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On the cover: *Mississippi Watercolor* by Jennifer Baxter, Assistant Director of Branch Services & HR at Jackson-George Regional Library System.

I painted this piece with a combination of ink and watercolor. I love the idea of the flowing colors – I was inspired by the kaleidoscope of cultural geodiversity of my surroundings.

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

In order to assure the widest possible audience for the works published in *Mississippi Libraries*, the work is added, by contractual agreement, to one or more EBSCO Publishing databases. *Mississippi Libraries* is also indexed in *Library Literature* and *Information Science Abstracts*.

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President's Page

What inspires you? Are you inspired by your job? By the services you provide to your patrons? By libraries in general? What motivates you? Your job? Your boss? Times of turmoil? Times of challenge? I ask this because I want our members to be inspired by the mission of MLA: "...to provide professional leadership for the development, promotion, and improvement of library and information services and the profession of librarianship in order to enhance learning and ensure access to information for all." Regardless of what type of library you work for, I think we all try to "enhance learning and ensure access to information for all." But how do we get there? I want you to ask yourself how can **YOU** help our organization complete this mission. How can **YOU** be an active part of development, promotion, and/or improvement in regard to services OR to our profession? Even if you don't consider yourself a leader, **YOU** can be part of the promotion and improvement of librarianship.

I know that we all have jobs and personal responsibilities that make it hard to volunteer time to MLA, but we need **YOU** to be motivated to be an active part of our membership. Frequently in volunteer organizations, it falls on a few members to carry the load and do all of the work. But as John Heywood said, "Many hands make light work." Not only that, I know that we have a wealth of untapped talent in our membership. Perhaps you have heard the inspiration quote (or read it on a bumper sticker), "Be the change that you



want to see in the world." This quote is often credited to Mahatma Gandhi; however, he never actually said this. He did state something similar: "If we could change ourselves, the tendencies in the world would also change. As a man changes his own nature, so does the attitude of the world change toward him. ... We need not wait to see what others do." What I'm getting at is that we have been faced with a lot of challenges recently, particularly with the threat of the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) being dissolved on a national level and budget cuts on a state level. But we must carry on.

Being a member of MLA gives you access to a network of other like-minded professionals. Often times, we rely on the support and wisdom of our peers rather than our bosses or work colleagues, so getting to know other librarians at MLA-sponsored events can be very helpful. Maybe you or your library

can't afford to attend our annual conference or a workshop, but you can still join a committee or roundtable. Some of the work from those groups can be done online or via e-mail. We currently have vacancies for chairs of our Membership Committee and our New Member Roundtable. Maybe you don't think you have time to volunteer for one of these groups during the year. There are other opportunities to volunteer at events such as the Children's Book Festival or the Mississippi Book Festival. If so, you could contact Phillip Carter at pcarter@lamarcountylibraries.org. You could even volunteer to help with registration or other tasks at our Annual Conference. Sarah Rials Mangrum, our MLA Vice-President, is in charge of planning the conference this year, and she and others will be stuffing conference bags at Cook Library (USM) on **October 9th** at 10:00 AM, or she may need some help with other conference duties. You can contact Sarah at sarah.rials@usm.edu to volunteer. We also need items donated for our Silent Auction at the Annual Conference. Proceeds from the auction go to support our Peggy May and Virgie Brocks-Shedd Scholarships. You can contact Jennifer Culley at jenniferculley@gmail.com if you want to help with the Silent Auction or if you can ask businesses to donate items for the auction. Maybe you don't think you have time for any of that either. Well, how about supporting others in our profession by nominating them for an award? I'm sure you know someone who has inspired you or someone you admire for working hard in the library profession. Erin Busbea, Chairperson

for the Awards Committee, has been sending out e-mails to the membership asking for award nominations. We still have some categories without nominees, but nominations can be sent to Erin at ebusbea@lowndes.lib.ms.us until **September 4th**. And finally, renew your membership and help us recruit new members. MLA is a great organization, and I encourage you to become a more active member.

Representatives from MLA have been very busy this spring and summer. In May, our delegates attended ALA's National Library Legislative Day in Washington, D.C. We met with the American Library Association (ALA) and other librarians from across the country to discuss key issues that needed to be conferred to members of Congress. Then we headed to Capitol Hill to meet with Senator Roger Wicker, Senator Thad Cochran, Representative Trent Kelly, Representative Gregg Harper, and staff members of Representative Steven Palazzo and Bennie Thompson. We urged them to continue support for IMLS and funding for the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) and Innovative Approaches to Literacy (IAL) and to send "Dear Appropriator" letters to Congressional Appropriations Committee members. We also discussed the importance of continued funding of the E-rate program that provides critical Internet access to schools and public libraries at a discounted rate, and we asked them to keep broadband development in infrastructure legislation so that libraries could continue to digitally connect and empower every American. The other issues that ALA discussed at this annual meeting

were public access to government data and taxpayer-funded information and research, real privacy and surveillance law reform, modernization of the Copyright Office, and ratification of the Marrakesh Treaty. You can learn more about these issues by signing up for legislative alerts from the ALA Action Center (www.ala.org/takeaction), subscribing to the ALA Washington Office blog (www.districtdispatch.org), visiting ALA's Office of Government Relations website (www.ala.org/wo), or checking out YouTube videos from ALA on a broad range of topics (www.youtube.com/AmLibraryAssociation).

In June, MLA and the Mississippi Library Commission joined together to have an exhibitor's booth at the Mississippi Association of Supervisors (MAS) Annual Convention in Biloxi, and again at the Mississippi Municipal League (MML) Annual Conference held in Biloxi this month. I would like to thank Paula Bass (MLA Administrator), Susan Cassagne (MLC), Susan Liles (MLC), Ethel Dunn (MLC), Mona Swayze (South Mississippi Regional Library), Mary Louise Breland (Laurel-Jones County Library System), Michelle Anderson-Jones (Laurel-Jones County Library System), Bob Lipscomb (Harrison County Library System), Sharon Davis (Harrison County Library System), and Phillip Carter (Lamar County Library System) for helping with these two events. I think having a presence at these events gave us an opportunity to remind city and county officials of how important libraries are to their communities.

REMINDERS: Our next MLA Executive Board Meeting will be

held on **Friday, July 28th**, at 11:00 AM at the Lake Terrace Convention Center in Hattiesburg. This meeting is open to the public. Don't forget that **Librarian of Congress Carla Hayden** will be attending the Mississippi Book Festival held at the Mississippi State Capitol on **August 19th**. More details about the

festival can be found here: <http://msbookfestival.com/>. This is a fantastic event and it's all FREE to attend. Meet some fantastic authors and speakers and peruse the many vendor booths that will surround the State Capitol. The MLA Annual Conference will be held at the Lake Terrace Convention Center in

Hattiesburg, **October 17-20, 2017**. The theme for this year's conference will be "Tell Your Story" and will focus on advocacy. If you have any questions about the conference, please contact Sarah at sarah.rials@usm.edu. We're looking forward to seeing you all there!

News Briefs & People in the News

Anne Hudson

*Arts and Letters Librarian
University of Southern Mississippi*

The Jackson Hinds Library System is pleased to announce the appointment of **Kimberly Corbett** to the position of Deputy Director.



After 42 years of service working for the Northeast Regional Library System, headquartered in Corinth, **William McMullin** has retired as Director.

SHEILA MCGRAW ARTICLE IN SPRING 2017 ISSUE OF RIDGELAND LIFE

New school librarian at the Olde Towne Middle School, Madison County Schools, Sheila McGraw, had an article in the Spring 2017 issue of Ridgeland Life. <http://www.ridgelandms.org/ridgeland-life-spring-2017/> page 22.

*Submitted by
Sheila McGraw
Librarian
Olde Towne Middle School*

ONE BOOK ONE PASS 2017 COMMUNITY READING PROGRAM BOOK SELECTED

National Book Award winner, Jesmyn Ward's *The Fire This Time*, was selected as the 2017 Community Reading Program Book. Ms. Ward's author presentation will be on Wednesday, October 18, at the Randolph Center located at 310 Clark Avenue in Pass Christian.

*Submitted by
Wendy Allard
Head Librarian
Pass Christian Public Library*



To join MLA, or to renew your membership:

<http://misslib.org/membership>

2017 MLA Executive Board Minutes:

<http://misslib.org/Meeting-Minutes-2017>

Mississippi Cooks

Building A Culinary Collection

Deborah Lee

*Professor and Coordinator,
Graduate Student Services*

Mississippi State University Libraries

When I first visited the state of Mississippi twenty six years ago, the food was one of the first things I noticed. Every restaurant table had a bottle of pepper sauce, the portion sizes were generous, and the food was almost always excellent! With the bounty of culinary expertise in the state, it was surprising how few books produced by national publishers focused on Mississippi cooking. Luckily, the last decade has seen a renewed interest in regional cooking and Mississippi authors are beginning to take their rightful place in the national spotlight.

This creates an opportunity to build a culinary collection with a focus on Mississippi cooking. While community and church cookbooks can be a significant component of both a culinary and a genealogical collection, the focus of this column is on commercially produced cookbooks. All are available either as currently in-print titles or through the out-of-print market.

While some of the titles that follow focus more generally on southern or Mississippi cooking, many reflect the regional diversity that can be found throughout the state. A swift perusal of the titles shows a common thread throughout this type of cookbook: the mixing of stories, local histories, and cooking. This makes the collection attractive not just to cooks but anyone looking

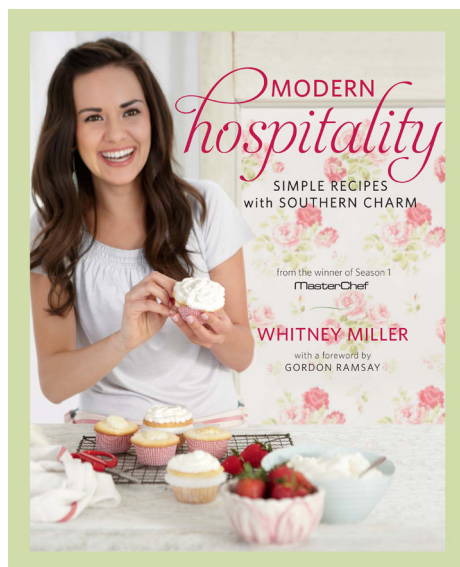
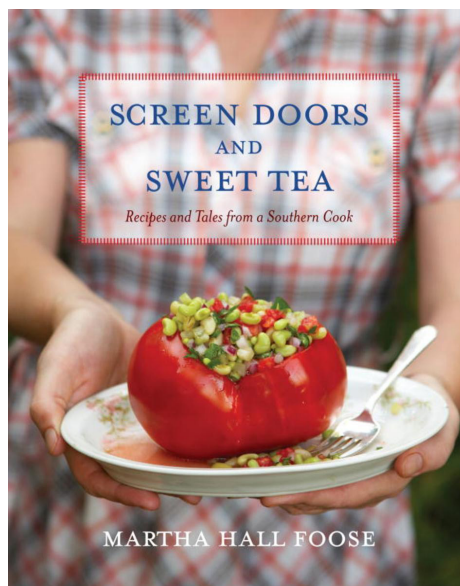
to explore Mississippi customs and traditions.

No collection of Mississippi cookbooks would be complete without at least one title from Martha Hall Foose. Born in Mississippi, Foose is a noted food writer and served as the food stylist for the movie *The Help*. Foose gained national attention when she won the James Beard Award for *Screen Doors and Sweet*

Tea: Recipes and Tales from a Southern Cook (Clarkson Potter, 2008; ISBN: 978-0307351401).

The text reads like a good conversation from homecoming: lots of good recipes interspersed with community gossip and culinary wisdom. For example, her “Sold My Soul to the Devil-ed Eggs” (pg. 18) includes useful information on avoiding the green ring that sometimes appears in boiled eggs. Foose followed this up with another cookbook, *A Southerly Course: Recipes and Stories From Close to Home* in 2011 (Clarkson Potter, 2011; ISBN: 978-0307464286.) This collection of recipes is peppered with family stories and reflections on southern cooking along with extensive illustrations.

Southern cooking is in the national spotlight and this was certainly assisted by Whitney Miller winning the first MasterChef competition. Her book, *Modern Hospitality: Simple Recipes with Southern Charm* (Rodale Books, 2011; ISBN: 978-1609613525) is another good addition to a Mississippi cookbook collection. The collection of recipes is somewhat small (75) but richly illustrated and also includes numerous suggestions for hosting events and setting a welcoming table. Recipes such as “Collard Green Dip” (pg. 21) highlight local ingredients that are presented in new and innovative ways. Miller published a “sequel” with her 2015 *Whitney Miller’s New Southern Table: My Favorite Family Recipes with a Modern Twist* (Thomas Nelson 2015; ISBN:



978-0718011604). This collection is also richly illustrated and is a more traditional collection of recipes themed around key meals: Sunday dinners or family get-togethers. Dinners such as “Spice-Rubbed Venison Roast” (pg. 185) nicely illustrate traditional Southern ingredients with a newer, often spicier, interpretation.

While not technically a Mississippi cookbook, Faye Porter’s *At My Grandmother’s Table: Heartwarming Stories & Cherished Recipes from the South* (Thomas Nelson, 2013) is a true representation of Mississippi and Southern cooking. No “nuevo” Southern cuisine here, just stick to your ribs biscuits, giblet gravy, and fried chicken! The author solicited recipes and stories from throughout the South and asked contributors to remember the culinary contributions from their grandmother. Although the collection is heavily weighted toward Tennessee, there are ten recipes with a direct Mississippi connection. Like any good Southern cookbook, over one third of the content is devoted to some type of sweets. Anyone looking for

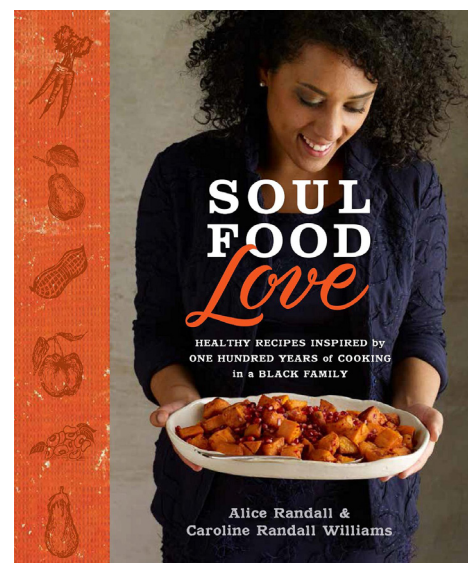
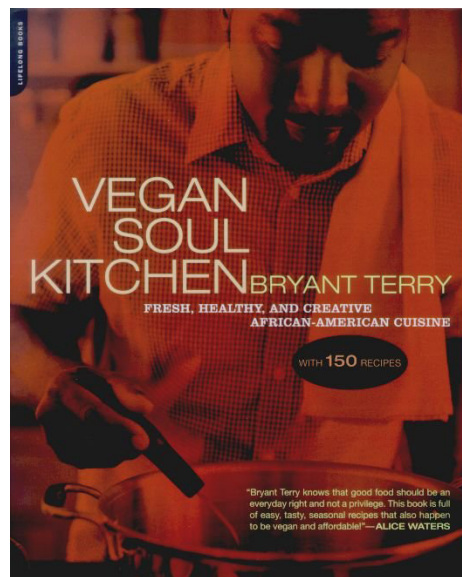
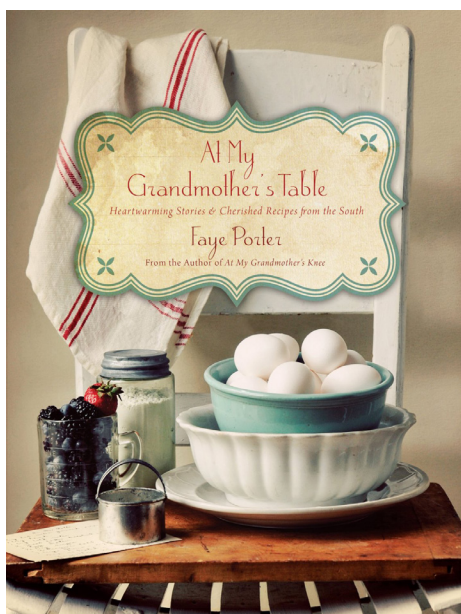
a good story to go along with their fried chicken, fried corn, and biscuits will find the collection of use.

No collection of Southern cookbooks is complete without a section on soul food. While Bryant Terry is not a Mississippian, his use of ingredients and modern interpretations of traditional foods will delight audiences looking for alternatives to more traditional Southern cuisine. His widely recognized *Vegan Soul Kitchen: Fresh, Healthy and Creative African-American Cuisine* (Da Capo Press, 2009; ISBN: 978-0738212289) combined vegan cooking with ingredients often found in Southern kitchens. His “Citrus Collards with Raisins Redux” (pg. 4) served as the inspiration for the rest of the volume. And while his “Open-faced Tempeh Sandwich with Carrot-Cayenne Coleslaw” (pg. 12-13) will not win a barbecue cook off, it offers those looking for alternatives to pork or meat based meals an option that incorporates many of the original flavors of Southern cooking.

Likewise, Alice Randall and Caroline Randall Williams’ *Soul Food Love: Healthy Recipes Inspired by*

One Hundred Years of Cooking in a Black Family (Clarkson Potter, 2015; ISBN: 978-0804137935) interpret traditional soul food but with a decidedly healthy spin. They draw upon their own family’s culinary history and health challenges to produce such new classics as “Sweet Potato, Kale, and Black-eyed Pea Soup” (pg. 138). As with many other titles in this genre, the recipes are richly interspersed with family culinary history and food lore.

Southern literary works are known for their sense of place; southern cookbooks likewise celebrate place as part of the Southern culinary legacy. One great example is Alexe Van Beuren’s *The B.T.C. Old-Fashioned Grocery Cookbook: Recipes and Stories from a Southern Revival* (Clarkson Potter, 2014; ISBN: 978-0385345002). Van Beuren teams up with local cook Dixie Grimes to present both a collection of recipes and the story of the development of a small business in Water Valley, Mississippi. Traditional recipes like “Red-eye Gravy” (pg. 22) and new interpretations of local ingredients such as those in



"Roasted Pear and Zucchini Soup" (pg. 48-49) make this a useful addition to any collection.

John Currance also builds a strong sense of place into his work. The award winning chef runs a number of restaurants in Oxford, Mississippi, and published his first cookbook, *Pickles, Pigs, & Whiskey: Recipes from My Three Favorite Food Groups* (Andrews McNeel Publishing, 2013, ISBN: 978-1449428808) in 2013. In addition to having quite possibly the best cookbook title ever, the eclectic collection provides both innovative recipes and an introduction to Currance's philosophy of cooking. This is not traditional Southern fare, but recipes such as "Bourbon-Braised Pork Cheek" (pg. 186) will challenge Southern cooks to try both new ingredients and new techniques. Inspired by his restaurant of the same name, Currance followed up his success with his first cookbook with his second, *Big Bad Breakfast: The Most Important Book of the Day* (Ten Speed Press, 2016; ISBN: 978-1607747369). The books are similar, in that both are richly illustrated and include vignettes

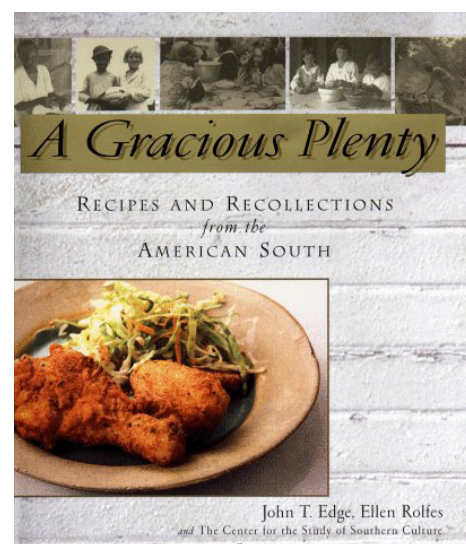
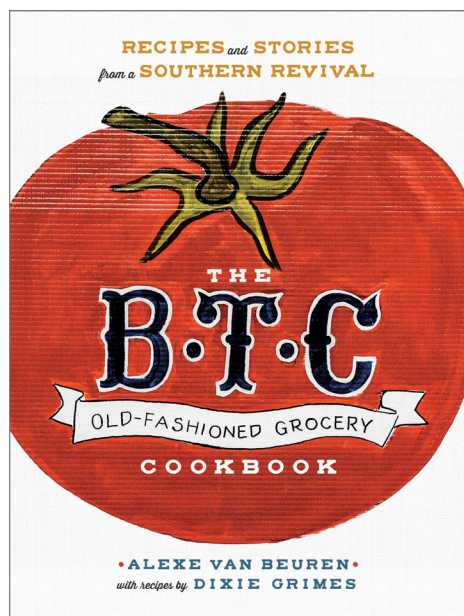
about cooking. Of course, the 2016 work focuses on breakfast foods such as "Grits and Collards Soufflé" (pg. 155), proving that all good Southern cookbooks include at least one recipe using collards even when discussing breakfast!

A more traditional collection can be found in John T. Edge and Ellen Rolfes' *A Gracious Plenty: Recipes and Recollections from the American South* (Putnam, 1999; ISBN: 978-0399145346). Edge and Rolfes have strong Mississippi ties, with John T. Edge serving as the director of the Southern Foodways Alliance, an institute of the Center for the Study of Southern Culture at the University of Mississippi. Many of the recipes are drawn from other published sources, including community cookbooks. Many of the recipes, such as "Fried Okra" (pg. 95) are very traditional fare but some are a little more unusual like the "Casserole of Possum" (pg. 185-186). The inclusion of a number of short original essays about food traditions makes the book a valuable addition to a culinary collection.

Another highly recommended

title is not strictly a Mississippi cookbook: *The Southerner's Cookbook: Recipes, Wisdom, and Stories* by David DiBenedetto, Phillip Rhodes and the editors of Garden and Gun Magazine (Harper Wave, 2015; ISBN: 978-0062242419). The richly illustrated recipes focus on "Southern foodways" and include such basic staples as "Pimento Cheese" (pg. 13 but be warned: they use Duke's mayonnaise!) and fun exercises such as making your own moon pies with their "Mardi Gras Moon Pies" (pg. 194). The collection is augmented by entertaining culinary essays by notable Southerners, including Rick Bragg's "Your First Oyster" (pg. 101-102) and John T. Edge's "Condiments" (pg. 227-228).

Culinary collections can serve as the focus of library programming and community outreach. They fill a need in our collections to document past and current food traditions and also the broader context that foodways entail: family and community history and the social influences that manifest themselves in food. And they fill a need for our users to explore food traditions in a state with a rich culinary heritage.



The Engineer Research and Development Center Library Launches a New Digital Repository Service Called Knowledge Core

Molly McManus

Librarian, Information Science and Knowledge Management Branch (ISKMB), Engineer Research and Development Center (ERDC)

The Engineer Research and Development Center library recently launched a new DSpace-based digital repository, Knowledge Core, which will host ERDC's technical reports and other archival and historical items. This new website can be found at <https://erdc-library.erdc.dren.mil>. DSpace offers significant improvements in usability and discoverability and better tools for long-term management and preservation of technical reports and other digital assets. ERDC's existing digital repository will be retired in the next few months, but URL redirects will be maintained so that there are no broken links.

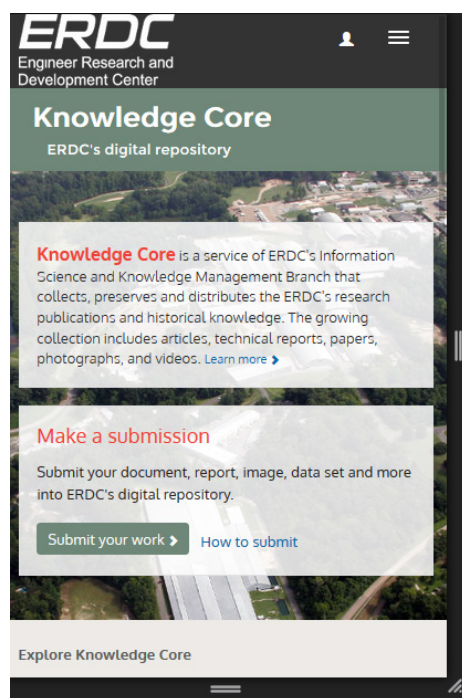
MULTIPLE FORMATS

One major advantage of the new repository is that it can host a wide variety of formats. "Although technical reports continue to be an essential tool for technology transfer, ERDC and USACE also produce knowledge and data in complex digital formats. One of ISKMB's missions is to collect, preserve, describe, and distribute content regardless of the format. Our new repository will be able to host datasets, models, computer programs, video, audio, images, and more" said Denise

Kitchens, Chief, ISKMB.

FASTER AND MORE INTUITIVE

The ISKMB evaluated several repository solutions before choosing DSpace. Reliability, usability, compliance with archival standards,



open-source licensing under the Berkeley Software Distribution License, preservation support, and an active user group were important deciding factors in choosing DSpace. "Users visiting the new repository will find it to be much faster and much more intuitive to use than our previous repository," says Jered Lambiotte, Digitization Librarian, ISKMB, "you can easily search the

full text of every file or browse by laboratory and sort by date, author, title and subject." DSpace is used by many institutions — including educational institutions, such as the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and Cornell University — and also by government agencies like the Smithsonian.

PRESERVATION OF DIGITAL ASSETS

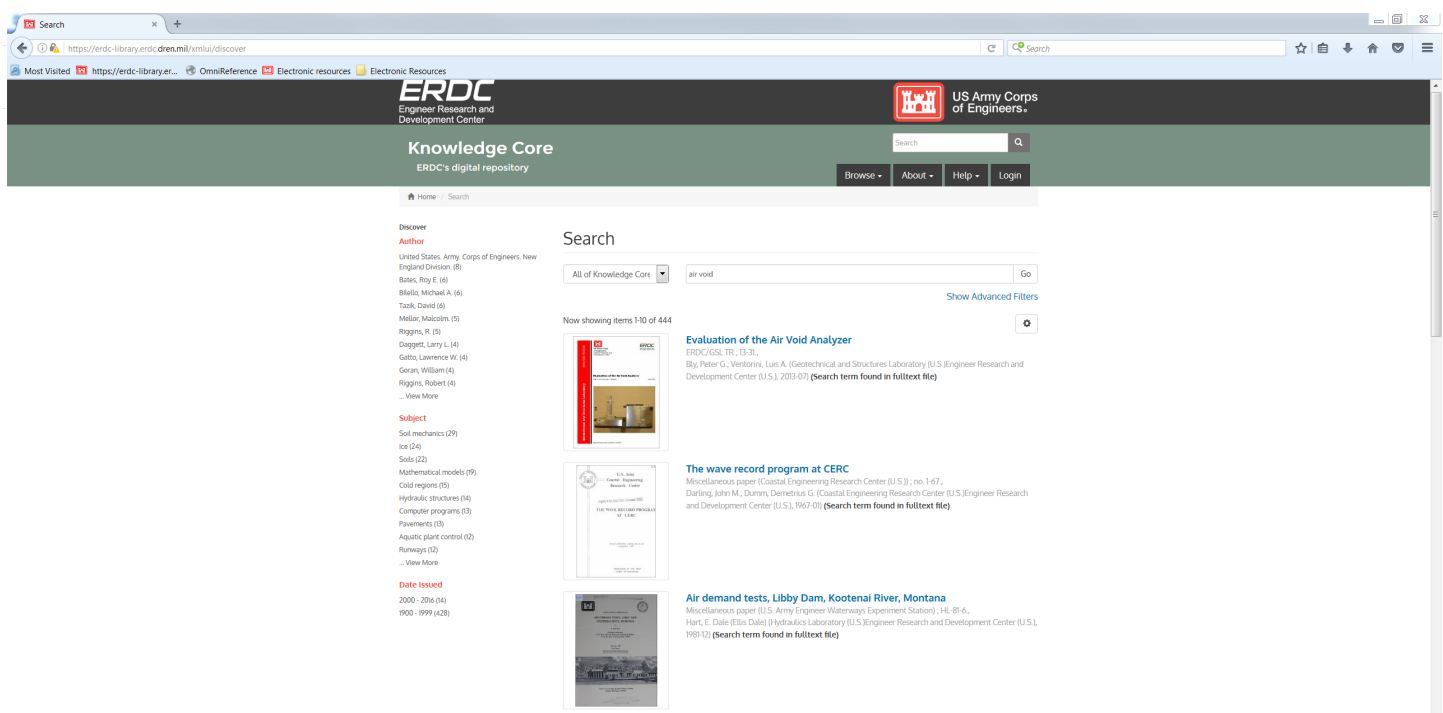
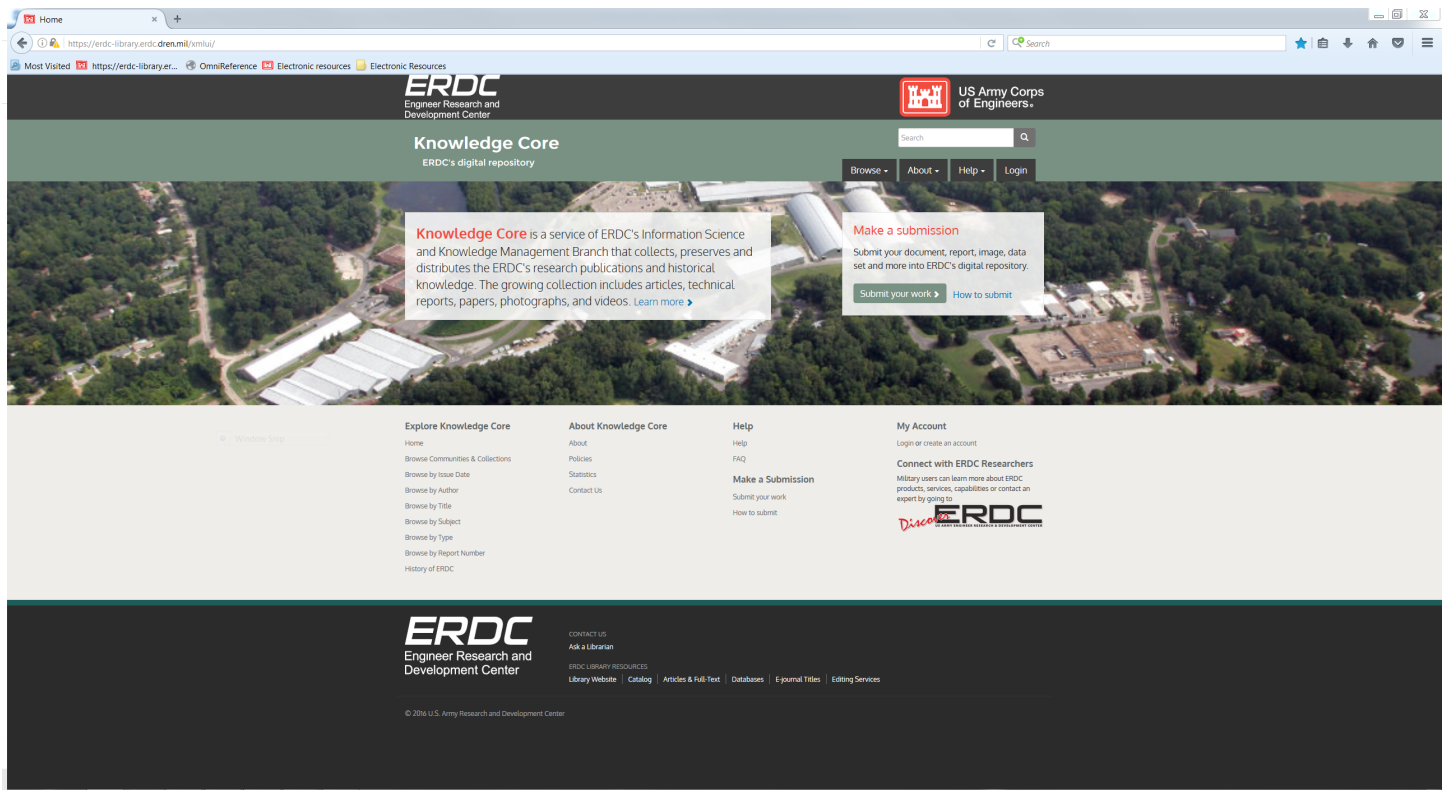
Long-term preservation of historical knowledge is an important mission for ISKMB. Knowledge Core uses two levels of digital preservation: bit preservation and functional preservation. Bit preservation ensures that a file remains exactly the same over time, while functional preservation goes further: the file does change over time so that the material continues to be immediately usable in the same way it was originally while the digital formats (and the physical media) evolve over time. "Digital preservation is an evolving field and we can't predict which formats will be available in the future," says Jennefer Beyl, Librarian, ISKMB, "but efforts will be made to ensure that functionality of the original content is maintained, even if file formats change over time. ISKMB has a set of recommended file formats that have the greatest chance of long-term preservation, and the repository automatically creates a text backup of each file."

PERMANENT LINKS VIA HANDLE AND DOI

ISKMB's new repository is linked with the Corporation for National Research Initiatives (CNRI), a not-for-profit organization that manages the Handle.Net Registry. The

Handle.Net Registry is used for assigning, managing, and resolving persistent identifiers for digital objects and other Internet resources. Each item and collection in our new digital repository has been assigned a "handle," and this handle

will never change, even if servers or repository software changes. In addition, technical and other reports that go through the ERDC editing process will be assigned a Digital Object Identifier (DOI). DOIs can be assigned to reports, articles,



datasets, and monographs and are best known as a means of tracking scholarly articles published through commercial and society publishers. The DOI will appear with the handle as an additional permanent link for the item. ERDC DOIs are registered through CrossRef, which provides an additional layer of discovery through their metadata registry and search tool. "Using both Handles and DOIs for ERDC material means creating reliable, persistent links for our technical reports and gives our resources added exposure online," says Joycelynn Brooks, Library Technician, ISKMB.

SEARCH-ENGINE FRIENDLY

Ensuring that ERDC-authored reports and articles with appropriate distribution statements are visible in search engines is an important part of completing the publishing process. Search engines are where many researchers are beginning their research and finding experts on important topics. Behind the scenes, Knowledge Core uses search-engine friendly sitemaps and includes Google-Scholar-specific metadata fields in each item's HTML display pages. ISKMB also describes content using taxonomies, including Library of Congress name authority and subject authority. Search engines are accustomed to indexing these tags, and ISKMB is committed to making sure content in Knowledge Core is highly findable and visible.

MOBILE DEVICES

The theme installation and customization of Knowledge Core was a collaboration between the ISKMB and the Software Engineering and Evaluation Branch (SEEB) at ERDC.

"The theme is responsive so that it will automatically adjust to mobile phone or tablet viewing," says Randy Fontan, Computer Scientist, SEEB. The theme was a complex installation with multiple technologies, but so far, ISKMB is getting positive feedback from users about Knowledge Core's look and functionality.

INTEGRATION WITH DISCOVERERDC

When it was initially launched, the DiscoverERDC search appliance was only able to partially index ISKMB's existing repository, which was provided by a commercial vendor and did not lend itself to indexing. When designing the new repository, ISKMB worked with the Office of Research and Technology Transfer and the Scientific Software Branch to make sure that Knowledge Core is indexed by DiscoverERDC. "Testing of the new repository's indexing in DiscoverERDC is ongoing and when the new version of the DiscoverERDC search engine is launched, users will notice that technical reports and documents are much easier to find," says Kevin Walker, Computer Scientist, Scientific Software Branch.

RESTRICTED USE MATERIALS

In the next few months, ISKMB, the SEEB, and the Cloud Computing Environment staff will complete development of a new restricted use repository hosted on the DSpace platform. "The repository will be restricted by CAC card to USACE employees only and will allow ISKMB and ERDC to share valuable materials and historical knowledge that we cannot share with the general public," says Bernard du Breuil, IT

Specialist. A restricted use repository has been a goal of ISKMB for several years. "The ISKMB gets numerous requests for Design Memoranda and Periodic Inspection Reports that are not posted on public servers," says Jennefer Beyl, Librarian, ISKMB, "ISKMB evaluated several commercial options before deciding to use the Cloud Computing Environment because they are experts in providing security for government systems and follow government security standards."

MORE INFORMATION

For more information about Knowledge Core, to provide feedback, or to suggest a collection that ISKMB should digitize, click on the 'About' link at <https://erdc-library.erdcdren.mil> or contact the ISKMB at erdclibrary@ask-a-librarian.info.

ISKMB would like to thank Cornell University's George Kozak and the Smithsonian's Alvin Hutchinson for their guidance in getting started with DSpace.

Book Reviews

Michele Frasier-Robinson

Librarian for
Education & Psychology
University of Southern Mississippi

Clark, Amie C.

Test of the Heart: A Collection of Poetry.

San Francisco, CA: Blurb Incorporated, 2016. 228 pp. \$15 (paperback)

In this volume, the author's first compilation of poetry, Mississippi-an Amie C. Clark intends to transport the reader "to your most intimate memories" in the hopes that "you see the faces, hear the words and feel the touch of long forgotten experiences that are yours alone." Clark is certainly prolific: this collection contains more than 200 poems—most of them very brief, but conveying very real and very raw emotions. The poems do not appear to be grouped into any particular category that this reader could discern. However, they tend to center around relationships with friends and family as well as love found, love lost, and love remembered.

Clark's poems include "The Walls Tumble," "Her Mind Wanders," and "It Was in the Winter." I discovered a few poems that stayed with me long after I read them. They touched on long gone relationships and the importance of having the ability to let them go with peace in your heart. The poem "Filling a Void" was one that deeply resonated with me. There is also a social commentary poem about the ever-increasing responsibilities placed on working mothers to "do it all" and be a superwoman.

The poem is appropriately called "Superwoman."

Despite the vast number of poems, this book is a fairly quick read. Although it would definitely appeal to lovers of poetry, those not accustomed to reading poetry would not need to commit a lot of time and effort to get something out of this collection. Clark's debut effort successfully conveys the "raw emotions of joy, pain, excitement and wonder" that would appeal to the general public. This book would be a fine choice for a public library collection or a library that collects the works of Mississippi authors.

Shellie Zeigler
Director of Talking Book Services
Mississippi Library Commission



George, Carol V. R.

One Mississippi, Two Mississippi: Methodists, Murder, and the Struggle for Racial Justice in Neshoba County
New York: Oxford University Press, 2015. 298 pp. \$29.95. (hardcover)

This book is a well written and documented history of Mt. Zion Methodist Church located in Neshoba County, Mississippi. Mt. Zion played an important role in the Civil Rights struggle of the 1960s. The author, a Research Professor of History at Hobart and William Smith Colleges, has divided her study into three distinct sections. The first part, titled *History and Memory*, recounts the history of the settling of Longdale, Mississippi and the establishment of Mt. Zion Church. In the early years, the Methodist denomination

was attractive to African-Americans for its anti-slavery message. The second part of the book is called *The Great Anomaly* and it explains the justification that was used for keeping the Methodist church segregated in the south. The final chapter of section two details the movements and murders of Andrew Goodman, Michael Schwerner, and James Chaney, as they made their way back to Meridian after visiting Longdale and the burned-out remains of Mt. Zion Church. The final section of the book, titled *Mt. Zion's Witness*, describes the struggle for integration in schools and churches. The Methodist denomination finally integrated in 1968 when it merged with the Ecumenical United Brethren Church to become the United Methodist Church.

This book is recommended for local history and research libraries.

Marty Coleman
Assistant Professor
Mississippi State University



Hoffman, Roy

Come Landfall: A Novel
Tuscaloosa, AL: University of Alabama Press, 2017. 284 pp. \$19.95 (paperback)

In *Come Landfall*, Roy Hoffman, author of *Almost Family* (2000) and *Chicken Dreaming Corn* (2004), offers the reader a glimpse of Mississippi's Gulf Coast culture with its casinos, hurricanes and strong military presence. This culture serves as the backdrop for Hoffman's exploration of the lives, loves, and

heartbreak of three Biloxi women.

Eighty-something Christiane lives life with a deep secret and the unknown factor of her previous marriage, which hinders her already confused state of mind. Her granddaughter Angela, who has devoted her life to taking care of her grandmother, tries to piece together the puzzle in order to ease Christiane's failing mental health. Christiane is difficult to take care of and when she is kicked out of her nursing home, Angela is pushed to the limit. Angela does gain an extra pair of helping hands when local teenager, Cam, comes into their lives. Yet Cam's story only adds to the drama, but she does help keep Christiane from getting into more trouble. Secrets, hurricanes, and wars put the strength of these fine women to the test. It is up to them to see if they can muster up the courage and will to survive.

At first glance, Hoffman's story has potential. One could easily get swept up in the vivid imagery, but the awkward transitions from one story to the next is quite confusing for the reader. Perhaps the stories of these three women would have been best understood if they were presented as standalone chapters or if they had been published as novellas. In the end, the reader is left wondering how the story ended, if anyone survived, and if there was any true resolve. In conclusion, Hoffman misses the mark due to the lack of proper transitioning to help the reader follow along with his endearing story.

Antoinette Giamalva
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Ridgeland Public Library



Kolin, Philip

Emmett Till in Different States: Poems

Chicago: Third World Press, 2015.
87 pp. \$18.95 (paperback)

The focus of this book of poems is the murder of a 14-year old African American young man, Emmett Till, who lived in Chicago but visited his family in rural Mississippi during the summer of 1955. Kolin successfully sheds light on this story and illustrates its relevance to people living in 2017 by tying it to the development of the Civil Rights movement of the 1960s, the Black Lives Matter movement of the 2010s, and to the current deaths of African American children in Chicago. There are poems about Emmett as a young child, his family, historical figures, Chicago, Mississippi, and current events. Each one of the 49 poems tells its own story, but each one also plays a role in understanding the whole.

The book opens with a chronology that ties Emmett Till to events from 1902 to 2016. Many of the poems will touch your heart, such as "Emmett's Wallet," "Uncle Moses's Dream," and "Emmett Till on Dr. Martin Luther King." Some of the poems will upset you: "Mamie's Veil on Attending Her Son's Funeral" and "The Jet Photo." And others will anger you: "R.I.P. Louis Till" and "Slop Jars." No matter what kind of emotions the poems elicit, there is no doubt that they will all inform you.

I was struck by the poem titled "Prologue to a Murder," a collection of sentences from Southern newspapers about the Till case,

especially the report of the defense attorney's argument to the jury that "Your forefathers will turn over in their graves' if they convicted two white men of murdering a 14-year old Chicago negro boy." Finally, the book concludes with a section of notes that provide more information about the history behind the poems.

I highly recommend this book of poems to anyone with an interest in history or race relations. It is particularly timely given some of the events taking place in America today, such as the United States Presidential election, the conflict between young black men and police officers, and a recently cancelled but highly promoted proposed television show about the Ku Klux Klan. This book belongs in every public and academic library and should be of interest to all readers from teens to senior citizens.

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