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P.O. Box 20448 • Jackson, MS 39289-1448
 Phone: 601-352-3917 • FAX: 601-352-4240
 Office Hours: 9-1 M,T,Th,F
 Email: mla@meta3.net
 Web site: <http://www.lib.usm.edu/~mla/home.html>
 Web Master: Steven Turner
steven.turner@usm.edu

President

Terry Latour, Ph.D.
 Delta State University
 Roberts Library • Cleveland, MS 38733
tlatour@merlin.deltast.edu

Vice President

Prima Plauché
 Hancock County Library System
 312 Hwy. 90 • Bay St. Louis, MS 39520-2595
 228-467-6836 (w) • 228-467-5503 (f)
pplauche@hancock.lib.ms.us

Secretary

Kathleen Wells
 University of Southern Mississippi
 Box 5053 • Hattiesburg, MS 39406-5053
 601-266-6399 (w) • 601-266-6033 (f)
kathleen.wells@usm.edu

Treasurer

Keith Coleman
 Northwest Mississippi Community College
 R.C. Pugh Library
 4975 Hwy. 51 North • Senatobia, MS 38688
 662-562-3268 (w) • 662-562-3280 (f)
keithc@nwcc.cc.ms.us

Immediate Past President

Henry J. Ledet, Director
 Lincoln Lawrence Franklin Regional Library
 100 South Jackson St. • Brookhaven, MS 39601
 601-833-3369 (w) • 601-833-3381 (f)
hledet@llf.lib.ms.us

Executive Secretary

Mary Julia Anderson
 P.O. Box 20448 • Jackson, MS 39289-1448
 601-352-3917 (w)
mla@meta3.net

ALA Councilor

Billy Beal
 Meridian Community College
 Meridian, MS 39301
 601-484-8760 (w) • 601-482-3936 (f)
bbeal@mcc.cc.ms.us

SELA Representative

Glenda Segars
 602 West Hill Street • Fulton, MS 38843
 662-862-4793 (f)
grsegars@icc.cc.ms.us

Parliamentarian

Randy Sherard

2001 Sections**ACRL Section**

Chair, Jeff Slagell
jslagell@merlin.deltast.edu

Public Section

Chair, David Woodburn
dwoodburn@hancock.lib.ms.us

School Section

Chair, Dee Dee Long
readingrules@yahoo.com

Special Section

Chair, Indira Bhowal
ibhowal@mlc.lib.ms.us

Trustee Section

Chair, Randy Sherard
sherard@magnolia.net

PRESIDENT'S PAGE

MAKING A GOOD THING BETTER

The past two years have been challenging times for many libraries. Declining revenues have often resulted in reduced budgets and difficult choices. Nevertheless, most libraries in Mississippi continue to provide access to an expanding array of information resources and an excellent level of service.

In surveying the state of libraries in Mississippi, I am gratified by the many positive activities that are occurring, despite severe budget constraints. Thanks to the support of state and local leaders, more than a dozen libraries are currently expanding or renovating their facilities, and a number of other library construction projects have recently been completed. Moreover, in April, ground was broken for the first permanent facilities for the Mississippi Library Commission in its seventy-six-year history.

Most libraries have been able to expand their collections and their services even in the austere budget environment in which we find ourselves. Reference resources, both book and non-book, are being enhanced to better meet the needs of library users. Customers of most Mississippi libraries have access to information resources several times greater than they did just a half-dozen years ago. Innovative services such as 24 hour a day, seven day a week reference are being added, and digital technologies are enabling Mississippi libraries to provide easy access to unique resources that were largely unknown to most people just a few years ago. Libraries in Mississippi are gaining national, state and local attention, and some are winning awards for



Terry Latour

their wide-ranging efforts.

As financial resources become more limited and as resource allocators become more particular, libraries must strive to be innovative in the ways in which they develop and seek support for their programs and services. Partnerships and cooperative endeavors are ways in which Mississippi libraries have been able to expand and enhance their reach. There

are numerous examples of multiple libraries, and in some cases other institutions, joining forces to provide new or better services. It is exciting to see greater cooperation, especially among different types of libraries, for the creation and funding of non-traditional programs and services.

Despite the severe limitations many Mississippi libraries operate within, we all can be proud of the accomplishments that have been achieved. Mississippi libraries are success stories, and they typically rank high in the minds of the individuals and organizations they serve.

To keep the momentum going, I urge you to emphasize the positive. Don't let opportunities pass by without letting the public, and your resource allocators, know how important libraries are to the communities you serve. Continue to develop new or enhanced services that address the changing needs of library users. Explore cooperative ventures and new partnerships that may help your library achieve the vision of service that you aspire to. Through your good work and with the support of your service communities, libraries are making a difference in Mississippi. Thank you for your efforts in Making a Good Thing Better.

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EDITORIAL STAFF

EDITOR.....Ann Branton
Box 5053, Cook Library
The University of Southern Mississippi
Hattiesburg, MS 39406-5053
(W) 601-266-4350
FAX: 1-601-266-6033
email: ann.branton@usm.edu

ASSISTANT EDITOR.....Kathleen Wells
The University of Southern Mississippi
email: kathleen.wells@usm.edu

ADVERTISING EDITOR.....Suzanne R. Graham
The University of Southern Mississippi
email: suzanne.graham@usm.edu

REPORTER.....Kathy Davis
The University of Southern Mississippi
email: kathy.davis@usm.edu

COLUMN EDITORS.....Jessie B. Arnold
Alcorn State University
email: jarnold@lorman.alcorn.edu

Rick Torgerson
Delta State University
email: rick@merlin.deltast.edu

P. Toby Graham
The University of Southern Mississippi
email: toby.graham@usm.edu

Thomas D. Walker
The University of Southern Mississippi
email: thomas.walker@usm.edu

Irmgard Wolfe
The University of Southern Mississippi
email: irmgard.wolfe@usm.edu

BOOK REVIEW EDITOR.....Sarah Spencer
The University of Southern Mississippi
email: sarah.spencer@usm.edu

CHILDREN'S BOOK
REVIEW EDITOR.....Rosemary Chance
The University of Southern Mississippi
email: rosemary.chance@usm.edu

MLA PUBLICITY
COMMITTEE, CHAIR.....Mary Perkins
Hancock County Library System
mperkins@hancock.lib.ms.us

INDEXER.....Shirlene Stogner
The University of Southern Mississippi
email: shirlene.stogner@usm.edu

WEB MASTERS.....Diane DeCesare Ross
The University of Southern Mississippi
email: diane.ross@usm.edu

Tracy Englert
The University of Southern Mississippi
email: tracy.englert@usm.edu

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On the Cover: Mural painting "Ocean Springs: Past, Present & Future" located on Bowen Ave., Ocean Springs, MS. Painted by artist Christopher Inglis Stebly, the mural depicts over 300 years of the people and wildlife that inhabit this area. Photographer, Vanessa Ritchie, Public Services Librarian at Cox Library, USMGC; used with permission from the Ocean Springs Chamber of Commerce.

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NOTICE: Dues must be paid by March 1 in order to vote in election of officers and to receive the Spring issue of *Mississippi Libraries*.

Historical Survey of Library Services for Blacks in Mississippi: 1866 to 1954

By Jama Lumumba
Library Media Specialist
Jackson State University
j_lumumba@hotmail.com

and

Ann Branton
Head, Bibliographic Services
The University of Southern Mississippi
ann.branton@usm.edu

INTRODUCTION

At the end of the American Civil War in 1865, African slaves were freed and for a short time enjoyed many benefits of their new status. Education was among the most important of these advantages, which was not the case prior to the war. Tracing the history of educating Black citizens, particularly as it relates to library services in school, public, and academic libraries between 1866 and 1954, places this research during a span of tumultuous years for African Americans in the southeastern region of the United States in general and in Mississippi in particular.

During the reconstruction of the South, in an attempt to restore the southern states to full participation in the socio-political structures of the United States, there was a brief period when Blacks were afforded the same rights and privileges as all citizens. They enjoyed their first opportunity to vote, hold elected office, and own land. Due to the enlightened vision of some political and private figures, schools and universities were established to address the need to educate these newest enfranchised citizens. But there was intense resistance to normalization in the South if it meant complete equality for Blacks. Strong disagreements and political animosity mounted in both national and state forums that eventually were resolved by severely diminishing Black freedom. These political shifts of the late nineteenth century adversely affected early library services offered to Blacks in Mississippi from 1866 to 1954.

The history of library services for Blacks in Mississippi is also closely related to the history of educating Blacks after the Civil War.

PUBLIC EDUCATION IN MISSISSIPPI

The Mississippi Territory was opened for settlement in 1798, though a French settlement had existed at Natchez since 1716. Prior to the 1860s, education was considered to be the responsibility of the church or else a private family matter. Affluent parents either tutored their children at home or sent them to private schools. By 1850, public education was more widely accepted in the United States due to the work and influence of Horace Mann. Nationally, there was phenomenal growth of public elementary schools before 1860, and high schools grew rapidly after 1870. However, until the late 1860s, there is very little evidence that education for Black students was universally supported or provided in the United States.

While there were several public schools for white students established in Mississippi as early as 1821, the public school system for the general population was not authorized by the Mississippi legislature until 1869. All schools were poorly funded, and in the latter years of the nineteenth century, most schools in Mississippi were just one-room structures in which all grades were taught. Many teachers were not formally trained and did not have college degrees. Most of these schools lacked library services of any kind; some schools simply relied on a few books kept in the classroom for all grade levels. (Peebles and Howell, 1975, p. 315).

CONDITIONS WERE GRAVE

This was the general situation in public education across Mississippi for its white students. However, conditions for its Black citizens and their children were much more grave. Very soon after the emancipation of African slaves in the

South, the work of educating them began during Union occupation of the southeastern states by the Federal armies. The first schools for Blacks in Mississippi were established at Corinth; other schools were established in Vicksburg. Some schools were opened even before the end of the war by such organizations as the American Missionary Association, the Society of Friends, and the Freedman's Aid Society (Thompson, 1973, p. 11). Educating Blacks during the post-War period of 1865-1909 was not universally supported by a majority of white Southerners, and financial and moral resources were not made available to them (Thompson, 1973, p. 12).

This attitude prevailed even though the doctrine of separate but equal had been established throughout the South by 1896. Because of poorly maintained or destroyed tax records, it is difficult to determine when the state, in fact, initiated tax-supported education of Blacks. While there was evidence of intermittent funding, statewide tax support was not provided (Dalehite, 1974, p. 21). In one exception, it was reported in a local Jackson newspaper that on September 18, 1869, Alderman James Lynch, a Black man, offered a resolution that was unanimously adopted by Jackson's City Council which stated that unless all children, regardless of race or color, could benefit from the funds awarded to schools, for whatever purpose, the city legislative body would not sanction the support. As a result of this resolution, the first plan to provide a free school for Blacks was devised by J. Tarbell in 1870 (Dalehite, 1974, p. 22).

Governor James L. Alcorn, after his election in 1870, established "a system of public education that, even though rudimentary and segregated," did reach into all parts of the state. However, before the end of his first year, criticism against the school system mounted and the Ku Klux Klan engaged in increasing violence against Black schools.

Poor white farmers in Mississippi, who had suffered crop failures and loss of their farms, blamed their misfortune on the emancipation of their labor force. They became aroused by charges that school taxation for educating Blacks would further impoverish them. They were also incensed that newly established public schools were being used to propagate Republican political ideas of social equality. The farmers went on a rampage of arson and murder in eight counties, burning schoolhouses and torturing and killing teachers. As a result of this unrest, by the summer of 1871, some counties had no schools in operation whatsoever (Cruden, 1969, p. 66).

Reports of this kind of violent resistance to educating Blacks left even less chance for the development of public school library services for Blacks during the late nineteenth century. By most documented accounts, there is no mention of public school libraries or library services provided to Black students until late in the nineteenth century.

PRIVATE EDUCATION AND LIBRARIES

Shortly after the Civil War, during the advent of Black reconstruction until the 1870s, however, several private educational institutions were established to enable citizens of color to educate themselves.

With this move toward greater opportunities in education, library services were offered more often to Black college students, particularly those who attended the Black colleges and universities founded during the decade following the Civil War, and to Black citizens who lived in the surrounding communities. In 1866, the Freedman's Aid Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church established Rust College, the second oldest private college in Mississippi, in Holly Springs for recently freed Blacks. The school accepted adults of all ages, as well as children, for instruction in elementary subjects. At the time, its library contained 2,700 volumes. In 1869, Tougaloo College, a school for Blacks, was founded north of Jackson as the state's fourth oldest private college. Its library provided 4,000 volumes and was supported by gifts. In 1871, Alcorn University was established as a school exclusively for Black men but became co-educational in 1903. Its library contained 2,000 books and 1,000 pamphlets. In 1877, the American Baptist Home Mission Society of New York established Natchez Seminary for Black ministers in Natchez, Mississippi. By 1884, they began adding materials to the library. And in 1892, the Board of Missions for Freedmen of the Presbyterian Church (USA) established Mary Holmes Seminary as a school for girls of color. Its library had 1,500 vol-

umes and was supported by gifts.

EARLY PUBLIC LIBRARY SERVICES

In general, documentation about libraries in Mississippi dates back as early as 1818. The state's first public library was located in Port Gibson after the Mississippi Literary and Library Company of Gibson Port was incorporated by Governor David Holmes, who signed a bill to incorporate the two entities (*Clarksdale Register*, December 1937, p.1). However, no definite date can be set which marks the beginning of library services which specifically included Blacks (Wilson and Wight, 1935, p.46). Sometimes, despite the obstacles that existed in Mississippi for people of color during this early post-Civil War period, minimal library services were offered to Blacks. In 1870, Governor Alcorn appointed J. D. Worles as librarian of the State Library, the first Black citizen to be employed in that position. Biloxi Public Library in Harrison County, established in 1893, provided services to the "public at large" (*Biloxi Daily Herald*, 1893) and was never segregated at any time.

PHILANTHROPIC AND PUBLIC SUPPORT

During the early years of the twentieth century, support for educating Blacks,

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with a provision for library services, came from philanthropic citizens and groups from the North. In 1917 the Rosenwald Fund was created, stressing four programs to improve the lives of Blacks. One program provided support for library services. Coahoma County, Mississippi received \$17,000 from the Rosenwald Fund to establish a county library to serve urban and rural Blacks. In 1929, a Rosenwald-funded library was established in the Mary C. Jones School, a school for Black children, in Jackson, Mississippi.

In 1910, Meridian Library Association received a \$38,000 Carnegie grant, \$8,000 of which was used to establish a separate library branch for its Black citizens. In the 1930s, the Carnegie Corporation of New York appropriated \$100,000 for a select group of Black colleges in the United States for the development of undergraduate libraries. The Black institutions of higher education at Alcorn and Tougaloo were recipients of some of these funds in Mississippi, receiving grants that ranged from \$1,500 to \$4,500.

In 1922, the Brothers of the Divine Word established St. Augustine Seminary, the first Roman Catholic seminary in the United States to train and ordain African American young men for the priesthood and brotherhood. The Seminary provided library services in Bay St. Louis, Mississippi. The collection paid special attention to works by and about African Americans.

In 1930, the City Board of Education and City Council in Clarksdale, Mississippi, along with fund-raising efforts by Blacks, constructed the Myrtle Hall Branch Library for their Black citizens. Gulfport Carnegie Library opened a branch in 1947 to provide library services to the Black community residents of Gulfport, Mississippi through funding appropriations from Harrison County and donations from the local Lions Club.

SUPPORT FROM LIBRARIANS

Significantly, support from the library profession in the South was evident in the first decades of the century. In November 1922, the Southeastern Library Association met for their second conference at

Signal Mountain, Tennessee. The newly organized professional library association was represented by nine Southern states, and twice as many attendees gathered since its establishment the year before. They tackled two pressing problems: library service for Blacks and training facilities for Black librarians. In 1946, a Southeastern State Cooperative Library survey recommended that better library services should be an immediate goal of various library-affiliated organizations in Mississippi.

As early as 1908, six credit hours in library science were offered at Mississippi State College for Women, and by 1940 a minor in library science was available. However, while library science courses were later offered at Tougaloo College in the 1940's, Black students who aspired to become professional librarians entered library science degree programs at historically Black institutions like Atlanta University in Georgia or schools in the North which accepted Black students, such as the University of Chicago.

In 1950, the University of Mississippi Bureau of Public Administration reported that only eight communities in Mississippi maintained any public library service for the non-white population; these were generally small branch libraries located in towns, serving only about one tenth of the Black citizens in the state.

As reported in the Mississippi Library Commission's annual report for public libraries in 1950/51, there were fifty-nine libraries in Mississippi, and two of the fifty-seven counties did not provide library services of any kind. [Note: As documented in the latest annual report, there are currently 244 public libraries in Mississippi, and all counties now provide library services to all their citizens without exception.] In 1950 and in 1952, the Commission made a legislative budget request for \$100,000 for the establishment of library services for Blacks. Only \$8,500 was appropriated, and two years later just \$25,000 was budgeted for this purpose by the Mississippi legislature. In 1950, the George Washington Carver Library, the first public library for Blacks in Jackson, Mississippi, opened and became a branch of the Jackson Public

Library in 1951. Another branch library for Blacks opened in the College Park Auditorium located at Jackson State College the next year, 1952.

Libraries introduced bookmobile library services in the rural areas of Mississippi during the early 1950s. In 1952, Northeast Regional Library established bookmobile service to Black schools in its four-county area. And in 1954, in southwest Mississippi, the Natchez Public Library began offering countywide bookmobile service to both the Black and white populations in addition to organizing the W. J. Fleming Branch for Blacks.

CONCLUSION

One of the primary responsibilities of libraries is to provide access to information to all people. For the greater part of Mississippi, particularly in the rural counties from 1866 to 1954, library services were often poorly funded and provided minimal services at best. For Black citizens, these services were deplorable, almost non-existent. It is interesting, however, that as the profession of librarianship became more firmly established at the turn of the nineteenth century, poor library services to Blacks became more and more of an issue among southern librarians. Some librarians serving in Mississippi communities, both urban and rural, had the vision and passion to work toward genuine equality in service to all citizens. While the political and social climate of those years was extremely hostile to the well-being of Blacks, there is evidence that some of the improvements in library services were made by the work of dedicated librarians, particularly during the decades between the 1920s and 1950s, before the Civil Rights era of the sixties. A few of these librarian heroes are still among us; some have passed away from this earth, but we pay tribute to them still in recognizing their dedication to library service for all Mississippians through library scholarships and awards. Others served as mentors, inspiring young librarians, both Black and white, to exceed their achievements in the library profession. And some librarians served in quiet ways that most of us may never know.

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Creating Low Stress and High Impact Metadata for the Civil Rights in Mississippi Digital Archive

By Suzanne Graham

Catalog Librarian

The University of Southern Mississippi

suzanne.graham@usm.edu

INTRODUCTION

In January 2000, The University of Southern Mississippi began digitizing its civil rights materials and providing online access to these items in the *Civil Rights in Mississippi Digital Archive*. Less than two years later, the program received an Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) grant to process approximately 3100 pages of manuscripts and photographs and 145 oral histories. Providing reliable access to individual items in the archive without creating a bottleneck in metadata creation was a primary goal of the project.

The variety of formats in the collection – which includes transcripts of oral histories, letters, diaries, posters, and photographs – makes the task of creating bibliographic records for the items more challenging. Several libraries and research institutions, such as the Getty Institute and the Library of Congress, have grappled with the same issue, and work began with a study of the methods of these facilities. A review of standards applied by the Library of Congress Prints & Photographs Division advocated “lightweight” bibliographic control over electronic archival collections.

The Dublin Core metadata standard emerged from the literature as a familiar and viable alternative to the complexity of MARC. USM Libraries was a charter member of OCLC’s Cooperative Online Resource Catalog (COCR), and librarians had used Dublin Core to catalog Web pages. Exchanging MARC for Dublin Core would have the advantage of expedited cataloging procedures and would provide greater access to the digitized sur-

rogates than the USM Libraries affords the original documents – which are cataloged only at the collection level.

Each metadata field is important, but the librarians perceive subject analysis to be the linchpin of item retrieval. Studies in library and information science literature since 1983 have indicated a preference among students for subject and keyword search strategies rather than author or title searches. Therefore, it is expected that the keywords in the item descriptions and subject headings will prove to be the primary access points.

Library of Congress Subject Headings (LCSH) serves as the de facto global thesaurus in English, but librarians began protesting its cultural and ethnic insensitivities before World War II. In 1940, Francis Yocum compiled her thesaurus, *List of Subject Headings for Books by and About the Negro* to supplement LCSH. In the early 1970s, Doris Hargrett Clack examined LC descriptors for the African American experience and determined that they were “seriously inadequate.” She re-visited LCSH in 1994 and again found serious shortcomings. To compensate for this lack of specificity, the terms applied in the *Civil Rights in Mississippi Digital Archive* would need to reach beyond LCSH.

To provide the best possible subject access, the USM team followed the three pillars for successful subject vocabulary of Web collections cited by the LCTS Subject Access Committee: optimal access points, flexible interoperability, and simple structure. Optimal access points were achieved, despite shortcomings of LCSH, by the creation of a local thesaurus focus-

ing on subject and name terms for the African American civil rights movement. To maintain interoperability with the library’s main catalog, LCSH served as the basis of the thesaurus, and USM librarians received training in order to contribute name headings to the national authority file, thereby authorizing them in the national library vocabulary. To address subject heading simplicity, eventually all subject-heading strings were eliminated and a post-coordinate system replaced the pre-coordinate syntax of Library of Congress headings.

THESAURUS

Librarians recognized that LCSH terms would be insufficiently specific for the subject materials. Generating 3200 new records with the subject headings

“Civil rights movements – Mississippi” and “Mississippi – Race relations” would add little to the accessibility of these items. However, the team agreed that use of a controlled vocabulary was imperative and that, when possible, the headings should be authorized LCSH to ensure consistency and interoperability with the headings in the main library catalog

should the two databases ever be merged. Work on a separate in-house African American thesaurus began immediately.

The thesaurus provides a less cumbersome and more specialized list of appropriate LCSH terms for the staff to use. From the cataloging of oral histories and books ordered through an African American studies collection development grant, the thesaurus grew as a compilation of authorized LCSH terms and a wish list of

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locally created terms that merit addition into the national vocabulary. The thesaurus included cross-references and provided clear examples of applicable qualifiers for each main heading.

In the initial workflow, student workers generated terms and a staff member verified them and submitted new or unauthorized terms to Cataloging via an electronic form along with the reference citation to the individual oral history, letter or photograph being described. A full-time cataloger provided the appropriate LCSH term or string, adopted the new heading into the thesaurus as a local term, or determined that the term was not an appropriate heading. After receiving the form with comments from Cataloging, the student entered the metadata. Subject heading assignment continued in this fashion for two years.

Entrusting students to make preliminary judgments expedited subject analysis, but the creation of new headings still created a bottleneck. The work of describing short pieces that discuss many subjects briefly made subject assignment the most challenging part of metadata creation. The students needed to understand the difference between indexing and performing subject analysis and also competently apply the proper semantic and syntactic forms. It was also difficult to maintain good understanding via email, and the failure to conduct formal student training in subject analysis was compensated only by the quality of students. In January 2002, the IMLS grant enabled the library to hire a Metadata Librarian to oversee metadata creation and to work directly with the students in the digitization lab.

NACO MEMBERSHIP

Given the wealth of African American and specifically civil rights materials in the USM archive, a goal of the cataloging department was to join the African American Funnel Project. The funnel project enables librarians to contribute locally created subject headings to the national authority file. The Library of Congress (LC) designed the African American Funnel Project to attract institutions with

strong local area collections but without the staff resources to commit to the production levels expected in traditional Name Authority Cooperative (NACO) and Subject Authority Cooperative (SACO) membership. Participation in these programs helps LC fill subject area gaps and allows partner institutions to authorize name headings used in their catalogs.

In November 2001, librarians at The University of Southern Mississippi, Delta State University, and Mississippi Valley State University took the first step toward African American Funnel Project membership by receiving NACO training, and work began on the submission of local name headings to LC via the newly formed Mississippi Funnel Project. In the first four months of participation, over seventy names generated for Mississippi oral histories and the Mississippi Digital Archive became NACO authorized headings. In effect, this work celebrates the efforts of civil rights heroes like J.C. Fairley (NAACP leader in Hattiesburg) and Sandy Leigh (Project Director of Freedom Summer in Hattiesburg) by adding their names to the national vocabulary.

This second phase supported two of the requisites cited earlier. It allowed specific names of individuals and organizations to be used in the bibliographic records. For example, the name of the pioneering bi-racial committee, Coahoma Opportunities, Inc., could be a heading in a subject list along with the complex string "Economic assistance, Domestic –

Citizen participation – Mississippi – Coahoma County." This process also simplifies heading generation by establishing a consistent form of the name that unifies all works about and by this individual or group.

SIMPLIFIED SYNTAX

The consistent application of subject terms is important to ensure adequate recall, but the complex syntax and semantic relationships of LCSH make proper sub-heading assignment a honed skill among trained catalogers. LCSH rules for subject subdivisions – filling more than 1500 pages with rules and exceptions – dictate what subdivisions may be used for a given type of heading and in what order. Although the locally created thesaurus contained examples of authorized strings and indicated which headings could be coupled with geographic modifiers (e.g., African American students – Mississippi), string creation remained a source of concern.

The USM team began to assess the costs and benefits of post-coordinate subject relationships. In a post-coordinate structure, all relevant descriptors would be assigned as main headings whether they are topical, format, geographic or chronological. The students creating the metadata would no longer combine terms in a string (i.e., a pre-coordinate arrangement). For example, the subject heading "Federal-state controversies – Mississippi" would be recorded as two separate headings "Federal-state controversies"

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and "Mississippi." Since queries in the Digital Archive default to a Boolean "AND" string, a subject search for "Federal-state controversies AND Mississippi" would retrieve this document whether the subject headings are post-coordinate or pre-coordinate.

Arguments in favor of post-coordinate subject heading assignment can be traced to Mortimer Taube's technical reports in the 1950s. He argued that Boolean operators combine search terms and recapture enough of the relational semantics of pre-coordinated searches to be effective. In the half-century since Taube's publications, many notable studies and experiments with post-coordination have re-examined its possibilities as computer technology has improved. Lois Chan added her endorsement to those experimenting with post-coordination at the Airlie Conference in May 1991. When she re-visited the debate at American Library Association's 2002 mid-winter conference and suggested that Web resources be cataloged in this way, she met a receptive audience.

The USM librarians acknowledge that post-coordination is a compromise. A preliminary assessment compared the twenty-one topical and form subheadings cited in the thesaurus with LCSH main headings in order to determine how many had exact matches. Two-thirds of subheadings used in the digital archive had identical main headings in LCSH, or else the headings shared the same nouns (for example, the main heading "Violence" corresponded with the subheading "Violence against"). The impact on the retrieval of the remaining one-third varies from "Integration," which has no corresponding main heading (the closest terms are "Race relations" and "Segregation"), to the subheading "Attitudes," which matches with "Attitude (Psychology)."

Even among terms with exact matches, however, the intelligent ordering of LCSH semantics and syntax is lost. Post-coordination suffers most in the loss of precision through the breakdown in relationships between main term and qualifier. If a record has only one heading,

then the relationship may be clear, but all records in the collection have more than one heading. Without pre-coordination, headings and qualifiers can be re-matched to cause erroneous hits. For example, a search for "Jews AND Music" could retrieve a document that discusses African American music ("African Americans" and "Music") and ties between the Jewish community and African Americans ("African Americans" and "Jews").

Charles Hildreth found that University of Oklahoma students use keyword searches most often as their "entry" search. From these results, they reconstruct queries based on the subject terms applied to relevant items in the initial list. Assuming that the Digital Media Archive merges with the USM OPAC in the future, then these items would not appear in the subject heading browse at the most specific level applicable. For example, an item on the training of civil rights workers, which was assigned two separate terms: "Civil rights workers" and "Training," would not appear in a list of all items with the string "Civil rights workers - Training of."

Presently, however, the catalogs are separate, and post-coordination provides a consistent and facile means of bibliographic control over individual items that otherwise would be cataloged only at the collection level. The two databases are still interoperable, but the application of headings for the digital documents is less distinct than the relationships expressed with strings.

CONCLUSION

The team continues to refine the cataloging of the digital archive through a balance of the principles of precision and simplicity. In the summer of 2002, the cataloging liaison will receive training in the creation of subject headings as a further step toward membership in the African American Subject Funnel Project, which will enable USM to submit locally created subject terms to LC for consideration. In the meantime, the local thesaurus should be added to the Web site to provide researchers with the opportunity

to skim the subject terms applied to the collection.

USM Libraries is proud of the access it provides to rich resources of the region's history. This high-volume and "lightweight" system of metadata assignment is yielding real results. For graphic images, the metadata provide the only searchable terms since the items have no text. The staff has processed nearly 200 Freedom Summer photographs, and scholars from as far away as Japan have accessed these materials in the *Civil Rights in Mississippi Digital Archive*.

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Reflection on the Black Experience in Children's Literature

By Ann Mulloy Ashmore

Collection Specialist

The de Grummond Children's

Literature Collection

The University of Southern Mississippi

ann.ashmore@usm.edu

When W.E.B. Du Bois and A. G. Dill announced the publication of a monthly magazine for children in August 1919, they wrote that *The Brownies' Book* was "...designed for all children, but especially for ours."¹ Their words reflect the desire to create a forum for Black children to read about themselves and their culture, its heroes and achievements, as well as its struggles. Langston Hughes expressed this same desire later when he wrote in the 1932 *Children's Literary Yearbook* that "...faced too often by the segregation and scorn of the surrounding white world, America's Negro children are in pressing need of books that will give them back their own souls. They do not know the beauty they possess."²

ELIMINATION OF STEREOTYPES

An early critic of this negative portrayal of Blacks was Charlemae Hill Rollins. Born in Yazoo City, Mississippi in 1897, Rollins was educated at Western University and the University of Chicago. Prior to joining the staff of the Chicago Public Library in 1929, Rollins taught school in Oklahoma. Dismayed by the stereotypes of Blacks in the children's books available at the time, she set out to persuade authors, illustrators, publishers, librarians, and the students in her children's literature classes at Roosevelt University that *all* children, regardless of their race or ethnicity, deserved better.

In a pamphlet published by the National Council of Teachers of English in 1941, Rollins wrote: "...realistic stories of Negro life suitable for young people that present the cultured Negro as well as the underprivileged are pitifully few." When a Negro child did appear in a chil-

dren's book, he was "...usually portrayed as a ragged, bare-foot, thick-lipped (always bright red) child of a shiftless father; usually eating watermelon, or followed by a flea-infested hound."³

Rollins (1897-1979) wore many hats in her professional life. Whether she was teaching students in the classroom or serving them as a professional librarian at the Chicago Public Library, she was guided by her vision to introduce children to books which "...help young people to live together with tolerance and to understand each other better."⁴ A professional librarian for 36 years, Rollins served from 1949-1950 as a member of the Newbery-Caldecott award committee, and as committee chair in 1956-1957. She also served as president of the Children's Services Division of ALA from 1957-1958. In 1971, she was a member of the newly formed Coretta Scott King award committee.

FRIENDSHIPS

Rollins' efforts to increase the number of quality multicultural books for children led to friendships with Augusta Baker, librarian, author and storyteller, and Ezra Jack Keats, winner of the Caldecott Medal in 1963 for *The Snowy Day*. Rollins often used Keats' books in her storytelling sessions. After the publication of his second book in 1964, she wrote him saying,

"I want to tell you how much fun I'm having with *Whistle for Willie*. It's my main 'Text' and 'Attention-getter' in all the talks I'm doing this summer - and everywhere I show it - everyone

is delighted and charmed! Some audiences like it better than *Snowy Day* and that's high praise indeed."⁵

Another career librarian, Augusta Baker founded the James Weldon Johnson Children's Research Collection at the Countee Cullen branch of the New York Public Library. In 1971, she asked her friend Ezra Jack Keats to illustrate the cover of her revised bibliography series. He chose the familiar characters of Peter's neighborhood from *The Snowy Day*: Peter and his little sister Susie, best friends Archie and Amy, Archie's cat and, of course, Willie, Peter's dog. Of Keats, Baker wrote in 1971: "...he was one of a few artists who have been particularly sensitive in their illustrations [of Black children]."⁶

The Snowy Day was, perhaps, the first best-selling picture book in which the main character was Black. Illustrator and author Pat Cummings writes that it "...represented a breakthrough for Keats, ...and possibly the best glimpse into what motivated his work, and life."⁷ Keats himself once told friends that working on the book "...turned his life around."⁸ Jeannine Laughlin-Porter, formerly the director of the School of Library Science at USM and co-author of *Children's Authors Speak*, once asked Keats why he chose a little Black boy as the main character in *The Snowy Day*. Keats replied, "The reason I picked Peter was because there was a criminal neglect in that area. And now there are a lot of books about Black kids. Peter was just a kid doing something in New York City that I knew."⁹

KEATS' LIFE & WORK

To commemorate the 40th anniversary of the publication of *The Snowy Day*, the de Grummond Children's Litera-



Charlemae Hill
Rollins



Augusta Baker



Ezra Jack Keats

ture Collection at USM is featuring an exhibit of Keats' life and work entitled *Collage! An Ezra Jack Keats Retrospective*. The exhibit draws on artifacts, photographs and memorabilia from the collection's extensive holdings of Keats' artistic and literary estate. Running through August 2002, it features original artwork for all of Keats' children's books as well as rarely seen fine art and commercial artwork completed prior to his career as a children's illustrator.

The exhibit's name comes from Keats' original illustrative style of mixing watercolor and collage in the creation of Peter's world. As he tells Laughlin-Porter, "I wanted it to be a special book...

something new. I decided to add a little snip of collage."¹⁰ He chose a piece of Belgian canvas for the sheets on Peter's bed. Later he found a shop that sold paper from all over the world. For Keats, the use of collage "...made for an unusual balance between illusion and reality."¹¹ This is particularly evident when he uses real fabric for clothing, actual wallpaper on the walls of Peter's home, and real newspaper to depict trash on the street.

The desire of W.E.B. Du Bois and Langston Hughes for books that reflect the beauty of the souls of Black children became life's mission for librarians Charlemae Hill Rollins and Augusta Baker. Their mutual friend, Ezra Jack

Keats, and the success of his books about Peter, demonstrated to children's editors and publishers that there was a market for books about children of color – that well-written, beautifully illustrated books which reflect a myriad of diversity could be enjoyed by all children, regardless of their background, just as Du Bois, Hughes, Rollins and Baker had dreamed.

RESOURCES FOR STUDYING AFRICAN AMERICAN CHILDREN'S LITERATURE AT DE GRUMMOND

The study of African American history and culture, and its reflection expressed in books for children, has emerged as a rich field of inquiry within the general area of children's literature research. Until recently, however, queries to the de Grummond Children's Literature Collection about its holdings of books and original materials pertaining to African Americans could only be answered in general terms. Part of Special Collections at The University of Southern Mississippi, the de Grummond Children's Literature Collection's primary mission is to hold, preserve and make available resources for the purpose of research and teaching. Given USM's unique role as Mississippi's primary depository of documents and oral histories pertaining to civil rights in Mississippi, and the national reputation of the de Grummond Collection in the field of children's literature, staff initiated a study in the fall of 1999 to identify and create a database of all holdings of books and original materials written by, for, or about African Americans in the collection. As of March 2002, the database consists of 5700+ records, of which USM Libraries holds more than 3600 items.

Various bibliographies and books were used to identify titles for searching the USM online catalog and the de Grummond Collection's uncataloged holdings, including the works mentioned above by Charlemae Hill Rollins and Augusta Baker. Additionally, staff used library databases to conduct extensive research in order to identify historical titles depicting Africans and African Americans in words and pictures. Later, these references were compiled into an online resource bibliography (<http://www.lib.usm.edu/~degrum/html/collectionhl/ch-afroamericanbib.shtml>) which provides access to scholarly research in seven areas: Background Reading; Early (1930-1960's) Criticism of the All-White World of Children's Books; Current Research and Criticism; African American Children's Literature; Recommended Reading Lists; Criteria for Selection; and Resources for Teaching African American Children's Literature.

For more information about the Keats' exhibit and the de Grummond Collection's "Resources in African American Children's Literature" see our Web page at <http://www.lib.usm.edu/~degrum/index.shtml> or e-mail Ann Mulloy Ashmore at ann.ashmore@usm.edu.

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Volunteer Librarianship Abroad: Risk Going Too Far

By Virginia Witty
Librarian

Benton County Library System
vwitty@benton.lib.ms.us

Growing up as an only child in rural Mississippi before televisions were in every household and telephones were readily available, I spent a lot of time reading. The library bookmobile furnished me with books about faraway places. And later, as a middle school student, I sent off for travel brochures and arranged them in the attic of our barn; my first library patrons were two roosters. As an undergraduate working in the Mississippi College library, I began reading about the emerging nations in Africa, particularly the Gold Coast, which later became Ghana in 1957. I soon found myself volunteering to be a missionary to Ghana, but upon graduation these plans did not materialize.

As years went by, I was employed as a public school librarian, as well as being a busy homemaker, rearing three girls. So my fascination with Africa lay dormant

until I was almost sixty years old. I decided to update my truly nonexistent technology skills by getting a Specialist degree in Library and Information Science from The University of Southern Mississippi. While thinking about what I might do after graduation, I explored the Peace Corps. My daughters, in the throes of a role reversal crisis, expressed serious concerns about my health and safety, not to mention the two-year commitment. Although my mantra of inspiration is "Only those who will risk going too far can possibly find out how far one can go" (T. S. Eliot), they felt I was indeed "going too far."

So I began looking for shorter-term volunteer programs and eventually connected with an organization called Cross Cultural Solutions of New York. I needed the structure and direction of the organization, and best of all, I learned they needed a librarian to organize a library in a mountain village in Ghana. I signed up and in October 1999, boarded Ghana Airways for the overnight flight to Accra. Little did I know just how helpful all of my

library science studies would prove to be to me in my volunteer work overseas.

EXPECT CULTURE SHOCK

As part of the reading assignments in my information science coursework under Dr. Melanie Norton at The University of Southern Mississippi, I discovered articles that used anthropological concepts to explain the behavior of library users. In one of these articles (Sever, 1994) the author applies the concept of culture shock to users not familiar with computers. Library personnel sometimes fall into the habit of treating these users as children, patronizing them due to their limited understanding of all things related to computers. Another concept discussed in this reading was the tendency to make similar value judgments regarding anything "alien" or different in another culture.

Like the library staff that "know it all," Westerners sometime treat individuals from other cultures in an arrogant or intolerant manner. Historically, superior attitudes have been around awhile (Boulding, 1956). This negative behavior among Westerners traveling abroad is sometimes expressed in the way they treat "native peoples," particularly in Third World countries. Boulding suggests that our "image" of the world or our worldview is what we believe to be true, is our perception of truth, and that it is this image of truth that influences our behavior. It is very important for those who wish to do volunteer work in countries of diverse cultures and customs to do some careful reading and, after careful review of one's attitudes, seriously prepare to accept the new and unusual without judgement. Food, dress, and social mores are sometimes very different from what we know and are accustomed to in the United States. Different does not mean inferior – it means *different*. So, when traveling overseas as a volunteer librarian, be prepared for cultural diversity



Virginia Witty in the town of Elmina, east of Cape Coast, Ghana.

and accept the many opportunities to learn and experience new manners and lifestyles.

MATTERS TO CONSIDER

Besides embracing new ideas about culture, communication, and information (and the encouragement and support from one's family), there are practical matters to consider in preparing for an overseas volunteer stint. Being a volunteer does not usually mean your expenses will be paid. Sometimes it is possible to secure funding through a grant, as I did for an Earthwatch archaeological expedition. An alternative to securing grant funding is planning your own trip, financing travel and living expenses yourself, and making all the contacts for a volunteer project. Resources on the Internet, travel books, and meeting people from various countries are good ways to select a country and investigate the availability of volunteer work. Educate yourself as much as you can about the host country's socio-political conditions, as well as their local costumes and lifestyle in the selection process.

In matters of clothing, remember to be culturally sensitive to customs and temperature norms, pack light and plan to buy some ethnic wear during your stay. It will take about one year, more or less, to prepare for your sojourn in another country. Six months would be about as short a time as you can take to do this, though I do not recommend it. You will need enough time to get all your booster shots. Start early with your immunizations through your local health department. Essential Web sites to check are the U.S. Department of State – Bureau of Consular Affairs <<http://travel.state.gov/>> as well as the Centers for Disease Control and Preven-

tion <<http://www.cdc.gov/>>. Of course, you will need to apply for a passport (forms and instructions available from any U. S. Post Office) before getting a visa to the country of choice from their embassy in the United States. This takes time.

EXPERIENCES IN GHANA

The question I am most frequently asked about my experiences in Ghana is about food, which is very important, culturally. I found that the grasscutter, a charming rodent resembling a guinea pig, is a dietary mainstay in Ghana.

Overall, my experiences in Ghana were varied and life changing. I set up a card catalog with "cards" cut from paper; guided teachers with no prior experience in establishing a town library; worked on a bibliography of rare books in a university library; told stories to 150 eager kindergarteners; helped clean and organize ancient artifacts from a dig; learned to like grasscutter stew; became accustomed to cold showers for bathing; remembered always to bring my own tissue; and learned to ask for help when I needed it. Most of all, I learned that learning is experiential and

that it flows from doing and feeling as well as thinking. I am convinced that being a professional librarian has given me the opportunity to "risk going too far," and the journey has been most rewarding. For more information about this beautiful country on the west coast of Africa, see <http://www.ghana.gov.gh/>.



Map of Ghana

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My Missionary Experience in Zambia

By Meredith Futral
Reference/Electronic Librarian
University of Mississippi
mfutral@olemiss.edu

ZAMBIA?!

Zambia. Most people have to ask where Zambia is located. I had to ask the same question when I was making a decision about a two-year commitment as a missionary librarian. Zambia is located in Southern Central Africa. It is a landlocked country surrounded by Angola, Congo (formally Zaire), Tanzania, Malawi, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Botswana, and Namibia. Victoria Falls, a true wonder of the world, is located on the border between Zambia and Zimbabwe. Over nine million people live throughout Zambia. It may come as a surprise to learn that Zambia's official language is English. The two primary reasons that English is spoken are due not only to approximately 60 to 70 other languages and dialects being spoken

throughout the country, but also to the influence of early colonial settlements by the British in the 19th and 20th centuries. The native languages most spoken include Nyanja, Bemba, Tonga, and Lozi. Despite the numerous languages, the Zambian people do not have a communication conflict among the many cities and villages. Zambia is one of the few Southern African countries with a stable government and no internal conflict.

Zambia is green during the rainy season and brown during the dry season. However, bright flowers still find a way to bloom even during the driest time of the year. Wealth and good health belong to a few; unfortunately, poverty and disease belong to many. Through all these socioeconomic contrasts, the people of Zambia are warm, friendly, and welcoming to newcomers. They do not let their difficult lives get them down or dampen their joy of life. The Zambian people are very calm and serene, and they always have time for tea or a song. In fact, they sing

some of the most beautiful music I have ever heard. These traits endeared the Zambian people to me.

THE SEMINARY

I arrived in Zambia in March of 1998 as a missionary journeyman for the International Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention. I was assigned to work as the principal librarian at the Baptist Theological Seminary of Zambia. The seminary is located in the capital city of Lusaka,

which has a population of over one million. Students at the seminary can study to become preachers, ministers, and evangelists. It is a residential school that offers a four-year degree program similar to a junior college degree and a three-year diploma program similar to a high school diploma. There is also an English as a Second Language program offered for some of the students' wives who do not have the language skills, required schooling, or achievement testing necessary to enroll in the degree or diploma programs. Missionaries from the United States, as well as Zambians, teach at the seminary. Many of the Zambian teachers are former students of the seminary degree program. It is the plan of the International Mission Board to turn the administration of the seminary over to the Zambians in ten years so that they will have administrative control of the seminary.

There were just over thirty students enrolled during the two years I worked as a librarian at the seminary library. From the very beginning of my work there, I noticed the students were excited and enthusiastic about their studies. They considered it a great privilege to be able to study and live at the seminary.

THE LIBRARY

As the only trained librarian at the seminary, I had several responsibilities. I was the library administrator, reference librarian, teacher, and cataloger. In many ways, the job was similar to that of many high school librarians in Mississippi and the United States at large.

The collection in the library is very good; in fact, I believe it is one of the best theological libraries in Southern Africa. The collection consists of approximately 13,000 volumes of books, periodicals, and videos primarily focused on the subject of theology and religion. Most of the library collection was obtained, not through purchases, but through the personal gifts and donations of departing or retiring missionaries.



Map of Zambia

One of my tasks as administrator was to order books, periodicals, and videos. Several times while I was there, funds for materials became available to the library, making it possible to order many new acquisitions. I was delighted that so many books and videos were added to the collection over the two-year period I was in

charge of the library.

Another administrative task involved the reorganization of the periodical subscriptions. The periodicals came from many different countries including Kenya, Malawi, Nigeria, South Africa, and England, in addition to the United States. With no vendor to assist with maintaining the

current subscriptions, or billing the library for periodicals on a routine pay schedule, there was no reasonable order to the subscription renewals, claims or tracking of the financial records.

I was very fortunate to have five assigned student workers and one full-time library assistant work with me in the library. The students and library assistant were instrumental in helping the library run smoothly. They had the same type duties that most student workers have in academic libraries in the United States. The help the students provided allowed me to focus on other areas of my job beyond the administrative needs of the library. I was able to provide reference assistance to the teachers and students who used resources in the library. I also taught a library skills and research methods course during the first school term of 1999. A school term is approximately three and a half months. Teaching the class was a challenge because my resources were only a few books I had brought with me, and it was



Assistants (l-r) Luke Buleya, Sam Mulewa, Lawrence Chibuye, Enock Musonda, and Justin Lukuku.

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my first time to teach an adult class. I taught the class on a basic skills level, starting at the elementary and moving to a high school level.

The biggest and most formidable challenge for me was the assignment to complete the retrospective conversion of the card catalog to the online public access catalog or OPAC, a project begun about a year before I arrived. Earlier, a volunteer missionary couple had purchased two computers through donations and set them up in the library. One computer was installed in the librarian's office, and the second computer was located in the main room of the library for use by the students. I had to learn the Winnebago software cataloging system, used by many American school media systems, before I could begin to consistently and correctly catalog the books. The Winnebago user's manual and the software itself were the only resources available to help me learn the system. Finally, after much trial and error, I was able to spend some time, almost every day, adding records to the system. The switch to the computer catalog involved both copy and original cataloging and the processing of materials, including printing new labels for all the book spines. As my practical training was primarily in public services, I had to rely almost completely on my library school knowledge to assign subject headings and Dewey Decimal numbers to the materials. Fortunately, I was able to work with current editions of the *Dewey Decimal Classification* and

Relative Index and the *Sears List of Subject Headings*. To my own amazement, I entered approximately 9000 titles to the OPAC during my time in the library.

Before I left in 2000, several good things happened to the library. The library received funds to purchase needed equipment, a barcode reader for inventory as well as future checkouts. Secondly, a new computer was donated to the library that made it possible for me to set up a network between the two existing computers so that students could more easily search the OPAC. In the future, I hope the library will become wired for access to the Internet.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

I was not totally consumed by library work during my two years as a missionary librarian. I was involved in many other social and missionary activities as well, and had many good times with other missionaries. There were many weekends that I traveled to bush villages with other missionaries who were ministering to the people. I joined a community choir in order to meet other people in the city of Lusaka. My time away from the library also included travel, particularly several trips to other parts of Zambia and to the neighboring countries of Zimbabwe, Botswana, and South Africa.

Almost everyone I talk to is surprised to know that I did not live in a hut. The truth is that I shared an apartment with another missionary. The apartment had

both running water and electricity. However, many Zambians who live in the city live in concrete houses with no electricity or running water. Zambians who live in the bush villages have huts for homes, which lack many modern conveniences. In fact, they normally get water from a central well, river, or creek, and usually they also have no electricity.

CHANGED FOREVER

Living in Africa was a new, strange, and wonderful experience. At first I was a little lonely, but the friendship of the Zambian people as well as the other missionaries helped me quickly settle in and enjoy life in Zambia. The time I spent in Zambia in the seminary library was absolutely invaluable to me. I cannot count the ways I was affected, mentally and emotionally. I am thankful that I had the chance to meet some really wonderful people and to gain an abundance of life experiences, as well as having an excellent opportunity to put library theory into practice as a professional.

Although the International Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention sent me to Zambia, this is not the only organization that sponsors people to work in overseas library services. There are many opportunities awaiting librarians in countries all over the world, and I recommend this type experience to any librarian who has the time and opportunity. I have a special place in my heart for Zambia and southern Africa and hope to return one day.

Mark Your Calendar

August 13-16, 2002	BCALA Conference, Fort Lauderdale, Florida
October 2-5, 2002	LITA National Forum, Norfolk, Virginia
October 16-18, 2002	Mississippi Library Association Annual Conference, Hattiesburg, Mississippi
October 23-25, 2002	SELA Annual Conference, Charleston, South Carolina
October 30-November 2, 2002	The Charleston Conference, Charleston, South Carolina
November 14-16, 2002	LAMA 2nd National Institute, Naples, Florida
January 24-29, 2003	ALA Midwinter Meeting, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

What's So Special About...

Column Editor: P. Toby Graham, The University of Southern Mississippi

"They Belong in Mississippi": Evers Papers Donation to MDAH

By Elbert R. Hilliard
Director

Mississippi Department of Archives
and History
1(601) 359-6850

In a ceremony held in the historic House of Representatives Chamber of the Old Capitol Museum of Mississippi History on April 25, 2002, Myrlie Evers, widow of civil rights leader and martyr Medgar Evers, presented fifty-five boxes of her husband's personal papers as well as her own to the state of Mississippi. Before a large audience of elected officials, civil rights leaders, interested citizens, high school students, and family and friends, Mrs. Evers spoke eloquently about her strong attachment to these papers. "It was difficult to let them go. They were something near and dear to me. I could pick them up and feel a little bit of Medgar." But in an extraordinary gesture of reconciliation, Evers presented the papers to the Department of Archives and History because, in her words, "They belong in Mississippi."

Indeed they do belong in Mississippi. Medgar Evers was perhaps the most important figure in this state's civil rights history. As the first Mississippi field secretary for the NAACP, Evers played a leading role in nearly every civil rights action in the state before June of 1963, when he was assassinated in the driveway of his family home at 2332 Guynes Street in Jackson. After her husband's death, Myrlie Evers moved her family to California, where she became a prominent business executive and public servant. In 1995, she became the first woman to chair the NAACP.

Though she has now lived on the

West Coast for nearly three decades, Myrlie Evers has maintained strong ties to Mississippi. At the ceremony April 25th, she spoke of her love for the state and her determination to make the world understand the sacrifices Mississippians made in the struggle for human rights. She announced that she is in the process of establishing the Medgar Evers Institute in Mississippi to perpetuate her husband's memory, to honor the achievements of civil rights leaders, and to promote racial reconciliation and equality. Mrs. Evers said also that Medgar shared her feelings about the state and that she felt that he would have approved of her decision to bring their papers home to Mississippi.

DOCUMENTS EVERS' WORK

The Medgar and Myrlie Evers papers will form one of the most important collections held by the Mississippi Department of Archives and History. The papers of Medgar Evers document his work with the NAACP in Mississippi during the 1950s and early 1960s and reactions to his murder in 1963. Among Medgar Evers's papers are primary documents relating to civil rights actions, including petitions for improvements to black schools, affidavits signed by African Americans denied the right to register to vote, the original minute book of the Jackson chapter of the NAACP, and reports on investigations of racial incidents. The Medgar Evers papers also include correspondence from the 1950s and '60s, materials Evers used to develop speeches, newspaper clippings from Evers's files and about his death, and sympathy letters that were sent to Mrs. Evers from people around the world.

The papers of Myrlie Evers document



Myrlie Evers and Elbert R. Hilliard, director, MDAH, meet to plan the ceremony at which she will present the Evers Collection.

her continued involvement with the civil rights movement after her husband's death. The papers also include correspondence relating to her family life in California, her corporate and public service careers, and her leadership of the NAACP; materials from her campaign for Congress in 1970 and the Los Angeles City Council in 1987; and personal papers of her family, the Beasleys, in Vicksburg.

Many prominent national institutions sought the Evers Collection. Mrs. Evers chose the Mississippi Department of Archives and History after a long process of discussion and negotiation. We were initially encouraged to approach Mrs. Evers by Jeanne Lockett of Communication Arts Company, who had worked

closely with Mrs. Evers, the Department of Archives and History, and Tougaloo College in developing exhibits for the Medgar Evers House, which has been restored with funding provided by the Mississippi Legislature. We asked Jeanne, a longtime friend of the Department, to convey to Mrs. Evers our interest in the collection. About three years ago, during a visit to Jackson, Mrs. Evers visited the Old Capitol Museum, where she spoke with Donna Dye, then museum director, and H. T. Holmes, director of the Archives and Library Division, about the Evers Collection. Close to a year later, the Department was invited to submit a formal proposal, and the process of negotiation began. Mrs. Evers was concerned about such questions as when the papers would be cataloged and opened, what kind of finding aid would be produced, and how much control she would retain over the use of the papers. Although I feel that our responses to these questions gave Mrs. Evers confidence that her papers would be well cared for here, I believe that in the end it was Mrs. Evers's longtime friendship with former governor and MDAH Board of Trustees president William F. Winter, and her admiration for him, that sealed her decision to place the papers at MDAH.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE GIFT

At the ceremony on April 25th, Governor Winter described the significance of Mrs. Evers's gift to the Department. "In opening these papers we have the opportunity to make a strong and public statement that the Mississippi Department of Archives and History belongs to every single person in the state. We collect documents and artifacts relating to the

history of all Mississippians. We collect documents and artifacts that reveal the truth about our history, no matter how painful the truth is. That is the mission of this Department. We proclaim it and celebrate it here today."

The Evers papers will be the first new

collection accessible to the public in the William F. Winter Archives and History Building, which is scheduled to open in 2003. We are proud to offer a collection of such significance, and we hope that scholars, students, and interested citizens will make good use of it.



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Tech Notes, et al.

Column Editor: Rick Torgerson, Delta State University

Authority Records: Directing Traffic in Your Catalog

By Kathleen L. Wells

Senior Catalog Librarian

The University of Southern Mississippi

kathleen.wells@usm.edu

To a library user searching for material by a certain author or on a particular subject, the online public access catalog (OPAC) can be a daunting information maze. Like winding streets in an unfamiliar city, searches can lead to dead ends or to places that, while they may be interesting, are not where the searcher wants to be. If the patron is looking for works by a local author named James Smith, how will that name be distinguished from the other James Smiths in the catalog? If there is nothing under "James Smith," does that mean the library owns nothing by the author, or is he in the catalog under a different name? Flipping through a card catalog drawer allows for accidental discovery of headings filed (or misfiled) in unexpected places along the way to locating a desired heading. While OPACs also have browsing capability, a heading in an index screen does not convey as much information as an entire catalog card, and nonstandard headings do not necessarily "file" where they can be easily spotted. What is needed, then, is a directional system pointing OPAC users away from inaccurate searches and toward the information they need. Fortunately, such a system already exists in the form of authority control.

While proponents of keyword searching may consider authority work obsolete, a file of accurate and up-to-date authority records can be of great value to OPAC users by gathering information under authorized headings and providing cross-references. For example, an Auburn Uni-

versity study used OPAC transaction logs to show: (1) browse searches for series rose steadily as the library's series authority records were added to the automated system, and (2) patrons used the cross-reference structure to locate series titles.¹ Authority records may also include useful notes that explain the relationship of headings to each other or bring out background information about authors and subjects.

A LUXURY?

In a 1998 survey, 21% of Mississippi public and academic library respondents reported that they did no authority work at all, and many others were selective in the types of headings that received authority control.² Financial constraints were the most-cited reason for limiting or for not performing authority work. In the current fiscal environment, a labor- and detail-intensive process like authority control may seem like a luxury. However, "the key elements of authority control, good structure and consistency, are essential to a good library catalog."³ Even if a library cannot afford to authorize its entire database, selected headings can be authorized to assist patrons in the most frequently performed types of searches. Since personal name headings are among the most-authorized headings in Mississippi libraries' catalogs,⁴ this overview of authority record structure will focus on personal name authority records. A complete listing and explanation of MARC authority tags can be found in the *MARC21 Format for Authority Data*.

THE BASICS: MARC VARIABLE FIELDS

The 1xx field in authority records represents the authorized form of the head-

ing. This is the form in which all the corresponding incidences of that heading should appear in the library's bibliographic records. The 1xx tag for personal name headings in authority records is 100, as it is in the bibliographic record format.

**100 1 Faulkner, William, \$d
1897-1962**

Unlike 1xx bibliographic fields, these fields in authority records do not end with a period.

In authority work with names, the cataloger tries to establish *unique* headings, i.e., to differentiate between persons with the same name. This may require adding information to the form of the heading found on the work being cataloged. Birth and death dates should be added to personal names if known, although the Library of Congress (LC) does not go back and add death dates to names that were established with an open date. Fuller forms of names can be added according to *Anglo-American Cataloging Rules, 2nd ed.* (AACR2) Rule 22.18: "add the fuller form to distinguish between headings that are otherwise identical"; in many cases, LC adds fuller forms even when they are not required to break a conflict.⁵ For example, in establishing a heading for James Smith, the hypothetical author mentioned above, the cataloger would first look at the form of his name on the chief source of information of the item being cataloged. If that form is simply "James Smith," the cataloger should look for additional information in order to distinguish him from other James Smiths. There might be a bio-

graphical blurb in the book or on the jacket indicating that Mr. Smith was born James Lawrence Smith in 1955. In that case, the authorized heading would be:

100 1 Smith, James \$q (James Lawrence), \$d 1955-

If Mr. Smith wrote under the name of J. Lawrence Smith, the heading would be:

100 1 Smith, J. Lawrence \$q (James Lawrence), \$d 1955-

The 4xx fields represent **see from** references. These are made for variant forms of the heading in the 1xx field, though references are not made for all possible variants. Library of Congress Rule Interpretation (LCRI) 26.2 says: "Trace a reference from each variant that affects the primary elements of the name. For the normal, inverted heading this means variations in all elements to the left of the comma and in the first element to the right of the comma." In our Smith examples, then, the first heading above (Smith, James) would not receive a cross reference for the fuller form, since there are no variants affecting the primary elements of the name. The second example, with the forename represented by an initial, would receive a "see" reference from "Smith, James Lawrence."

100 1 Smith, J. Lawrence \$q (James Lawrence), \$d 1955-

400 1 Smith, James Lawrence, \$d 1955-

To some extent, the number of references also depends on the variants of the name found in the work or works being cataloged. If Mr. Smith also writes under the name "J. L. Smith" but "J. Lawrence Smith" is the predominant form used in his works, the cataloger adds a second

reference to the above authority record:

400 1 Smith, J. L. \$q (James Lawrence), \$d 1955-

Since the rules require that a reference be constructed in the same form it would appear if chosen as the heading, the birth date is given in cross-references just as it is in the authorized heading.

See also references are entered in 5xx fields. For personal names, a 500 field reference is made from other *valid* forms of the name that are also in use as headings in the library's catalog. If an author writes under multiple names and, to quote AACR2 Rule 22.2B2, has "separate bibliographic identities" associated with each name, then each name should be established as a valid heading. Suppose that our Mr. Smith, who writes scholarly works on Southern history, also writes detective fiction under the name "Attila Jones." The cataloger creates an authority record for both "bibliographic identities," with "see also" references linking them:

100 1 Smith, J. Lawrence \$q (James Lawrence), \$d 1955-

400 1 Smith, James Lawrence, \$d 1955-

500 1 Jones, Attila, \$d 1955-

100 1 Jones, Attila, \$d 1955-

500 1 Smith, J. Lawrence \$q (James Lawrence), \$d 1955-

Note that the reference for a variant of Smith's name is not repeated on the authority record for Jones, since it is not a variant of the Jones name.

If an author uses several pseudonyms, or has a joint pseudonym with another author, it may be difficult to tell the whole story with cross-references. In such

cases, the cataloger can use what LC calls an **explanatory or complex see also reference**, a free-text note in a 663 field (complex "see" references are entered in tag 664). LC prefers the use of simple references where possible,⁶ but catalogers can use complex references as needed in local authority records.

663 For detective and mystery stories written by this author under a pseudonym, search under \$b Jones, Attila, 1955-

Encoding the name in this reference in a separate subfield (\$b) enables it to function as a "live," clickable reference in an OPAC display. Displaying this note in the OPAC gives patrons a brief overview of an author's bibliographic identities.

The 667 field is defined as a "non-public general note." This is a note for catalogers' use, giving background information about the authorized heading in a cataloging context. For personal names, such a note could be used when differentiating between two or more authors with the same name, or to indicate authority work done in connection with a particular project or library collection:

667 Not the same as Smith, James, writer on 18th-century music

667 USM Oral History Program

An important area of name authority records is the 670 field, or **source data found** information. This is where the cataloger documents the information used to establish the name heading in the 100 field. Often the source is the work being cataloged, but reference works, Web sites, and correspondence with authors or publishers can also be cited in the 670.

670 fields include the title and date of the work being cited, the location in the work where the information was found, and the information itself.

- 670 History of Mississippi, 2002: \$b t.p. (J. Lawrence Smith) jacket (James Lawrence Smith, b. 1955)**
- 670 Mississippi authors WWW home page, 4/16/2002: \$b (Shirley Jean Johnson)**

Sources for "see from" references are not required by the cataloging rules, but all "see also" references must be documented in 670 fields:

- 670 Murder in the Delta, 1999: \$b t.p. (Attila Jones) back cover (Attila Jones, pseud. of J. Lawrence Smith)**

The 675 field, for **source data not found**, at first seems like the ultimate in cataloging minutiae: we have to state where we *didn't* find the information? But catalogers can exercise some discretion in the use of 675 fields; all sources that are unsuccessfully consulted do not have to be listed. Like the 670, the 675 refers to the heading in the 1xx field. A source cited in a 675 might not contain the 1xx heading, but could have information necessary for establishing a "see also" reference. Another possible use of the 675 is to list sources consulted in trying to break a conflict between identical names.

A field that is no longer used in LC's name authority records, but which catalogers may find valuable in creating local authorities, is the 678 field, for biographical or historical information pertaining to the 1xx heading.

- 678 0 Born Natchez, Miss., 8/17/22; d. Oxford, Miss., 6/20/98. Professor of English at the University of Mississippi, 1950-1987.**

A word of caution: libraries that enhance their local authority records with, for example, expanded 663 fields or biographical information in the 678 could lose that data if the records are overlaid with standardized records purchased from a commercial vendor or downloaded from OCLC. The likelihood of a local record being replaced with a "bought" record, and options for preserving local data, need to be weighed in deciding what types of local authority work will be done.

CONCLUSION

Authority work is a time-consuming process, and many components of authority records do not display to the public. Library users rarely find their way to the technical services area to say "Hey, great cross-reference!" But the results of

all that work are on display, and are used every day, in the structure of the OPAC and its ability to direct patrons to the information they need.

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- Information on NACO (the Name Authority Cooperative program of LC's Program for Cooperative Cataloging): <http://www.loc.gov/catdir/pcc/naco.html>
- *OCLC Authorities User Guide*, 2nd ed. Available on the Web at http://www.oclc.org/oclc/man/5411aug/frames_man.htm

News Briefs

NEW BUILDINGS AND RENOVATIONS

On Tuesday, April 23rd this year, the **Mississippi Library Commission** (MLC) held groundbreaking ceremonies for their first permanent library facility since the Commission was established in 1926. The new building will be located on a beautiful wooded lot at 3881 Eastwood Drive in Jackson.



(Pictured Left to right)

Sharman B. Smith, Executive Director of MLC; Representative Gregory Holloway, Sr. (District 76); Senator Rob Smith (District 35); Representative Tommy Reynolds (District 33); Representative Steve Holland (District 16); Dr. Glenda Segars, Chair of Board of Commissioners; Senator Sampson Jackson (District 32); Representative Joe Warren (District 90); Dr. Terry Latour, President of MLA; Frances Coleman, MLC Board member; Dr. Russell Burns, MLC Board member; Larry McMillian, MLC Board member; JoAnn A. Reid, MLC Board member

Construction is underway of the 60,000 square foot building, and it is projected that the new state library headquarters will be ready for occupancy by early 2004.



The **First Regional Library Headquarters** in Hernando is currently adding 15,000 sq. ft. in an extensive renovation and expansion project. The addition will provide much-needed space for offices, public computers and meeting rooms. During National Library Week, FRL held a "Construction Zone Party" and encouraged people of all ages to personalize part of the temporary construction wall.



First Regional Library Director Jim Anderson and Regional Board Members Marie Carlton (Tate County) and Lucie Bridgforth (DeSoto County) take a break from the Regional Board Meeting to sign their names during the "Construction Zone Party."



The Jackson-George Regional Library System celebrated the 5,200 sq. ft. expansion of the **Lucedale-George County Public Library** with a "Building for our Future" groundbreaking ceremony. JH & H Architects, Ltd. of Jackson designed the new building. A 1999 Capital Improvement Grant from the Mississippi Library Commission, with matching support from the city and county, is funding the \$890,905 project. On hand for the ceremony were many area children, each sporting a "hard hat" to help celebrate the start of the new construction.



Lucedale-George County Public Library "Building for our Future"
Pictured are (l to r) County Supervisor Henry Cochran, Supervisor J.E. Pope, Supervisor Larry Havard, Supervisor Fay Eubanks, Library Trustee Florence Wilson, Natalie Summerour, Representative Percy Maples, Jim Corley, City Alderman Carrie Moulds, Mayor Dayton-Whites, MD, Library Manager Janet Smith, City Alderman Lloyd Welford, Alderman Louis Valentine, and Alderman Payton Dudley.



Waveland Library held a groundbreaking ceremony on April 26 for their \$500,000 renovation/expansion project. The project will increase the present building's size to 5,000 sq. ft., the minimum recommended for a community library; bring the building into compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act; and implement energy conservation measures. The project was funded by a state bond grant through the Mississippi Library Commission, the City of Waveland, and Hancock County Library System. Architect for the project is Walter Bolton of BDA, Inc. of Biloxi.



GIFTS AND GRANTS

The Mississippi Library Commission has awarded a \$20,000 Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) grant to the **Hancock County Library System**. Funds will be used to improve library service through a redesign of the library system's long-range strategic marketing plan to take it into the 21st century. The marketing grant will create a "brand" identity for the library system "to identify the ...[library system's] services as distinct from others." Ted Riemann and the Prime Time Group have contracted with the library system to assist in the development of the new "brand" identity.



The Mississippi Library Commission also funded LSTA grants for the **Jackson-George Regional Library System** to create three Homeland Security Information Centers. The Security Centers are located in at the **Pascagoula Public Library, Ocean Springs Municipal Library and Lucedale-George County Public Library**. They will be used to educate the public with reliable and accurate information on security, terrorism, biological warfare, nuclear warfare, and psychological aspects of terrorism. Public programs and multimedia presentations featuring

national and local professional security specialists are also planned.



The **M. R. Dye Library** in Horn Lake, a branch of the First Regional Library, recently received a grant from the Assisi Foundation of Memphis to create a family literacy program called "First Place for Families." The \$16,000 grant has been used for developing collections, programs, and workshops. Parent-teacher materials, including books and videos, have been purchased on subjects such as reading readiness, lesson plans, learning disabilities, and other difficult parenting issues. Twenty-six thematic story time kits were created and are available for checkout. Teachers, childcare centers, home schooling families, and library staff members may reserve kits.

Programs funded through the grant have included family story times and lectures on parenting and literacy. Featured guests have included Ann Henson and Judy Sturdivant of BRIDGES (Bringing Resources, Inclusion, and Developmentally Appropriate Gains to Every Child in Mississippi); Deborah Adero Ferguson, who uses music, dance, and African languages to draw people into the storytelling experience; Richard Graham, a world music aficionado who featured music from Brazil; and Autumn Morning Star, a Native American storyteller.



The **University of Southern Mississippi Libraries** recently received a \$1 million endowment from Hattiesburg residents Mary and Joseph Tatum Jr. When fully funded, the endowment will finance library internships at Southern Miss for two graduate and 13 undergraduate students, with preference given to the children of Hattiesburg and Forrest County public employees. Through the endowment, the Tatums have combined their interests in education, libraries and improving benefits for public employees. This gift is the largest private gift to be designated for USM Libraries in the history of USM.



The **Meridian/Lauderdale County Public Library** received a grant of \$100,000 from the Riley Foundation. Presented by Dr. Richard Riley to library director Steve McCartney, the award will be used to purchase approximately 8000 audio books, which will provide 'reading' pleasure to those with visual disabilities as well as entertain library users on the road or busy with other tasks. The grant is the second in two years awarded to support the library's collection in service to the city and county citizens of Meridian and Lauderdale.



NEW SERVICES & COLLECTIONS

The **Jackson-George Regional Library System** now provides a new free service to the public at all branches. The Learning Express Library service enables students and those seeking to better their professional careers with a more convenient way to prepare for academic or professional exams — online. Anyone with a valid library card can access the online service at home or at a local branch library from the Internet. The Learning Express Library covers many practice tests for academic studies, such as ACT, GED, SAT, math, reading, and science. The online service also offers practice testing for professional careers such as Civil Services, Cosmetology, EMS, Firefighter, Law Enforcement, Military, and Real Estate. Adult Basic Skills tests are also available.



Mississippi State University Libraries, in cooperation with the MSU Engineering Research Center (ERC) and the MSU Remote Sensing Technologies Center (RSTC), announces the development of the Geospacial and Computational Digital Library. The **Geospacial and Computational Digital Library** will serve as an online spatial data archiving, access, and distribution system and will provide a Web-based source of remote sensing and geographic information for geospacial research. The Library will also

support federal agencies and related organizations in conducting natural resource, transportation planning, and environmental assessment programs. The project is being developed in partnership with Imagelinks, a software company specializing in software GIS development.

For additional information on the Geospacial and Computational Digital Library initiative, contact Deborah Lee, Associate Professor/Reference Services Librarian, at 662-325-7682 or dlee@library.msstate.edu.



The **Mississippi State University Libraries** has also established the **Architecture Industry Information Center** (AIIIC) to provide reference resources for the state's practicing architects and construction industry professionals. For a fee, firms may become members of this unique information center, which provides customized, focused searches on a variety of topics related to architecture.



Mississippi State University Libraries establishes the Architecture Industry Information Center. Pictured are: Roby Decker, Architect; Kathrin Dodds, S/ARC Jackson Center Librarian; Anne Decker, Architect; Brett Cupples, Architect Intern.

The architecture branch library, located at 736 South President Street in Jackson, features more than 3,500 volumes, as well as journal collections and periodical indexes. AIIIC is assisting professionals in information retrieval related to city planning, art, construction, landscape architecture, and interior design. The AIIIC also serves as an authorized reseller of American Institute of Architects documents. For more information, contact Kathrin Dodds at 601-354-6184 or kdodds@library.msstate.edu.

MLA MEMBERSHIP TOPS 500

Current Mississippi Library Association membership has exceeded 500, according to Dr. Terry Latour, 2002 MLA President.

"This indicates people who work in and support Mississippi libraries are committed to building a strong organization," said Latour. "I urge each member to recruit a colleague or friend to join MLA. Membership forms can be accessed at <http://www.lib.usm.edu/~mla/member/member.pdf>. By joining now, you will receive discounts for the annual conference in October, qualify for committee membership, and receive other membership benefits. And don't forget to join one or more roundtables to support quality programming in areas of special interest."

WEB PAGE UPDATED

Membership as of April 2002 is listed on the MLA Web site, along with other updated information. "Webmaster Steve Turner and the Web Committee have done an outstanding job of making our Web site usable and informative," continued Latour. "And we look forward to making it even more responsive to our membership in the future."

To receive current information on MLA activities, join the MLA e-mail list and encourage others to subscribe at <http://www.lib.usm.edu/~mla/listservs.html>. Future news releases and other information will be sent ONLY via the MLA mailing list. If you are receiving MLA information from another list, please make sure you have registered for the MLA list, so you don't miss important information.

"On behalf of the MLA Executive Board, thanks to each of you who have renewed your membership for 2002 in support of educational opportunities and library advocacy efforts statewide," said Latour.

Submitted by MLA
Publicity Committee
Mary M. Perkins, Chair

MLA 2002 CONFERENCE PREVIEW

Youth Services Day @ MLA

The committees of the Mississippi Library Association's School Section, Young People's Services Roundtable, Magnolia Training and Youth Services Swap Shop have designed a "Youth Services Day @ MLA" on Wednesday, October 16, 2002, at the Hattiesburg Lake Terrace Convention Center.

The day is designed to offer school librarians, media specialists, and children and youth services librarians a package of activities (in addition to programs for general audiences) that offers continuing education, a luncheon, book talks, a swap shop and time to visit exhibits of new books and products.

Debbie Wiles, author of *Love, Ruby Lavender and Freedom Summer*, will be the speaker at a youth services luncheon. Wiles received the New York Public Library/Ezra Jack Keats Award for best new writer of children's books. *Freedom Summer* won the Coretta Scott King/Steptoe new talent award for illustration and is a Junior Library Guild selection. YPSRT, chaired by Melissa Wright, and the MLA School Library Section, chaired by Dee Dee Long, are sponsors of the joint luncheon.

The Magnolia Training Committee, chaired by Catherine Nathan, is offering continuing education on several MAGNOLIA products of interest to youth services librarians and media specialists. An afternoon program featuring book talks by and for youth services librarians is scheduled in conjunction with the popular Swap Shop, chaired by Victoria Penny.

Youth services librarians, media specialists and school librarians can spend the afternoon visiting more than sixty exhibits and still have time to attend MLA's first general session, "Afternoon with Authors," and the all-conference President's Reception honoring MLA President Terry Latour and keynote speaker Dr. Robert Martin, Director of the Institute for Libraries and Museums.

For more information, visit the Mississippi Library Association's Web site at www.lib.usm.edu/~mla/home.html during the coming months. And when you visit, subscribe to the MLA e-mail list to receive MLA news and conference updates throughout the year.

People in the News

Alisa St. Amant has joined the staff of the Lamar County Library System as the branch librarian at the new Oak Grove Library. While preparing the new branch to open, St. Amant hopes to get patron cards into the hands of as many people living in the Oak Grove community as possible before opening day.



Marty Coleman has been named Assistant Director for Technical Services of the First Regional Library System. Originally from Ohio, she earned her B.A. in Information Systems from Mississippi State University and her M.L.S. from the University of Alabama.



The **Hancock County Library System** recently announced six staff promotions and four new employees. **Sheila Cork** has been named Coordinator of Customer and Information Services for the Hancock County Library System. **Adrienne Bradley** has been promoted to the newly created position of Assistant Coordinator of Customer Services. **Susan Predergrast** has been promoted to Assistant Coordinator of Information Services. **Andrea Kyzar** has been named branch manager of the Pearlinton Public Library. **Charles Jack** has been named Automation Manager for the Hancock County Library System. **Metric Dockins** has joined the staff as a Reference Librarian. **Donna Szkolnik** has joined HCLS as a Reference Librarian at the Bay St. Louis-Hancock County Library. **Sandy Stone** has been named acting branch manager at the Waveland

Library. **Sue Favre** has been named a Customer Service Assistant at the Bay St. Louis-Hancock County Library. **Ann Nameth** joined HCLS in February as a Library Clerk.

Donna Hutchings has retired from her position as the Adult Education and Family Literacy Coordinator for the Hancock County Library System. During her ten years as coordinator, she expanded the program from a one-on-one literacy program to a multi-functional family literacy center funded by the library system and staffed with a paid assistant and more than sixty trained volunteers, most of them holding advanced degrees.



Hutchings' program, housed in the Waveland Library and Literacy Center, has been featured in local, state and national publications and received the Mississippi Municipal Leagues' "Community Spirit" award in 2000. "Miss Donna," as her students and faculty affectionately know her, was a WLOX-TV Person of the Week and has been honored locally by the Mississippi Library Commission, the Bay St. Louis Rotary and the Waveland American Legion Post 77.



Yvonne Parton, Computer Trainer for the Jackson-George Regional Library

System, and **Rex Bridges**, Public Relations Specialist of JGRS, were the featured presenters at United Way's first Community Care Council meeting of 2002. The workshop, "Internet Resources for Non-profits," highlighted resources available to local health and human service providers as well as tips for web site development.



Donnelle Scott has joined The University of Southern Mississippi Libraries as Information Services Librarian at the USM Gulf Coast Library. Scott earned her M.L.I.S. at The University of Southern Mississippi. **Meg Meiman**, Information Services Librarian, began employment at USM Cook Library on the Hattiesburg campus this spring. She earned her M.L.I.S. at the University of Alabama.



Ronnie W. Wise, director of the Bolivar County Library System and chairman of the Bolivar County Literacy Council, has been selected to be one of an extraordinary group of 181 nationwide candidates for a Leadership for a Changing World Award. The award, sponsored by the Ford Foundation, seeks to recognize, strengthen and support leaders currently tackling tough social problems. Wise was one of over 1,400 to be nominated for the award this year. Each year, Leadership for a Changing World recognizes 20 outstanding leaders with a monetary award of \$130,000 and additional resources for their programs. Wise was nominated for the award by Lena Shamblin, BCLC literacy coordinator.

About Books

Fraiser, Jim. *Mississippi River Country Tales*. Gretna, LA: Pelican Publishing, 2001. 168 pp. \$16.95 paper.

Readers who want the chance to learn fascinating information about Mississippi history and myth must read Jim Fraiser's book, *Mississippi River Country Tales*. It is full of stories about people, places, and events. Most of the chapters cover several periods in Mississippi history, including stories of settlement, wars, slavery, and reconstruction. One chapter explores the folklore of creation stories from Native Americans; others are about ghosts and haunted houses located in Mississippi river country areas.

Fraiser's book compiles and weaves the stories together to show the courage, cowardice, hate, and love of our Mississippi ancestors, stories that have been passed down from generation to generation. It is an opportunity to join the author on a journey through Mississippi river country and look back at the endurance of past generations and the stories they passed on to their children and grandchildren. Each chapter is full of romance, adventure, kindness, and hostility. Readers may already be familiar with some of the stories in the book, but many include people and places not very well known: Annie Christmas, Queen of the Riverboatmen; Kermit the Frog; and the boy who saved Vicksburg. Readers may wonder at how many of these stories have endured through the years.

Not only are the stories themselves engaging, but also the titles of each section add some levity to the overall feeling of the book, as the entire work has an underlying attitude of fun and courage. This book will appeal to anyone who has lived in Mississippi; especially those who have lived here long enough to know the river country areas located throughout the state. The book is captivating for any reader and has a format that makes it easy to read. Each chapter is composed of short stories averaging from one para-

graph to a couple of pages.

This book truly is a celebration of Mississippi's past. Any public or academic library would be fortunate to add *Mississippi River Country Tales* to its collection. Also, this book is a must for any library developing a quality Mississippiana or Southern literature collection.

Meredith Futral

*Reference/Electronic Librarian
University of Mississippi*

Hegwood, Martin. *Massacre Island*. New York: St. Martin's Press, 2001. 260 pp. \$23.95 hardcover.

Taking the action to Dauphin Island, Alabama, Jack Delmas, a Mississippi detective from the Gulf Coast, is back with murder, adventure, and danger at hand in *Massacre Island*. In this third novel, Martin Hegwood develops a story of intrigue and deception, while also taking us deeper into Delmas' character.

Rebecca Jordan and three other victims are found dead in the Dauphin Island beach house of Jason Summers, who is also one of the victims. Carolyn Caviss, mother of Rebecca, wants to clear her daughter's memory of the ugly rumors surrounding her death. She goes to see Jack Delmas.

Wanting only to enjoy the last few days of his daughter's summer visit, Jack intends to reject Carolyn's request for help. But his resolution crumbles when his own parental concerns for his daughter resonate to the distressed plea for help by Carolyn Caviss to salvage her daughter's reputation. So against his better judgment, Jack agrees to investigate.

When Jack goes to Dauphin Island to investigate, he unintentionally puts his eight-year-old daughter, Peyton, in danger as he delivers her to his ex-wife Sandy and her fiancé, who are also visiting Dauphin Island. By teaming up with Sheriff's Deputy Jimbo McInnis, a man of

action who really enjoys pursuing the bad guys, Jack ruffles just enough feathers for Jason Summers' former associates to put both Jack and his young daughter in harm's way. Although fearful for Peyton's safety, Jack is committed to solving the murders right to the dramatic end.

Massacre Island measures up to its predecessors, *Big Easy Backroad* and *Green-eyed Hurricane*, with its well-written plot and extremely likeable hero, Jack Delmas. With a storyline full of intrigue and action, it meets the requirements of an enjoyable summer read. *Massacre Island* is strongly recommended for all Mississippi libraries.

Donna Phelps Fite

*Purvis Branch Librarian
Lamar County Library System*

Johnson, Mary Elizabeth. *Mississippi Quilts*. Jackson, MS: University Press of Mississippi, 2001. 224 pp. \$30.00 paper.

Mississippi Quilts, by Mary Elizabeth Johnson, with photography by J.D. Schwalm, is the result of a two-year documentation project of the Mississippi Quilt Association (MQA). The Association searched nineteen days throughout the state to locate and document a wide variety of quilts owned or made by Mississippians.

The book's introduction traces the formation of the MQA and the daunting task it faced in trying to create an accurate historical record. The publication of this book was an additional struggle, as the challenge of funding proved to be an obstacle. Eventually, funding for its publication was made available from the Department of Archives and History.

The first six chapters cover quilts and quilting in Mississippi, chronologically, from before 1825 to 1946. Early settlers brought many of the oldest quilts to Mississippi. The materials and condition of these pieces often attest to the fact that

they were basic necessities rather than works of art. Some were backed with feed sacks and stitched with the string from those sacks. Some were pieced from fabric of worn or outgrown clothing. One of the most unusual findings of the search was the number of quilts from the 1920s found in the Meridian area with wool batting. Eventually, one owner explained that "during the 1920s this section of the state was overrun with cypress weed, commonly known as 'dog fennel,' and the only animals which would eat the weed were sheep."

The seventh chapter covers an interesting variety of special quilts such as fundraiser quilts, yo-yo quilts, and quilts made especially for children. The eighth chapter, "The Tradition Continues," discusses thirteen contemporary Mississippi quilt-makers, including Martha Skelton, Gwendolyn Magee, Geraldine Nash, and Hystercine Rankin. These contemporary artisans are producing quilts in both traditional and extremely contemporary patterns.

The text is fascinating, and quilt-related quotations from Eudora Welty, honorary chairperson of the MQA, lead off all but the last chapter. The chapters begin with photographs, many of which were taken by Miss Welty, that illustrate the time period. These quotations and photos provide a literary and historical link to the quilts. The book is well indexed, and the form used for documentation is included in the appendices. However, the highlight of this treasure is the color photographs that show many of the documented quilts and quiltmakers.

This is a must-have for virtually all Mississippi libraries. Local historical societies and museums will also want to purchase it, as will individuals with an interest in quilting and the fabric arts. It is hoped that the MQA will continue the work of documenting work created since 1946 and will research quilting done by African American Mississippians throughout the state's history, as well.

Louise Plodinec

Assistant Collection Development Officer
Mississippi State University

Kirkpatrick, Stephen. *Wilder Mississippi*. Text by Marlo Carter Kirkpatrick. Madison, MS: Thy Marvelous Works, 2001. 153 pp. \$38.00 hardcover.

Photographer Kirkpatrick's follow-up to his 1993 work, *Wild Mississippi*, delivers a generous selection of beautiful and diverse images of the living things that inhabit our state with us. The large color photographs, many in close-up, celebrate Mississippi's flora, fauna, and beautiful landscapes, from a dolphin in the Gulf at dawn to wildflowers growing by a waterfall in Tishomingo County. The pictures, interspersed with poetic text by Kirkpatrick's wife Marlo, focus on the small and often overlooked wonders in nature: frogs, insects, lichens, along with the deer, waterfowl, and majestic trees one expects in a gallery of Mississippi wildlife. Familiar creatures are presented in fresh and sometimes startling ways: wild turkeys and a buck solemnly eyeing each other in the middle of a field; a "frog's-eye view" of a cottonmouth advancing on the camera, only its venomous head showing above the water.

Wilder Mississippi concludes with a series of vignettes that describe how selected images were captured, giving the reader insight into the trials and joys of nature photography. Recommended for Mississippiana collections and for public, school, and academic libraries.

Kathleen L. Wells

Senior Catalog Librarian
University of Southern Mississippi

Webster, Anne L., compiler. *African Americans: A Mississippi Source Book*. Carrollton, MS: Pioneer Publishing Co. 2001. 193 pp. \$30.00 paper.

Mississippi librarians have a way with words, as does Anne Webster of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History proves in *African Americans: A Mississippi Source Book*. In this book, Webster brings together many words that

are extremely useful for locating African American materials in the Mississippi Department of Archives and History (MDAH).

MDAH contains a wide variety of resources and materials of interest to anyone researching the lives and works of African Americans from the eighteenth century to the present. The earliest date of a work in the collection is that of a manuscript. The manuscript, dated 1788, is the George Rapalje notebook, an invaluable resource for documenting slave labor in the provincial period of what would later become the state of Mississippi. Webster, in considering the needs of the researcher when compiling *African Americans: A Mississippi Source Book*, lists manuscripts alphabetically by county in Mississippi, and others by the states of Alabama, Arkansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, the South and Western States.

The work is indexed by subject. Several appendices are included; one is a list of African American authors prior to 1960. A list of books in the MDAH book collection by African American authors will also be useful to interested library users performing research. In addition, Black newspapers and Black periodicals, located at MDAH, are listed but the holdings are not complete. Also featured are lists of image and sound recordings, and some of the official state records from various state agencies, as well. A page of the Pearl River Baptist Association Minute Book of 1820, and a document and letter authored by Benjamin Drake in 1845 are only a few of the illustrations.

This book will be useful in the genealogy section of public libraries as well as in the reference section of academic libraries. Genealogists and historians alike will be delighted to find this treasure.

Joan M. McLemore

Library Director
Copiah-Lincoln Community College
Natchez Campus

About Children's Books

CORETTA SCOTT KING WINNERS AND HONOR BOOKS, 2002

AUTHOR AWARD WINNER

Taylor, Mildred D. *The Land*. New York: Phyllis Fogelman Books/Penguin Putnam, 2001. 375 pp. \$17.99.

Mildred Taylor, born in Jackson, Mississippi, and winner of the 1977 Newbery Medal for *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry* (1976), presents its prequel, *The Land*, as a gift to us all and to Mississippians in particular. In *The Land*, readers learn the story of Cassie Logan's grandfather, Paul-Edward, from his childhood in Georgia to his ownership of land in Mississippi. In a rebellious act, Paul-Edward, the son of a prosperous white man and a slave, leaves home at fourteen to escape his daddy and his white brothers and find his own destiny. In the post-Civil War South, Taylor captures the history, the language, and the hard times of African Americans with such clarity that you feel as if you know the characters well. Paul-Edward's story of growing up is a gripping one, with pacing and events that will keep you reading and wanting to read or re-read all of the books about the remarkable and lovable Logan family: *Song of the Trees* (1975), *Let the Circle Be Unbroken* (1981), *The Friendship* (1987), *Mississippi Bridge* (1990), *The Road to Memphis* (1990), *The Well* (1995).

AUTHOR HONOR BOOKS

Flake, Sharon G. *Money Hungry*. New York: Jump at the Sun/Hyperion Books for Children, 2001. 187 pp. \$15.99.

Raspberry Hill loves money. And no wonder. She and her momma have lived on the streets, and she never wants to do that again. Raspberry is thirteen and she hoards money. The kids at school tease her for selling pencils and other small items at school. The apartment in the projects, where Raspberry and her momma live now, scares her, and she is afraid that they will lose the meager apartment and become homeless again. In a fit of despair over Raspberry's greediness, Momma throws \$200 of Raspberry's savings out

the window. Then their apartment is broken into: the couch, the microwave, the television and all of Raspberry's cash are gone. They find a small, battered house and begin a process to own it and find some happiness. Despite desperate circumstances, Flake has drawn a likable character in Raspberry Hill, a girl who will bring a smile to your face even while you sympathize with Raspberry's plight and admire her determination to survive.

Nelson, Marilyn. *Carver: A Life in Poems*. Asheville, NC: Front Street, 2001. 103 pp. \$16.95.

In fifty-nine elegant poems, Marilyn Nelson captures the life of George Washington Carver. She shares some surprises about him. Not only is he a botanist, an inventor, and a teacher but also a painter and a musician. He also found time to knit and crochet. From "Washboard Wizard," readers learn that Carver took in washing when he lived in Kansas. In "Egyptian Blue," we learn that Carver developed a formula for the color blue, "bluer than lapis" and "sought for five thousand years." From "Poultry Husbandry," we know that Carver was assigned to be Superintendent of Poultry Operations along with his teaching duties and other projects at Tuskegee Institute. Small black and white photographs of Carver and bits and pieces of his life extend Nelson's free verse. The small details embedded in Nelson's poems and in the photographs add up to a very large man: a horse-drawn wagon, a sample of Carver's needlework, a Bible, a photograph of Booker T. Washington, and photographs of Carver as a young man and in his later years.

ILLUSTRATOR AWARD WINNER

McKissack, Patricia C. and Jerry Pinkney. *Goin' Someplace Special*. An Anne Schwartz Book/Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2001. [32] pp. \$16.00.

In the 1950s, Tricia Ann, a young African American girl, is excited to be traveling on a city bus by herself through Nashville to the public library. On her way to the library she encounters racial

barriers on the bus, in a park, in the Southland Hotel's grand lobby, and at the Grand Music Palace. At last, she reaches the Public Library and joyfully reads the message above the front door: "All Are Welcome." Pinkney's richly detailed watercolors illuminate the characters and the setting, reflecting both the indignities suffered by African Americans and the exuberance of one young girl.

Goin' Someplace Special was included in a previous column entitled "A Sampling of Special Picture Books for 2001" in *Mississippi Libraries*.

ILLUSTRATOR HONOR BOOK

Rappaport, Doreen. *Martin's Big Words: The Life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.* Illustrated by Bryan Collier. New York: Jump at the Sun/Hyperion Books for Children, 2001. [32] pp. \$15.95.

"Inspiring" and "glorious" only begin to describe this fine biography with its clear, spare text and its rich collage and watercolor illustrations. Rappaport interweaves some of Dr. King's most memorable words with descriptions of major events related to his passion for civil rights. Designed for children ages 4-9, this elegant book with Dr. King's large, smiling face on the cover will attract children to enter his world and read still more of his words. *Martin's Big Words* is also a 2002 Caldecott Honor Book, as mentioned in a previous column on Newbery and Caldecott award winners in *Mississippi Libraries*.

Note: Bryan Collier was a speaker at the 35th annual Fay B. Kaigler Children's Book Festival at The University of Southern Mississippi on April 5, 2002. To a luncheon group of 240 people, he spoke from the heart about his decision as a teenager to become an artist. Then, to everyone's delight, he showed large, original artwork for his collage and watercolor illustrations in *Uptown* and in *Martin's Big Words*. It was a marvelous occasion for getting to know this respected illustrator.

Rosemary Chance

Assistant Professor, SLIS

The University of Southern Mississippi
Rosemary.Chance@usm.edu

MLA Executive Board Minutes

MARCH 8, 2002

BOARD MEMBERS ATTENDING:

Terry Latour, *President*
Prima Plauché, *Vice-President/President-elect*
Kathleen Wells, *Secretary*
Keith Coleman, *Treasurer*
Jim Parks, *Parliamentarian*
Henry Ledet, *Past President*
Billy Beal, *ALA Councilor*
Indira Bhowal, *Special Library Section Chair*
Jeff Slagell, *ACRL Chair*

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Emma Ainsworth, *Mississippi Library Commission*
Theresa Akbar-Ellison, *ZYCRT/Black Caucus*
Mary Julia Anderson, *Executive Secretary*
Ann Branton, *Editor, Mississippi Libraries*
Tracy Englert, *Membership Committee*
Deb Mitchell, *Legislative Committee*
Jennifer Smith, *National Library Week Committee*
Chair/Vice-Chair, Public Library Section
Sharman Smith, *Executive Director, Mississippi Library Commission*
Shirlene Stogner, *LIRT Chair*

President Latour called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. The agenda was presented.

I. OFFICERS' AND STAFF REPORTS:

A. Minutes. The minutes of the Jan. 28 meeting were distributed and reviewed. B. Beal moved to approve the minutes; T. Akbar-Ellison seconded. Approval was unanimous.

B. Treasurer's Report. K. Coleman presented a balance sheet current as of 2/28/2002. The report was unanimously approved on a motion by K. Wells with a second by J. Slagell.

C. President's Report. T. Latour called on Vice-President Plauché to report on planning for the 2002 conference in Hattiesburg.

D. Vice-President/President-Elect. P. Plauché distributed a report on the status of conference planning, comparative statistics on conference attendance in 2000 and 2001, and a program proposal form; she noted that a preliminary version of the form is also on the MLA Web site. She also distributed a brochure for the Cabot Lodge in Hattiesburg and reported that she and Local Arrangements Committee Co-Chair Ann Branton had visited the hotel. The Cabot Lodge offers a flat room rate of \$55, with no sales tax, if billed directly to a tax-exempt institution or if paid at the time of check-out with a purchase order from a tax-exempt institution (library, university, etc.). The hotel offers a continental breakfast and has suitable

public rooms for conference activities. A. Branton added that the rooms are comfortable (159 rooms, 4 special handicapped-access rooms, hearing impaired accommodations available) and that the ambience is pleasant. P. Plauché moved that the Board approve the Cabot Lodge as the conference headquarters. K. Coleman seconded. Approval was unanimous. P. Plauché added that she is working with the Hospitality Committee on the possibility of pre-registration at the hotel so that conference attendees can avoid long registration lines, and that A. Branton will work on the contract with the hotel. T. Latour noted that the Jackson Cabot Lodges have Internet access; the Hattiesburg hotel does not, but they're looking into it. J. Slagell asked if the second general session on Thursday were usually a luncheon. P. Plauché replied that the schedule of the keynote speaker, Robert Martin, dictated this year's planning; he will not arrive in time for the first general session on Wednesday and will make his presentation at the second session on Thursday. J. Slagell mentioned that the ACRL Section would like to have a luncheon meeting, but does not want it to conflict with the general session; he will discuss planning with P. Plauché later. A. Branton pointed out that the Black Caucus usually has a luncheon on Wednesday. B. Beal noted that it is difficult to avoid scheduling conflicts.

E. ALA Councilor's Report. B. Beal distributed a written report.

1. Pay Equity. MLA has a request from ALA President-elect Mitch Freedman to send one or two representatives to the meeting of the ALA Task Force on Better Salaries and Pay Equity at the ALA Annual Conference in Atlanta in June. The meeting will address salary and advocacy issues. Freedman asks that attendees at this meeting be prepared to present a 90-120 minute advocacy program at their state library association conferences. P. Plauché noted that the MLA conference schedule is compressed, with the bulk of programming fitting into two days; scheduling is tight, but pay equity is an important topic that interests everyone, and it is important to make space in the program for such a meeting. P. Plauché pointed out that program titles need to be given emphasis in the conference program; in the past, the name of the group has been given greater emphasis. T. Latour asked for volunteers to attend the ALA meeting. K. Coleman asked about costs; T. Latour noted that there is no money in the MLA budget to support such travel. A. Branton asked if persons who attended the meeting would be required to register for the conference; P. Plauché replied that the meeting would probably be a preconference with no registration required. The Board agreed to delay mak-

ing a recommendation; T. Latour encouraged Board members to disseminate information about the meeting and ask for volunteers. P. Plauché emphasized that attendees are expected to put on a program at the MLA conference.

2. E-rate. ALA is seeking input on E-rate rulemaking by the FCC. B. Beal noted that the E-rate is a popular program; ALA perceives that there may be danger of its being eliminated, and invites efforts to keep the program alive. Comments to ALA and to the FCC are invited. B. Beal added that public institutions other than libraries are affected by E-rate.

3. Museum and Library Services Act. This act is up for renewal (H.R. 3784). ALA encourages librarians to ask their congressional delegations to sign on as co-sponsors. To date, Rep. Bennie Thompson is the only congressman from Mississippi who has done so.

4. GATS. ALA is concerned that public institutions, including libraries, would be negatively affected by the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS). Private providers may challenge policies that protect government services if those policies put private providers at a competitive disadvantage.

5. ACRL Webcasts. ACRL has a list of Webcasts available for continuing education in academic libraries. A list was distributed.

T. Latour noted that there were two Mississippi candidates in the recent ALA Council election.

F. SELA Councilor's Report. SELA Councilor Glenda Segars was absent. T. Latour noted that the SELA conference will be in Charleston the week after MLA. SELA offers scholarship opportunities for two individuals interested in becoming librarians. A. Branton noted that G. Segars had sent a call for papers for the SELA conference to Mississippi Libraries.

G. Executive Secretary. M.J. Anderson reported that she sent out a second round of membership renewal forms the last week in February. MLA is now up to 329 members as of March 7, and she anticipates the total will be up to 400 by the end of the month. She added that she has a new, faster computer. T. Akbar-Ellison asked for a list of Black Caucus members.

H. Mississippi Libraries Editor. A. Branton reported that *ML* will be taken to the printer this afternoon. Mary Beth Applin is guest editor of the spring issue, which will be mailed in approximately three weeks. The University of Southern Mississippi Foundation gave *ML* a check for \$140.

II. SECTION REPORTS:

- A. ACRL.** J. Slagell reported that he is in the process of putting together a nominating committee for ACRL. The ACRL program at the annual conference will be a workshop on communication skills. The section may have a spring program as well.
- B. Public Libraries.** Section Chair David Woodburn was absent. P. Plauché noted that public libraries and trustees are working on a conference program to appeal to all librarians; there will be more information at the next meeting.
- C. School Libraries.** Section Chair Dee Dee Long was absent. T. Latour noted that there is ongoing dialogue with school librarians and that there will be programs to appeal to school librarians at the MLA conference.
- D. Special Libraries.** I. Showal reported that the section has 26 paid members. She and Velma Champion of MLC are working on a flier to send to prospective members; they are also working on a program for the fall conference.
- E. Trustees.** No report; Randy Sherard absent.

III. ROUND TABLE REPORTS:

- A. Black Caucus.** T. Akbar-Ellison reported that Yvonne Stanford will preside over the program this year. The caucus is trying to get a speaker to do a one-man program ("Hats") for the meeting.
- B. Friends.** F. Delmas reported that they are working on a program on marketing the local library; they do not have a speaker yet.
- C. LIRT.** S. Stogner reported that Barton Spencer of USM will be the speaker at the conference program on creating streaming video.
- D. TSRT.** Secretary T. Englert reported that the round table's spring program will be May 24th at the Ridgeland Public Library. Suzanne Graham of USM will discuss digitization. Program planning is incomplete, and there may be other speakers.
- E. 2YCRT.** Chair T. Akbar-Ellison gave the names of the other round table officers: Ruth Ann Free, Vice-Chair, and Joan McLemore, Secretary. An e-mail has been sent to all members encouraging membership renewal.

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- A. Conference 2003 Site Selection.** P. Plauché presented a packet of information on Gulf Coast site visits. She and committee members M.J. Anderson, H. Ledet, and K. Coleman visited five sites: Beau Rivage, the President

Casino, Grand Casino Biloxi, Grand Casino/Oasis in Gulfport, and Casino Magic in Bay St. Louis. The Committee is recommending Casino Magic. The hotel is on a 600-acre site with good access to Beach Blvd., and local civic groups would work with MLA on possible activities. The hotel provides Internet access, and there would be no charge for the convention center. For meal functions, we can tell the hotel how much we want to spend and they will design a menu. P. Plauché will work with the hotel on a flat room rate. After further discussion of various sites, P. Plauché moved that the Board accept Casino Magic in Bay St. Louis as the 2003 MLA conference site. B. Beal seconded. After additional discussion, T. Latour called the question. The motion passed unanimously.

- B. Legislative Committee.** D. Mitchell reported that the committee has appointments with both Mississippi senators during ALA Legislative Day activities in Washington in May. She has not yet received registration information from ALA. She noted that the Mississippi legislature is focusing mainly on Medicaid in this session. S. Smith added that the House budget recommendation for MLC has been filed with almost a \$1 million cut. The House Education Committee later substituted a bill with a cut that was smaller by \$200,000. S. Smith added that tax revenues look better this month and that the Senate does not have an appropriations bill yet. The House bills were based on a 4% growth rate. Some senators want to make cuts based on a lesser growth rate, which would mean cuts in the range of \$1.2-1.6 million cuts. If that happens, Smith added, it would return MLC to 1995-1997 funding levels. T. Latour asked about the status of the new MLC building. S. Smith replied that the building has been funded, though MLC had to ask for an additional million for infrastructure work. \$3 million for furniture and equipment will be funded in the legislative session. B. Beal asked if initial bonds have been sold. S. Smith replied that they have, adding that the bond fund may grow, but the interest goes to the state. Bids for construction will open on March 28. A ground-breaking ceremony will be held when a contractor is hired; the agency plans to be in the new building in summer 2004. T. Latour reminded those present to talk to their legislators about libraries when the opportunity arises.

- C. Membership Committee.** Co-Chair T. Englert asked M.J. Anderson for application forms and for lists of new members and non-renewals. The Membership Committee will have a table at the USM Children's Book Festival in April. T. Englert asked for demographics, adding that if the association does not have such figures, she would like to do a survey to identify membership patterns and needs. She suggested that the Membership Committee have a member survey as part of its charge, and that

the Board consider offering first-year memberships at half price to attract new members. She also raised the possibility of adding ribbons for new members to MLA conference packets, and of the association raising money by selling promotional materials such as mugs, calendars, and tote bags. A. Branton noted that ribbons for new members at the conference would help them to make contacts. T. Latour asked for formal proposals, pointing out that response to a member survey at and after the 2001 MLA conference was extremely low. He suggested that partnering with sections and round tables might be a better way to elicit response. J. Smith suggested that GIS does computer mapping and might be willing to do demographic maps. T. Englert formally asked for demographic information and lists of lapsed and new members, and asked that the Board look at the possibility of selling promotional materials. P. Plauché noted that it would be helpful if membership expiration dates were on the MLA mailing labels. T. Akbar-Ellison suggested that when renewal forms are sent out, the envelope should be stamped "Membership Renewal." P. Plauché pointed out that the application form is on the Web, adding that one of her staff members, Sheila Cork, is writing a thesis on why librarians do not join professional associations and that the information could be useful in recruitment. B. Beal asked if library school instructors still recommend professional involvement to their students. A. Branton noted that USM LIS director Tom Walker has a column in Mississippi Libraries and has recently written on the topic. T. Latour pointed out that interest varies among LIS faculty members. P. Plauché mentioned that a brochure would be useful; K. Wells added that a brochure exists but is in need of updating. T. Latour suggested that the brochure be updated and that interest among library school students should be encouraged. S. Smith suggested a door prize for completing a membership survey at the MLA conference. She offered to generate a mailing list for a broader database of libraries and librarians than is covered by the MLA list. She also offered to put an insert (a membership form or an announcement) in the MLC newsletter, the Packet. T. Latour asked that T. Englert and M.J. Anderson look at existing demographics, and that T. Englert work with P. Plauché on a draft brochure. B. Beal will investigate the cost of ribbons. M.J. Anderson will look at the mailing label program to see about adding the membership expiration date; she added that she could use help in preparing mailouts. T. Englert will investigate the cost of promotional materials and submit proposals to the Board. B. Beal asked if there were a new members round table. P. Plauché replied that it is active and will have a conference program; A. Branton added that it will be a joint program with the USM School of Library and Information Science.

D. National Library Week Committee. J. Smith reported a total attendance of 220 registrants for Legislative Day, plus 116 legislators and pages, and Lt. Governor Amy Tuck. The committee used the Packet to announce the NLW program. The committee will have a meeting and program at the MLA conference; J. Smith asked people to call with topic suggestions. Plauché thanked the committee for its work.

E. Other Committee Reports. K. Wells reported that the Election Committee will meet March 22 in Jackson to prepare ballots for mailing.

V. OLD BUSINESS:

A. ALA@Your Library Campaign. T. Latour reported that he has registered MLA as a part of this campaign.

B. E-mail List. T. Latour reported that the MLA e-mail list is in the process of being cleaned up, with invalid addresses being removed. He added that there is now a link to the list on the MLA Web site.

V. NEW BUSINESS:

A. LSTA Grant. T. Latour distributed copies e-mails between himself and other Board members with regard to a possible LSTA grant from MLC to MLA to cover the cost of distribution of National Library Week materials. The Board had approved the proposal by e-mail. The cost of the most recent NLW mailing was \$7,962.17. T. Latour emphasized that MLA is an eligible recipient for such a grant, noting that other library associations also receive LSTA grants for programs. B. Beal moved that the Board ratify its e-mail approval of the proposal; P. Plauché seconded. K. Coleman asked for clarification of MLA's eligibility. S. Smith responded that such grants are given at the dis-

cretion of the MLC executive director; she noted that LSTA has more latitude than LSCA, which focused on physical facilities. K. Coleman asked who would do the work; S. Smith replied that MLC staff would be available to assist. T. Latour called the question. Approval was unanimous.

B. MLC Board of Commissioners Nominations. T. Latour referred to an e-mail message he had sent to MLA members soliciting nominations for the trustee's seat on the MLC Board of Commissioners, which will become vacant this summer, distributing copies of the nominations he has received so far. The appointee must be a trustee at the time of appointment. The MLA Board is charged with submitting at least six names. M.J. Anderson asked if the nominees have to be members of MLA; T. Latour replied that there is nothing about that in writing. H. Leder noted that there has been concern about the geographic makeup of the MLC Board and that the current incumbent, Russell Burns, is the only member from the southern part of the state. P. Plauché noted that one of the nominees was from the Jackson/George area and stated that she will nominate Joyce Lee, chair of the Hancock County Board of Trustees. She suggested that sending the list in too early could result in its being put aside. There was some discussion of the list and of the number of practicing librarians on the Board. It was agreed that the Board will solicit more nominations and information and will take up the matter at the May meeting. The nominators/nominees as of March 8 are: Catherine Nathan/Jolee Hussey; Paul Cartwright/Oscar C. Tanner Jr.; Deb Mitchell/Randy Sherard; Missie Craig/Yvonne Stanford; Bob Willis/Barbara Martin; Kaileen Thieling/Mary Edmonds; Steven McCartney/Lindsey Keene.

C. ALA Draft Privacy Policy. T. Latour distributed a draft privacy policy from ALA and

asked for comments. ALA is asking that state library associations endorse the policy. Endorsement would not constitute adoption; B. Beal reminded the Board that ALA's position is that privacy policies are a local matter and that libraries could still have their own individual policies. P. Plauché noted that there is a statute on library privacy in the Mississippi library laws of 1988, and that it might be complicated for MLA to go beyond that. B. Beal suggested asking MLA attorney Carol West to review the policy and comment. He noted that national security can override local policies in some circumstances. T. Latour will ask C. West to review the document.

D. Next Board Meeting. The May meeting was originally scheduled for May 10. ALA Legislative Day programs will take place the first part of that week; the SOLINET annual meeting is the previous Friday. It was pointed out that some universities will be holding graduation ceremonies May 10. T. Latour asked for suggestions for other dates. After some discussion, T. Akbar-Ellison moved that the next meeting be moved to the May 17. K. Wells seconded. Approval was unanimous.

E. MLA Committees. T. Latour asked the Board to consider the makeup and continuing existence of the Continuing Education, Long Range Planning, Publications, and Publicity Committees. He is having trouble getting people to serve on these committees or to serve as chair. The Board will discuss the committees at the next meeting.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The Board adjourned at 12:35 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted,
Kathleen L. Wells, Secretary*

NEW MEMBERS ROUNDTABLE NEEDS YOU!!!

WHO: Any member of MLA, new or "old." Membership in NMRT is open to MLA members who have been members for six years or less. "Old" members can get involved through the Friends of NMRT.

WHY: NMRT is planning some exciting events for the 2002 conference including a program entitled "First Impressions: Student Paper Presentations" and "Jigs and Reels: An Irish Evening with Jim Flanagan."

HOW TO GET INVOLVED: Contact Mary Hamilton at Mary.Hamilton@usm.edu or (601)266-6170. Several committees have been formed and need members.

HOW TO JOIN: Print membership form available on the MLA website at <http://www.lib.usm.edu/~mla/members/members.pdf>

COST: Only \$3. To add NMRT membership to your current MLA membership, please select NMRT on the MLA membership form.

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Please send a letter of application,
resume and two work-related references by October 1, 2002 to:

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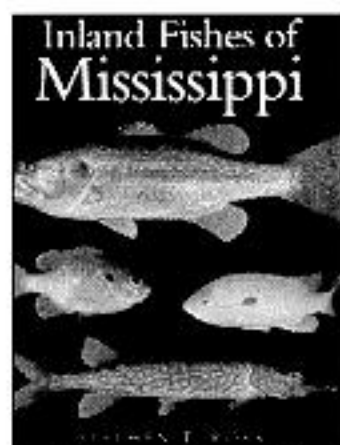
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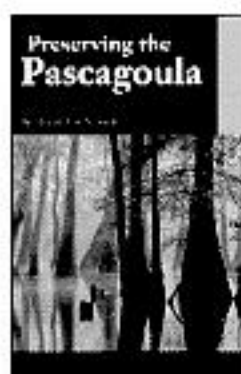
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