



# MISSISSIPPI LIBRARIES

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**On the cover:** *Natural Dyed, Appliquéd Wool Rug* by Jeanette Stone. Every dye used in this 28x53 inch, fifteen-color wall hanging was extracted from locally grown plants, with the exception of purchased natural indigo and one insect. Plants used for the rug include: goldenrod, coreopsis, morning glory, lichen, black walnut, madder roots, and cedar. Additional colors were achieved by over-dyeing. Jeanette Stone is the librarian at Lafayette-Yalobusha Library at Northwest Mississippi Community College's Oxford campus. She received a Masters of Educational Technology from the University of Mississippi and has been with NWCC since 1985. Her hobbies revolve around the historical crafts of wool spinning, natural dyeing, and weaving.

## MISSISSIPPI LIBRARIES

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## PRESIDENT'S PAGE

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"Libraries: At the Center of Everything" is the theme of the Mississippi Library Association 2008 Annual Conference that will be held in Natchez, October 22-24, 2008. You'll find additional information in this issue of *Mississippi Libraries* and regular updates on our association Web site at <http://www.misslib.org>. Our keynote speaker will be Jim Rettig, President of the American Library Association (ALA) and university librarian at the University of Richmond. Mr. Rettig has been an active member of ALA for over thirty years, authored numerous publications, and given presentations across the country. I'm pleased that he'll be able to join us for our first general session.

Many of you may recall that our 2004 annual conference was held in Natchez. This thriving river community offers antebellum homes, antiques, book stores, artisan shops, and unique restaurants. The state-of-the-art convention center is located in the historic district and directly across the street from the recently constructed Country Inn & Suites by Carlson that will serve as our conference hotel. As always, there will be a wide range of programs and events that will be of interest regardless if your emphasis is public, academic, school, or special libraries. It should prove to be another wonderful experience.

While professional development and continuing education are well-known benefits of our annual confer-



**Jeff Slagell**

ence, perhaps one of the most important aspects is the ability to network with colleagues across the state. I'm delighted to report that our association is fast approaching six hundred members – an amazing statistic considering how many of our colleagues and their facilities were affected by Hurricane Katrina. It's a testament to your support and the value you place

on your membership. As a volunteer organization, the foundation of MLA is its members and I encourage you to introduce new arrivals at your respective institutions to our association so we can continue to prosper.

As we focus on our various fall activities and prepare for our upcoming conference, I'd like to remind you of a significant milestone only a few months away. Next year MLA will celebrate its one hundredth anniversary. Whitman Davis, librarian at Mississippi A & M College, organized MLA in 1909, a time when Robert E. Peary reached the North Pole, first-class stamps cost two cents, Yale was NCAA Football Champions, and *The New York Times* published its first movie review. Obviously, our profession has seen dramatic changes, faced numerous challenges, and demonstrated a record of profound accomplishments. If you have ideas for special activities or events to help us celebrate this historic occasion, please send them to executive secretary Mary Julia Anderson at [maryjulia@misslib.org](mailto:maryjulia@misslib.org). I hope to see you in Natchez! ■

# Focus on Public Services

Tisha M. Zelner, Editor,  
Mississippi Libraries

Library public services are the theme of the fall issue of *Mississippi Libraries*. Broadly stated, public service encompasses all aspects of library operations that involve direct contact with library users. Traditionally, public service includes circulation and academic reserves, interlibrary loan and document delivery, reference, and bibliographic instruction. The latter two service areas are the particular focus of the articles appearing in this issue.

By the time this issue reaches subscribers, the third anniversary of Hurricane Katrina will have come and gone. For many libraries in Mississippi and elsewhere along the Gulf Coast, the process of recovery from that devastating storm is ongoing. Jamie Ellis and Jane Shambra of Biloxi Public Library explain in the article "Reshaping Public Services after a Disaster" how the local history and genealogy department overcame the challenges brought by the disaster in such a way that services to the public have not only been restored, but have actually been expanded and improved. This article offers a silver lining to the clouds of hurricanes and tornados that are a recurring threat to all libraries in Mississippi.

The topics of public services and special collections come together again in Jennifer Brannock's article "Exposing Undergraduates to Special Collections through Bibliographic Instruction." Brannock's article highlights distinctions between bibliographic instruction for general collections and special collections and offers tips for engaging college undergraduates in the use of special collections. Moving from face-to-face to online bibliographic instruction, Florida librarians Dee Bozeman and Rachel Owens review two school's efforts to support students enrolled in online courses, in their article "Providing Services to Online Students: Embedded Librarians and Access to Resources." Bozeman and Owens conclude with helpful recommendations to librarians considering the "embedded librar-

ian" solution to the challenge of providing bibliographic instruction to online students.

Reference services are the focus of the last two articles. Ann Ashmore, who holds both a Master of Public Health and a Master of Library and Information Science degree, offers advice to reference librarians called upon to assist patrons with health-related questions. Paul McCarver and Shirlene Stogner offer additional practical assistance to reference librarians with their overviews of two electronic resources available to Mississippians through the MAG-NOLIA consortium, *Credo Reference* and *Wilson Biographies Plus Illustrated*.

The preliminary program for the MLA annual meeting is a standard component of the fall issue of ML and this year is no differ-

ent. If you haven't already viewed the program online, we hope that you do so now. You're sure to find something that interests you!

Although we are continuing to publish News Briefs and People in the News in paper, the ML editorial staff encourages all readers to visit the MLA Web site to read these items as they are submitted. Better yet, subscribe to MLA's RSS feed. If you're not familiar with feed technology, this could be the perfect way to get started.

I hope to see many of you at the annual conference in Natchez. As always, I welcome your feedback and suggestions for improving *Mississippi Libraries* and making it more responsive to the needs of librarians in Mississippi. ■



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# Reshaping Public Services after a Disaster

Jamie Bounds Ellis and Jane Shambra

## Abstract

*Presented here is a case study of the impact of Hurricane Katrina on the ability of a public library system department to provide new public services in a post-disaster environment. Issues discussed include collections reassessment, relocation, alternative resources, communication, technology, programming, continuing education, and grant funding. Also explored are examples of ways to improve public services when dealing with limited resources and collections.*

## Introduction

During a move, a shift, or relocation, public services to patrons necessarily change and library staff are required to adapt and communicate to create a smooth transition. The Murella H. Powell Local History and Genealogy Collection faced three collection moves and multiple small collection shifts in the three years following Hurricane Katrina's landfall in August 2005. As staff strove to provide at least a small sense of normalcy and service to patrons, services steadily improved and expanded beyond their former parameters.

## Collections Reassessment

After the initial damage, many decisions had to be made to resolve what could be saved and what could be done to prevent further deterioration of affected materials. While we experienced this decision-making process, patron contacts and service,

needless to say, were at a lull. The general population of the Mississippi Gulf Coast was experiencing its own recovery issues, and unfulfilled basic needs were the first priority. It was a couple of months before library staff and patrons were capable of delving into issues such as public services. As soon as possible, staff, with the help of volunteers, worked to stabilize archival materials in the first of two temporary locations where further inventory, reorganization, and planning processes began; this was among the first attempts to restore public services in our department.

Both flexibility and adaptability were and still are factors in our library's progress. Before the storm, our patrons and their research remained localized; however, after the storm some patrons had to travel farther for their research needs. Prior to August 2005, genealogy researchers were our primary audience, and most were seeking birth, marriage, and death records. After the storm we continued serving this same population, but we also saw growth in commercial and professional research. One new focus became property research, where city directories, telephone books, Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, and the Harrison County Web site provided a foundation for patrons' research. Several new businesses consulted our department to obtain local historical information before they reopened. Even family history researchers now focused on property history rather than their traditional family history. Grant monies for restoration were more readily available to property owners who could establish a historical significance for their property, and it became more important than ever to establish the age of historic structures for a variety of reasons.

It became obvious that any maps and directories in storage should be made

available to the public as soon as possible. As rebuilding efforts increased, the restoration of structures also required any available images and blueprints. Since the Biloxi Public Library holds architectural drawings and a local image collection, we tried to make these materials available upon request.

We often searched the Internet for new resources since many of our local history books were in storage and only sections of our vertical files survived the storm. With the temporary absence of our newspaper and federal census microfilm collection, we were fortunate to be able to consult new and improved Web sources for pertinent information. Department staff engaged in individual user training for patrons unfamiliar with basic Web navigation. When dealing with our limited resources, tailored instruction by phone, e-mail, and in person proved to be successful alternatives to our traditional in-house reference methods.

## Surveying Resources

Local History and Genealogy staff improvised as we tried to answer questions, requests, and inquiries with a fraction of the former collection available, and with many of the reference materials in temporary storage. Surveying resources within our own library system was the first step toward redirecting our patrons to resources outside of our traditional sphere. The main libraries in our library system received the most damage; therefore, the traditional main library collections, such as Mississippiana materials, were not available. The online catalog became an essential tool to provide access to common materials held by branch locations. The reference collections at the public library branches proved to be the most easily accessible and pertinent collections locally.

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Each nonfiction collection also held their own unique selection of local history and genealogy materials, and these items were essential in guiding patrons in their basic research needs. If we had not had these materials at the branches prior to Hurricane Katrina, our department would have been severely and further compromised.

Our staff quickly learned to gather knowledge about regional resources that could be beneficial alternatives for patrons. Our patrons' needs morphed as did the area. New variables included the need to replace lost information and research in new and unexpected avenues. We quickly came to the realization that it was essential to identify resources outside of our temporary library department in order to successfully fulfill patron research needs.

Surveys of other collections' materials became a requirement as most collections nearby suffered loss, relocation, or change. Increased communication with our colleagues at local and regional institutions helped our staff gain a familiarity of other resources more than ever before. The workshops offered in our area also attracted similarly affected collections and gave us a forum to compare experiences and solutions. Each collection has its unique qualities, environment, and administration, but all can benefit from sharing resources and new methods of collection management and service. Not only was this communication beneficial for our patrons, but it also opened up many doors for our library department, as many libraries and societies shared duplicate resources with us. Best of all, this communication provided moral support that helped our staff to continue on this new journey.

### **Communication and Technology**

An immediate outcome of Hurricane Katrina was the void of normal communication. Telephone lines, cell phone towers, cable lines, and Internet access were all affected, and some services were not reestablished for some time. Due to temporary fixes, services also remained fragile

with sporadic blackouts through the beginning of 2006. With this in mind, library and department staff strove to keep in contact via personal cell phones and in person. Early department communication depended upon word of mouth through library staff and contacts in the community. Eventually, once computers and the Internet were available to staff, we had the ability to communicate more normally. In early 2006, we set up a temporary department in the meeting room of the West Biloxi Library branch, and we were able to offer reference materials and research services.

Once we realized what services other institutions had to offer our patrons, we developed a brochure of regional contacts. Making this information readily available helped connect patrons with the contacts they needed quickly and efficiently. Updates of this information helped the brochure to remain relevant, and these brochures were made available in hard copy at each branch location and through our department Web site. During our latest move, packets were sent to branches within the Harrison County Library System that included copies of our department regional contact brochure and a children's family tree activity page. As we have learned with prior closures of our department, there are ways to provide public services even when we are closed to the public.

As our need to communicate with library staff, patrons, and other institutions changed, we introduced technology upgrades into our department. The creation of a department Web site was an important step in reconnecting our resources with the public, and the Harrison County Library System created a link on the library system's Web site to our department's new pages. The department staff created and continues to maintain the department Web pages, and we provide real time updates as we retain direct control of edits and updates.

In addition, this online source provides finding aids not available before, such as a listing of the cemeteries included in our card index and a list of available city direc-

tories. As the site progressed, a children's genealogy page and a recommended Web sites page were added. The Web pages maintained by the department also serve as an excellent venue to broadcast information about our department's activities, and we are continually finding that new users are finding our services through this Web site.

Understandably, and throughout the last three years, we found that many people did not know we had reopened or where we had moved. Many others found our department and our public services for the first time. The Web site became a reference tool when department staff were unavailable, which was more often due to the staff's new responsibilities post-Hurricane Katrina. Another function of the Web site is to aid staff throughout the library system with basic information when the department personnel are temporarily unavailable, as with our current move to our permanent location.

Along with the Web site, a centralized and simple e-mail address was created for the submission of research requests. The consolidated e-mail address aided staff in the organization of the research request process, and it helped to streamline this service. The research request e-mail address also provided shared access of one e-mail account, and all department staff had the option of accessing the e-mail from anywhere via Webmail.

The department staff also created and printed a bookmark to help guide patrons to the new Web site. As we prepared for our final move in the summer of 2008, it was important to provide patrons with access to our frequently asked reference questions. Through the distribution of this bookmark at several of our branch locations, we strove to provide a tangible reminder of the existence of our Web site and an announcement of our move.

### **Programming**

Soon after the storm, it became necessary to provide innovative means whereby patrons could understand that our services

were once again available, even if on a limited basis. One positive outcome after Hurricane Katrina was the implementation, the development, and the presentation of programming to all ages. Before the storm, programming for children was not readily available through our department, as the Local History and Genealogy Department focused primarily on adult services. As opportunities arose after Hurricane Katrina, we began participating in a wide variety of outreach services. Examples are children's programming, writing articles for various publications, participation in the local History Week event, poster sessions, and guest lectures to groups. We coordinated with our library system's children's librarians, and we participated in their summer reading programs.

With these new opportunities came the creation of assorted materials with which we could instruct both adults and children on various aspects of local history and genealogy. We created various handouts for our programs, and these items were produced in-house with our computers, printers, various office supplies, and a bit of ingenuity. Even display boards were effectively created at little to no cost by utilizing large cardboard pieces covered with bulletin board paper.

Programming further extended when department staff participated in a local History Week, explaining local history items,

pertinent events, and family tree construction. A more recent event allowed us to participate in the celebration of the centennial of the building that currently houses Biloxi City Hall, an event for which we were able to supply photographs and newspaper articles relating to the construction of the building.

The programming aspect of the department continues to expand, and we are looking forward to additional events in 2008. Each programming event has proven to be unique and well received by the public, and they have each been learning experiences for our staff. For the first time, we will participate in the City of Biloxi's annual Night Out Against Crime, and we will provide library system and department brochures, activities for kids, and donated books. We are also preparing for a series of programs through a grant from the Connecticut Book Party that will allow us to reach patrons across a variety of demographics.

#### **Continuing Education and Grants**

The focus on continuing education and grant writing intensified post-Hurricane Katrina. Department personnel were encouraged to take advantage of new learning opportunities, and workshops with an emphasis on collections care and preservation proved useful as we continue to reevaluate and move collections. Grants

from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, the Mississippi Library Commission, the Mississippi Humanities Council, and the Connecticut Book Party were each important in our recovery. Without grant funding for our services and during our moves, it is hard to imagine where we would be today. The support from our colleagues, our library system management and employees, and the agencies listed above each helped us keep our patron services on track and available.

#### **Conclusion**

Public services actually improved with the changes made by department staff following Hurricane Katrina. Many of the changes were dictated by patron needs, and adaptation was the key during several transition periods. Another factor is that moving and shifting collections can help library staff reevaluate and relearn collections, which can aid staff in better answering reference questions and helping find appropriate materials. The creation of finding aids, reorganization of materials, and communication were essential components in the recovery process. Grant funding, programming, and a renewed emphasis on continuing education are each areas that allow department staff to move forward and provide broader public services. ■

**Have an article or theme issue idea for  
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# Exposing Undergraduates to Special Collections through Bibliographic Instruction

Jennifer Brannock

## Abstract

*At the University of Southern Mississippi most undergraduate students have never been to the special collections department. One of the ways students become acquainted with special collections is through bibliographic instruction. By incorporating examples of materials held in special collections students become motivated to use the primary sources housed there. The sessions serve four purposes: to introduce students to special collections, to show examples of materials and how to utilize them in research, to teach students how to search for materials, and to teach them time management skills when conducting special collections research.*

## Introduction

If you ask undergraduate students at any university what they think about special collections, most will either look at you blankly or state, "That's the place that won't let you check out books." Exposing students to special collections can be a difficult task. Special collections librarians and archivists could go around grabbing students on campus to tell them about the wonderful resources available in special collections and how it can help them in their research, but this approach probably would not bring many into the library. The most effective way to expose the students

to the collections is through bibliographic instruction. With bibliographic instruction sessions, students can learn about the purpose of special collections (why students cannot check out books), what kinds of resources can be found there, how staff can help students with their research, how to use the tools available to search the materials, and how to manage their time wisely to effectively and efficiently use special collections.

## Getting Classes into Special Collections

This article focuses on the bibliographic instruction sessions for undergraduate students, but in order to get them into the library, librarians must reach out to faculty. Students are not the only people who are unaware of the resources available in archives and special collections. Many professors can also be ignorant of the materials located on campus.

The most effective way to reach out to faculty is via e-mail. At the University of Southern Mississippi, the special collections librarian e-mails faculty members in departments that may be able to use materials located in special collections in their classes. In the past, these departments included history, library science, and art. Contacting the history department is obvious because of the overwhelming materials relating to Mississippi politicians, the civil rights movement, the Civil War, and other aspects of Mississippi history. Library science and art students have used us in the past because of the de Grummond Children's Literature Collection, which has over 120,000 children's books and original materials from over 1,200 children's

book authors and illustrators. The library science students are interested in the original material and the many examples of children's books. The art students come to see the original drawings, prints, paintings, collages, and other mediums and the process of creating these works. The art students are also exposed to books in the rare book collection that illustrate different bookbinding and typographic styles, examples of marbled paper, and other decorative elements such as fore-edge paintings. If the librarians and archivists can get professors to bring their classes to special collections, the materials found there will convince professors to have students visit special collections every semester because of this unique and valuable learning experience.

## Purpose of Special Collections

Once students get to special collections, they are a captive audience. At the start of every bibliographic instruction, it is advisable to give a brief overview of every department located in special collections. Here is where the librarian can cover each major department and provide a brief overview of the types of collections held in the collection. In the case of USM, there is a brief overview of the Mississippiana and Rare Book collections, the de Grummond Children's Literature Collection, University Archives, Historical Manuscripts, and the Digitization Department. By briefly covering all of the areas, students gain some understanding into the units that comprise special collections. Most of the classes that come in will have a specific paper or project that requires them to use special collections and primary resources, but by giving



an overview of all collections, students may find resources in areas that may never have occurred to them before visiting. It is also a way to make students aware that the special collections department has resources that may be beneficial for other classes. For instance, an English student may visit special collections with her history class. By touching on items in Mississippiana, Rare Books, and the de Grummond Children's Literature Collection, the student will be somewhat familiar with other resources found in special collections that will assist with her English assignments. The key is to allow undergraduate students to get a feel for the collections available for the project at hand and any other projects that may arise.

After providing a summary of the various collections, explaining the purpose of special collections and why there are so many guidelines for using the collections is more relevant because students begin to understand the value of the materials housed there. Simply stated, the purpose of special collections is to preserve resources for future generations. The materials found can be one-of-a-kind items like a civil war diary, an original Curious George drawing, or a 16th century antiphoner, but it may also include items like the newest Harry Potter book or the latest John Grisham novel. The reasons for preserving the one-of-a-kind items are obvious. The reasons new items are found in special collections are more difficult for students (and some faculty) to grasp.

Most public and university libraries own copies of the newest Harry Potter or John Grisham books. Why is it that patrons are unable to check out copies of these new books that may be found in special collections? If you have seen the condition of Harry Potter or Grisham books in circulating collections, you will know why. They are heavily used items that over time endure a lot of use and abuse. Replacement copies are often needed because the items are in such poor condition. In some

instances, replacement copies may not be available or may be too expensive to purchase. By having these items in special collections where circulation is prohibited, the books stay in pristine condition for future generations of researchers. For instance, USM has copies of all of John Grisham's books. Four hundred years from now, researchers may look at Grisham's books much like serious researchers today go to Oxford University to look at Shakespeare's first publications. Comparing Grisham to Shakespeare may be indulgent, but it provides an example as to why these items are collected. The point is made to the students that special collections librarians and archivists collect not only for today's researchers, but for future scholars as well.

### Showing Examples of Materials

It is evident that many students would rather be anywhere than in class or on a library tour. In order to keep their attention, it is best to make things interesting. When pulling materials to show students, items are selected that tell stories about Mississippi history that these students, who are mainly Mississippi natives, may not be familiar with. It is also a good idea to show materials in different formats. If only diaries or letters are highlighted, the students will get bored quickly. That's why it is best to show examples of letters, diaries, photographs, ledgers, bumper stickers, and other items to keep their interest piqued.

In addition to showing different formats, highlighting different types of collections can keep students engaged. USM has a large collection of civil rights and Mississippi politicians' papers, but many students may not be interested in those collections. By pulling out examples from collections relating to different subject matters, all students can hopefully find something that suits their research interests. Examples of items pulled for bibliographic instruction at USM include a Freedom Summer diary, hate letters sent to Senator Theodore G.

Bilbo, Mississippi Sovereignty Commission reports about two children who never attended school because they were 1/32 African American and therefore couldn't attend black or white schools, a ledger that records all meals served at Jefferson Davis' Soldiers Home, bumper stickers and correspondence from the Nuclear Waste Collections, and photographs from a Nashville sit-in and a Ku Klux Klan funeral. By showing these items, and most importantly, telling the stories behind the materials, students become intrigued by the types of information that can be found using special collections.

### Using Search Tools to Find Materials

Once students are acquainted with the kinds of materials found in special collections, they need to learn how to use search tools to find the needed information. All books housed in special collections at USM are in the online catalog, Anna (<http://anna.lib.usm.edu>). Before coming to special collections, the majority of undergraduates have used the Anna catalog to find books or journal titles for class assignments. With this assumed experience using Anna, time is not spent providing a complete overview of the online catalog. Instead, search techniques are illustrated that relate directly to searching special collection materials. For example, some classes require education majors to use the de Grummond Children's Literature Collection. With over 120,000 books, narrowing down students' searches can be a very important task. Under advanced search in Anna, one can narrow a search to just search items found in the de Grummond Collection and then conduct a keyword search. This is particularly helpful if someone needs children's books by subject, such as nursing, children with disabilities, or a fairy tale. The students could perform a subject search to acquire basically the same results, but in this world of Google, keyword searches are the most accessible to students.

Finding aids are the backbone of primary source research in special collections. They act as a guide through large collections of materials that may include correspondence, flyers, realia, photographs, drawings, locks of hair, etc. Finding aids include fields like collection title, collection number, dates covered in collection, biographical/historical sketch, scope and content, and the box/folder list. The scope and content is important because it explains the topics covered in the collection and how the box and folder list is organized. Students are taught the different ways to search finding aids. At USM, there are multiple ways to access them. On the special collections homepage (<http://www.lib.usm.edu/spcol>), there is a search box where students can search finding aids, the vertical files index, and pathfinders. There are also lists of findings aids by subject and alphabetical lists. With all of these ways to access the finding aids, the students are able to discover a method of access that best suits their research needs.

When talking to undergraduates about finding aids, the special collections librarian walks them through the finding aid, explaining every aspect – especially the scope and content note and box/folder list. The scope and content note tells the researcher exactly what kinds of materials are in the collection, how the collection is organized, what subject matters are covered, and the collection's strengths and weaknesses. The box and folder list has a hierarchical structure, similar to an outline, that provides a list of items found in the collection from a broad topic like subject files, correspondence, or photographs to more specific groupings such as Anchorage to Baltimore, letters sent from July 1, 1942 to July 14, 1942, and photographs

of William Colmer and state officials. With the Theodore G. Bilbo finding aid (<http://www.lib.usm.edu/legacy/archives/m002.htm>), giving examples of possible research topics can be helpful for the students. Using the Bilbo Collection, one can determine from the finding aid what materials relating to the 1910 bribery trial are located in Subgroup 1: Early Life and Politics through First Governorship, 1905-1920. By clicking this topic in the drop-down menu, students will come upon the box and folder list. From there, students can see that papers relating to the 1910 bribery trial are found in Box 1, Folders 5-9.

Since the Bilbo Collection is so large, containing over 2,500 boxes, a smaller collection is also illustrated. This allows students to realize that all finding aids for the historical manuscripts are formatted the same way. Not only are they formatted the same at USM, but institutions around the world create their finding aids based on the same general template. Once you know how to use a finding aid at one institution, you will also know how to navigate them at other archives and special collections. The only differences are that some elements may be missing or some finding aids may be more detailed than others.

How to search digital collections is also explained to classes. At USM, the special collections department digitizes items and puts them online using CONTENTdm, a digital collection management software program. Most of the items in the digital archive are primary sources, which are helpful for student research, and the items can be viewed from any computer. Students are often relieved to discover they can access some primary resources without leaving home.

## Time Management

Time management is one aspect of bibliographic instruction for using special collections materials that is often overlooked. Special Collections at USM is open Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. One thing emphasized to undergraduate students, and to researchers in general, is that they need to be prepared before coming to Special Collections. The library catalog and all finding aids can be found online and should be consulted before visiting to do the actual research. By spending a couple of hours at home looking over the finding aids to determine what box and folders are needed or what the call number is for a book that they need for their research, undergraduate researchers can save hours of time that would otherwise cut into the time spent actually looking at the materials.

## Conclusion

Using materials found in special collections and archives is a readjustment for undergraduate students. They have to learn a different research style that includes various resources and learning how to use these resources in their research. Additionally, they must discover new ways to search for information using various search tools and techniques, and also incorporate time management skills to make the most of their research time. These methods may overwhelm many students, but with encouragement from librarians and archivists, undergraduate students will learn to appreciate special collections materials. They may find using these materials for their papers or projects can be an exciting departure from typical college research. ■

# Providing Services to Online Students: Embedded Librarians and Access to Resources

Dee Bozeman and Rachel Owens

## Abstract

*When two schools in Florida pledged to offer online classes that were of equal quality to traditional classes, the decision was made to embed librarians into select online classes. Embedded librarians from the schools' joint-use library provided online orientation modules and graded assignments, and took an active role in discussion forums relating to research questions. Information on the experiences at both schools is presented, and an analysis follows of what worked well in each case and what was improved from the pilot programs. Recommendations are provided for libraries considering embedding a librarian.*

## Introduction

Online learning is the most rapidly growing segment of higher education (Chen, Gonyea, and Kuh 2008). "More than two-thirds of all higher education institutions now have some form of online offerings, with the majority of these providing programs that are fully online. Online enrollments have continued to grow at rates far in excess of the total higher education student population" (Allen and Seamen 2007, 5). As colleges and universities develop and offer more online classes, libraries face the challenge of providing library services to online students. When there were few online classes offered, it was easy to overlook these students, assuming they would discover what the library had to offer from their professor or

in a face-to-face class. Now that entire programs are offered online and students may never come to campus, there is a real need to develop solutions to this challenge. There are a variety of methods to reach online students: virtual reference desk, database links, pathfinders, instant messaging, e-mail, Ask-A-Librarian, tutorial, and embedded librarians.

An embedded librarian may not reach as many students as with other methods but he/she provides the most individualized service. Librarians embedded in online classes will become an integral part of the group. The embedded librarian, once integrated into the class, will experience the expectations of the faculty and observe the needs of the students (Dewey 2004). By being so closely involved in the class, the librarian is better able to address students' requests. Since "the closer the link between course assignments and library resources to help with those assignments, the greater likelihood that students will access library information" (Shank & Dewald 2003, 41), the embedded librarian is in a perfect position to guide students to the best resources for their research.

The University of Central Florida Daytona Beach regional campus is located on the Daytona State College campus. The library is a joint-use facility for the university and the college. Librarians for both institutions have been embedded into online classes. This article will examine the different approaches to embedding librarians into online classes.

## University of Central Florida Embedded Librarian

The University of Central Florida (UCF) is a large metropolitan university with the main campus located in Orlando, Florida. UCF has eleven regional campuses that are partnered with and located on the cam-

puses of community colleges or state colleges. The university offers ninety-five baccalaureate programs, ninety-seven master's degree programs, three specialist programs, and twenty-eight doctoral programs. With an enrollment of over 48,600 students, UCF is the fifth largest university in the nation.

As with other universities and colleges, online classes and distance education have grown to become a large and important part of UCF programs. There were 281 fully online classes taught during the 2002/03 academic year. During the 2007/08 academic year, 717 Web classes were offered at UCF. This reflects a 255% increase in Web classes taught at UCF in a five-year period. The enrollment in Web classes for 2002/03 was 11,391 and 33,287 for 2007/08.

At the University of Central Florida the use of embedded librarians went hand in hand with the development of a Library Research Module for students in online classes. Librarians at the Brevard Community College/UCF Joint-Use Library began working with regional campus faculty to develop a way to incorporate library information into online classes. Faculty wanted to make sure each online class was of equal quality to the face-to-face version by providing the same resources. One of those resources was access to library instruction classes and a librarian.

The Library Research Module was developed to provide information equivalent to that of an in-person library instruction class. The module was produced in sections that include information on the following: general information about the library; search strategies; broad knowledge about finding books, e-books, articles, etc.; topic or class specific information; subject databases; scholarly peer reviewed journals; Internet searching techniques;

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plagiarism; and citation styles. Each module also has at least three sets of step-by-step practice exercises for the students.

When first developed, the module was part of WebCT, but is now stored on the library server. Each section is a separate Microsoft Word document, making it easy to change, update, or expand. The different sections can combine easily in a variety of different ways. By working with the professor, the librarian can develop a table of contents that connect sections of the module to meet the needs of an individual instructor and class. Since the sections are separate, it makes it relatively easy to add a new section or subject if needed for a specific class.

Librarians are embedded into classes that have a Library Research Module. The professor usually adds the librarian as a teaching assistant. As a teaching assistant, the librarian can set up a library discussion forum and also has access to e-mail. The students in the class are given a link to the module and the librarian is available to help if students have questions or problems as they work through the module. Most professors also want the librarian to develop a graded library assignment. This assignment will have the students using search techniques learned in the module to find books, e-books, scholarly journal articles, or newspaper articles, in addition to citing these sources. The databases highlighted in the module and on the graded assignment will be the ones students will need to use for class research assignments. The librarian e-mails the library assignment to the students, who will return it to the librarian when finished. The librarian reviews the assignment and if she finds errors, the assignment will be returned to the student with suggestions for different search strategies. The student can then correct their work and return it to the librarian for a grade.

The librarian usually stays with the class the entire semester. Students and the librarian can post to the library discussion forum. A class librarian will post handouts about topics such as APA citation and peer reviewed journals. Students can contact the librarian by class e-mail. The answers

to general information questions or those that may impact the whole class can be posted to the discussion forum rather than sent to an individual's e-mail account. The librarian will scan the other discussion forums looking for students having research difficulties. A student can then be contacted by e-mail, or if several students are having the same problem, a posting to the library discussion forum may facilitate their research.

There is an assessment portion of the program. The feedback from students in the evaluations has been very positive, both for the modules and having a librarian in the class. One of the outcomes of the embedded librarian program is that students get to know a librarian and feel comfortable contacting the librarian for research assistance after the class is finished.

### **Daytona State College Embedded Librarian**

Daytona State College (DSC), formerly Daytona Beach Community College, is a four-year public college with an enrollment of 11,154 full-time equivalent (FTE) students and an unduplicated head count of approximately 30,000. Since the inception of its virtual college (Florida Online), Daytona State's online offerings have expanded greatly. In the fall of 2008, there will be 386 courses offered. In many cases, students have a choice between a course that is 100% online (ON) and one that is known as a 50/50 hybrid (HW). Students and instructors in HW courses typically meet once per week in the classroom, with required participation in online discussion during the week. All writing assignments are turned in online.

In the spring of 2005, Daytona State began its first bachelor's degree, the Bachelor of Applied Science (BAS) in Supervision and Management. Courses in the BAS program were initially offered only face-to-face (f2f). Gradually, courses were converted to HW, then to ON classes. Many courses are still offered as HW, with the goal that all courses eventually will be offered in both HW and ON format. The average age of the students in the BAS

program is forty, and many of those students prefer to have f2f contact of some kind.

One of the required courses in the BAS core curriculum is GEB 3212, Business Writing. It is recommended, but not required, that students take this during their first semester. However, many of them do not, with the result that students do not get instruction in writing until they are well into the program. Most of the BAS students have been away from school for some time, and their writing and research skills range from rusty to poor. As instructors in BAS courses began to collect and grade research papers, the students' lack of writing and research skills became evident. Papers were poorly written, research consisted of a Google search and a visit to Wikipedia, and citations were done poorly, if at all.

From the beginning, the Daytona State librarian assigned to the BAS program met with new BAS students during their orientation session, which took place near the start of every term. She was given thirty minutes to familiarize students with the library Web site and the resources available to them. There were two problems with this approach. First, the orientation program was four hours long, and the library's slot in the program was near the end. By that time, students were suffering from information overload and could hardly be expected to remember anything the librarian said. Second, there was always a small but significant group of students who missed orientation, either because of schedule conflicts or because they registered for classes after the orientation occurred. As a result, the library and research instruction provided during orientation failed to have much impact.

The original instructor for GEB 3212 was a full-time English instructor at DSC, working for the BAS program as an adjunct. He and the Daytona State librarian already had a good working relationship. When the UCF librarian began her first tour as an embedded librarian, the Daytona State librarian realized this concept might work well for the business writing class. She approached the instructor

with the idea, and he enthusiastically agreed to a pilot program in two of his hybrid classes. After receiving permission from the head librarian and the dean of Florida Online, the librarian entered two sections (one HW, one ON) of the GEB 3212 course in the fall of 2007.

The librarian met with students in the hybrid class during one of their classes, and gave a research instruction presentation. However, because of technical difficulties, she was not able to gain access to the online portion of the courses until the eight-week-long classes had already been underway for two weeks. By that time, the students were already working in groups and the research for their projects was underway. No one requested any research assistance for the duration of the course. The librarian took a position of "lurking" in the classes, checking both the library areas and the general areas of the discussion boards on a daily basis to watch for any questions that might be asked and to get a feel for the way the instructor managed the course.

After the semester ended, the instructor and the Daytona State librarian met to review the experience and identified several improvements that should be made. First, the librarian should have access to the course before it begins so she can be involved with and available to the students from day one. Second, the librarian should take a more active role in the discussions, adding comments to research-related discussions and answering questions addressed to the instructor, if they have to do with research or citations. This saves the instructor time and may get the student's question answered more quickly. Third, the librarian should spontaneously offer more links and referrals to outside sources of information. The students may find a useful source that they would not have known existed otherwise. Fourth, students need an incentive to discover the library sources available to them. The best way to do this in GEB 3212 is with a library assignment that counts for a small but significant part of the final grade and is designed to get students into the library databases and other resources where they

will see the wide array of authoritative information available to them.

In the spring of 2008, there were three sections of GEB 3212 offered, two hybrid and one fully online. The librarian was given access to the course several days before it began and was able to set up the library discussion area so it was a part of the course from the beginning. She also posted a separate discussion area with links and recommendations for outside sources, in addition to the library Web site link. During the course, the librarian was able to answer several questions directed to the instructor, saving him time. She also designed a library assignment that required students to use library resources to answer ten questions. Students in these three classes interacted much more frequently with the librarian, expressed interest in the recommended outside sources, and did not hesitate to ask questions about the library assignments.

### Conclusions and Recommendations

Based on both the University of Central Florida and Daytona State librarians' experiences as embedded librarians, we make the following recommendations to any librarian considering embedding in a course:

- Be prepared for the time involved. Being an embedded librarian is a time-consuming endeavor.
- Have a conversation with the instructor about expectations for your role and involvement before the class starts.
- Make it clear to the virtual college managers what level of access you need in the course. Usually, being an assistant instructor or teaching assistant will be appropriate.
- Be familiar with the course management system your virtual college uses.
- Have the library area of the discussion board set up on the first day of class.
- Give students your contact information – not only course e-mail address, but college e-mail, phone number, and office location and hours.

- Use a graded library assignment or module to engage students in the library's resources.
- Be proactive. Students may hesitate to ask questions. If you see confusion about an assignment in any area of the discussion board, step in to the discussion if you can help.

A librarian can only be embedded in a few classes each semester and reach a limited number of students. Because of the relatively small number of students reached by embedded librarians, libraries cannot depend on this method alone to reach online students. Libraries can inform the largest number of students by combining a variety of methods to provide library information, research skills, and research assistance. When deciding to become an embedded librarian, one should always keep in mind that working with the online classes is rewarding, but it is also intense and time consuming. However, there is no better way for online students to develop the same one-on-one relationship with a librarian as is possible in a face-to-face setting. ■

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# Providing Consumer Health Reference Services: Resources for Mississippi Libraries

Ann Mulloy Ashmore

## Abstract

*Providing consumer health reference is something we all do, but beyond the annual purchase of the latest editions of the PDR:Physicians' Desk Reference, Merck Manual, and a few other general medical reference books, often there is little forethought applied to directing our patrons to the most up-to-date, accurate, and specific health information in a format they can read and easily understand. A recent Woman's Day magazine contest serves as a reminder to all Mississippi libraries of the importance of this service. This article provides an overview of resources available to Mississippi libraries and librarians in assisting their patrons with health-related questions and concerns. The Web address for each resource is provided at the end of the article.*

## Introduction

"Has the library positively impacted your health?" This question was posed by the editors of *Woman's Day* to the magazine's four million readers in the March 4, 2008, issue. The request for short essays is part of ALA's *Campaign for American Libraries*, a national effort to promote the value of libraries and librarians. This is the sixth initiative launched by *Woman's Day*, a founding partner in the campaign. Topics covered in past contests include "How has the library changed my life?," "Why I want to research my family tree at the library," and most recently, "How I got my start at the library," essays from small business owners and entrepreneurs.

Will your library be featured when the winning essayists are featured in the March

2009 issue of *Woman's Day*? Does your library have the resources to provide accurate, up-to-date information for would-be winners? Does your reference staff have the expertise and knowledge to assist information seekers in researching their health topic? These are questions every library staff in Mississippi should be asking – not necessarily for recognition in a national magazine, but in order to serve patrons who have consumer health questions and concerns.

A 2005 article by Kouame, Harris and Murray in *Library Trends* details the barriers faced by non-health science libraries and librarians when providing consumer health reference services to patrons. Foremost is the fact that in today's 24/7 cable news and Internet-connected world the problem for most health consumers is not the lack of health information, but too much. Many consumers are "overwhelmed by it," they write. What patrons want is "...reliable, accurate information in digestible form." Thanks to the National Library of Medicine and the MAGNOLIA network databases, libraries in Mississippi have access to free, reliable, and accurate sources of health information. What follows is an in-depth survey of each of these resources, as well as information on training opportunities for staff.

## Why Google May Not Be the Best Place to Start a Health Information Search

In August 2006, the Pew Internet and American Life Project surveyed 2,928 American adults eighteen and older regarding their health information-seeking behavior on the Internet. Results published in the report, *Online Health Search 2006*, revealed eight of ten Internet users go online routinely to search for health information for themselves or others. Of these 113 million health information seekers, nearly two-thirds (66%) began their

inquiry with a search engine. When asked if they checked the source and currency of the information they found, only 15% of respondents said they "always" check for the source and date, while 75% said they check "only sometimes," "hardly ever," or "never." Clearly, librarians have a role to play in educating their patrons about the basics of e-health literacy.

## Finding Trustworthy Health Information: Part I Directing Your Patrons to Health Information Gateways and Portals

### MedlinePlus.gov

For more than a decade, the National Library of Medicine (NLM) has led the effort to make reliable health information accessible to consumers. Within one year of providing open access to its MEDLINE index of biomedical and clinical journals, NLM set out to create a comprehensive, full-text health information Web site targeting the general public. The result, MedlinePlus.gov, came online in October 1998.

Advertised as "The Website Your Doctor Prescribes," MedlinePlus is an authoritative, user-friendly, commercial-free Internet site maintained and updated continuously by the National Library of Medicine. Designed as a "gateway" or "portal," the information provided on the MedlinePlus site must meet strict quality and accuracy criteria. To ensure these standards are met, an advisory group of twenty-five professionals from the National Institutes of Health and other health-related organizations serve as a peer review board. Currently, the MedlinePlus site covers 750 health topics in depth and provides information on many others through "Ready Reference" resources such as a medical



encyclopedia, medical dictionary and an A-Z browsable database covering drugs and supplements.

### **MedlinePlus – Accessibility Accommodations and Foreign Language Translations**

Special accessibility features on MedlinePlus include interactive tutorials, “Easy to Read” articles, audio functionality on many pages, scalable text size, and a contrast adjustment for users with macular degeneration or other vision problems. All of the features described above can be directly translated into Spanish with just a click of a computer mouse. Providing health topics in additional languages is an ongoing priority. In mid-2008 researchers could find health information translated into forty languages – from Arabic to Vietnamese.

### **The Medical Library Associations’ Top 100 List**

Members of the Consumer and Patient Health Information Section (CAPHIS) of the Medical Library Association have created a Top 100 List of health information Web sites for consumers. Sorted into nine categories including Men’s Health, Women’s Health, and Parenting and Kids, each recommended site is continuously monitored for currency, credibility, content, and intended audience, according to criteria described on the Web site.

### **Medical Library Association’s Resources for Health Consumers**

Unlike the portal described in the previous section that directs consumers to quality sites for health and medical information, “Resources for Health Consumers” provides information about the health care system. Under the section “MLA Resources,” searchers will find a link to “Deciphering Medspeak” which includes a prescription shorthand guide called “Rx Riddles Solved”. Tutorials for locating and evaluating health information online are part of this guide, as well as tools and directories that help consumers find medical libraries and research hospitals. Additionally, important information that everyone should know about their individual health record is included in the section “National Consumer Health Resources.”

## **Finding Trustworthy Health Information: Part II Using Health-Related Databases in MAGNOLIA**

### **Online Ready Reference Resources**

**Consumer Health Complete** – An online ready reference shelf consisting of a medical dictionary, several medical encyclopedias, and popular general health references such as the *Mayo Clinic Family Health Book*. The book is an excellent resource for small libraries unable to purchase new editions of these essential references annually. Patrons can also print fact sheets and pamphlets on numerous health topics, evidence-based clinical reports, and information on drugs and supplements.

**Natural and Alternative Treatments** – This resource provides five A-Z lists under the headings: Conditions - natural and alternative treatments of more than 180 conditions, Herbs and Supplements – information on 200+ herbs and supplements, Drug Interactions – information on drug-herb and drug-supplement interactions for more than seventy-five drug categories, Alternative Therapies, and Functional Foods (e.g., phytosterols, the cholesterol-reducing additive advertised in everything from aspirin to yogurt).

### **Searchable Health Databases**

**Health Source: Nursing/Academic Edition** – A comprehensive database that includes more than 550 scholarly, full-text journals covering many medical disciplines, nursing, and allied health. *Health Source: Nursing/Academic Edition* also features the *Lexi-PAL Drug Guide*, which covers 1,300 generic drug patient education sheets with more than 4,700 brand names. A searchable medical dictionary is also included.

**Alt HealthWatch** – A full-text database which focuses on the many perspectives of complementary, holistic, and integrated approaches to health care and wellness. More than 180 international journals, as well as reports, booklets, pamphlets, and book excerpts are indexed. Journal titles include the *Journal of Alternative and Complementary Medicine* and the *American Journal of Homeopathic Medicine*. Alt HealthWatch is searchable

by keyword, subject, and publication title. A searchable index is also available.

**Agricola** – Primarily a database of journal articles related to agriculture and the life sciences; however, it also indexes journals that specifically cover food and nutrition subjects such as the *American Journal of Clinical Nutrition*, the *British Journal of Clinical Nutrition*, and the *Journal of the American Dietetic Association*. Generally only the abstract and bibliographic citation are available, not the full-text versions of the article. However, for patrons needing specific clinical nutrition information, this database may help locate articles not indexed in other MAGNOLIA health resources that can then be requested through interlibrary loan.

## **Resources for Librarians**

### **Healthnet: Recommended Core List for a Consumer Health Reference Collection**

Founded in 1985 by staff at the Lyman Maynard Stowe Library at the University of Connecticut, Healthnet, or the Connecticut Consumer Health Education Network, has become a national model for partnerships between regional health science center libraries and public libraries. As part of the service, staff maintain and regularly update a list of recommended titles for public libraries according to the size of their collection, available budget, and the priority placed on consumer health reference services. Titles are arranged by category – medical dictionaries, encyclopedias, etc., and by specific topics – heart disease, children’s health, and so on. Researchers accessing the list can search by selecting a category or by browsing the entire list.

### **Medical Library Association – Deciphering Medspeak**

Mentioned in a previous section for consumers, this Web site is also a great site for librarians to bookmark. The A-Z Medspeak list translates medical terminology into common English usage. PDF versions in Spanish and “Plain Language” for low literacy readers are available for download, as are Medspeak brochures for diabetes, heart disease, breast cancer, and HIV/AIDs, among others.

### National Network of Libraries of Medicine (NN/LM)

Mississippi is one of ten states included in the Southeastern/Atlantic region of the National Network of Libraries of Medicine (NN/LM). Membership in the network is free and any academic or public library is welcome to join as an "affiliate" member. Benefits of membership include access to free training, health-related materials, and funding for local projects and initiatives. In this regard, Delta State University was recently awarded a \$5,215 NN/LM Express Outreach Award of equipment and funding for its Dancing Rabbit e-Library Initiative to provide e-health literacy training workshops for public and school librarians, community health workers, and the general public. Free training is also available to public libraries directly through NN/LM's consumer health outreach coordinator and to minority consumer groups through the office of the community health coordinator.

### NN/LM Mississippi Web Site

In addition to the services described above, staff at NN/LM's Southeastern/Atlantic region maintain a Mississippi Resources page on the Web site. Perhaps the most valuable information included on the resource page is a collection of links to emergency preparedness and disaster recovery resources. Other useful information for Mississippi librarians includes links to news information resources for press releases and announcements, state demographics and statistics, and additional health resources for minority populations.

### NN/LM Librarian's Tool Kit

Designed for the new health sciences librarian, NN/LM's Tool Kit provides useful resources for academic and public librarians interested in learning more about the field. Medical Subject Headings (MeSH) are covered in depth and links to tutorials and other resources, such as an introduction to medical terminology, are accessible in the "Resources for Librarians New to Health Sciences" section.

Another section describes the National Institutes of Health (NIH) database and electronic resources portal. On this site

researchers can find links to clinical research and medical practice guidelines, health hotlines, and toxicology information. There are even links to history of medicine sites and a special feature called "Turn the Pages" where one can read beautifully digitized copies of historical

medical and scientific books such as Robert Hooke's 1665 edition of *Micrographia: or Some Physiological Descriptions of Minute Bodies made by Magnifying Glasses*, his illustrated introduction to the microscopic world. ■

### LIST OF RECOMMENDED WEB RESOURCES FOR PATRONS

#### MedlinePlus

<http://www.MedlinePlus.gov>

#### Medical Library Association's Top 100 List

<http://caphis.mlanet.org/consumer/index.html>

#### Medical Library Association's Resources for Health Consumers

[http://www.mlanet.org/resources/consumr\\_index.html](http://www.mlanet.org/resources/consumr_index.html)

### LIST OF RECOMMENDED WEB RESOURCES FOR LIBRARIES AND LIBRARIANS

#### Healthnet: Recommended Books for a Consumer Health Reference Collection

<http://library.uchc.edu/departm/hnet/corelist.html>

#### Medical Library Association – Deciphering Medspeak

<http://www.mlanet.org/resources/medspeak/>

#### Mississippi Library Commission – Continuing Education/Training

<http://www.mlc.lib.ms.us/ServicesToLibraries/DevelopmentServicesContinuingEd.htm>

#### National Library of Medicine – Free Reproducible Health Brochures

<http://nnlm.gov/sea/services/promotional.html>

#### National Network of Libraries of Medicine – Librarian's Tool Kit

<http://nnlm.gov/sea/training/toolkit.html>

#### National Network of Libraries of Medicine – Membership Information

<http://nnlm.gov/sea/services/index.html>

#### National Network of Libraries of Medicine – Mississippi Facts/Resources

<http://nnlm.gov/sea/about/states/ms/>

#### National Network of Libraries of Medicine – Training

<http://nnlm.gov/sea/training/>

### REFERENCES

Fox, Susannah. "Online Health Search 2006." Washington, D.C.: Pew Internet and American Life Project, 2006. [http://www.pewinternet.org/pdfs/PIP\\_Online\\_Health\\_2006.pdf](http://www.pewinternet.org/pdfs/PIP_Online_Health_2006.pdf).

"Has the Library Positively Impacted Your Health?" *Woman's Day* 71, no. 6 (March 4, 2008): 30.

Kouame, Gail, Margo Harris, and Susan Murray. "Consumer Information from Both Sides of the Reference Desk." *Library Trends* 53, no. 3 (2005): 464-479.

**New in MAGNOLIA: *Credo Reference*  
and *Wilson Biographies Plus Illustrated***

*Paul McCarver and Shirlene Stogner*

In fall 2007, MAGNOLIA, Mississippi's statewide database consortium, added *Credo Reference* and *Wilson Biographies Plus Illustrated* to the roster of online services available to libraries throughout the state. Both services provide information valuable to various levels of users.

## Searching Credo Reference

*Credo Reference* is an online collection of hundreds of reference books covering a diversity of subject areas such as art, business, history, literature, music, science, social science, and technology. Not only is *Credo* multidisciplinary, but the reference titles surveyed are produced by a variety of publishers. A recently added feature enables the search language to be changed from English to other languages, including Chinese, French, Polish, Spanish, and Urdu. The resulting search entries and their text, however, are in English. Users have the option of searching the entire spectrum of topics all at one time, searching within a specific subject area, or searching within a specific book or several selected titles. It is also possible to search within types of books, such as dictionaries, encyclopedias, and handbooks. Searches may be constructed using separate keywords or exact phrases. The user may also specify words to exclude from the search. *Credo's* concept map feature provides an additional way of searching. This feature enables the user to start with one term and to expand from that original term to a visual array of related terms. The corresponding information may be linked from any of the terms displayed.

*Paul McCarver is senior information services librarian/associate professor and Shirlene Stogner is information services librarian/associate professor at the University of Southern Mississippi; e-mail: paul.mccarver@usm.edu, shirlene.stogner@usm.edu.*

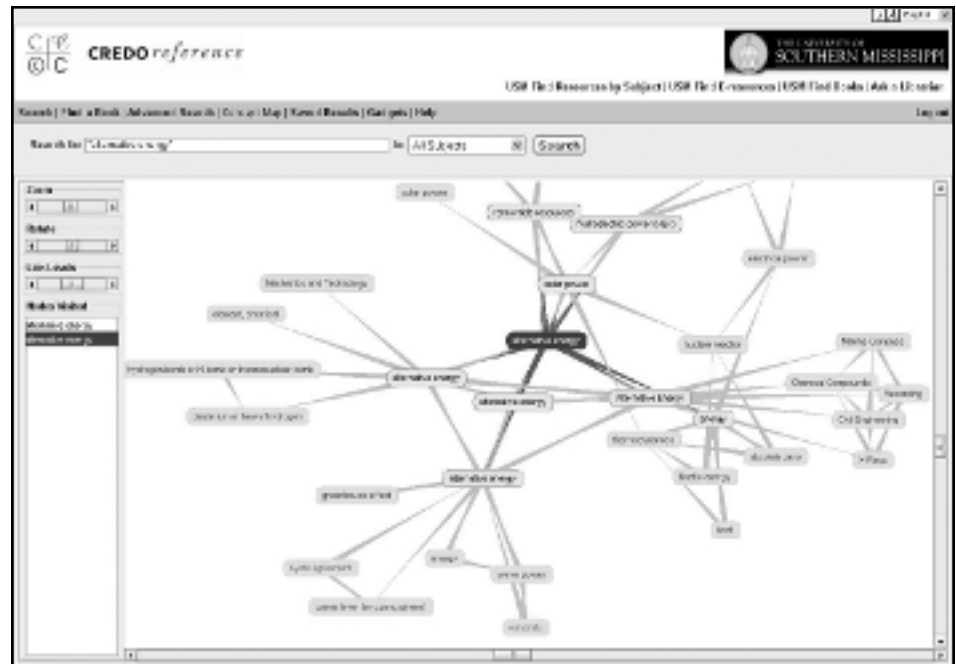


Figure 1. Screen capture from Credo Reference showing the concept map for the phrase alternative energy.

## Credo Reference Search Results

Whatever search method is employed, the retrieved entries link to full-text articles that may be sorted by relevance, length, or publication date. Within each article, cross-references are provided that link to other articles in the same source. In addition, related linked entries from different books are listed in a column to the left of the article being viewed. Some articles contain visual images, audio, or both. Any retrieved article may be printed, saved, or e-mailed, and examples of how to cite entries in APA, MLA, and Chicago style are provided. Another feature enables saved results to be exported into citation management tools such as RefWorks, EndNote, ProCite, and others.

## Credo Reference Features

Another feature that has recently been added to *Credo* is a column of ready reference “gadgets” that may be engaged to

search for persons, locations, quotations, holidays, festivals, and conversion tables for various standards of measure. In addition, the reference sources indexed by the database may be sorted for viewing not only by subject, title, and type of book, but also by Dewey and Library of Congress classification numbers. It is important to point out that over time, *Credo Reference* continuously adds to the number of reference titles included in the range of those surveyed and replaces older editions of reference books with newer ones as they become available. In this way, *Credo* is able to provide its subscribers with access to an ever-growing body of updated information.

## Wilson Biographies Plus Illustrated

*Wilson Biographies Plus Illustrated* offers researchers over 147,000 comprehensive profiles of newsmakers and figures of prominence from a wide range of fields.



Figure 2. Screen capture from Credo Reference showing typical search results.



Figure 3. New comprehensive narrative profile includes biographical data, images, and links together.

The majority of the reliable and accurate profiles are over 1,500 words in length. Coverage includes Wilson biographical resources such as *Current Biography*, *Nobel Prize Winners*, the *World Authors* series, and the *Junior Authors and Illustrators* series. In addition, *Wilson Biographies Plus Illustrated* offers licensed profiles from respected reference publishers including Oxford University Press, Houghton Mifflin, Harvard University Press, and the Congressional Directory. New content from *Facts About the Presidents* and *Speeches of the American Presidents* has been included recently. More than 36,000 images have been added to enhance the narrative profiles. Over 1,000 profiles are added yearly and the database is updated daily to provide up-to-the-minute coverage of newsmakers.

## Searching Wilson Biographies Plus Illustrated

*Wilson Biographies Plus Illustrated* can be searched by name, profession, place of origin, gender, ethnicity, birth/death dates, titles of works, and keyword. The variety of search options gives researchers enhanced searching functionality and makes this product an integral resource for women's studies, multicultural studies, and other subject areas beyond simple name look-ups.

## Features of Wilson Biographies Plus Illustrated

RSS-enabled alerts allow librarians and users the ability to feed results into their news readers and aggregators, as well as their Web sites. Researchers interested in printing, e-mailing, and saving in standard industry formats can choose from the following styles: HTML, APA, MLA,



Figure 4. Advanced search screen allows users to enter a word, phrase, or name and choose additional fields to limit and expand searches.



Figure 5. Clicking on a thumbnail image opens its enlarged version in the viewing frame, which uses a new scrollable image viewer.

Chicago/Turabian: Humanities, and Chicago/Turabian: Author-Date. The citation information is then automatically formatted according to the selected style. Citations or records can also be downloaded or exported to the bibliographic management tools RefWorks and End-Note.

Major improvements recently made include:

- A new, faster loading, frameless interface provides a cleaner, clearer look
- A new scrollable image viewer is useful for subjects with more than one image
- Links to recent full-text articles, abstracts, and book review excerpts from thousands of periodicals covered by other Wilson databases allow users to expand searches
- Full-text HTML documents can be translated from English into French, Spanish, German, Portuguese, Italian, and Korean
- New searches can be initiated directly from the search result screen ■

**For more information  
on these databases, visit**

<http://corp.credoreference.com/>,

<http://www.hwwilson.com>,

or

[http://library.msstate.edu/](http://library.msstate.edu/magnolia/index.html)

[magnolia/index.html](http://library.msstate.edu/magnolia/index.html).

## MISSISSIPPI LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

# 2008 Annual Conference



MISSISSIPPI LIBRARY  
ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 13687  
Jackson, MS 39236-3687

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

October 21–24, 2008  
Natchez Convention Center  
Natchez, Mississippi



## Preconference Workshop

Tuesday, October 21, 2008 / Natchez Convention Center

### CREATING SUSTAINABLE FUNDING FOR YOUR LIBRARY



#### TIME:

**Sign-in: 10:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.**

**Training: 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.**

**Box Lunch: Provided**

MAXIMUM CLASS SIZE: 100

COST: Free

**CEUs/CONTACT HOURS: .20/2.0**

**TRAINER: LYNDA BOWMAN of BENEVON / Seattle, WA**

This preconference workshop provides an introduction to a step-by-step process and the tools to put your library on the pathway to financial sustainability.

You will be introduced to a model for building sustainable funding from passionate lifelong individual donors as you tailor the Benevon Model to the unique needs of your library. Participants are encouraged to bring other staff, board, and volunteers to engage them in this practical and effective approach.

In this introductory session, you will learn:

An overview of the Benevon Model, an organic system for building sustainable funding for the work of your library from multiple-year individual donors

How to implement mission-focused, permission-based fundraising

How to make your library more visible in your community

How to identify and personally cultivate individual donors who are passionate about your mission and will give to operations, capital, and endowment.

Participants will be trained by Lynda Bowman of BENEVON, Terry Axelrod's national organization, which is skilled in working with non-profits to implement a mission-based fund raising system.

Participants receive a copy of *Raising More Money: A Step-by-Step Guide to Building Lifelong Donors*.

#### INTENDED AUDIENCE:

Public and academic library directors, managers, trustees, and Friends of the library

## PRELIMINARY SCHEDULE

## Tuesday, October 21

- 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.      **Registration at the Natchez Convention Center**
- 10:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.      **Preconference Workshop**  
Ticket required      **CREATING SUSTAINABLE FUNDING FOR YOUR LIBRARY**  
Lynda Bowman of BENEVO / Seattle, WA  
This workshop will introduce participants to a step-by-step process to put your library on the pathway to financial sustainability.
- 4:00 - 5:00 p.m.      **MLA Executive Board Meeting**
- 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.      **President's Scholarship Fundraiser / Presidential Bash**  
Ticket required      Join us for a wonderful evening in historic downtown Natchez for eats and punch/coffee as we support the Peggy May and Virginia Brocks-Shedd Scholarships and honor MLA President Jeff Slagell.

## Wednesday, October 22

- 7:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.      **Registration at the Natchez Convention Center**
- 8:00 - 9:00 a.m.      **MLA Legislative Committee Meeting**
- 9:30 - 10:45 a.m.      **First General Session**  
**Keynote Speaker: Jim Rettig, 2008 ALA President**  
**"Creating Connections: Thoughts on Our Future"**
- 11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.      **Exhibits Open**  
**Silent Scholarship Auction**  
Bid on wonderful items for gifts for your family and friends. All proceeds will benefit the Peggy May Scholarship Fund and the Virginia Brocks-Shedd Scholarship Fund. Bidding closes on Thursday at 2:30 p.m. and items must be picked up by 5 p.m.
- 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.      **Box Lunches for Vendors and Attendees**  
Ticket required
- Noon - 1:30 p.m.      **Black Caucus Luncheon with Dr. Jayne Sargeant**  
Ticket required      Dr. Jayne Sargeant is the former Jackson, Mississippi, Superintendent of Education.  
*Sponsored by the Black Caucus Roundtable*
- 1:30 - 2:30 p.m.      **MLA Conference 2009 Committee**
- 1:30 - 3:00 p.m.      **Auto-Graphics Users Group Meeting**  
Attendees will learn of recent and pending updates to the VUC and VERSO products and hear from Mississippi librarians who are implementing additional features to provide innovative services to their public.  
*Sponsored by Auto-Graphics*
- 2:00 - 3:00 p.m.      **Author Rheta Grimsley Johnson: The Tool Shed Reading Club**  
Ticket required      Pulitzer Prize nominee Rheta Grimsley Johnson will discuss her new book, *Poor Man's Provence: Finding Myself in Cajun Louisiana*, the power of reading, and her home in Henderson, near the Atchafalaya Swamp in Southwest Louisiana.
-

## PRELIMINARY SCHEDULE

3:00 - 5:00 p.m. Ticket required	<b>The Friends of Mississippi Libraries' 8th Annual An Afternoon Tea with Authors</b> Regina Troclair Charbonneau, author of <i>Regina's Table at Twin Oaks</i> (RT Press, 2007) Helen Puckett DeFrance, author of <i>At Home Café: Gatherings for Family and Friends</i> (Rodale Press, 2008) Patty Roper, author of <i>At the Table with Patty Roper</i> (Mississippi Magazine, 2006), <i>Easy Does It: Entertaining and Easy Hospitality</i> . Books will be available for purchase and signing.
3:00 - 5:00 p.m.	<b>National Library Week 2009 Committee Meeting</b> Planning and promoting MLA's 2009 National Library Week. Also for interested librarians who are not members of the committee
3:30 - 5:00 p.m.	<b>Poster Sessions: Session I of II</b>
5:00 - 6:00 p.m.	<b>Mississippi University Library Directors Meeting</b>
5:00 - 6:00 p.m.	<b>Private Academic Libraries of Mississippi (PALMS) Meeting</b>
5:00 - 7:00 p.m.	<b>Explore Natchez with Your Colleagues!</b> Dinner on your own. See the Natchez guide in your conference bag.
7:00 - 8:30 p.m.	<b>Mississippi Community College &amp; Junior College Library Deans and Directors Meeting at Copiah-Lincoln Community College / Natchez</b>

## Thursday, October 23

7:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.	<b>Registration at the Natchez Convention Center</b>
8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.	<b>Exhibits</b>
8:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.	<b>Silent Scholarship Auction</b> Last day to bid on great gifts! Bidding closes at 2:30 p.m. and items must be picked up by 5:00 p.m. The proceeds will benefit the Peggy May Scholarship Fund and the Virginia Brocks-Shedd Scholarship Fund.
8:00 a.m. - Noon	<b>MAGNOLIA Business Meeting &amp; Database Training</b>
8:00 - 10:00 a.m. Ticket required	<b>Public Libraries Breakfast with Walt Grayson</b> <b>"Looking Around Mississippi"</b> Join award-winning author Walt Grayson as he discusses the rich heritage and people of Mississippi. <i>Sponsored by the Public Libraries Section</i>
8:00 - 10:00 a.m. Ticket required	<b>Two-Year College Roundtable (2YCRT) Breakfast</b> Terry Pollard, eLearning Specialist for the State Board for Community and Junior Colleges, will discuss the Mississippi Virtual Community College's new Web site. He will focus on the new eLearning blog, downloadable manual, screen casts and library resources. <i>Sponsored by the 2YCRT</i>

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## PRELIMINARY SCHEDULE

9:00 - 10:30 a.m.	<b>School Libraries: Creating School Library Web Sites</b> Melanie Kerrp, presenter
9:30 - 11:30 a.m.	<b>Poster Sessions: Session II of II</b>
10:00 a.m. - Noon	<b>The Friends of Mississippi Libraries: Literary Landmark for Richard Wright</b> The Friends of Mississippi Libraries and the Friends of Libraries U.S.A. will be commemorating the Richard Wright Centennial Year by designating the Richard Wright Exhibit Hall of the Natchez Association for the Preservation of African-American Culture Museum as part of the National Literary Landmarks Register. Come and meet Richard Wright scholars and view the "Richard Wright: A Force for Right!" video that has been developed by students and faculty of the Copiah-Lincoln Community College, Natchez campus. <i>Partners in this literary landmark dedication include: Friends of the Judge George W. Coker Library, Friends of Mississippi Libraries, the Mississippi Library Commission, and the Mississippi Library Association.</i>
11:00 a.m. - Noon	<b>Government Documents Roundtable (GODORT) Business Meeting</b>
11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Ticket required	<b>Box Lunches for Vendors and Attendees</b>
Noon - 1:30 p.m.	<b>USM School of Library and Information Science Luncheon - American Library Association Accreditation</b> Changes in the ALA accreditation standards for schools of library and information science and the role of professional librarians in the accreditation process will be discussed.
Noon - 2:00 p.m. Ticket required	<b>Young People's Services Roundtable (YPSRT) Luncheon with Mike Artell</b> <b>Talking and Drawing with Mike Artell</b> Join children's book author and illustrator Mike Artell for a very entertaining program combining art and humor.
Noon - 2:00 p.m. Ticket required	<b>ACRL Luncheon with Karen Green</b> <b>Starting a Graphic Novels Collection at an Academic Library</b> Join Karen Green, Graphic Novels Librarian at Columbia University, as she discusses the rewards of creating graphic novel collections at an academic library and the academic validity of graphic novels.
1:00 - 2:00 p.m.	<b>USM School of Library and Information Science—SLIS Focus Group</b> After information about the USM School of Library and Information Science is presented, alumni and friends will be invited to participate in a discussion of the role and future direction of the program.
1:00 - 2:00 p.m.	<b>Mississippi Department of Archives and History and the University of Southern Mississippi</b> <b>Connecting Our Collections: A Statewide Initiative</b> Presenters will discuss the Mississippi Cultural Heritage Network. Participants will learn current plans and the benefits of being involved in the program.
2:00 - 3:00 p.m.	<b>Ice Cream Social with the Exhibitors</b> Enjoy a delicious ice cream treat while visiting with our MLA exhibitors! <i>Sponsored by Library Telecons, Melrose, LA</i>

## PRELIMINARY SCHEDULE

- 3:00 - 4:00 p.m.**      **Technical Services Roundtable**  
**Outsourcing and Systems Migration**  
 Two minisessions will address practical aspects of outsourcing (pros and cons) and systems migration (a checklist for preparation, implementation, and follow-up).
- 3:00 - 4:30 p.m.**      **Librarianship 101 Alumni Meeting**  
 Ticket required  
 Past participants in the Librarianship 101 Institute will gather for additional training and for a networking reception.  
*Sponsored by the Mississippi Library Commission.*
- 3:00 - 5:00 p.m.**      **Beta Phi Mu Beta Psi**  
**Don't Mess with Mississippi Women!**  
*Dr. Francis Lucas, President, Millsaps College*
- 3:00 - 5:00 p.m.**      **Off the Bookshelf: "Health-y" Online Resources for K-12 Students**  
**Continuing Education (School Librarians)**  
*Ann Mulloy Ashmore, Delta State University, and Mandy Bayer Meloy, NN/LM*  
 An introduction to K-12 resources in the areas of health and science and tools for training students about online information literacy.
- 3:00 - 5:00 p.m.**      **EBSCOhost 2.0: Academic Search Premier, MasterFILE Premier, and Primary Search**  
**MLA Information Literacy Committee**  
 This hands-on workshop, featuring presenters demonstrating features of three EBSCOhost 2.0 databases, is open to academic, public, and K-12 librarians.
- 4:00 - 5:00 p.m.**      **School Libraries—National Certification for Media Specialists**  
 Several nationally certified librarians will discuss the process for participants.
- 4:00 - 5:00 p.m.**      **Creating Instructional Library Videos**  
**Library Instruction Roundtable (LIRT)**  
*Steven Turner and Jennifer Brannock, University of Southern Mississippi*
- 5:00 - 6:00 p.m.**      **Cocktails in Natchez**  
 Enjoy a relaxing hour with friends in a cash bar setting.
- 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.**      **Mississippi Author Awards Dinner**  
 Ticket required  
*Sponsored by MLA Author Awards Committee.*

## Friday, October 24

- 7:30 - 11:00 a.m.**      **Registration at the Natchez Convention Center**
- 8:00 - 9:00 a.m.**      **Past Presidents' Breakfast**  
 Ticket required  
 Honoring the Mississippi Library Association's past presidents. Limited to MLA Past Presidents.
- 8:00 - 9:00 a.m.**      **USM Alumni Breakfast**  
 Ticket required  
*Sponsored by the School of Library and Information Science, University of Southern Mississippi*
- 8:00 - 9:00 a.m.**      **Special Libraries Breakfast with Greg Johnson**  
 Ticket required  
**Collecting the Blues: The Archives at the University of Mississippi**  
*Greg Johnson, Blues Curator and Assistant Professor, University of Mississippi*  
 Archivist Greg Johnson will discuss how Blues materials are acquired, preserved, and made accessible to researchers in one of the largest Blues archives in the world.

## PRELIMINARY SCHEDULE

9:00 - 10:00 a.m.	<b>School Libraries Business Meeting</b>
9:00 - 10:00 a.m.	<b>Mississippi Polaris Users' Group</b> <i>Jennifer A. Smith, Warren County—Vicksburg Public Library</i> Join other Polaris libraries to discuss current and future issues with the Polaris Library System software.
9:00 - 10:00 a.m.	<b>Mississippi SirsiDynix Users' Group</b> <i>Tisha Zelner, University of Southern Mississippi</i> An election of new officers for 2009 will be held during the business meeting and a SirsiDynix representative will discuss new product offerings and updates.
9:00 - 10:00 a.m.	<b>Chopsticks in the Land of Cotton</b> <b>Mississippi Archives and History Committee</b> <i>Freda Quon and Emily Weaver, Delta State University</i> Discover how the Chinese came to the Mississippi Delta and other fascinating details featured in Dr. John Jung's book about the Mississippi Delta Chinese.
9:00 - 11:00 a.m.	<b>The Value and Impact of Mississippi Libraries</b> <b>Dancing Rabbit Library Consortium</b> <i>Phil Hardwick, Coordinator of Capacity Development, John C. Stennis Institute of Government</i> Join Phil Hardwick for an overview and discussion of the statewide survey to determine the value and impact of libraries in Mississippi.
10:00 a.m. - Noon	<b>Staging Book and Author Events @ Your Library</b> <b>Friends of Mississippi Libraries Conference and Business Meeting</b> <i>Patricia M. Terrell, author of Staging Book and Author Events @ Your Library</i> She will discuss how to stage and organize events—roundtable dinners, mystery theaters, book fairs, and lunching with books programming. <i>Joe Lee</i> will discuss events from a publisher's point of view.
10:00 a.m. - Noon	<b>EBSCOhost 2.0: Academic Search Premier, MasterFILE Premier, and Primary Search</b> <b>MLA Information Literacy Committee</b> An encore opportunity to participate in this hands-on workshop, featuring presenters demonstrating features of three EBSCOhost 2.0 databases, open to academic, public, and K-12 librarians.
11:00 a.m. - Noon	<b>Using Web 2.0 in Your Library</b> <b>School of Library and Information Science, University of Southern Mississippi</b> <i>Dr. Steven C. Yuen and Mrs. Patricia K. Yuen</i> Join Dr. Yuen and Mrs. Yuen as they discuss how librarians and teachers can use Web 2.0 technologies to empower learners and create exciting new learning opportunities.
11:00 a.m. - Noon	<b>Historians, Genealogists, and Archivists in Libraries</b> <i>Jennifer Delaney Rose, Public History Coordinator, Sunflower County Library System</i> A wonderful opportunity for archivists, historians, and genealogists who work in libraries to meet and consider organizing an MLA roundtable.
Noon - 2:00 p.m. Ticket required	<b>MLA Awards Luncheon</b> The grand finale of the 2008 Mississippi Library Association Conference, honoring our colleagues for outstanding professional achievement and special recognition of Lifetime MLA members.



# Mississippi Authors Award Recipients 2008

Thursday, October 23, 2008 6:00 - 8:00 P.M.

## NON-FICTION WINNER



**Walt Grayson** has deep Mississippi roots, with five generations of his family buried in Mississippi soil. Born and raised in Greenville, his interest in broadcasting began early with a high school announcing job for Greenville radio station WJPR. He became the weather anchor at Jackson's NBC affiliate, WLBT, in 1984. At WLBT, he also takes viewers on a "Look Around Mississippi" on Fridays and hosts and writes the *Mississippi Roads* program on MIB. He is the author of *Jackson: The Good Life*, *Looking Around Mississippi* and the recipient of our award in the nonfiction category for *Looking Around Mississippi . . . Some More* (2007).



Carving Company Publishers (2007)



**Robert Dalby** was born into a large, extended Southern family, consisting of nearly two dozen first cousins, two uncles, four aunts, two sets of grandparents and any number of "further-removed" among the cousinly. He grew up in Natchez and obtained a BA at the University of the South (Sewanee).

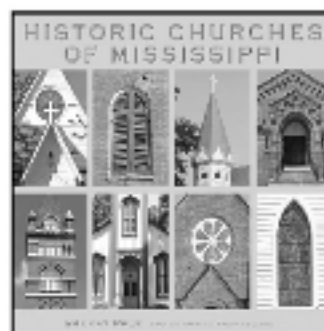
*Waltzing at the Piggly Wiggly* and *Kissing Babies at the Piggly Wiggly* both grew out of his own fascination with the eccentricities of the small-town South he grew up with and loved. As a native and resident of Natchez, during his formative years, Dalby learned to expect eccentricity and quirky behavior as par for the course—he often only had to look as far as his own family and friends for inspiration. He now lives in Oxford, Mississippi. *Kissing Babies at the Piggly Wiggly*, winner of the Fiction Award, is his second novel.



C. P. Putnam's Sons (2007)



**Sherry Pace**, an outdoor freelance Mississippi photographer, is a native Mississippian and has resided in Madison County for the past twenty-five years. She is the author of two unique Mississippi hardbound vivid color coffee table books, *Victorian Houses of Mississippi* (2005) and the winner of our Special Category Award, *Historic Churches of Mississippi* (2007). In both books, she traveled the whole state to cover a wide geographical area with her many photographs. Included in her collection are houses and churches from the Mississippi Gulf Coast regions that are now gone or damaged by Hurricane Katrina but well preserved in her books.



University Press of Mississippi (2007)

## SPECIAL CATEGORY WINNER

# Featured Authors & Speakers

Wednesday, October 22, 2008

*First General Session, 9:30 - 10:45 A.M.*

## KEYNOTE SPEAKER

### Jim Rettig, 2008 ALA President



Jim Rettig serves as university librarian at the University of Richmond in Virginia. He has written extensively on reference service and reference sources.

From 1981 to 1995, he wrote the *Wilson Library Bulletin's* "Current Reference Books" column. It continued online as "Rettig on Reference," first on the H.W. Wilson's Web site and later on Gale's through 1999.

He has received RASD's (now RUSA) Mudge Citation for "distinguished contributions to reference librarianship," RASD's Louis Shores-Oryx Press Award for "significant achievement in the field of reviewing materials for libraries," and the American Library Association's G.K. Hall Award for *Distinguished Classics of Reference Publishing* (1992) as "an outstanding contribution to library literature." The University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Library and Information Studies named him its 2006 Distinguished Alumnus. He has served on various ACRL, LAMA, RUSA, and ALA committees, the ALA Council, and the ALA Executive Board.

He currently serves as ALA's president. He will always be a reference librarian at heart.

## Author Program, 2:00 - 3:00 P.M.

### Author Rheta Grimsley Johnson

For over a decade, syndicated columnist Rheta Grimsley Johnson has been spending several months a year in southwest Louisiana, deep in the heart of Cajun Country. Unlike many other writers who have parachuted into the swampy paradise for a few days or weeks, Rheta fell in love with the place, bought a second home, and set in planting doomed azaleas and deep roots. She has found an assortment of beautiful people in a homely little town called Henderson, right on the edge of the Atchafalaya Swamp.

These days, much is labeled Cajun that is not, and the popularity of the unique culture's food, songs, and dance has been a mixed blessing. The revival of French Louisiana's traditional music and cuisine often has been cheapened by counterfeits. Confused pilgrims sometimes look to New Orleans for a sampler platter of all things Cajun. Close, but no cigar.

*Poor Man's Provence* helps define what's what through lively characters and stories. The book is both personal odyssey and good reporting, travelogue and memoir, funny and frank. This beguiling place is as exotic as it gets without a passport. The author shares what keeps her coming home to French Louisiana.

And as NPR commentator Bailey White observes in her foreword, "Both Rheta's readers and the people she writes about will be comfortable, well fed, highly entertained, and happy they came to Poor Man's Provence."



# News Briefs

Tina Harry, Editor

## Tenth Anniversary for Genealogy Fair a Success

The Tenth Annual Regional Genealogy Fair took place on Saturday, June 21, 2008, at Mitchell Memorial Library on the Mississippi State University (MSU) campus. About fifty genealogists from across the state participated.

The keynote speaker for the fair, Anne L. Webster of the Mississippi State Department of Archives and History in Jackson, presented an overview of the resources and services available at the Department of Archives and History. She shared examples of documents, both common and rare, that researchers might find and emphasized that researchers should check every possible resource, even documents that might not appear to be pertinent, because information is often recorded in odd places.

Elizabeth Downey, an instructional librarian at MSU Libraries, presented Famiva, a new social networking Web site that allows family members to build a family tree together and communicate with each other. The site allows blogging, maintains family calendars, and archives family photos.

Participants were able to get together during lunch to share information with others researching the same family lines. Dessert at lunch was a special tenth anniversary birthday cake.

The afternoon sessions consisted of personal research in the libraries' special collections department, tours of resources throughout the libraries, and "brick wall breaking" sessions. MSU Libraries' Lynne Mueller, a special collections librarian, presented sessions on incorporating new research techniques with more traditional research. At the same time, Downey, Mattie Sink, the manuscripts librarian in special collections, and Becky Murphey of Oxford, Mississippi, were in the special collections department to work

one-on-one with researchers who had identified specific, difficult research problems and brought their documentation with them. They worked together to identify possible strategies and sources to solve seemingly unsolvable problems.

For more information on MSU Libraries' Genealogy Fair and on the special collections department, please visit <http://library.msstate.edu/workshops/genealogy/>.

— Submitted by Angela M. Patton, library assistant, Mississippi State University Libraries



Genealogy Fair attendees (from left) Julie Dickerson and Beth Downey search through MSU Libraries' special collections' records, tracing family histories. Photo by Jim Tomlinson.

## Second Mississippi Web 2.0 Summit a Success

On Friday, June 20, 2008, Mitchell Memorial Library on the campus of Mississippi State University hosted librarians and library staff members from across the Southeast for its Second Annual Mississippi Library 2.0 Summit.

Nationally-known expert on Web 2.0 technologies Sarah Houghton-Jan delivered the summit's keynote address, "Sustainable Web 2.0 Services for Smaller, Underfunded Libraries." Following Houghton-Jan's presentation, attendees chose among "steal-this-idea" sessions featuring topics such as:

- using Flickr to share your library's event photos and archived collections,
- advertising your library and connecting your staff and students on Facebook,

- managing your personal and your library's online identity in social networks,
- using Google Analytics to see who's visiting your library's Web site,
- creating a family tree using Famiva,
- using wikis in the classroom,
- creating a summer reading and blogging program,
- using Meebo and Skype for virtual library instruction sessions.

Summit attendees got to share their experiences in the online world during a birds-of-a-feather boxed luncheon where table topics included Twitter, virtual reference, wikis, Teen Web, and more.

"This year's summit was an outstanding success," said summit committee chair Amanda Clay Powers. "We were so pleased to host staff from public, university, K-12, and community college library programs. The feedback was excellent, and the ideas that everyone brought to the table were outstanding."

For more information about Mississippi State University Libraries' MS Library 2.0 Summit, please visit <http://blogs.library.msstate.edu/web2summit/> and to view



Summit planning committee chair Amanda Clay Powers (left) poses for a photograph with keynote speaker Sarah Houghton-Jan and MSU Libraries' Administrator of Systems Stephen Cunetto. Photo by Jim Tomlinson.

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

photos from throughout the day's events, check out the libraries' Flickr site at <http://flickr.com/photos/msstatelibraries/>.

– Submitted by Angela M. Patton, library assistant, Mississippi State University Libraries

### **Community Emergency Response Team Training Hosted by Gunter Library**

On June 6, 7, and 8, twenty volunteers participated in Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training at the University of Southern Mississippi Gulf Coast Research Laboratory in Ocean Springs. Organized and hosted by Gunter Library head librarian, Joyce Shaw, the class was composed of librarians and other managers from the University of Southern Mississippi Gulf Coast and Hattiesburg campuses, Red Cross volunteers, Gulf Coast Research Laboratory employees, representatives from the city of Ocean Springs Emergency Management office, and the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources.

CERT is a U.S. Department of Homeland Security program that helps educate citizens and trains them in life saving skills so they are better equipped to respond to emergency situations in their communities. The goal of CERT training is to give citizens skills to cope with an emergency disaster in the event that emergency responders are overwhelmed. During the twenty hours of CERT training, citizens learned:

- managing utilities and extinguishing small fires,
- basic first aid and triage,
- search and rescue,
- managing volunteers,
- information collection to assist emergency providers.

Eddie Ivy, training coordinator for the City of Meridian Homeland Security Department, and Steve Baggett, public works director for Decatur, and a volunteer fire chief provided the training. Participants who finished the training received a CERT kit, which contained emergency supplies and tools.

Shaw received the grant from the Mississippi Office of Homeland Security to provide the training.

– Submitted by Joyce Shaw, head librarian, Gunter Library, University of Southern Mississippi

(continued on page 83)



Joyce Shaw, head librarian, Gunter Library, and Peggy Price, head of special collections, McCain Library and Archives, learn to extinguish a small fire during CERT training. Photo by Diane Ross.

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# People in the News

*Tina Harry, Editor*

**Blair Booker** is the new assistant librarian at McMorrough Library on the Goodman Campus of Holmes Community College. She was previously employed as a reference librarian with the Mississippi Library Commission in Jackson. She earned her BS in English from the University of North Alabama in 2004 and received her MLIS from the University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, in 2007.

**Gerald Chaudron** has joined the Mississippi State University Libraries as assistant professor/manuscripts.

**Jennifer Hall** is the new head librarian of the Batesville Public Library. Hall recently graduated from the University of Alabama with a master's degree in library science. The Tuscaloosa, AL, native has worked in retail, human resources, and administration. She replaces **Barbara Evans**, who is now First Regional Library's assistant director for public services.



*Jennifer Hall*

**Ruth Harris** is the new head librarian of the Robert C. Irwin Public Library in Tunica, replacing **Lynn Shurden**, who is now director of the Bolivar County Library System. Harris' varied library career includes stints at the Memphis College of Art, Ole Miss Law Library, Clarksdale Public Library,



*Ruth Harris*

and Memphis Public Library. The Marks, Mississippi native is happy to be back in her home state.

In mid July, **Dr. Carole Kiehl** took up the position of dean of university libraries at the University of Southern Mississippi. Originally from Scotland, she received a Ph.D. in French from Glasgow University, studied library science at Robert Gordon's University in Aberdeen, and began her career in public libraries in Renfrewshire and Dundee. After moving to the United States, she worked at Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Virginia as a cataloger and part-time computer operator with DataPhase Systems ILS vendor. Subsequently, she became head of cataloging and eventually head of bibliographic services at Old Dominion University. In 2001, Kiehl moved to the University of California – Irvine where she was the associate university librarian for information technology and technical services.



*Carole Kiehl*

**Heather Lawson** became head librarian of the Hernando Public Library in April, replacing **Amy Poe**, who is now First Regional Library's staff development coordinator. Lawson comes to First Regional after retiring from the Memphis and Shelby County Public Library, where she served for thirty years. Lawson's experience and enthusiasm are helping her lead the Hernando Public Library in many positive directions.



*Heather Lawson*

**Randall McMillen** has joined the Mississippi State University Libraries as digital projects coordinator.

**David Scott Nolen** has joined the Mississippi State University Libraries as assistant professor/humanities reference librarian.

**Jason Phillips** has joined the Mississippi State University Libraries as government documents and microforms reference librarian.

**Jesse Pool** is the new head librarian of the M.R. Dye Public Library in Horn Lake. Pool had been with the Memphis and Shelby County Public Library, where he most recently worked at the Highland Branch. He has a strong background in reader's advisory, community outreach, and service to adults and teens. Pool replaces **Alisa St. Amant**, who now works for the Jackson-George Public Library System.



*Jesse Pool*

**Ryan Semmes** has joined the Mississippi State University Libraries as assistant professor/archivist.

**Julie Xu** has joined the Mississippi State University Libraries as assistant professor/engineering reference librarian. ■

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

# About Books

Christina Torbert, Editor

## FICTION

**Cook, Thomas H.** *Master of the Delta*. Orlando, FL: Harcourt Books, 2008. 367 pp. \$24.00 (hardcover)

The time is the mid-1950s in the Mississippi Delta where old plantation homes and cotton fields haunt the landscape. Jack Branch, a history teacher and son of an old plantation family, has returned to Lake-land to teach in the local high school as his father did before him. In addition to his history classes, Jack teaches a special course on historical evil to senior high students from poor working class families from the community. When the class is assigned to write a paper about an evil character, one student asks to write about his father, a confessed murderer. Eddie Miller, the son of the Coed Killer, as he was known, is a quiet young man who lives with the cloud of his father's misdeed hanging over his head. Eddie's early success interviewing people who knew his father gives him the confidence to interview members of the old plantation class – including Jack's own ailing father, master of Great Oaks.

As the research paper takes form, the interviews, clippings, and photographs also reveal facts that disturb Jack Branch and the security he has assumed as his birthright as the son of Great Oaks. The story is narrated by Jack in that slow, polite manner of the Delta, as he looks back to his own past to make sense of the events of the present as they unfold; as he reads passages from Eddie's research paper and recalls excerpts from the trial, the reader is forewarned of an unhappy ending that keeps the story engaging.

Thomas H. Cook, born in Alabama and living in New York, has written numerous mystery novels, is an award-winning

author, and has been an editor of *Best American Crime Writing* since 2000. This most recent novel of suspense would be an excellent addition to public libraries, particularly those with readers familiar with the Delta landscapes and the people that live there.

Ann Branton  
Head, Bibliographic Services  
University of Southern Mississippi

— ♦ —

**Johnson, Deborah.** *The Air Between Us*. New York: Amistad, 2008. 321 pp. \$23.95 (hardcover)

This book presents a story about race relations in Mississippi during the 1960s. While many writers have covered this time, Johnson adds some new details by blending a murder that involves a small town's doctors, an interracial relationship, and school integration.

There is a great deal of character development of the two doctors. Dr. Reese Jackson is an educated, white-collar, African American doctor. He does not have any social equals, which puts him in an odd place and makes him somewhat bitter. His counterpart, Dr. Cooper Connelly, while not facing any social restraints, is also at odds with the country club set. He does not agree with the opinions held by most of the Caucasians in town, including his father Jack Rand Connelly, who is a very powerful politician.

Johnson uses some simple details to remind the reader of years past. Madame Melba, the town's fortune teller, describes the "clean, fresh" smell of Cooper Connelly as he sits at her house. This detail brought to my mind the difference in the end-of-the-day smells of my white-collar father and my blue-collar grandfathers.

This book is enjoyable, but the ending is somewhat contrived. Johnson brings her characters to life, so that a reader feels

as if he knows these people. This book would fit into a popular reading section at a public library.

Jodi Kuehl  
Account Services Manager  
EBSCO Information Services

— ♦ —

## NONFICTION

**Asch, Christopher Myers.** *The Senator and the Sharecropper: The Freedom Struggles of James O. Eastland and Fannie Lou Hamer*. New York: New Press, 2008. 368 pp. \$27.95 (hardcover)

It is clear from Asch's introduction that this book was written to provide a contrast between the life experiences of an affluent, powerful, white Southern male (Senator James O. Eastland) and a poor, barely educated, female, civil rights activist (Fannie Lou Hamer) who was his neighbor in Sunflower County, Mississippi.

As Asch points out, it would be difficult to find a pair of Mississippians more diametrically opposed to one another. Whereas Eastland, as a long time member of the U.S. Senate and a devout white supremacist, resisted all efforts to end segregation, Hamer was equally active in the struggle to bring about true equality for all Americans. Asch traces the lives of these two individuals using flashback techniques and interviews to describe the critical differences between Eastland's world and that of Hamer. The contrast between these two well-known Mississippi residents is used by Asch to depict a polarized society led by a small handful of elites who used money, power, law, and tradition to ensure the continued oppression of black Americans.

This is an interesting book, which can inform contemporary readers about the challenges that were overcome in the Deep South as a consequence of the work of people like Hamer and despite the



opposition of men like Eastland. It is an extremely well researched and documented text. This is also one of its slight drawbacks, because at times it reads more like the doctoral dissertation it once was than a work of historical commentary. Asch is, at times, didactic and uses his text to make an argument against the kind of social system that created Eastland and Hamer. His political convictions shine through this book.

The book ends with Hamer's death in 1977 and Eastland's in 1986. It covers almost three quarters of a century of Mississippi history during a period when great social change was occurring. Eastland fought desperately against that change and, for a time, succeeded in preventing it from occurring. However, it is Hamer as depicted by Asch who emerges as the true heroic center of this era. This title is recommended for public and academic libraries.

William Bahr  
Assistant Director  
Pike-Amite-Walthall Library System



**Ford, Jennifer W., ed.** *The Hour of Our Nation's Agony: The Civil War Letters of Lt. William Cowper Nelson of Mississippi*. Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 2007. 336 pp. \$48.50 (hardcover)

In *The Hour of Our Nation's Agony: The Civil War Letters of Lt. William Cowper Nelson of Mississippi*, Jennifer Ford, head of archives and special collections and assistant professor at University of Mississippi's J.D. Williams Library, showcases a collection of documents and letters between William Cowper Nelson and family members. The result is a highly readable book that not only highlights this recent donation of Civil War-era primary sources to the Williams Library, but also puts flesh on one's view of the War Between the States. This book is part of *The Voices of the Civil War* series from the University of Tennessee Press, a series of more than thirty volumes that publishes

primary source documents from servicemen and civilians from both sides of the Civil War.

Focusing on the antebellum and war period letters of the collection, the book presents the letters chronologically, leaving punctuation, capitalization, and spelling as it was found in the originals. Ford divides these letters into five chapters, and her commentary introduces each chapter, helping the reader to understand the context of these letters within Civil War events and Nelson's maturity as a human being. Nearly every letter contains several endnotes that explain the individuals mentioned or the context of the situation discussed. A narrative epilogue sums up Nelson's post-war life. Also included are a number of relevant photographs and drawings, an extensive bibliography, and an index of names, terms, places, and battles mentioned in the letters and endnotes.

The commentaries trace Nelson's transition from a sheltered youth who believed in the glory of war to a battle-weary soldier who had seen enough of war and death. While Nelson apparently lived somewhat better than many soldiers, he also witnessed many significant battles, including Antietam/Sharpsburg, Fredericksburg, Gettysburg, and the siege of Petersburg, among others, and had "slept on battlefields...with dead and dying Yankees." Nelson had feelings both of hatred toward the Northern soldiers invading his hometown of Holly Springs and compassion toward the Northern wounded, for whom he filled canteens with water after the Seven Days Battle. The editor concludes that Nelson was a complex individual, who neither fits fully into the notion of an alienated, disillusioned, battle-weary soldier, nor into that of a soldier whose ideals remained intact despite many a bloody battle. A person with a limited background in Civil War history should have no problem reading and understanding this well-researched work, and it is recommended for academic and large public libraries.

Rick Torgerson  
Cataloger  
Delta State University



**Helferich, Gerard.** *High Cotton: Four Seasons in the Mississippi Delta*. New York: Counterpoint, 2007. 308 pp. \$25.00 (hardcover)

Through Gerard Helferich's writing, one follows a modern day cotton planter for a full year. His subject, Zack Killebrew, first cousin to Helferich's wife, Teresa, farms 1,700 acres outside the small town of Tchula within the Mississippi Delta. One-thousand acres are for cotton, the rest set aside for soybeans and corn. Some of the acreage is prime two-inch-deep soil known locally as ice cream.

The book's format is fresh and alternates between present, work-a-day Killebrew and historically knowledgeable Helferich. Readers join Killebrew and his trusty lab Duke in his white pickup as he plants genetically modified seeds, fends off weeds and insects, deals with field hands, and harvests hurricane-beaten cotton. Then Helferich shifts into four-wheel drive and goes off road to introduce topics such as slavery, the 1927 flood, sharecropping, the Civil Rights Movement, and Southern politics. After the historical perspective, it is back in the cab with Killebrew at the wheel as he frequently stops to fix irrigation pivots, replace tractor tires, check insect traps, and extinguish module fires.

Two major concerns all planters face are crop prices and weather. As of the printing of this book, government subsidies offset any low prices for American cotton; unfortunately, one cannot control weather. During Killebrew's 2005 season, his cotton is pummeled by hurricanes Katrina and Rita. The resulting damage is substantial with arrested development and defoliation during the first storm and wet and dirty cotton after the second. All is not dire, for Killebrew blows off steam with various southern activities. Not only is the reader treated to two seasonal hunts, deer and dove, but a whole lesson in the art of catfish hand-grabbing, or noodling.

Guest critic for *The New York Times Book Review*, Dale Maharidge, wanted to hear more about Killebrew's employees and pending divorce. Helferich faces the

social and economic problems of the South with honesty and directness through examples of both disgruntled employees Ben and Charlie and a contented Willie Waters. As for the divorce, it involves two people growing apart and not cotton growing in between. This reviewer feels these topics are adequately covered.

From the moment the soil is broken until the last fiber is woven into jeans, this book is a comprehensive look at cotton through a family owned and operated business. It is highly recommended for all types of Mississippi libraries.

Maggie Moran

Public Service and Reference Librarian  
Northwest Mississippi Community College

— ♦ —

**Kellum, Jo.** *Southern Sun: A Plant Selection Guide*. Jackson: University Press of Mississippi, 2008. 141 pp. \$25.00 (paperback)

Many Southerners who have dabbled in gardening know firsthand that choosing plants hardy enough to withstand long hours of harsh summer sun can be difficult. In *Southern Sun: A Plant Selection Guide*, author Jo Kellum provides a straightforward guide to help readers select plants that thrive in the South's hot summer sun. Kellum, a landscape architect who has written about garden design for *Southern Living* magazine, draws from her extensive knowledge and experience

to create an easy-to-follow book that includes many recognizable plants, as well as some surprises that may not be as commonly known.

Kellum selects plants that are low-maintenance and she emphasizes the distinction between morning sun and afternoon sun because certain plants may thrive in one setting but not the other. The presentation of *Southern Sun* is easy to follow and the details about each plant are helpful without being overwhelming.

The book is organized into chapters on bedding plants, shrubs, trees, groundcovers, and vines to help readers easily locate plants and plan their gardens. Within each chapter, Kellum devotes several pages to each plant and includes excellent photos and a list of basic growing information, such as size, growth rate, water needs, and growing zones. She also includes a detailed narrative about how to grow the plant with important tips on maintenance.

*Southern Sun* is appropriate for gardeners of all experience levels, but it will be especially helpful for those contemplating their first landscaping project or those who are new to the South. Kellum's presentation is clean and straightforward, so it will not overwhelm beginners, but she provides enough description about each plant to appeal to experienced gardeners. This book is highly recommended for public libraries.

Laura Capell

Digitization Librarian  
University of Southern Mississippi

— ♦ —

**Tucker, Judy H. and Charline R. McCord, eds.** *Growing Up in Mississippi*. Jackson: University Press of Mississippi, 2008. 203 pp. \$25.00 (hardcover)

Before their collaboration on *Growing Up in Mississippi*, Tucker and McCord met in 1996 at a Eudora Welty festival. Their collaboration previously resulted in the publications *Christmas Stories from Mississippi* and several editions of *Christmas Stories from the South*, which also focus on Mississippi life and southern culture.

In *Growing Up in Mississippi*, Tucker and McCord provide thirty essays by notable, still living Mississippians, such as former Governor William Winter, blues great B.B. King, NFL great Jerry Rice, and former Mississippi Supreme Court Justice Fred Banks, that highlight small-town Mississippi life and other aspects of childhood in the South that influenced the development of the successful authors. For instance, Banks describes how his education in Canton influenced his development in a positive manner. Gov. Winter talks about the pets he had and how they shaped his development, while news anchor Maggie Wade Dixon explains how children's play and parenting has changed since she grew up in Mississippi. The shared stories also reveal the unique nature of southern life for African Americans during the era. King talks of how his Uncle Jack was always singing to ease the burden of hard labor and stress.

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Some of the essays are original to the collection, while others are reprinted or excerpted from previously published works. All of the essays, however, offer insight into the unique experiences of the thirty successful adults while they lived in small towns and communities in Mississippi.

Children in contemporary society may not experience the small-town or rural Mississippi existence of their predecessors, but this book offers young people and adults a chance to explore the past and how upbringing and small-town southern life influenced the development of a number of successful adults. The book is also a great option for those whose roots are in the South and who can relate to a former time and way of life. Thus, the book potentially provides an opportunity to educate and teach young adults about southern life and culture in a different era, and provides a chance for adults to relive a former time whose values and influences they may relate to. As such, public libraries, high school libraries, and college libraries should consider purchasing the book.

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



**Urgo, Joseph R. and Ann J. Abadie, eds.** *Faulkner's Inheritance: Faulkner and Yoknapatawpha*, 2005. Jackson: University Press of Mississippi, 2007. 178 pp. \$50.00 (hardcover)

This book is a collection of nine essays presented by William Faulkner scholars at the Thirty-second Annual Faulkner and Yoknapatawpha Conference in 2005. Editor Joseph Urgo, former English department chair at the University of Mississippi, in his introduction defines the inheritance theme. He reminds readers that Faulkner inherited little financially, but much from his Mississippi culture. He took this inheritance and, with his genius, gave it voice for successive generations to analyze, criticize, and contemplate. Some of his bequest is examined in this collection by

looking at the influences on his fiction. These influences are family history, Jim Crow laws, contemporary fashion, popular culture, and literature.

These essays are written in a scholarly style, and sometimes the reading is tedious. However, serious students of Faulkner's fiction may discover new insight into Brother Bill's world. Biographical information, such as the importance of his relationship with his alcoholic wife Estelle and with his religious caretaker Mammy Callie, is absorbing. An outstanding essay "Faulkner's Blues Understanding" contains biographical information as well as Faulkner's understanding of the blues as the medium of communication between blacks and whites.

Race and its power of alienation resulting in violence is a familiar Faulkner subject. In several essays, this theme is analyzed through the character Joe Christmas from *Light in August*. By examining this disinherited man caught between the black and white worlds, these essays evoke feelings of compassion, confusion, and anger. This power of race segregation, described as the "Veil" in W.E.B. Dubois's *The Souls of Black Folks*, is suggested as an influence on how Faulkner created Joe Christmas.

In the concluding essay, Faulkner biographer Jay Parini encourages the fascinated reader who often struggles with the novelist's fiction. He writes, "Faulkner had a great tolerance for inconsistency, and it has driven many a scholar to his or her grave — those scholars who wish for an ideal order that is." This view, also shared by contributor Noel Polk, author of *Reading Faulkner: The Sound and the Fury*, makes reading this collection worthwhile for the layman. Illustrations, photographs, and an index also render this collection more readable.

I highly recommend *Faulkner's Inheritance* for academic libraries and public libraries with a strong Faulkner collection.

Diane Moore Elliott  
Librarian (retired)  
Cleveland High School



**York, Joe.** *With Signs Following: Photographs from the Southern Religious Roadside*. Jackson: University Press of Mississippi, 2007. 67 pp. \$25.00 (hardcover)

Signs of a religious nature are familiar to anyone living in the South, and flipping through this book will garner smiles of recognition. Reading the accompanying introductions by Charles Reagan Wilson and photographer Joe York, though, will make you turn a fresh eye on the photographs featured here, as well as the road-sides you travel.

What began as a search for biscuits resulted in the revelation that one's expression of religious belief in the South deserved more exploration, particularly evangelical Protestantism's "Great Commission" to bring people to God. The contention here is that the advertising methods generally used for any of the innumerable products of modern living have been intentionally adapted for use in the marketing of salvation. It is a persuasive claim, one that is hard to deny once you have read the text, perused York's spare black and white photographs, and hit the road yourself.

Wilson and York frame the photographs with compelling discussions of the connection between the road and religion in the South, along with interviews of people connected with the signs in the book. The photographs themselves depict wide-ranging religious expression, from simple graffiti to slick marquees and neon. York's aesthetic sensibility and appreciation of visual wit come through in the juxtaposition of simple religious expressions with blatantly commercial objects and his judicious use of perspective, angle, and repeating patterns in composing his photographs.

*With Signs Following* is a thought-provoking book that could provide a jumping-off point for further study of the subject. It is recommended for all academic and public libraries.

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

# MLA Executive Board Meeting Minutes

**May 1, 2008, 10:30 a.m.**

**Mississippi Library Commission  
Jackson, MS**

**Executive Board members present:**

President – Jeff Slagell

Vice President – Jan Willis

Treasurer – Amanda Clay Powers

Secretary – Judy Card

Parliamentarian/Web Chair – Molly  
McManus

ALA Councilor – Sherry Laughlin

Ex-officio member – MLA Executive Sec-  
retary Mary Julia Anderson

**Others present:**

Black Caucus – Margaret Bell

Black Caucus – Jacqueline Quinn

President Jeff Slagell called the meeting to order at 10:45 a.m.

Secretary Judy Card called the roll.

A number of people were unable to attend and a quorum was not present.

The next board meeting will be held August 7, 2008, at 10:30 a.m., at the Mississippi Library Commission (MLC). There will be a meeting during the Mississippi Library Association Annual Conference in October. The final meeting of the year will be held December 11, 2008, at MLC.

Minutes from the February 2008 board meeting were read. Jan Willis moved that “Schultz” on page 2 be corrected to “Schulz” and that the minutes be approved as corrected. Sherry Laughlin seconded. Motion passed. The minutes will be voted upon again in August when a quorum is present.

**Treasurer’s Report:** Amanda Powers will soon have a report ready for the board.

**Vice President’s Report:** Conference 2008. Vice President Jan Willis and Executive Secretary Mary Julia Anderson will

visit Natchez on May 2 to complete conference plans. The Natchez Convention Center has quoted a \$5,920 rental fee, which is the highest rental cost MLA has experienced to date. It was noted that the convention center is under new management and that increased fees are not unusual. The conference keynote speaker will be 2008-2009 ALA President Jim Rettig. After some discussion, it was agreed that Jan will ask Mr. Rettig to speak at the Opening General Session on Wednesday at 1:30 p.m. Because Mr. Rettig must leave immediately following the session, his keynote address will be first on the program. Jan will work with Mr. Rettig to select the most convenient airport and flight time for his travel.

Other confirmed speakers include Rheta Grimsley Johnson and Peggy Webb.

Jan will contact MLC regarding a speaker’s grant.

The conference theme will be “Libraries: At the Center of Everything.”

A preconference will be held on sustainable funding. It will be presented by Benevon, a group from Seattle, Washington, whose slogan is “Creating Sustainable Funding for Non-Profits.”

Susan Cassagne is planning a Tuesday night tour of Natchez homes.

**ALA Councilor Report:** Sherry Laughlin will represent MLA at the American Library Association’s Annual Conference in Anaheim in June.

**Section Reports:** None

**Roundtable Reports:**

Black Caucus: Margaret Bell and Jacqueline Quinn reported that the group is still discussing possible speakers. The caucus is also thinking about ways to increase membership and to add to the Virginia

Brooks-Shedd scholarship fund. Jeff suggested that funds raised at the conference bash could again be split between all MLA scholarships.

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:** Jeff Slagell reported that he is in discussion with Diane Ross, Curator of Manuscripts, Archives, and Special Collections at the University of Southern Mississippi (USM) about the possibility of USM becoming the repository for MLA’s archives. In order for this to happen, MLA’s board must vote to designate the collection as a gift to the university. The association would still have access to the archives. Those present supported this idea. As there was no quorum, Slagell will bring this to the board via e-mail and then again at the August board meeting.

**Announcements:**

MLA is sending twelve representatives to Washington, DC, for National Library Legislative Day, May 13-14, 2009. Glenda Segars chairs the Legislative Committee.

In conjunction with his presidential goal of increasing MLA membership among school librarians, Jeff Slagell spoke in March to a group of over fifty school librarians in Jackson. He handed out membership forms and asked for their input on how to make MLA more relevant to their needs. They suggested that MLA offer more CEU credit opportunities, especially on effective use of MAGNOLIA databases.

Amanda Clay Powers reported that Mississippi State University hosts a successful annual conference for school librarians.

The meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Judy Card ■

(continued from page 76)

# Hurricane Gustav Causes Relatively Minor Damage to Libraries in Mississippi

When Hurricane Gustav slammed the Louisiana coastline at the tail end of the Labor Day weekend, Mississippi libraries along the Gulf Coast were spared major damage. But, the massive storm did cause damage and disrupt services at libraries throughout the southwest corner of Mississippi, including extensive roof and water damage to the Judge George W. Armstrong Library in downtown Natchez, the site of the 2008 Mississippi Library Association annual conference.

## Southwest Mississippi

The main Natchez library had two dormers blown off the roof, according to Susan Cassagne, director of the Natchez-Adams-Wilkinson Library Service. With the roof exposed, several hundred gallons of water penetrated the building creating flooding issues on the second floor of the library. Cassagne indicated to Mississippi Library Commission (MLC) personnel the children's collection suffered the most water damage. A blue tarp was put over the roof as soon as possible to mitigate any further damage. Falling ceiling tiles and lack of power forced the temporary closure of the facility while library personnel worked

with city officials to get the library operational as soon as possible. Currently, the first floor of the library is accessible for public use, according to the library's Web site.

The Woodville and Centreville libraries reported no physical damage, but were without power briefly.

The Lincoln-Lawrence-Franklin Library System experienced minor effects from the storm, according to reports relayed to MLC. The Brookhaven branch suffered the most roof damage – eight new leaks – with some minor water damage to the ceilings and walls. Library officials had the branch up and running shortly after the storm.

The Pike-Amite-Walthall Library System was virtually unscathed during Hurricane Gustav. The main branch in McComb lost power for two days, but reopened September 3 to a crowd of regulars and evacuees. All three branches in Amite County lost power briefly, but suffered no physical damage and reopened within days. The branch in Gloster had wet carpet and wet ceiling tiles due to pre-existing leaks made worse by the hurricane. The Tylertown library in Walthall County never lost power and was so busy in the days after the storm that the time limit on

public access computers was reduced to fifteen minutes to manage the volume of users.

## Gulf Coast

The Jackson-George Regional Library System, Harrison County Library System, and Hancock County Library System all reported either no damage or very minimal damage.

The Long Beach library reported some minor leaking around windows and a few ruined floor tiles.

The Library of Hattiesburg discovered leaks in the new roof after the storm, but indicated no major damage.

The Pearl River County Library System experienced no apparent damage, according to reports given to MLC.

Officials at the University of Southern Mississippi reported no damage to the Hattiesburg or Gulf Coast campus libraries.

– Submitted by Gabriel Morley, director, Pike-Amite-Walthall Library System; based on information compiled by Margaret Murray, senior library consultant and Jennifer Walker, library consultant, Mississippi Library Commission.

## Three Years after Katrina: Lessons Learned in Preparing for Hurricanes

The University of Southern Mississippi-Gulf Park was hard hit by Hurricane Katrina. In January 2008, after undergoing restoration work, the Gulf Coast Libraries resumed operation in Long Beach. When Hurricane Gustav threatened the Gulf Coast, it was time to apply the lessons learned after Katrina.

During Hurricane Katrina, the main floor of the Gulf Coast Library flooded to a depth of about four inches. This fact, combined with the recent move of the reference collection from the second floor to the

ground floor, prompted the collection management staff to quickly move all reference books from the bottom shelves to book carts and desks to avoid possible flood damage from Hurricane Gustav. Since the windows withstood the storm surge and winds of Katrina, it was determined unnecessary to cover the equipment with plastic.

Following a one-day university closure due to Hurricane Gustav, librarians and staff assessed preparations that had been made and decided some changes were needed. The most notable of these was to

shift the reference collection so that the bottom shelves remained empty. While this means a loss of shelving space, it was deemed a necessary sacrifice to reduce preparation time should another major hurricane threaten the area.

When Hurricane Ike entered the Gulf, the recent lessons learned from Gustav were applied and, again, the staff responded in a calm, professional manner.

– Submitted by Eric Speas, information services librarian, University of Southern Mississippi-Gulf Coast. ■

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