film was shown about the trip several First Regional Library employees took to help in the reconstruction of the Hancock County Library System. Bob Lipscomb, Director of the Harrison County Library System, shared his personal and profes-



Jennifer Smith (I) from the Warren County-Vicksburg Library was thrilled to meet her favorite author, Charlaine Harris (r), at the Wednesday night dinner sponsored by the Public Library Section. Photo by First Regional Library.

sional experiences in the aftermath of the storm. Michael Dowling, Director of the American Library Association's Chapter Relations Office, was on hand to present another ALA check to MLA for coastal library relief this time for \$25,000.

There was a

full house at the Afternoon Tea with Authors. Evan Peacock (Mississippi Archeology Q&A), James Perry Walker (The Reverend), Robert Dalby (Waltzing at the Piggly Wiggly), Paige Cothren (Echo of Silence), Luther Knight (Cache River), and Robin Whitfield (Illustrator, Eudora Welty's World) each spoke about their careers, writing, and getting published. The evening closed with a wonderful dinner and visit by Tunica, Mississippi, native writer Charlaine Harris. Ms. Harris entertained the audience with tales of her long and varied career and the recent interest in her books from Holly-

Thursday

wood.

Thursday presented a full day of programs and events. Storyteller Diane Williams' Storytelling Dinner Theatre workshop was so popular that two sessions had to be scheduled. Dr. Cathy Grace from Mississippi State University's Early Childhood Institute presented an informative session on building collaborations between Child Care Resource & Referral Centers throughout Mississippi. Other Thursday morning programs included Fundraising for School Librarians, Teaching Outside the Box, and I'm



Left to right: John Sander, Prima Plauche, and Dean Clement. Saunders and Clement were part of the First Regional Library crew who helped with reconstruction efforts in Bay St. Louis. Photo by First Regional Library.

Not a Babysitter: Expressing your Worth to Teachers and Administrators.

Two Thursday luncheon programs – Lunch with Deborah Wiles and The Future of the Journal – were both well-attended. During her program, Deborah Wiles (*Love, Ruby Lavender*) spoke of her summers, the ups and downs of her life, and writing that stressed the importance of libraries – especially those in Mississippi. Dr. Carol Tenopir, renowned library technology expert, professor at the Center for Information Studies at the University of Tennessee-Knoxville and the author of the "On-Line Databases" column in *Library Journal*, spoke on the future of the journal and how libraries and



Chris Pizzuto of Library Interiors, Inc. treated Conference attendees to an Ice Cream Social on Thursday afternoon. Photo by Judy McNeese, Dixie Regional Library.

librarians were dealing with the everchanging medium.



Karen Phillips of the Hernando Public Library looks at the door prizes at the hospitality table. Names were placed into a drawing throughout the day and winners' names were announced during the conference. Photo by First Regional Library.

During the Mississippi Reads Go Down Moses program, Dorothy Fitts, Lafayette County & Oxford Public Library; Pamela Pridgen, The Library, Hattiesburg; and Jolee Hussey, Oxford High School shared ways to participate in Mississippi Reads. Dr. Rosemary Chance of the Sam Houston State University Department of Library Science demonstrated booktalking during her presentation, "What's New in Young Adult Literature."

Jolee Hussey, Oxford High School librarian as well as a member of MLC's Board of Commissioners, hosted the "Getting Students Into the School Library" session. Ellen Ruffin, Curator of USM's de Grummond Children's Literature Collection, entertained her audience with a fascinating look at the work of Dr. Lena Y. de Grummond during her program, "One Woman's Vision: Lena Y de Grummond Children's Collection – 40 Years Later."

That evening, winners were announced at the MLA Author Awards' Dinner. Winners from 2005 and 2006 were announced. The 2005 Non-fiction Award winner was Gayden Metcalfe for Being Dead is No Excuse. Metcalfe expressed her gratitude for so many Mississippi librarians helping to promote her book. The winner for 2005's Fiction Award was Club Dead by Charlaine Harris. The 2005 Special Prize was awarded posthumously to Cotton: A 50 year Pictorial History by Harris Barnes. His son was on hand to accept the award on behalf of the family.

The winner of the 2006 Non-fiction Award, Suzanne Marrs, gladly accepted her award for *Eudora Welty: A Biography*. Bev Marshall, Fiction Winner for *Right as Rain*, noted that she was honored to share the stage with such talented authors. Special Prize winner Martha McMullan, author of *How I Found the Strong*, told the audience that the trip from Evansville, Indiana, was worth it to be back home in Mississippi. After the dinner, all the winners signed copies of their books for the long lines of well-wishers.



Smiles at the Friends of Libraries Table; (left to right) Judy McNeece, Dixie Regional Library; Mary Edmond (Raleigh, current President.); Anne Radojcsics (Tupelo, Vice President); Freda Hartness (Clinton, Immediate Past President). The Friends sponsored both the Afternoon Tea with Authors and the Book Clubs Session.

Friday

On Friday, MLA was honored to have Dr. David Alsobrook. Director of the Clinton Presidential Library, speak at a special breakfast session. Dr. Alsobrook talked about the planning, construction, and operation of the Clinton Presidential Library in Little Rock, Arkansas, The Friends of Mississippi Libraries presented a program on library book clubs which

imparted many good ideas to the librarians in attendance.

The MLA Awards Luncheon closed the conference. President Susan Cassagne thanked Vice President Catherine Nathan and other conference committee chairs for all the hard work that went into planning the conference. After the 2006 Awards were announced, Cassagne passed the gavel to Catherine Nathan, who became the new President. Nathan gave special thanks to her staff members who worked on putting the 2006 MLA Conference together. After thanking the crowd for coming, Nathan invited everyone to attend the 2007 MLA Conference in Vicksburg. And with that, the 2006 Conference was officially closed. ■

(Mississippi Authors Awards Recipients 2005 continued on page 101)

MLA Award Winners 2006

Outstanding Achievement Award

Dorothy Fitts Head Librarian of Lafayette County & Oxford Public Library (part of First Regional Library)

Dorothy Fitts, was honored with the Outstanding Achievement Award. Photo by First Regional



Peggy May Award

Jane Smith

Bureau Director, Mississippi Library Commission



Mary Julia Anderson Paraprofessional Award

Mary Julia Anderson MLA Executive Secretary

A new award was created this year: The Mary Julia Anderson Paraprofessional Award. This award is presented to a library employee who does not hold an MLS degree. The first winner of this award was Mary Julia Anderson, Executive Secretary of MLA. Photo by First Regional Library.



Mississippi Authors Awards Recipients

Non-fiction Category

Suzanne Marrs for Eudora Welty: A Biography

Fiction Category

Bev Marshall for Right as Rain

Special Prize

Margaret McMullan for How I Found the Strong

Public Relations Awards

Best effort by an individual library to publicize library services around a single theme or event

Warren County-Vicksburg Public Library **Eudora Welty Library**

Best coordinated effort of several libraries to publicize library services around a single theme or event

Central Mississippi Regional Library System

Best year-round effort by an individual library to publicize library services in general

Natchez Adams Wilkinson Library System

Best year-round coordinated effort by a group of libraries to publicize library services in general

Central Mississippi Regional Library System

Best newsletter submitted by a library group

Mississippi State University Libraries

Golden Book Award – Most outstanding volunteer effort by an individual or group deemed to have contributed most to library awareness in the past or present Mississippi Library Commission

Friends of Mississippi Libraries, Inc.

Mississippi Library Association

Special Recognition

Hancock County Library System

Mississippi Authors Awards Recipients 2005

Non-fiction Category

Gayden Metcalfe, Being Dead is No Excuse



Gayden Metcalfe, Non-fiction Winner for Being Dead is No Excuse, along with the other Mississippi Authors' Awards recipients, signed copies of their books after the Awards Dinner. Square Books from Oxford was on hand to sell copies of all the titles.

Fiction Category

Charlaine Harris, Club Dead

Special Prize

Harris Barnes, *Cotton: A 50 Year Pictorial History*



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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

News Briefs

Children's Book Festival

The 40th Children's Book Festival will be held at the University of Southern Mississippi March 28-30, 2007. The event was created to showcase the de Grummond Children's Literature Collection. For more information, visit the Web site at http://www.usm.edu/slis/bookfest.htm

Hancock County Library System Wins Award

Hancock County Library System was awarded a 2006 SirsiDynix Building Better Communities Technology Award for providing a vital community service by restoring Internet and telephone service for community use in Hurricane Katrina's aftermath.

The five library organization recipients were recognized in a special ceremony during the ALA Annual Conference in New Orleans on June 24, 2006. Sirsi-Dynix established the award to call attention to libraries and the important roles they play in their communities. Each award recipient receives \$10,000 from SirsiDynix.



The five Building Better Communities Awards recipients were honored during a special ceremony at ALA Annual in New Orleans. Pictured (from left) are representatives from those libraries: Gerry Meek, director of Calgary Public Library; Mary Boutar, chair of the board for Hancock County Library System; Theresa Fredericka, executive director of INFOhio; and Ken Roberts, chief librarian of Hamilton Public Library. Karen Rege, director of library services for Delaware County Community College Library, was unable to attend the ceremony. Photo by SirsiDynix.

Website Recognizes Faculty Scholarship, Research

The Mississippi State University Libraries announces that the MSU Faculty Authors Web site is taking on a fresh, updated look with a new site supervisor, new features, and an enthusiastic campaign to encourage MSU faculty to contribute information.

Located at http://library.msstate.edu/msuauthors, the Web site was originally created in 1997 as a project of the Giles Distinguished Professors and has passed through a number of departments before becoming a permanent project of the MSU Libraries.

Professor LaDonne Delgado, the new site supervisor, said that the site is designed to showcase the scholarship of MSU faculty. "Until recently, faculty could only add information about the books which they have authored. We have now added a new feature which allows faculty to also highlight their published articles."

Delgado is working with Libraries' Web Services Specialist Bobby Goff to update existing pages and add more new features. Individual authors may add their

own information or contact Delgado for assistance with data entry. "We want all MSU faculty authors to be represented on this Web site and this is why I am excited about offering my services to facilitate this process" Delgado said.

If a book is available in the MSU Libraries, a link from the author's Web site to the catalog entry in the libraries' automation system will allow easy access to the call number of the requested publication. If an article is full-text in any of the MSU Libraries' databases, that entry will also have a link from the author's Web site to the full-text information.

Frances Coleman, Dean of the MSU Libraries, said the Libraries welcome the donation of books written by faculty members. "Such donations will assist us in providing further recognition of their accomplishments, in appropriately representing our MSU faculty within the library's collection, and in further preserving the publications of the university faculty," Coleman said.

Myrna Colley-Lee Donates Theatre Collection to MSU

Costumes, sketches, and memorabilia spanning a three-decade career were formally donated this month to Mississippi State University (MSU) during a ceremony on November 10, 2006 featuring Myrna Colley-Lee of Charleston, Mississippi.

The acclaimed theatrical designer also gave "behind the scenes" talks to MSU students and community members in the libraries' John Grisham Room launching an exhibition of her works titled "GladRags: Sketches, Swatches & Costume Designs."

The diverse collection, which includes costumes from the 1920s forward, is on display in the university's Mitchell Memorial Library through January 26, 2007. The traveling exhibit is sponsored with support from the Mississippi Museum of Art.

"I have bought many of the pieces at vintage and thrift stores over the years, either for my own wardrobe, for costumes or for research," Colley-Lee explained. "Through my donation to Mississippi State, I wanted to share my love of theater and give students exposure to the intricacies and opportunities in that world."

Some of the wearable collected pieces are available to the MSU communication department for Theatre MSU productions mounted by students.

"We're very excited about this generous donation," said John Forde, communication department head. "It will allow numerous theater programs to have



Myrna Colley-Lee, MSU Libraries Dean Frances Coleman, MSU President Robert "Doc" Foglesong. Photo by Megan Bean, MSU University Relations.

access to these unique costumes to enhance their productions and will help us demonstrate the quality of our program."

Colley-Lee holds a master's of fine arts degree in scenic and costume design from Temple University. She began building her portfolio during graduate study, when she designed in great detail knowing that the costumes would never be realized. "The value is the exercise of learning to design and the process of design through rendering," she said. "It's a chance to develop your skill."

The sketches are on display, along with costumes from productions that include "The Wedding Band," a play produced by Chicago's Steppenwolf Theatre Co.

"My favorite part of the exhibit is that it gives a wide range of techniques for costume design, a wide range of shows, and different ways to accomplish the rendering process," said Colley-Lee. "The costumes from 'The Wedding Band' add a third dimension to the exhibit by allowing viewers to see the finished product."

Dean of Libraries Frances Coleman said the collection provides a rich archival heritage for students of theater, theatrical production, costume design, and other areas.

"This is a valuable repository for theater ranging from classical myth to contemporary drama," Coleman said. "We are thrilled that Mrs. Colley-Lee has entrusted the works to us."

In August of this year, Colley-Lee made a separate donation to Mississippi State University of her research and papers created during her over thirty-year career in the American theater. The Myrna Colley-Lee Collection, housed in Mitchell Memorial Library's Special Collections department, consists of scripts, photographs, breakdowns (what each character wears in each scene), rehearsal notes from the director, research, playbills, newspaper articles, and thank-you notes from cast members and production crews, as well as other novelties.

Colley-Lee said she hopes her donation will help students and other library patrons learn more about theater. "I'd like to think that they could be exposed to the design process, and understand a little bit about what they're seeing when they attend a theatrical production," she said.

Colley-Lee's most recent work has been "Relativity," for the Black Rep (St.

Louis, Mo., Black Repertory Co.). She also is working on the premiere of "Till," a new work by Ifa Bayeza in conjunction with Rites & Reason Theatre at Brown University.

In addition to her continuing work in theater, Colley-Lee serves as a commissioner for the Mississippi Arts Commission, participates in the Charleston Arts and Revitalization effort, and is on the board of the MSU art department, among others.

She and her husband reside on their farm in Tallahatchie County.

For more information about the collections, telephone Stephen Cunetto at 662-325-8542. For more information about Mississippi State University, see http://www.msstate.edu/.

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Since 1979 Library Interiors, Inc. has been helping libraries & computer labs prepare for the future.

Computer lab workstations for the children's section of this library were manufactured by Enstrum Computer Furniture, Inc. Special die-cut closure panels were provided to match the children's chairs.

Enstrum Computer Furniture is available on Mississippi State Contract.



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About Books

Bob Pittman. August 29th Katrina. Mississippi: Pittman Enterprises, LLC. 2005. [120 pp.] (photography by acknowledged sources) \$27.00 (paperback).

On August 29, 2005, Category 4 Hurricane Katrina brought a path of destruction that stretched across the three states of Alabama, Louisiana, and Mississippi and went inland for 2,000 miles. Everyone in her path felt her fury, whether through the 145 mph winds and thirty foot storm surges that hit the Mississippi and Louisiana Gulf to the 110 mph winds in Hattiesburg. A storm to be remembered throughout history, Hurricane Katrina brought with her death, destruction, and loss. Yet throughout this devastation, author Bob Pittman found hope, courage, and strength within her victims.

August 29th Katrina written by Bob Pittman retells this historic day and the days and months that followed using carefully researched facts and personal accounts of those involved. Focusing mostly on the Mississippi Gulf Coast and South Mississippi, Pittman recounts the severe difficulties and life-threatening situations faced by hospitals, churches, colleges and universities, law enforcement agencies, volunteers, residents, and agencies providing electrical and power, communication, and food and water sources. Though his recounting deals mostly with Mississippi survival and recovery, Louisiana and Alabama are not forgotten. Pittman is thorough in his research, sharing this information in a journalistic style while using photography provided from various sources to enhance his subject.

This book includes historical facts and the retelling of individual situations of terror and fear which occurred during and after Hurricane Katrina. It shares the stories of the many "faces" that lived through the storm and survived. It expresses the sadness and grief for those who did not. It praises those who came to help. It shows the courage and strength of the people Katrina touched.

August 29th Katrina captures a moment in time when the people of Mis-

sissippi, Louisiana, and Alabama faced a frightening "giant" and, though the initial scrimmage was lost, the human spirit continues to win. This book is recommended for all Mississippi libraries for its historical facts and poignant stories.

Donna Phelps Fite

Purvis Branch Manager Lamar Library System



Bolton, Charles C. The Hardest Deal of All: the Battle Over School Integration in Mississippi, 1870-1980. Jackson, University Press of Mississippi, 2005. 278 pp. \$45.00 (hardback).

"Mississippi created two school systems, even though it could not really even pay for one." This theme recurs throughout The Hardest Deal of All. Charles C. Bolton's detailed survey of public school desegregation in Mississippi. Beginning with the Reconstruction-era establishment of public education in the state. Bolton traces the struggle for educational equality through the creation of the supposedly "separate but equal" dual school system in the 1890s, the challenges to the status quo on the local and federal levels in the mid-twentieth century, and the subsequent integration of Mississippi's public schools. The book's strongest focus is on the mechanics of the dual system and the determined white resistance to such civil rights landmarks as the Brown v. Board of Education decision and the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Drawing on newspaper accounts, oral histories, legal documents, archival records, and other research sources, Bolton presents a vivid portrait of the prejudice and indifference that gave most black public schools outdated textbooks, substandard physical plants, poor teacher pay, and curricula based on white assumptions of black inferiority. At the same time, the book shows how white obsession with race hurt black and white education in a state with inadequate resources: to many whites, a "quality" school was first and foremost a segregated

one. Quotes from letters written to public officials by white parents demanding that segregation be maintained at any cost reveal the depth of anger and fear evoked by the prospect of change to the state's dual educational system.

Using a wealth of detail from locations around the state, Bolton describes the slow progress of desegregation on a "freedom of choice" basis from the mid-fifties into the sixties, as well as the more rapid change that followed the outlawing of de facto segregation in Mississippi with the Alexander v. Holmes decision in 1969. While some districts integrated peacefully, others experienced violence and disruption, to the detriment of education for all students in those locations. Victory over the inequality of the dual system was diluted in many cases by white flight to parochial and other private schools and the resulting withdrawal of white support for public school systems, particularly in urban and majority-black rural areas. Widespread opposition to busing, a more conservative political climate, and changing demographics in urban districts resulted in de facto resegregation of some schools in the late twentieth century. In closing, Bolton notes that while the passage of Mississippi's Education Reform Act in 1982 brought significant improvements to public education, and that over 90 percent of Mississippi students remain in public school systems today, the provision of adequate education to all Mississippians remains a goal, not an accomplishment. The Hardest Deal of All is highly recommended for Mississippiana collections in public and academic libraries.

Kathleen L. Wells

Senior Catalog Librarian University of Southern Mississippi



Walker, James Perry. *The Reverend.* Jackson: University Press of Mississippi, 2006. 108 pp. \$35.00 (hardback).

At first glance, you might be tempted to dismiss *The Reverend* as an item for

display only. That would be a mistake. True, this book shares the large format and abundant photography typical of coffee-table books, but it is so much more.

Reverend Louis Cole was a circuit preacher in Marshall County, Mississippi. His story is one of a religious man rooted in the daily struggles common to anyone trying to scrape a living off the land in a rural community. Before moving out of the area in the late 1960s, photographer John Perry Walker heard him preach a sermon. This one sermon affected him so deeply that he returned to spend the latter half of the 1970s documenting Reverend Cole's interactions with his congregation and the world around him. The result is a book filled with evocative, almost haunting, photographs. These are accompanied by Reverend Cole's own words - by turns informative, wise, and humorous describing his calling to the ministry, his life as a preacher and a farmer, his love of dogs, and his experiences with things like death and gossip. Reading these words is like sitting out on the front porch with a much loved grandfather. You can almost hear the man laugh and see his eyes twinkle. As an added bonus, the book includes an introduction by the photographer, a delightfully written forward by Reverend Will D. Campbell, and a transcription of one of Cole's sermons.

James Perry Walker is obviously a talented photographer with the ability to build a strong rapport with his subjects. The tone, contrast, and framing draw your eye and make the photos seem to glow on the page. The subject matter includes intimate views of weddings, funerals, baptisms, and everyday moments. This is a beautifully done portrait of Reverend Cole and his community. Even the photographs that are absent of people seem to tell you something about this man.

Readers will appreciate this glimpse into twentieth century rural life in Mississippi, especially those interested in folkways, history, or photography. *The Reverend* is recommended for all academic and public libraries.

Diane DeCesare Ross

Curator of Manuscripts, Archives, and Digital Collections
University of Southern Mississippi ■

People in the News

The Beta Psi chapter of Beta Phi Mu, the national library science honor society, held its annual meeting and new member initiation during the MLA conference in Tunica. New members initiated were Sharon Dosher Davis, Cindy Lawler, John Lutzel, Brenda Minter, Syliva Barkley, and Savannah Kelly. Officers for 2007 were elected. Nan Crosby, Manager of the Ridgeland Branch of the Madison County Library System is President. Elected Vice President/President-elect was Mary Louise Breland, Director of Laurel-Jones County Library. Marsha A. Case, Assistant Director for Technical Services of the Jackson/Hinds Library System was elected Secretary/Treasurer. Jane Phillips, Head of Published Information, Archives and Library Division of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, is Past President. Carol D. Greene, Serials Librarian/Associate Professor, University of Southern Mississippi is the new faculty advisor for the chapter.



Ann Mulloy Ashmore joined the Reference Department at Delta State University in September. A recent graduate of Louisiana State University's MLIS program in Baton Rouge, she has



Ann Mulloy Ashmore

worked as a library assistant in reference at LSU, and as a collection specialist at the de Grummond Children's Literature Collection at the University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg. She earned an undergraduate degree in history at Moravian College in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, and also holds a master's degree in public health from the University of Oklahoma.



Otha Keys of South Jones High School (SJHS) recently received the 2006 Joseph B. Whitehead Educator of Distinction Award for Exemplary Dedication in the Field of Education. The award, given by the Coca Cola Scholars Foundation, acknowledges educators who, with vision and purpose,



Otha Keys

enhance the minds and experiences of the future leaders of this country. Only 250 educators in the nation receive this honor. Keys received her award along with a crystal apple from Allen Jordan, who is currently enrolled at Howard University in Washington, D.C. Otha has worked as the library media specialist at SJHS for fifteen years. She believes it is an honor to receive such an award and that it is a testament to the caliber of students they teach and their families. She is a graduate of Mississippi University for Women and the University of Southern Mississippi with degrees in library science.

Otha was also the recipient of two grants from Howard Industries, one for a little over \$5,000 and the other for \$3,000. Monies from the first grant were used to purchase research-based software for the school's computer network that will help reinforce the students' critical thinking skills. She also purchased books for reference, research and pleasure reading. The purpose of the second grant is to help prevent plagiarism. It will be used to purchase a two year subscription to Turnitin.



Rowland Medical Library is pleased to announce the appointment of **Gabriela A. Cipollone Johnson** to the library faculty. Gabriela joined the reference department on October 2, 2005.

Before joining the staff of the University of Mississippi Medical Center, Gabriela was the Instructional Services Librarian at Iona College's Ryan Library in New Rochelle, New York. She graduated from the Graduate School of Library & Information Studies of Queens College, City University of New York.



Get involved in MLA by joining a committee!

Mississippi Library Association 2007 Committee Preference Form

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

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MLA ANNUAL CONFERENCE COMMITTEES

The MLA annual conference will be held October 2007 in Vicksburg. Jeff Slagell, 2007 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.

	Committee	Experience/Expertise		Committee	Experience/Expertise
	Local Arrangements		X	Poster Sessions	
N	Registration		N	Exhibits	
R	Hospitality		R	General Volunteer	

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

MLA Executive Board Meeting Minutes

August 18, 2006

Board members attending:

Susan Cassagne, President
Carol Green, Treasurer
Jennifer Smith, Public Libraries Chair
Robert Lipscomb, ALA Councilor
Mary Beth Applin, SELA Representative
John Whitlock, Special Libraries Chair
Randy Sherard, Trustee Chair

Others in attendance:

Mary Julia Anderson, *MLA Executive Secretary*Jeff Slagell, *2007 Vice President/President-elect*Margaret Bell and Jacqueline Quinn, *Black Caucus Roundtable*

Carol Phares, YPSRT and Mississippi Author's Awards Committee

Shirlene Stogner, Parliamentarian Kathy Buntin, Mississippi Library Commission and Public Relations Awards Committee

President Cassagne called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. The MLA Board members met at *High Cotton* in Natchez, Mississippi. The agenda was presented and a quorum was declared.

OFFICER AND STAFF REPORTS

President, Susan Cassagne asked voting members of the board if they had received the June 13, 2006 minutes. Everyone agreed that they had received the minutes. Randy Sherard made a motion to approve the minutes as written, and Jeff Slagell seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

■ President Report

President, Susan Cassagne reported that she addressed an issue at the Public Library Director's Conference last Friday concerning free preregistration to the 2006 MLA Conference for Mississippi Gulf Coast Library employees. Mrs. Cassagne also emphasized to the Public Library Directors that their employees could earn CEUs by attending the conference and how important conference attendance is for the health of the Mississippi Library Association. Jeff Slagell then stated that there has been some confusion about the CEUs, to which President Cassagne replied that descriptions of the programs for school librarians have been sent in and approved for CEUs. Mary Julia Anderson then mentioned that a standardized form would be used from now on in order to make it easier to register programs for CEU credits. Jeff Slagell then mentioned that a sheet with information about the CEUs will be

included in the pre-conference packet. President Cassagne then stated that LAMP (Library and Media Professionals) conferences are scheduled for August 28-31, and the Conference Exhibits Chair is scheduled to speak with LAMP vendors about exhibiting at the 2006 MLA Conference. President Cassagne also mentioned that there would be MAGNOLIA training at the LAMP conferences in Tupelo, Batesville, Hattiesburg and Jackson

■ Vice President Report

No report given.

■ Treasurer Report

Treasurer, Carol Green, reported that MLA's current membership dues are \$11,250.00 and we had budgeted \$18,000.00 for the year. The Association has received \$1,500.00 for lifetime memberships and budgeted \$2,400.00. Mary Julia Anderson stated that we have 466 MLA members right now, which is about the same amount that we had last year. The Treasurer's report stated that the Association has received \$11,250.00 in convention exhibit fees so far, but this is an incorrect figure. Mary Julia Anderson stated that the Association has signed up 27 exhibits for the Tunica Conference and has two more commitments, therefore we have only collected \$3,000.00 so far in exhibit fees. Carol Green made and Jeff Slagell seconded a motion to approve the Treasurer's report with the above exhibit fee changes. The motion passed unanimously.

■ ALA Councilor Report

Robert Lipscomb, ALA Councilor, stated that he attended the mid-winter conference in January in San Antonio. The biggest discussion at this conference was whether or not the ALA Conference should be held in New Orleans in June 2006. The majority of the council voted ves, as the conference would be a great boost for the city. At the council, Mr. Lipscomb voted to increase ALA's annual dues, veto Judge Alito's appointment, support academic freedom (this resolution allows university professors to discuss other disciplines in class besides their degreed subject), and voted for a resolution stating that the ALA is against the new Patriot Act recommendations. Mr. Lipscomb also had a private meeting with Gates Foundation representatives and helped them figure out a way to distribute 12.5 million dollars to Gulf Coast Libraries, which will be administrated through SOLINET.

Robert Lipscomb also attended the ALA conference in June in New Orleans. Much of the discussion in June concerned House Resolution 676 and Senate Bill 2772. Mr. Lipscomb voted for the Employee Free Choice (allows employees to form unions), and overtime pay protection for librarians working more than forty hours per week. Mr. Lipscomb also stated that Keith Fields, Executive Director of ALA, has purchased three floors in a building in Washington, D.C., therefore ALA is no longer leasing a building and is saving a lot of money. Leslie Burger is the new Executive Director of the ALA and has budgeted \$51 million for next year. The American Library Association also flew Robert to Washington, from the Coast, to give a report to Congress about the destruction caused by Hurricane Katrina.

■ SELA Report

No report given.

■ Executive Secretary Report

No report given.

■ ML Report

President Cassagne read a written report submitted by Elizabeth Stephens, ML Editor. Ms. Stephens stated that an advertiser has requested a free subscription to *Mississippi Libraries*. After discussion, the Board members agreed that the advertiser could have a free membership to *Mississippi Libraries*.

SECTION REPORTS

■ Public Libraries Report

Jennifer Smith, Chair, reported that author Charlaine Harris will be the speaker for the Public Library Section dinner on Wednesday night at the MLA convention in Tunica. Ms. Smith stated that the Public Library Section will elect officers by e-mail after the 2006 Conference, as there is no time for a business meeting during the conference.

■ School Libraries Report

No report given.

■ Special Libraries Report

John Whitlock, Chair, reported that Dr. David Alsobrook will be the guest speaker at the Special Libraries Section Breakfast on Friday of the 2006 MLA Conference. Dr.Alsobrook's program will be A Bridge to the 21st Century: The Establishment of the Clinton Presidential Library.

■ Trustees Report

No report given.

ROUNDTABLE REPORTS

■ Black Caucus

Margaret Bell and Jacqueline Quinn reported that the speaker for the Black Caucus Luncheon at the 2006 Conference will be a motivational speaking husband and wife team, Willie and Terica McKinnis. The speakers' book is in publication and they are planning on offering copies for sale and for autographing during the program. Mary Julia Anderson mentioned that if any program has a book they want to order for their conference program, to please speak to Judy Card.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

■ Mississippi Author Awards

Carol Phares, Chair, stated that the committee is honoring both the 2005 and 2006 award winners at the 2006 Conference. The committee is planning on allowing every speaker fifteen minutes to speak. Ms. Phares also stated that the committee is looking for new people, and that she does not currently have a co-chair. Susan Cassagne stated that she will e-mail all MLA members and ask if anyone is interested in serving on the committee for the next two years.

■ Public Relations Awards Committee

Marsha Case, Chair, submitted a written report. Marsha has sent several e-mails to MLA members about submitting entries for the awards. Kathy Buntin stated that she would like members of the Board to "strong arm" libraries to submit entries for the categories, especially the newsletter category. President Cassagne also stated that she would send out another e-mail about submitting entries for the Public Relations Awards.

■ Web Page Committee

Molly Signs McManus, Chair, submitted a written report. The committee is planning on having the new MLA web site up by October, so that MLA members can look at the new site during the 2006 conference. The committee believes that the new page looks good and will be easier to maneuver. MLA members interested in looking at the new site should go to: www.misslib.org\wordpress.

OTHER REPORTS

■ Jeff Slagell, Vice President

Jeff Slagell, Vice President, stated that he cur-

rently has 23 entries for his two poster sessions. Mr. Slagell then reported that his recent site visit to Vicksburg was very positive, and it looks as if we will have some good hotel choices for the 2007 Conference. Mr. Slagell stated that the association will offer Vicksburg a contract and see if they'll agree to our terms. There is room for the 2007 Conference in Hattiesburg, but we would really like the 2007 Conference to be in Vicksburg. Jeff stated that we will wait and see what the attendance is at the 2006 Conference before delivering a contract to the Vicksburg Convention Center.

OLD BUSINESS

President Cassagne then discussed the dates of the 2007 Conference. If the 2007 Conference is held in Hattiesburg, it will occur during the 2nd week in October. If the 2007 Conference is held in Vicksburg, it will occur during the 3rd week in October, October 23-26.

President Cassagne then discussed the *Rebuild Mississippi Libraries Fund*. The Fund distributed money in April during National Library Week, to affected libraries. The Fund also received \$50,000 from the American Library Association and \$7,500 from the Florida Library Association. Some time between the end of August and early October, more money will be sent from the Fund to three coastal counties.

President Cassagne then stated that Elizabeth Stephens, *Mississippi Libraries* editor's, dad died unexpectedly a few weeks ago. President Cassagne sent a sympathy note to her from MLA.

President Cassagne then discussed a commendation for Kelsie Buckley, the young lady who rode her horse across the state in order to raise money for Hurricane Katrina damaged Gulf Coast Libraries. Mr. Lipscomb reported that he received \$60,000 from Ms. Buckley in June and agreed that MLA should send her a certificate of appreciation. President Cassagne stated that MLA should send her a plaque and Randy Sherard suggested the Association publish an article in *Mississippi Libraries*, frame a copy, and mail it to her.

President Cassagne then discussed the ALA Conference that she attended in June in New Orleans. President Cassagne stated that the conference was nice and that New Orleans is very suited to holding a conference and that everything is close enough to walk to. The conference was held in the far end of

the convention center, as the other end was still being repaired. The shopkeepers in New Orleans were very appreciative and a total of 1,800 people attended the conference (1,000 less than the summer ALA conference in Orlando, FL). The next conference will be in Washington, D.C. Mid-Winter will be in Seattle.

NEW BUSINESS

President Cassagne then reported that she has issued several special invitations to the 2006 MLA Conference to: Laura Bush, a representative from IMLS, and a representative from the Gates Foundation. She has not received a reply from Mrs. Bush or the Gates Foundation, but has received word that the IMLS representative will be unable to attend due to a scheduling conflict. She has received a request from Michael Dowling, Director of the ALA Chapter Relations Office, to attend the Conference and she has confirmed his attendance

President Cassagne then stated that the Missouri Library Association has sent her an e-mail about getting corporate sponsorships for Library Legislative Day activities. Susan suggested that MLA ask companies and businesses in Jackson to sponsor the event, and Randy suggested asking for sponsorships from major banks, big law and accounting firms, Blue Cross and paper and print shops.

President Cassagne then discussed the 2008 MLA Conference. Mrs. Cassagne has asked Walter, at the Natchez Convention Center, to pencil MLA in for October 21-24, 2008. Natchez is starting construction on a convention center hotel this year, a Country Inn and Suites, and Mrs. Cassagne is hopeful that it will be completed by 2008. President Cassagne is hopeful that the MLA Conference will be held in 2009 in Hattiesburg and 2010 on the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

Board members then discussed the August Board meeting. President Cassagne stated that the next MLA Executive Board meeting will be held in Tunica, during the 2006 MLA Conference, on October 25, 2006 at 8:00 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business by the Board, a motion was made, seconded and unanimously passed to adjourn. The Board adjourned at 12:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer A. Smith, Acting Secretary

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