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ANRT (Automation and Networking)
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 ECRT (Educational Communication and Tech)
 GODORT (Government Documents)
 LIRT (Library Instruction)
 NMRT (New Members)
 SCRT (Special Collections)
 TSRT (Technical Services)
 2YCRT (2 Year College)
 YPSRT (Young People's Services)

PRESIDENT'S PAGE

MLA: PASSING THE TORCH

In December, a joint meeting of the 2003 and 2004 Executive Board provided a smooth transition of leadership for another year of the Mississippi Library Association.

I am very proud of the work of the 2003 Executive Board, standing committees, roundtables and conference committees who provided outstanding service to support the continuity of MLA.

In 2003 our membership exceeded 650 members, a record over the past few years. More than 500 conferees attended the 2003 conference, the highest registration in many years.

I am deeply grateful to the Executive Board for their commitment to the organization and their support throughout the year. 2003 MLA officers were Terry Latour, Immediate Past President; Juanita Flanders, Vice President/President Elect; Jennifer Smith, Treasurer; Sara Morris, Secretary; Billy Beal, American Library Association Councilor; and Glenda Segars, Southeastern Library Association Councilor.

Linda Tufaro, Public Libraries Chair; Otha Keys, School Section Chair; Gretchen Cook, Association of Colleges and Research Libraries Section Chair; Sandy Hayes, Special Libraries Section Chair; and Randy Sherard, Trustee Section Chair, completed the 2003 Executive Board membership.

Vice-President Flanders and the 2003 conference committees coordinated with the Executive Board, standing committees



Prima Plauché

and roundtables to provide an outstanding conference filled with authors, national speakers, and continuing education opportunities.

Kathy Davis and Donnelle Scott continued the high standards of editorship for our organization's official organ, *Mississippi Libraries*.

Mary Julia Anderson, MLA Executive Secretary and Missy Lee, MLA Financial Manager, as

always, gave their personal and professional support to MLA.

It was a pleasure to work with this dedicated and professional team who gave their time and talent to a state library association of which we can be proud.

As other state chapters report declining membership, MLA membership has dramatically increased. As other state chapters report dwindling finances, MLA is in the black and was able in 2003 to increase section budgets and the Peggy May scholarship award. As many state associations are downsizing their conferences, MLA's 2003 conference offered more programs than ever, with the highest registration in many years.

I am therefore happy to report that the state of the Association is strong and its future is bright as an outstanding group of new leaders takes office for 2004.

It was an honor for me to serve as your MLA president. Thank you all for sharing the vision of what our Association can be and working together to make it happen. I look forward to working with you during 2004 in the capacity of Immediate Past President.

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On the Cover: The cover artwork is "French Press," 14" x 12" oil, acrylic, and modeling paste on board, by Jackson artist Ron Lindsey. In the collection of Neal and Tracy Novak. Mr. Lindsey's work has been featured on the covers of *Mississippi Libraries* for Volume 67.

MISSISSIPPI LIBRARIES

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Manuscripts must be typescripts produced as a computer file document, Times New Roman font, 12 pt., in MSWord 95 or greater, WordPerfect or ASCII text. Send file as an attachment or submit the file on a floppy disk via surface mail. Manuscripts must be received by the editor by the following deadlines: Spring, February 2nd; Summer, May 2nd; Fall, August 2nd; and Winter, November 2nd. Photographs must be black and white, glossy finish.

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*.

A Content Analysis Of *LIBRES*: Library & Information Research Electronic Journal

By Barbara Beebe

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Editors' note: This issue's three feature articles by Barbara Beebe, Linda K. Ginn, and Jingjing Liu were winners of the 3rd annual Student Research Competition sponsored by Beta Phi Mu-Beta Psi Chapter, MLA New Members Round Table and The University of Southern Mississippi School of Library and Information Science.

ABSTRACT

This article details a content analysis of the electronic-only journal, *LIBRES: Library and Information Science Research Journal*. The e-journal is evaluated to determine if it falls within general standards for quality, whether it presents a global perspective on issues, and to determine the primary focus of the articles it contains. Findings from the research show that *LIBRES* can be considered a quality journal, although it does not present a large number of articles. Findings from the research show that *LIBRES* does present an international perspective on issues, although its contributors are predominantly from the United States. Most articles presented in the e-journal are library-focused, concentrating on issues related to technical services. Recommendations for future research are provided.

INTRODUCTION

E-journals are electronic journals that are distributed via the World Wide Web or by other electronic means. There are no print or microform counterparts to journals of this type. This research deals specifically with an electronic-only journal, hereafter referred to as an e-journal. A content analysis of *LIBRES: Library and Information Science Research Electronic Journal*, a biennial e-journal accessed

at <http://LIBRES.curtin.edu.au/>, was conducted to determine whether the e-journal meets the general standards for a quality journal, to determine whether the e-journal presents information from a global perspective in compliance with its stated mission, and to document the focus of the refereed articles and non-refereed essays and editorials published in the e-journal.

This research will be of interest to librarians and instructors who recommend and use e-journals, because it will provide pertinent information about the quality and scope of the publication. Additionally, the research will enhance the small but growing body of literature on e-journals and on the content of e-journals in particular.

LITERATURE REVIEW

There have been content analyses of journals that focused on issues in librarianship. Alexandria Dimitroff (1995) has conducted content analyses of the literature of special librarianship and found that it is an area that lacks in-depth research and analyses. Additionally, content analyses have been conducted to determine the amount of coverage given to library and information science in journals outside the field. K. Jarvelin and P. Vakkari (1993) performed a "...content analysis of library and information science research from 1965 to 1985...to determine the distribution of topics in research articles and the research methodologies that have been used" (Jarvelin and Vakkari, 1993).

Although content analyses of library-oriented e-journals were not found, research similar to what is presented originates predominantly in the world of print journals. Lois Buttlar's (1991) research on the content and authorship of library periodical literature included 16 different library periodicals but did not include e-journals.

However, studies have been conducted that discuss how electronic journals

should be evaluated and how users view e-journals. Martin Wolf's (2001) research provides data on how users compare electronic and print journals, and he provides, specifically, data on e-journals. Wolf found that "63% of respondents feel that print journals are more significant than electronic only journals" (p. 257). The reasons for this perception include the impression that e-journals receive "a lesser degree of scrutiny" (p. 257) and the lack of impact factors in particular fields of study. Interestingly, despite these negative impressions of e-journals, Wolf found that "[t]he main thrust of these comments seems to be that electronic-only journals aren't accepted enough *at the moment*, but that this will change as their use increases" (emphasis in the original, p. 257).

Ronald Rousseau (2002), furthering the work of R.L. Zwemer (1970), has identified the characteristics of a quality journal. These characteristics include "high standards of acceptance of manuscripts," meaning that "results must be based on new scientific information, reliable methods, adequate controls, and statistical treatment of data"; a broad editorial board; "a critical refereeing system"; and coverage in the "major abstracting and indexing services," to name the most pertinent (Rousseau, 2002).

OVERVIEW OF THE PUBLICATION

LIBRES: Library and Information Science Research Electronic Journal is an e-journal published by the School of Media and Information at Curtin University of Technology in Perth, Australia. It is currently published biennially, although, according to information on the site, "the first regular, quarterly issue...was published on October 15, 1993" (Smith, 2003).

The e-journal is distributed via a listserv and an FTP site. Select articles from the publication are provided at no cost to the public at <http://LIBRES.curtin.edu.au/>. It

is unknown whether subscribers to the e-journal are accorded more issues than those provided publicly (hence the differing information about the publication schedule). Currently, as of the writing of this report, the Web site for the publication includes 15 issues of the e-journal from 1996-2003.

According to the information provided on the e-journal's home page, "*LIBRES* is an international refereed electronic journal devoted to new research in Library and Information Science" (Smith, 2003).

METHODOLOGY

The analysis sought to determine the following about the content of the e-journal:

- 1) From the content provided and the information available under author guidelines at the site, does *LIBRES* qualify as a quality journal?
- 2) Of the peer-reviewed articles analyzed, what is their focus?
- 3) As an international e-journal, does *LIBRES* present information provided by representatives of global perspectives?

The current study analyzed the contents of 8 years of *LIBRES*. Information considered for analyses includes 26 peer-reviewed articles and 17 essays and opinions. Information from the conference and news and journals sections of the journal was not considered for this study.

The table of contents for all the public-access issues of the e-journal was analyzed for author nationality and the availability of research articles. All peer-reviewed articles available were read and content analyzed.

The number of peer-reviewed articles was tabulated. Articles were then analyzed for the characteristics of quality. The title of the article, the works cited, and the statement of the problem determined the new research characteristic. Statistical data was determined by the inclusion of charts, graphs, or clear indications of mathematical tabulations of the data. Methodology was determined by looking at the methodology section of the report, or, when lacking that, in the abstract or body of the text. Peer-reviewed articles were not analyzed for the inclusion of adequate controls.

The characteristics used to determine research quality were those detailed by Rousseau (Rousseau, 2002). Characteristics measured included:

- 1) Standards for acceptance
- 2) A representative editorial board
- 3) Coverage by major indexing services

One characteristic of quality detailed by Rousseau, high frequency citation in other journals, was not considered for this study due to Rousseau's own assertion that "...e-journals themselves have...not been able to generate high impact factors" (Rousseau, 2002).

After reading the articles, a subjective determination was made to determine the particular focus of the article. Focus measurements for articles in the essays/opinions section were determined by title alone, as the essays and opinion articles were not read and no abstracts of their contents were available on the table of contents page.

The focus of articles was determined using the following subjective scale:

- 1) Library-oriented: this would include all articles and research geared toward the development of the library as an institution or toward the development of technical services within the library, plus what is measured (library tools, etc.)
- 2) Librarian-oriented: this would include all articles and research geared toward the personal development of librarians as professionals including instruction methods and skills development and assessment, plus what is measured (librarian skills, opinions, etc.)
- 3) User-oriented: this would include all articles and research geared toward

user issues, including instruction and assessment of services, plus what is measured (user skills, opinions, etc.)

Articles and research were accorded one point for the main area of focus and half a point for inclusion of an additional, secondary orientation.

The nationality of the author(s) of articles and essays/opinions was tabulated by categorizing the authors into one of the seven continents: Africa, Antarctica, Asia, Australia, Europe, North America, and South America. Author nationalities were assigned by noting the country listed underneath the author's name, and where they were not available, e-mail extensions were used to determine nationality.

FINDINGS

Characteristics of Quality

From the information provided by the editors of *LIBRES*, the e-journal does qualify as a quality journal. All submissions of research articles are subjected to a double-blind peer-review process with a minimum of two reviewers (Smith, 2003). Of the 26 peer-reviewed articles analyzed, 84.6% of them possessed the characteristics of quality: new research, use of statistical data, reliable research method (see Figures 1 and 2). The years 1997 and 1999-2003 had 100% of the necessary characteristics, whereas 1996 and 1998 had 40% and 50%, respectively. It is worth noting that of the methodologies used, 19.2% of the published research articles are citation or content analyses. Case studies accounted for 15.4% of articles, as did surveys.

The e-journal is indexed in ISA (Information Science Abstracts), LISA (Library

	1996 n=5	1997 n=3	1998 n=2	1999 n=3	2000 n=3	2001 n=4	2002 n=4	2003 n=2
New research	2	3	1	3	3	4	4	2
Statistical data	2	3	1	3	3	4	4	2
Reliable methods	2	3	1	3	3	4	4	2

FIGURE 1.

Number of peer-reviewed articles that passed the "quality test"

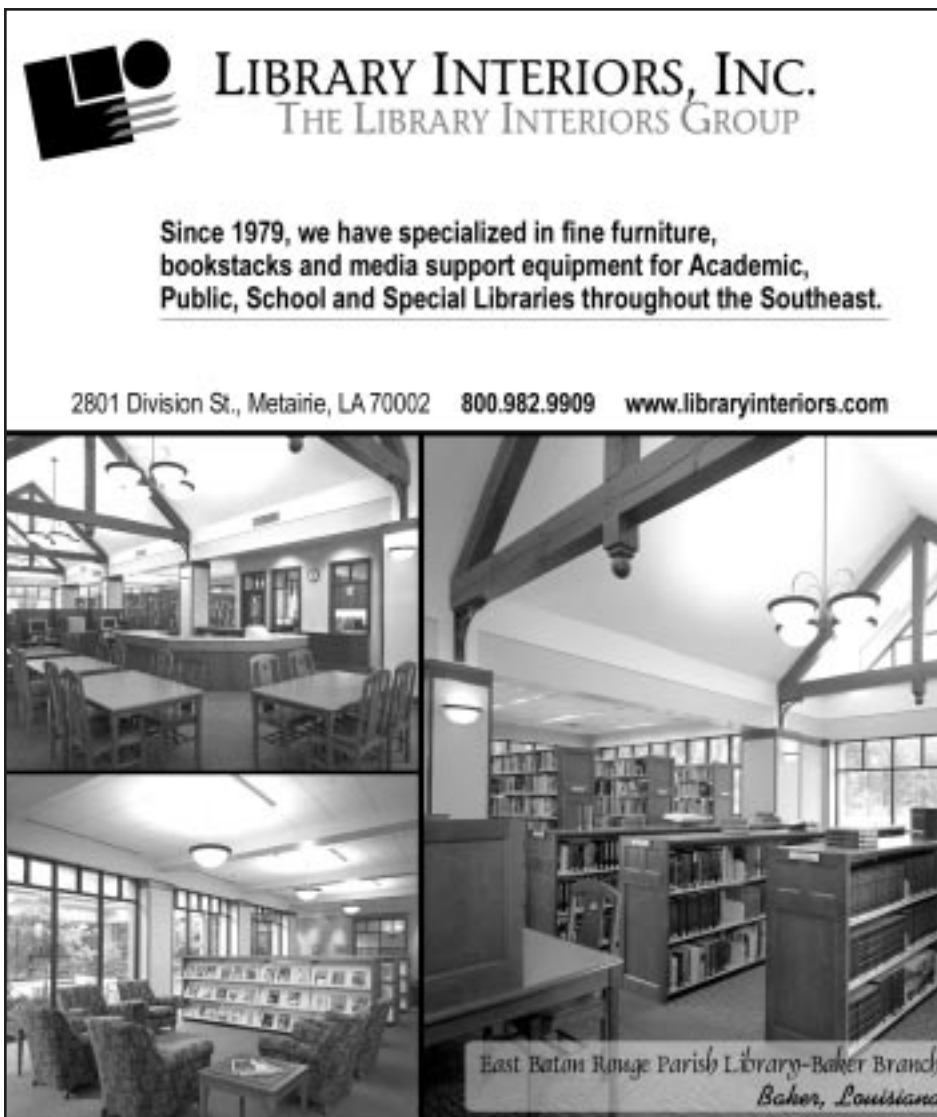
n = total number of peer-reviewed articles published in given year

and Information Science Abstracts), ERIC (Educational Resources Information Center), and RIE (Resources in Education), all considered major indexing services. This

Quality measured	1996 n=5	1997 n=3	1998 n=2	1999 n=3	2000 n=3	2001 n=4	2002 n=4	2003 n=2
New research	40%	100%	50%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Statistical data	40%	100%	50%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Reliable methods	40%	100%	50%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

FIGURE 2.
Percentage of peer-reviewed articles that passed the "quality test"
n = total number of peer-reviewed articles published in given year

The total number of peer-reviewed research articles published between 1996-2003 was 26. Findings show that 84.6% of all peer-reviewed research articles published between 1996-2003 pass the "quality test."



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information was obtained from author guidelines section of the site (Smith, 2003).

The editorial board is broad and representative. It is composed of two Australians and one North American. The section editors include three North Americans and one Australian. The two managing editors are Australian. The associate editors include eight North Americans, three Europeans, and three Australians. This information was obtained from the editorial board section of the site (Smith, 2003).

Global Perspective

Findings indicate that *LIBRES* does present information from representatives of global perspectives. Of the 47 contributors to the peer-reviewed and articles/editorials sections, all the continents are represented with the exception of Antarctica (see Figure 3). Of the contributors, 44.7% were from North America (including the United States, Canada, and British Columbia). Asian contributors numbered 17% and Australia and Europe provided an equal number of contributors, at 12.8%. The lowest numbers of contributors were from Africa and South America, both of which represent 6.4% of contributors. However, although all the continents, Antarctica excepted, are represented, it should be noted that 57.4% of the contributors came from four distinct areas: from the United States, 38.3%; from Australia and Singapore, 10.6% each; and from the United Kingdom, 8.5%.

Article Focus

LIBRES contained 43 research articles, essays and editorials in total. Of these, 17 articles were non-refereed essays and editorials and 26 were peer-reviewed research. Of the 43 articles analyzed, 30 of them, 69.8% of the total, are library-oriented. Librarian-focused articles account for 18.6% (8 articles) of the published materials and user-oriented articles only accounted for 11.6% (5 articles).

DISCUSSION

Characteristics of Quality

It is clear from the findings that *LIBRES* qualifies as a quality journal. The low percentages of qualifying material exhibited by the years 1996 and 1998 were due to the inclusion of inappropriate

material in the peer-reviewed section. For example, of the five peer-review indicated articles published in 1996, three of the articles should have been placed in the article/editorial section, as they did not present any type of methodology or use of statistical data. These articles were basically historical and explanatory in nature. It is unknown whether their inclusion in the section was an error on the part of the editorial staff or the Web page developers.

The editorial board of the publication is diverse, although it is not as representative as the contributors to the e-journal. Also, *LIBRES* is indexed in four of the major indexing services. Rousseau's research did not specify how many indexes a journal should be listed in, so the acceptance of four as adequate is arbitrary at best.

Global Perspective

The overwhelming number of North American contributors is rather surprising for an e-journal originating in Perth, Australia. Factors that could have contributed to this include personal contacts and North American attitudes toward e-journals. Information was not obtained to explain these factors or to prove this supposition.

The e-journal does present a very global perspective of library and information science issues, regardless of the majority percentage of North American influence. The availability of information about wheelchair-bound library users in Singapore, the library system of Africa, and Tamil language services in Singapore can only enliven those interested in an international perspective on library and information science.

Article Focus

As previously stated, the majority of articles published in *LIBRES* are library-oriented. Technical issues seem to dominate the agenda, as there are many articles on indexing, cataloging, bibliometrics, and collection development.

Librarian-oriented articles dealt with the philosophy of librarianship, instructional tools, cross-divisional duties performed in the workplace, Internet technology training, and librarian opinions.

User-oriented articles, most of which utilized the survey methodology, focused on special needs (destruction of language and architectural barriers), privacy concerns, and perceptions of library services.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE RESEARCH

It is clear that further research is needed in the area of e-journals. Additional research is needed in content and citation analysis, user perceptions, and contributor perceptions. Additionally, research detailing the varieties of e-journal access

modes is needed.

LIBRES, in particular, would benefit from citation analysis and citation impact studies. Research in those areas would enhance the interest and knowledge of library and information science students and personnel who are interested in the future of e-journals in the field.

Continent	Number of contributors	Percentage of contributors / n=47*
Africa	3	6.4%
Antarctica	0	0
Asia	8	17%
Australia	6	12.8%
Europe	6	12.8%
North America	21	44.7%
South America	3	6.4%

FIGURE 3.

Continental distribution of contributors to *LIBRES* from 1996-2003

N=47 total number of contributors from 1996-2003

*percentages rounded to the nearest tenth

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Citation Analysis of Authored Articles in *Library & Information Science Research*, 2001-2002

By Linda K. Ginn

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INTRODUCTION

Citation analysis is a form of bibliometric study that inspects elements of data contained within the citations at the end of authored articles in journals and other scholarly writings, bibliographies, footnotes and indexing tools. This type of study is conducted to reveal or indicate possible areas of importance; for example, how many times the same authors or articles are cited by other scholarly authors over a period of time within the literature of a discipline of study, or within a segment of the literature (Norton, 67-70, and Edwards, 11).

These areas can be an indication of the most highly regarded or most often used journals or other sources in a library collection. Collection development librarians can use citation studies to assist in selecting and retaining relevant sources to support researchers in a library community, in their fields of study.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Potter reports the conclusions of early researchers in bibliometrics, including Samuel Bradford (1+). Bradford studied geophysics journals in the 1930's and proposed that scholarly journals in a field can be divided into three groups, according to their contribution to the core literature of that field. The first group, a small number of journals, will produce roughly one third of the relevant articles. The second group, somewhat larger, will produce another third; and the third group, larger still, will produce the final third. The value of Bradford's law to practicing librarians is that it indicates they can provide a third of relevant materials by subscribing to a relatively small number of

specific journal titles.

Other information can be gleaned from citation analysis, including an impression for the regard authors have for scholarly journals. Lascar and Mendelsohn, in their study of journal use by structural biologists, found data to support the widely-held theory that a high percentage of researchers in the sciences cite journal articles as compared to other sources (426-427).

Heinz Hauffe, in his presentation to the 13th Winter Workshop on Biochemical and Clinical Aspects of Pteridines, given in 1994 at Arlberg, cautions against automatically assuming that works or authors cited often are always the best sources (1+). Hauffe lists factors that may contribute to "incomplete" citing of sources (i.e., language barrier, lack of understanding on the part of the citing writer, suppression of relevant articles by competing authors), and "overcomplete" citing of sources (i.e., self-citations, courtesy citations, duty citations, unjustified authorship).

Garfield reports that lists of journals and citations can be indicators of importance to researchers and scholarly writers, but that inferences about direct impacts of quantity and quality are to be avoided. A journal that "publishes relatively few articles, but articles of high quality that both cite and are cited frequently, may seem to have considerably less impact than it actually does, particularly if the journal appears infrequently or irregularly and thus escapes representative inclusion" (530).

A reminder of context comes from Evans in *Developing Library and Information Center Collections (4th ed.)* when he writes about assumptions that must be recognized for citation studies to have value. The underlying assumption is that the subject content of the cited document relates to the subject content of the citing

document. A second assumption is that the number of times a document receives a citation is proportional to the value or intrinsic worth of the document. Another assumption is that all the publications an author cites were in fact used. (A related assumption is that authors list all the sources they used.) One other major assumption is that the sources used to secure the citation data are representative of the field under investigation (166).

THE PROBLEM

The purpose of this study was to examine the information contained in the citations at the end of authored articles published in one scholarly journal over two years' time to learn what this information might indicate about the types of sources cited, which authors were cited and how many times, and the age of cited sources.

The hypotheses were that 1) citations of articles published in scholarly journals would be greater in number than citations of any other sources; 2) the use of Web sites as reference sources would increase in number from the first year to the next; 3) citations of articles previously published in the journal under study would be relatively few, no more than five percent of the total; 4) most cited works would be authored by one person; and 5) most cited works, more than 50 percent, would be ten years old or less.

The study was limited to peer reviewed, authored articles in one scholarly journal collected by the University of Southern Mississippi, and to two years of issues of the journal.

PROCEDURES AND METHODOLOGY

An unbound issue of eight print journals was selected from the shelf at Cook Library. *Library & Information Science Research (LISR)* was selected because the

issue viewed had a relatively larger number of citations compared to the other journals. *LISR* is a refereed journal, cross-disciplinary in nature, and uses a blind reviewing process of editorial review. Its areas of interest are “the research process in library and information science as well as research findings and, where applicable, their practical applications and significance.” The target audience of this journal is wide, encompassing many who are interested in applied library and information science (*LISR*).

Data collected were journal publication year and issue; type of source; number of authors in each citation; names of up to three authors; publication year of the cited sources; titles of articles; titles of source publications, and issue/number of cited journal articles. A database with three related tables was built to contain the data, with each citation as one database record. Data tables and relationships are shown in *Figure 1*.

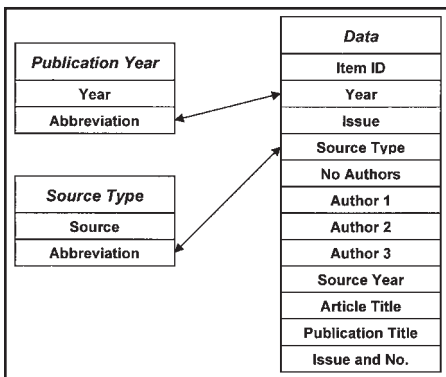


FIGURE 1. Data Tables and Relationships

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Thirty-six authored articles were published in *LISR*, nineteen in 2001 and seventeen in 2002. The articles contained 1,249 citations, with an average of 34.7 citations per article. Fourteen source types were cited in the articles (*Figure 2*). By more than half, scholarly journals were cited most often (673 records, or 53.88 percent). This finding supports the first hypothesis (H1), that citations of articles published in scholarly journals would be greater in number than citations of any other sources. From 2001 to 2003, journal article citations increased both in quantity (334 to 339)

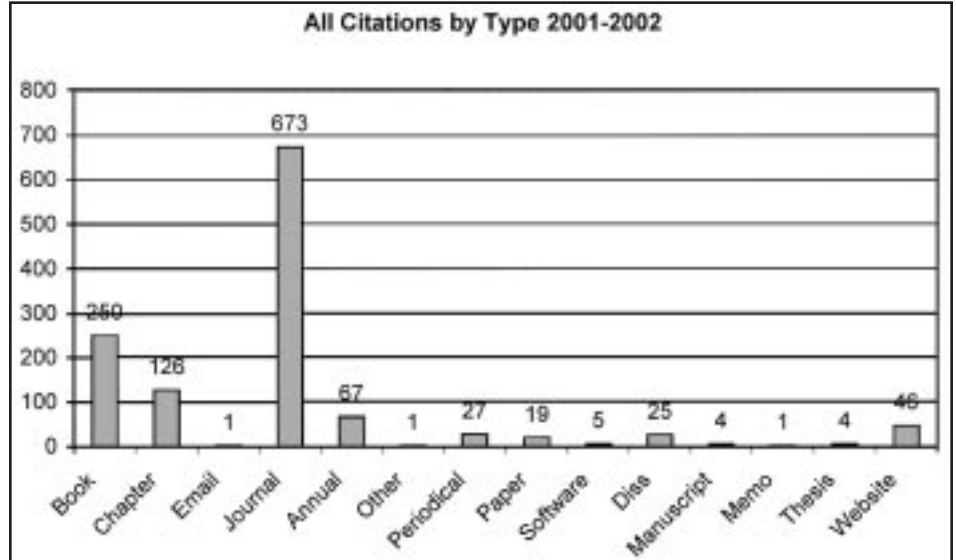


FIGURE 2. All Citations by Type 2001-2002

and percent (52.43 to 55.39). Scholarly journals, with their blind editorial process of reviewing manuscripts submitted for publication, have a reputation for a high standard of objectivity and reliability. This reputation is thought to be borne out in this small study, with a scholarly journal article cited more often than all other sources combined.

The next most cited source was books, followed by authored chapters in edited books, annuals, and Web sites. These five types account for 93.03 percent of all source types in this study. The five most cited source types overall were also the five most cited source types in each year in the study period. Journals

were cited most in each year, followed by books, chapters in books, annuals, and Web sites. Journals increased in use from 52.43 percent in 2001 to 55.39 percent in 2002, while citations of books, chapters in books, and annuals decreased in 2002 (see *Figures 3 and 4*).

Citation of Web sites as reference sources was static in quantity, with twenty-three each year, however, the percentage of citations naming Web sites in 2002 was slightly greater than in 2001 due to the slightly smaller number of citations in 2002 (612 compared with 637 in 2001). The second hypothesis (H2), that the use of Web sites as reference sources would increase in number from the first

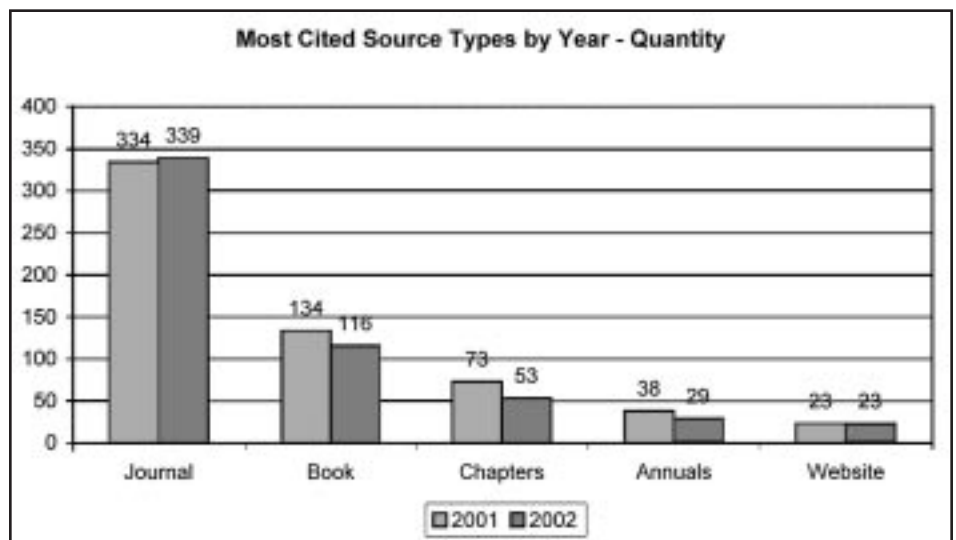


FIGURE 3. Most Cited Source Types by Year – Quantity

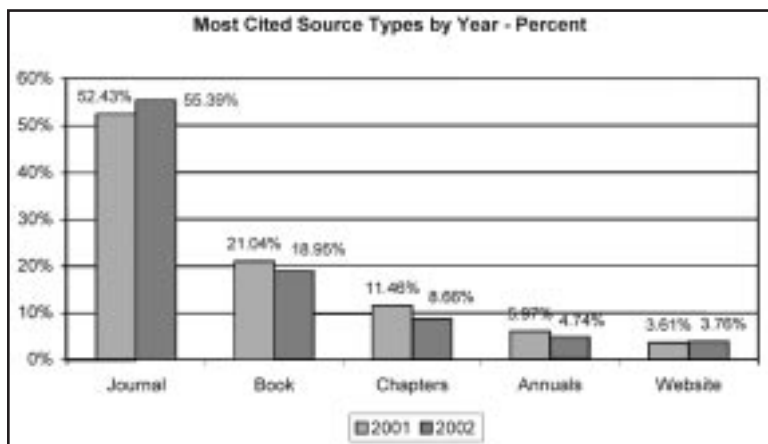


FIGURE 4. Most Cited Source Types by Year – Percent

year to the next, was not supported by the findings in this study. The immense popularity of Web sites for providing and locating information has yet to gain the reputation for accuracy and objectivity enjoyed, and surely hard won, by journals. In keeping with these findings, it may be that great increases in the use of Web sites as scholarly resources will not be seen for some time to come. Similarly, the increase in use of journal articles in this study from one year to the next may indicate that scholarly journals retain their dominant position in scholarly communication despite the widespread employment of Web pages for many uses, scholarly and non-scholarly.

The journal most often cited, with 79 records, was *Journal of the American Society for Information Science* (or *Journal of the American Society for Information Science Technology*); it was referred to in 6.33 percent of the citations in this

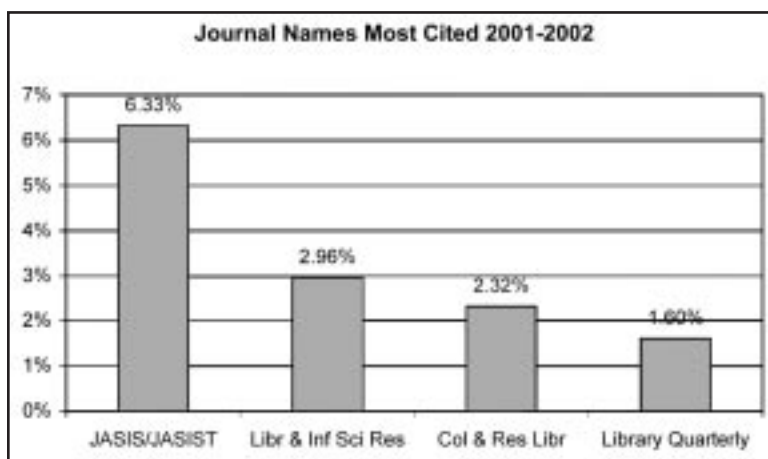


FIGURE 5. Journal Names Most Cited 2001-2002

study (H3).

An area of curiosity, or perhaps skeptical suspicion, for the writer was whether the number of citations of articles in *LISR* might be high enough to cause one to suspect that significant use of these citations may assist authors hoping to be published in this journal. Given the reputation of scholarly journals as excellent sources of well-documented information – information that one hopes is strained of bias and kept relatively free of what is

popularly known as “spin” – one would expect there should not be an overabundance of citations pointing to the journal being studied. These results reduce the writer’s skepticism to some extent. With only thir-

ty-seven citations of previously published articles in *LISR* in the study data (less than half the number of citations of the most often cited journal), it seems unlikely that authors of articles published in the two years of this study cited reference works with an eye toward an advantage of this sort. In addition, *LISR* was one of 278 journal titles cited; that quantity indicates a wide collection area of source material used by article authors. That the third hypothesis was not supported is a matter of assurance. The most often cited journal titles are shown in *Figure 5*.

The number of authors who contributed to cited sources varied from one to seventeen (see *Figure 6*). An individual author was responsible for the work cited

in 760, or 60.85 percent. This finding supports the fourth hypothesis (H4), that most cited works would be authored by one person. Another 320 citations had two authors (25.62 percent), and 105 citations (8.41 percent) had three authors. These three measures account for 1,185 out of 1,249 total citations (94.88 percent). Despite these percentages, it is the student’s opinion that authorship by one or two persons is unlikely to have any relationship to being cited by other scholarly authors. Rather, it should be the quality and relevance of the cited work that is important.

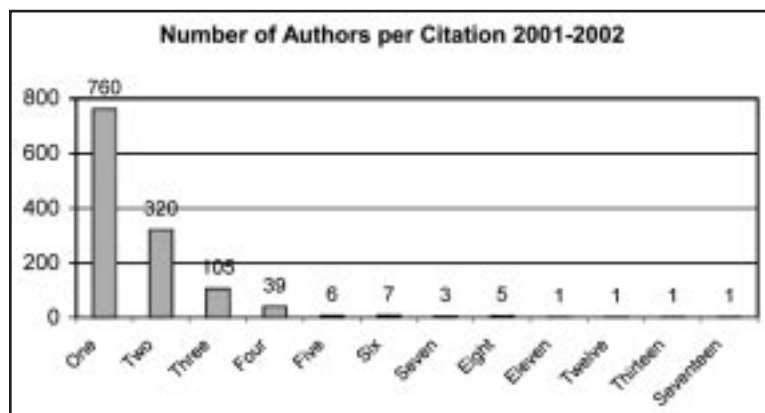


FIGURE 6. Number of Authors per Citation 2001-2002

The sources cited in this study were published from 1926 to 2002, a span of seventy-seven years. Citations with a publication date of 1993-2002 numbered 679 in quantity, or 54.4 percent. This finding supports the fifth hypothesis (H5), that more than 50 percent of the

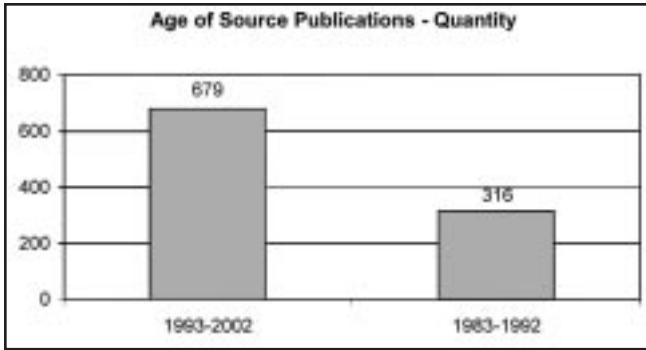


FIGURE 7. Age of Source Publications – Quantity

cited works would be ten years old or less. An indication of importance can be attached to the use of relatively younger source material, but automatic importance ought not to be assumed simply because newer work is cited more often than older works. Perhaps the newer work is more abundant; and perhaps, with indexing capability and online databases, it is also easier to locate. Scholars at all levels would do well to explore their areas of study at some depth to lessen the possibility of neglecting other supporting bodies of work that may be just as credible as those already located. *Figure 7* shows the publication source years of publication, up to twenty years. *Figure 8* shows the age of source publications by percentage.

APPLICATIONS

Citation analysis is one tool among many that librarians can use to compare and evaluate their own observations and perceptions of what sources are used most often by researchers and other users of the library. Well crafted studies can help them

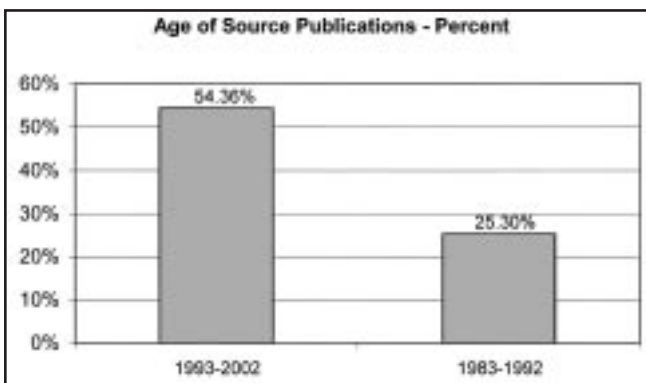


FIGURE 8. Age of Source Publications – Percent

ensure that scarce dollars are used wisely to provide the most helpful mix of journals, other serials, monographs, edited books, and online sources (Edwards, 11).

“A good multidisciplinary journal collection need contain no more than a few hundred titles” is one conclusion of citation analysis, according to Eugene

Garfield, a principal of ISI, a major indexing service (*Essays*, 533). The conclusion was supported in ISI’s analysis of its own indexing of scientific journals, which showed that a small group of journals contains those journals most in use by writers to support their own research. The larger group of marginally used journals may then become reasonable targets for subscription nonrenewal or for deselection from a library collection.

Gooden concluded from her study of doctoral dissertations by chemistry students at Ohio State that a citation study can provide a good idea of the resources thought to be important to students conducting research (5). But just one citation study is like a snapshot. For context, and to judge whether the conclusions of one study are correct or on target, future studies similarly designed would be helpful. Comparison of studies over time can help librarians see trends in use and nonuse of source materials. And even though bibliometric studies can provide good help to librarians choosing or recommending source materials for a university library,

the study results may make no difference to an academic department staff that is unwilling to cancel a subscription to a journal as long as there is enough money in the budget to continue the subscription.

No one conclusion of a citation study should be the sole basis for decision making by a librarian. Citation studies can provide indications, but these

indications must not be given the weight of firm evidence. They should be used in concert with, but never replace, the librarian’s observations, perceptions, and the subject expertise that can grow with experience and successful performance in the provision of information services to the library community.

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A Bibliometric Study: Author Productivity and Co-authorship Features of *JASIST* 2001-2002

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INTRODUCTION

Bibliometrics is a research method used in the field of Library and Information Science (LIS). As Norton (2000) states, bibliometrics "uses quantitative and qualitatively descriptive methods, such as statistics and mathematical analysis, to examine documents" (p. 63). The methods of bibliometrics are objective and repeatable and are of practical value. One application of bibliometrics is the analysis of publications within a given field. There have been many studies investigating features of certain journals in the library science field using bibliometric methods. The feature areas covered in previous research included studies of authorship features, content development features, journal citation pattern, author citation pattern, internationalism, and so on. Author productivity and co-authorship features are areas addressed frequently. Analyzing author features of a journal helps to define the audience as well as contributors, lending to the recognition of the journal and to its support of research in related disciplines.

Journal of the American Society for Information Science and Technology (JASIST) is one of the target journals of the researchers in the library and information science field. As the official journal of the American Society for Information Science and Technology, *JASIST* was previously named *JASIS* (1969-2000) and *American Documentation* (1950-1969). *JASIST* is, as many scholars and researchers stated, one of the most important and respected literature sources in the field of information science (Kohl & Davis, 1985; Rice, 1990; Lipetz, 1999). Most of the studies in the literature reflect analysis of *JASIST* volumes prior to 1999; this study examined the two most recent vol-

umes in the new millennium: volume 52 and 53, which were published respectively in 2001 and 2002. This study was aimed at identifying the author productivity and co-authorship features. Previous studies that parallel or overlap portions of the current study are introduced and compared in the discussion of their discoveries.

LITERATURE REVIEW

As one of the most commonly used laws in bibliometrics, Lotka's Law addresses the general rule of scientific productivity. It states that the number of authors making n contributions is about $1/na$ of those making one contribution, where a is often nearly 2. The study by Bonnevie (2003) explored the author productivity feature. By comparing the actual percentage of authors with various contributions and the expected percentage calculated according to Lotka's Law, Bonnevie (2003) concluded that the author distribution pattern of the *Journal of Information Science (JIS)* complied with Lotka's Law, but there was a tendency towards fewer authors having one contribution than expected. Lipetz's (1999) study analyzed the author productivity of *JASIS* over the five decades from 1950 to 1999 through reviewing one volume out of each decade: 1955, 1965, 1975, 1985, and 1995. Lipetz (1999) found that the percentage of authors with more than one article exceeded 20% in 1955, due to the fact that *JASIS* published a series of four papers by the same group of authors, while a different pattern of authors with more than one article began in 1965 with a ratio of 2% and it had increased in each decade since, to more than 9% in 1995.

As for the co-authorship feature of *JASIS*, Lipetz (1999) found that one-author papers were the most common type when *JASIS* was new, and remained so in 1995; however, the percentage of papers with one author declined from more than 71.4% in

1955 to 47.1% in 1995. The percentage of papers with two authors increased in each decade surveyed and in 1995, it reached 32.4%. Papers with three or more authors have become increasingly frequent in more recent decades, with a percentage of 20.6% in 1995.

The current study reviewed the two feature areas of author productivity and co-authorship pattern of *JASIST* 2001-2002 and is a supplement to the existing literature. The findings and conclusions of this study, together with those from the previous similar studies, will be useful in evaluating this journal, and will also be helpful in collection development decisions, and even in the research in the library and information science field.

METHODOLOGY

The articles in each issue of *JASIST* 2001-2002 were reviewed to collect data. Only full-length research articles were considered. Editorials, brief communications, letters to the editor, eulogies, humor, book reviews, and calls for papers were ignored for the purpose of this study. When reviewing each article, information about the following areas was recorded: the published year, volume, issue, title, the number of total authors of the article, and each author's name and rank (See the Appendix for a detailed list). Collected data were recorded in a Microsoft Access document and analyzed using Microsoft Excel worksheets.

An author was treated as having one contribution if that author's name appears once in the author section of the article, regardless of whether or not that author is the first author or co-author. If for any reason an author used different name forms for different articles, those articles were treated as written by one author under different names.

The author figures were calculated by productivity. The authors with various con-

tributions were counted, and their percentages were calculated. For authors with two or more articles, the expected percentages were calculated following Lotka's Law. The observed percentages were compared with the expected percentages.

The articles with various numbers of authors were calculated respectively. Data were recorded in a table listing the numbers and the percentages of those articles written by one author, two authors, three authors, four authors, and so on. Data were also compared with the related findings in the previous studies.

ANALYSIS OF DATA

1. Author Productivity Pattern

Collected data from the 208 research articles show that there were 364 authors of the full-length research articles in *JASIST* 2001-2002. It was found that two authors had used different name forms in different articles: one is Amanda Spink, with A. Spink in one of her articles; the other is Nigel Ford, with N.J. Ford in one of his articles. Articles under different name forms of one author were treated as written by one author. The number of author contributions and the distribution of the authors by productivity are illustrated in Table 1.

TABLE 1. Author Distribution by Productivity

Number of Articles Accepted	Number of Authors	Percentage (%)
1	321	88.2
2	28	7.7
3	7	1.9
4	4	1.1
5	2	0.5
6	1	0.3
9	1	0.3
Total	364	100

Of the 364 authors, 321 had only one article published in *JASIST* 2001-2002, and they represent the majority percentage of 88.2%. There were 43 authors with more than one article published. Amanda Spink had the most contributions of 9 articles, 5 of which Spink is the first author.

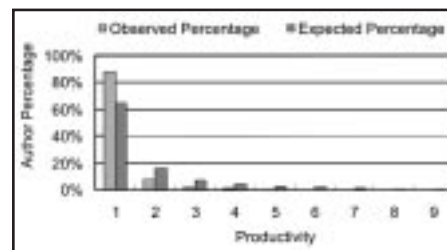
The ideal distribution pattern of the author productivity was calculated according to Lotka's inverse square law. The expected percentages were compared

with the observed percentages in Table 2 and Figure 1.

TABLE 2. Comparison of Observed and Expected Author Productivity Distribution Pattern

Number of Articles Accepted	Observed Percentage (%)	Expected Percentage (%)
1	88.2	64.9
2	7.7	16.2
3	1.9	7.2
4	1.1	4.1
5	0.5	2.6
6	0.3	1.8
7	0	1.3
8	0	1.0
9	0.3	0.8
Total	100	99.9

FIGURE 1. Comparison of Observed and Expected Author Productivity Distribution Pattern



Data shows that the observed ratios of authors with two or more articles are lower than expected according to Lotka's Law. It appears that more authors made only one contribution while fewer authors made two or more contributions in the two years surveyed.

2. Co-authorship Feature

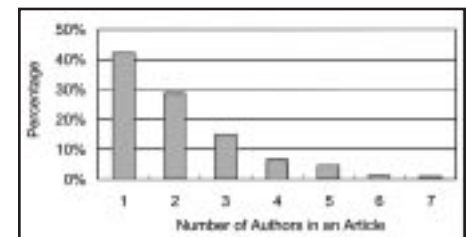
Among the 208 research articles, 88 were written by one author, yielding 42.3 percent of the total. This percentage is even lower than that found in 1995 in Lipetz's (1999) study, which was 47.1 percent. Papers in *JASIST* 2001-2002 with two authors were 28.8 percent, which is lower than that found in 1995 in Lipetz's (1999) study of 32.4 percent. However, the percentage of articles with three or more authors was 28.8, which was an increase compared with that of 1995, 20.6 percent. The co-authorship pattern of all the articles is illustrated in the Table 3 and Figure 2. The most fre-

quent type of document is the one-authored article with 42.3 percent of all the articles. The most authored articles have 7 contributors respectively.

TABLE 3. Co-authorship Pattern

Number of Authors	Number of Articles	Percentage (%)
1	88	42.3
2	60	28.8
3	31	14.9
4	14	6.7
5	10	4.8
6	3	1.4
7	2	1.0
Total	208	100

FIGURE 2. Co-authorship Pattern



CONCLUSIONS

This study reveals the author productivity and co-authorship features of *JASIST* 2001-2002. Author productivity patterns may help improve the understanding of the information behaviors in the field of library and information science, if the full-length research articles considered in the current study are representative of this journal, and the journal is representative of the information science discipline. Identifying productivity patterns within the discipline may be used to document trends and average research production to supplement discussions of tenure and promotion in academic libraries or other professional information organizations. Compared with the previous study about author productivity feature areas of *JASIST*, this study suggests some changes within the author characteristics of this journal. Productivity patterns may reflect changes in the expectation of employers, or suggest emerging areas of interest in a field.

There were a total of 364 authors contributing to the 208 full-length research articles in *JASIST* 2001-2002. Of all the authors, 321 had only one article published in *JASIST* 2001-002, or 88.2 percent, while 43 authors had two or more

articles published, which represents 11.8 percent of the total authors. The observed numbers of authors with 2 or more contributions were lower than the expected numbers calculated by Lotka's Law, which may indicate something about *JASIST* publication policy, editors' preferences, or even trends of interest in this two-year period.

As for co-authorship, this study, together with the previous studies, indicates that the percentage of one-author articles decreased, although one-author documents continue to be the most frequent among all the articles. The percentage of two-author articles varied within a percentage range of 30 percent plus or minus 5 percent or so in recent years. Papers with three or more authors increased in recent years, with 28.8 percent of all the papers written by more than three authors in these

two volumes surveyed. Articles written by four authors represented 6.7 percent of the total, articles written by five authors represented 4.8 percent of the total, articles written by six authors represented 1.4 percent of the total and articles written by seven authors represented 1.0 percent of the total. There appears to be a tendency for more authors to participate in producing one paper. This may indicate increasing cooperation and communication among the researchers in the field or significant publication pressure.

The methods used in this study could also be applied to other journals, to analyze various features of the journals, and to recognize the importance of the journals and their impact in related disciplines. This may help library collection development decision-making in times of

library budget contraction and periodical cost inflation. Information about author patterns may suggest changes in research trends and aid in identification of core authors, institutions, and related data that could influence purchasing decisions.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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APPENDIX

List of Review Areas of *JASIST* Articles

- Published year
- Volume
- Issue
- Title
- Number of Authors
- The first author
- The second author
- The third author
- The fourth author
- The fifth author
- The sixth author
- The seventh author
- Information of more author(s)

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ECRT (Educational Communication and Tech)

GODORT (Government Documents)

LIRT (Library Instruction) • NMRT (New Members)

SCRT (Special Collections)

TSRT (Technical Services) • 2YCRT (2 Year College)

YPSRT (Young People's Services)

Cassagne Appointed VP

The 2003 MLA Executive Board accepted the resignation of Kaileen Thieling as 2004 Vice President/President Elect at a regular board meeting on December 12, 2003. A motion was duly made, seconded and unanimously carried to appoint Susan Cassagne to the position as authorized by Article I, Section 1B of the Mississippi Library Association By-Laws.

Cassagne is Director of the Homochitto Valley Library Service headquartered in Natchez, Mississippi. She will take office with the 2004 MLA Executive Board on January 1, 2004.

2004 Legislative Goals

By Robert Lipscomb

Co-Chair, MLA Legislative Committee

Director

Harrison County Library System

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This coming legislative year promises to be a very challenging one for all librarians. From Internet filtering to the Patriot Act, we face a variety of demanding situations that will require creative strategies and a lot of patience. We also continue to face a stagnant economy that will inevitably lead to more belt-tightening. Because of these and other realities, we must attempt to do a better job of getting our message out.

As chair of the Legislative Committee, it is my job to help coordinate the Mississippi Library Association's efforts to influence our state legislators by making them aware of our goals and objectives. To do this, we must have the strong support of our members. We all must make every effort to educate our local officials on the needs and the importance of the libraries in our communities. We should also make an effort this year to start the process early and to stay with it throughout the legislative season. With a new governor and administration in Jackson, it will require more effort than usual to try and bring them on board.

GOALS FOR 2004

In the past, the Legislative Committee has, with the help of the general membership, come up with a basic list of goals. With only minor changes from last year, this list will be sent out to all of you in the near future. The main goals are: to increase public awareness of the role of all

types of libraries; to secure increased funding for statewide cooperative efforts, such as MAGNOLIA; to secure full funding for the Library Commission's budget; to strengthen K-12 library programs; to secure legislative and executive support for funding for library programs in our community colleges and universities; to advance library issues by working with county and municipal associations; to identify and monitor any proposed legislation that could impact library service; to monitor federal activities that affect libraries and to promote needed legislation and raise awareness of the need for more professional and paraprofessional staff.

LEGISLATIVE DAY

As in years past, MLA will host a "Legislative Day" in Jackson early in 2004, complete with a reception for our legislators. Please start planning for this important day early, and make sure that your local delegation is a large one! It is also a good idea to stay in touch with your local political leaders throughout the year by letting them know about library issues and needs.

In closing, I want to mention that Rebecca Campbell, of the Lamar County Library, is our co-chair this coming year, and that once again the very capable Jennifer Smith, of the Warren County-Vicksburg Public Library, has volunteered to help organize things. Please feel free to contact any of us with ideas or advice you might have. I feel confident that if we all work together we can accomplish many of our goals and objectives this coming year. Let's give it our best!

MLA 2003 Conference Wrap-Up

By *Tritta Neveleff*
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The 2003 MLA conference, Discover the Magic of Mississippi @ your Library™, convened on October 21, 2003 under sunny skies in Bay St. Louis at the lovely Casino Magic Resort. Ms. Moira Ambrose, widow of Stephen E. Ambrose, spoke of her late husband's personal interest in the Bay St. Louis Library at a ceremony designating it a literary landmark.

Our first full conference day was inspiring. Dr. Maurice J. Freedman, ALA president and keynote speaker, rallied us around the cause of equal pay for librarians. He shocked us with tales of rural librarians earning minimum wage, or less (if one were to try to tally the countless hours of physical devotion that keeps the doors of under-funded libraries open). Wednesday held board meetings and committee meetings, a poster session, and the opening of the sponsor showcase. Attendees had a choice of luncheon programs. One could listen to Julius E. Thompson as he discussed the powerful influence of African American writers on Mississippi history, Robert D. San Souci as he discussed how he became a writer exploring folklore of many countries and cultures, or Pat Ensor as she encouraged librarians to utilize their individual talents and strengths in promoting their libraries.

Florica Hagerdorn shared her success as creator of "Reading with Rover," a program that partners pooches with reluctant readers. Afternoon tea was taken with authors and autographs were graciously given. The President's Reception honoring Prima Plauché and Dr. Freedman concluded the day on a note of fine food, good company, and a wonderful evening in the making.

Thursday began bright and early with a crowd of eager attendants hungrily anticipating breakfast with Rick Bragg. His straight-from-the-hip, home-style

humor had even the community college presidents trying to control the laughter that his stories elicited. Afterward, the School of Library and Information Science at USM gave an update on the School's programs. In a separate meeting, graduate school professors from USM and LSU covered curriculum offered at both schools. K-12 librarians discussed National Board Certification, and Bill Kessler from SIRSI wowed us with innovative technologies and techniques for organizing and presenting information to maximize effectiveness.

Over lunch, Marshall Ramsey charmed us with his political humor and rich depictions of Mississippi life. Thursday afternoon was filled with workshops on using time efficiently and effectively, the Patriot Act, and metadata standards. The School Library Section sponsored Freddi Williams Evans, award-winning author of *A Bus of Our Own*, who discussed her writing career. The day wound down with another poster session, student research presentations, storytelling, and discussions. Evening found us dressed in our best, sipping champagne punch with this year's outstanding winners at the awards gala.

Alas, all good things must end. Closing day, Friday, began with a breakfast honoring the past presidents. Pat Pinson, curator of the Walter Anderson Museum of Art shared with us new research and publications on Walter Anderson resulting from the Centennial Smithsonian Exhibition. The Friends of Mississippi Libraries helped us discover the magic of book clubs, events, and discussion groups at our libraries and the conference concluded with the MLA 2003 Awards Luncheon.

Evaluations reflect that a good time was had by all. It was tough to leave the balmy beauty of the Gulf Coast, but duty called and library workers from all over the state returned home renewed in their passions for intellectual freedom and equal education for all.



Members cast their votes at the 1st General Session and Business Meeting.



MLA President Prima Plauché with Dr. Maurice Freedman, MLA opening session speaker and 2003 ALA President.



Casino Magic staff don MLA hats to help at Wednesday afternoon's Ice Cream Social.



Members make use of the Internet Café.



Marshall Ramsey, editorial cartoonist for the Clarion-Ledger, charmed his audience with his creative talent and by offering to wait their table.



Accepting the Friends' Chapter One award for the Library Foundation of Hancock County are, from left, Susie Seal, Foundation Director; C.C. McDonald, Foundation Secretary-Treasurer; Stephanie McConnell, Foundation Director; Evelyn Johnson, Library System Trustee; Freda Hartness, President, Friends of Mississippi Libraries; Mary Perkins, Foundation Executive Secretary; and Mary Edmond, Vice-President/President Elect, Friends of Mississippi Libraries.



Oretia Daugherty received the Ruby Assaf Award.



Andrea Kyzar, USM SLIS graduate student, received the Peggy May Scholarship Award.



Ann Branton received the Peggy May Award.



Dorothy Aultmann received a certificate of Honorable Mention for her outstanding volunteer work at the Seminary Public Library.



Frances Coleman (right) Dean of Libraries at MSU, accepts the Outstanding Achievement Award presented by Prima Plauché.

MLA 2003 ANNUAL AWARDS

The following members were recognized at the MLA 2003 Awards Luncheon held at the conference on Friday, October 24:

- **New Members Round Table, Beta Phi Mu Student Paper Competition Winners:** **Linda K. Ginn** and **Jingjing Liu**. \$100 to each student – donated by the Gale Group and the Beta Psi Chapter of Beta Phi Mu.
- **Peggy May Scholarship Award winner:** **Andrea Kyzar**, School Library Media Specialist, St. Martin North Elementary School.
- **Virgia Brock-Shedd Scholarship winner:** **Raymond C. Brockter**, student, USM (Hattiesburg).

FRIENDS AWARDS

- **Ruby Assaf Award winner:** **Oretia Daugherty**, Friends of Lafayette County Library, Oxford
- **Chapter One Award winner:** **Library Foundation of Hancock County**
- **Friends Honorable Mention Award winner:** **Doris Stewart**, Friends of the George E. Allen Library, Booneville
- **Carroon Apple Award winner:** **Iris Collins**, Librarian, Anniston Ave. Elementary School, Gulfport
- **Past Presidents' Award winner:** **Victoria Penny**, Youth Services Coordinator, First Regional Library, Hernando
- **Peggy May Award winner:** **Ann Branton**, Head of Bibliographic Services, Cook Library, USM
- **Outstanding Achievement Award winner:** **Frances N. Coleman**, Dean of Libraries, MSU



M. Ina Thompson received a certificate of Honorable Mention for her outstanding volunteer contributions to the Moss Point Public Library.

MLA RESOLUTIONS OF COMMENDATION

In addition, the following people or entities received Resolutions of Commendation from the MLA Executive Board:

- **Constance Lawson** – MLA Conference, National Library Week, and Legislative Committees
- **Tracy Englert** – Membership Committee, 2002-2003
- **Jennifer Smith** – National Library Week Committee, 2002-2003
- **Carol Green** – Conference Exhibit Committee, 2001-2003
- **Tom Henderson** – Internal Audit Committee, 2001-2003
- **Steve Turner** – Web Committee, 2002-2003
- **June Schmidt** – Scholarship Committee, 1991-2003
- **Pamela Pridgen** – Legislative Reception and Annual Conference Local Arrangements Committee, 1996-2003
- **Linda McKay** – Conference Local Arrangements Chair, 2002-2003
- **Mary Perkins** – Publicity Committee, 2002-2003
- **Carolyn McCullum** – Legislative Day Reception at Jackson-Hinds
- **Richard Green** – Insurance Committee, 1999-2003 Mississippi Library Commission's Executive Director
- **Sharman Smith, the MLC Board of Commissioners, and MLC staff** for their support of the MLA's annual conference and National Library Week statewide public relations program.
- **Friends of MS Libraries** for support of MLA's National Library Week, Legislative Reception, and annual conference.



MSU Libraries highlights features of their new online ordering system during a poster session.

Tech Notes, et al.

Column Editor: Rick Torgerson, Delta State University

Just MeSHing Around! MeSH and LCSH in Rowland Medical Library's Catalog

By Connie K. Machado

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The *Medical Subject Headings: Annotated Alphabetical List* (or MeSH), published by the National Library of Medicine (NLM), provides a controlled vocabulary in the disciplines of medicine, dentistry, nursing, allied health, alternative medicine and preclinical sciences (anatomy, physiology, etc.). The MeSH controlled, hierarchical vocabulary was created in 1960 by NLM for indexing over 4,600 biomedical journals, books, non-print materials and searching the various databases maintained by NLM. It was designed to be used by catalogers and indexers at the National Library of Medicine, but has since grown into the accepted vocabulary for thousands of medical libraries around the world.

Problems arise when there are non-medical concepts that need to be indexed in a local catalog that uses MeSH. For example, at Rowland Medical Library (RML), we have a large number of books on education, teaching, some humanities titles, and titles of local interest. This requires integrating Library of Congress subject headings (LCSH), as well as some headings that are locally created, into the library catalog. Medical libraries tend to create "pseudo-MeSH" headings by simplifying LCSH terms. An example for RML would be titles dealing with medicine during the Civil War or the World Wars. Rather than using the long

string of descriptors required by LCSH, the cataloger has simplified these entries by using a more direct approach:

Civil War, 1861-1865

World War, 1914-1918

World War, 1939-1945

By applying appropriate subheadings, this direct approach requires less thought on the part of patrons to retrieve information, as this subject matter constitutes a small portion of the overall subject authorities necessary in the online catalog. At RML, all non-MeSH terms are entered in a 690 field, so that reports can be created to track these terms, or make changes as necessary.

BUILDING MESH HEADINGS

The structure of MeSH main headings and subheadings is as follows:

650 _2 \$a Main heading \$x topical heading \$z geographic \$v publication type/genre \$x language

Every heading does not require all these subheadings, but the subject heading string will always follow this pattern. In recent years NLM has changed some of their practices to accommodate their online system, and headings do not always appear in NLM LOCATORplus (NLM's online catalog) as given above. Libraries that import these headings need to either edit them before import, or set parameters in their local library system to flip information into the correct order. For example, the genre/publication type subheading will appear in a 655 _7 field in NLM LOCATORplus, but when imported to OCLC will appear in \$v of

the 650 _2 MeSH heading:

Example: Distributed Subject Heading Structure (OCLC)

- 650 12 \$a Skin Diseases \$x diagnosis \$v atlases
- 650 22 \$a Skin Diseases \$x therapy \$v atlases

NLM LOCATORplus structure

- 650 12 \$a Skin Diseases \$x diagnosis
- 650 22 \$a Skin Diseases \$x therapy
- 655 _7 \$a Atlases \$2 mesh

Other minor changes have prompted libraries to make decisions for their local library system. For example, the publication type "dictionary" is now used, and is always followed by a language. Previously, the plural version, "dictionaries," was used. At Rowland Medical Library, we continue to use the plural of the term, and add only non-English languages as subheadings. There were also age groups and pregnancy subheadings as follows:

\$x in old age

\$x in middle age

\$x in adolescence

\$x in infancy & childhood (note the use of the ampersand, not the word)

\$x in pregnancy

NLM's current policy is to no longer apply these subheadings, but rather to put the information in a separate main heading. Thus, *Aged, Adolescent, Infant, Child, or Pregnancy* is used in a separate 650 _2 \$a field. This practice aids bibliographic searchers in retrieving information online, but decisions have to be made at the local catalog level to either follow the change or retrain the users for the online catalog. At present, RML does not follow the current practice, but still

applies the “in” subheadings when necessary.

STRUCTURE OF MeSH

There are many, many levels to the use of MeSH terminology, but in some ways it is much simpler than LCSH. There are a finite number of subheadings available, a short geographic list, and language list. Within each main heading is a hierarchical number, which leads you to the MeSH Tree Structures. This outline shows what terms are included with a broader term, or where a narrower term lies. Often a concept will appear in more than one tree, as it is applicable to various disciplines. So familiarity with the tree structure ensures more precise and accurate retrieval by librarians or patrons. This might sound extremely complicated, but is not. Online searchers and indexers may choose to “explode” a term that will then include any and all terms below it in the tree structure. This automatically broadens the search, and users can easily see the structure of that given tree below the MeSH Descriptor Data in the MeSH Browser. See the example at right:

MeSH AND LCSH CONFLICTS

Many large libraries may decide to use both MeSH and LCSH in their catalogs. Doing this creates a whole new world of problems and cross references. Many of these terms will be in conflict, and various decisions have to be made as to how to solve this for the end-user. Some will choose to have separate searches where the user indicates either a MeSH search or LCSH search; others implement the use of copious cross references.

Some areas of conflict are hard to mask with cross references. For instance, in MeSH the term *Crowns* deals with dental crowns; in LCSH this is a reference to headwear for royalty – not exactly the same concept. The acronym *AIDS* is used in LCSH, whereas MeSH uses the term *Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome* (hopefully the end user is a great typist!). Of course, there is a cross-reference from *AIDS* to the used term. Another example of conflict in “dual standard” libraries would be for the term *Cancer*, which is used in LCSH, whereas MeSH uses *Neoplasms*.

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF MEDICINE - MEDICAL SUBJECT HEADINGS 2003 MeSH • MeSH DESCRIPTOR DATA

MeSH Heading	Heart Diseases
Tree Number	C14.280
Annotation	usually dis of function: differentiate from MYOCARDIAL DISEASES, dis of myocardial tissue (see note there); cyanotic heart dis is probably HEART DEFECTS, CONGENITAL & not CYANOSIS unless especially discussed; parasitic dis of the heart: coord PARASITIC DISEASES or specific parasitic dis (IM) with MYOCARDIAL DISEASES (IM), not HEART DISEASES; heart dis, unspecified or specific, with rheumatic fever is probably RHEUMATIC HEART DISEASE: see note there
Entry Term	Cardiac Diseases
See Also	Neurocirculatory Asthenia
Allowable Qualifiers	BL CF CI CL CN CO DH DI DT EC EH EM EN EP ET GE HI IM ME MI MO NU PA PC PP PS PX RA RH RI RT SU TH UR US VE VI
Entry Version	HEART DIS
Online Note	pre-explosion = HEART DISEASES (PX)
Unique ID	D006331

MeSH TREE STRUCTURES

- Cardiovascular Diseases [C14]
 - Cardiovascular Abnormalities [C14.240] +
 - ▶ Heart Diseases [C14.280]
 - Arrhythmia [C14.280.067] +
 - Carcinoid Heart Disease [C14.280.129]
 - Cardiac Output, High [C14.280.142]
 - Cardiac Output, Low [C14.280.148]
 - Cardiac Tamponade [C14.280.155]
 - Cardiomegaly [C14.280.195] +
 - Endocarditis [C14.280.282] +
 - Heart Aneurysm [C14.280.358]
 - Heart Arrest [C14.280.383] +
 - Heart Defects, Congenital [C14.280.400] +
 - Heart Failure, Congestive [C14.280.434] +
 - Heart Neoplasms [C14.280.459]
 - Heart Rupture [C14.280.470] +
 - Heart Valve Diseases [C14.280.484] +
 - Myocardial Diseases [C14.280.600] +
 - Myocardial Ischemia [C14.280.647] +
 - Pericardial Effusion [C14.280.695]
 - Pericarditis [C14.280.720] +
 - Pneumopericardium [C14.280.763]
 - Postpericardiotomy Syndrome [C14.280.793]
 - Pulmonary Heart Disease [C14.280.832]
 - Rheumatic Heart Disease [C14.280.874]
 - Ventricular Dysfunction [C14.280.945] +
 - Ventricular Outflow Obstruction [C14.280.955]
- Hyperemia [C14.371]
- Pregnancy Complications, Cardiovascular [C14.583] +
- Scimitar Syndrome [C14.700]
- Syphilis, Cardiovascular [C14.728]
- Tuberculosis, Cardiovascular [C14.826] +
- Vascular Diseases [C14.907] +

Other conflicts may stem from a situation in which a veterinary or pharmacy library that uses MeSH shares a system with a main university library that uses LCSH (at RML we have a stand-alone system that is not shared by the parent university). In another situation, a union catalog that is created by various consortia pooling their catalogs can create a retrieval nightmare for users if care is not taken to identify areas of conflict. While there are many examples of conflicting headings, only a few examples will be listed here:

Some Main Heading Conflicts

MeSH heading: Liver Regeneration
LCSH heading: Liver – Regeneration

MeSH heading: Clinical Pharmacology
LCSH heading: Pharmacology, Clinical

MeSH heading: Heart Valve Diseases
LCSH heading: Heart – Valves – Diseases

MeSH heading: Hospital Administration
LCSH heading: Hospitals – Business management

MeSH heading: DNA, Recombinant
LCSH heading: Recombinant DNA

MeSH heading: Mental Disorders
LCSH heading: Mental Illness

A MeSH OF CHANGES MADE

Unique to MeSH are the annual changes to terms, subheadings and practices. Medical libraries input these changes on an annual basis, and global authority capabilities in your online system play a large role here. Before computers, these changes were made manually (Fortunately, that was before my time!). Imagine having an index card, referred to as a “golden guide,” with the main subject heading, such as *Heart Diseases*, printed on it. Behind that would be the subject cards in order by subheadings, which would also be printed on the tab of an index card. These subheadings might include: complications, etiology, pathology, prevention &

control, and surgery. Behind each subheading tab, the cards would be arranged alphabetically by main entry. Then next year, when the new edition of MeSH arrived, if there was a change to a subheading, you only had to change the golden guide, not all the cataloging cards (Whew!). Other types of headings were typed directly onto the cards, but might also change. In this case, the electric eraser became the prominent tool of the cataloger. And please, don't even try to fathom what would happen if someone dropped a drawer on the floor without a rod in place!

Changes made to MeSH generally occur with concepts. The related terms are reviewed in MeSH and the Tree Structures, and then either changed or left the same. The 2003 edition included expanded terminology for plants, crustaceans, and microorganisms associated with notifiable diseases. The tree that encompasses body regions was completely revised, and a new tree covering the integumentary system was created to include descriptors previously in other categories, such as hair, nails, and sweat glands. After September 11, 2001, new terms were added under *Violence* for *Terrorism* and *Bioterrorism*. The term *Anthrax* already existed as a bacterial infection. For the 2002 MeSH, changes were made in the areas of Viruses, Complementary and Alternative Medicine, Plants and Phytotherapy, Bioethics, and Transport and Carrier Proteins. Other changes may be grammatical in nature: adding or eliminating the use of a hyphen, or changing the possessive form of a word. In 1990 NLM changed all headings using the abbreviated word “Technic” to the literal spelling, “Technique,” which involved numerous global changes.

There are also conflicts between popular terms and technical terms. A patron looking for “Prozac” in MeSH would gain ‘0’ hits. The chemical term, *Fluoxetine* is used in MeSH instead. *Distance Education* is used in LCSH, whereas *Education, Distance* is used in MeSH, for items cataloged after 1999. For items cataloged before 1999 a patron needs to search the history note on *Education, Distance* to learn that it was pre-

viously related to *Computer Communication Networks*, perhaps with *Television, Telecom, or Teaching \$x methods*, to represent a teleconference. For the 2003 MeSH, “Electronic Journals” is no longer used as a publication type; only “Periodicals” will be used. This change had to be made in Rowland's online catalog.

The 2004 MeSH, currently available on the Web site, contains 109 totally replaced headings and 71 deleted headings. Some replacements are: *Antibiotics* to *Anti-Bacterial Agents*; *Aspiration* to *Inhalation*; *Common Bile Duct Calculi* to *Gallstones*; *Gastrointestinal System* to *Digestive System*; *Phthalein Dyes* to *Dyes*; *Sex Behavior* to *Sexual Behavior*. Other headings encompass grammatical changes such as spelling variations, possessive deletions and plural versus non-plural. For the 2003 MeSH, 1,251 descriptors were added for concepts, 93 descriptors were replaced, 20 descriptors were deleted, and 1,727 new “See References” were added, along with 1 qualifier. These must all be reviewed in the local catalog, and changes made accordingly. This is not a practice that libraries using LCSH are familiar with. After 13 years of changes at RML, I have become accustomed to the couple of days it takes to search all occurrences of a term in the catalog, and make global changes. This is what makes MeSH such a dynamic vocabulary, providing precise and powerful retrieval.

FURTHER INFORMATION

The current 2003 edition of MeSH can be found at <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/mesh/MBrowser.html>. From this page, you can also link to the MeSH Home Page, which gives historical information, links to other editions, and even a picture of the MeSH staff and their articles or presentations. There is also a link to the 2004 Web edition, but the 2004 print edition has not been published. You can also branch off into NLM LOCATORplus (<http://www.locatorplus.gov>), and then MEDLINEplus. MEDLINEplus contains a wealth of consumer health information for any library. The ease of using MeSH via the Internet makes the application of new terminology almost seamless.

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Join MLA!

Don't forget to pay 2004 MLA dues. Dues must be paid by January 15 in order to vote in the officers' election and receive the spring issue of *Mississippi Libraries*. A membership form is located on the inside back cover of *ML*.



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In the Public Eye

Joining the *Research Revolution*: Flowood Library's Experience as a Pilot Site

By Jan Neal

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In July 2002, the G. Chastaine Flynt Memorial Library in Flowood was selected as one of 50 pilot sites nationwide to participate in the series, *Research Revolution: Science and the Shaping of Modern Life*, a film and discussion series offered by National Video Resources (NVR) in partnership with the American Library Association (ALA). The National Science Foundation also provided major funding.

SEIZING THE OPPORTUNITY

The library first became aware of this opportunity in May 2002 when our reference librarian read about the series on the American Library Association Public Programs Office electronic discussion list. The list makes information about ALA public programs, projects and upcoming events more immediately available to public libraries. We felt the series would be a wonderful programming opportunity for the community we serve and immediately began the application process.

The application, provided by National Video Resources, (NVR) www.nvr.org, required basic information about the library, the program coordinator, a participating local scholar, and local partners. The following questions were part of the application: *Who are you? What target audience would you like to reach with the series? What experience has your library had with public programming? Why would you like to be a site for the project? How do you plan to publicize the series? What community partners do you plan to involve in the project?*

PARTICIPANTS AND PARTNERS

We named Flowood's branch manager, Jan Neal, as the program coordinator and recruited a local Belhaven College professor, Dr. Westley F. Busbee, as our scholar participant. The Mississippi Library Commission, Central Mississippi Regional Library System, Friends of the Flowood Library, and Crossroads Film Society of Jackson, Mississippi, all agreed to partner with us for this exciting event and wrote letters of support for the application. Our partners agreed to provide volunteer and funding assistance, mailing lists, and overall general support toward the success of the film series should we be selected as a pilot site.

The library was notified by e-mail on July 15th of our selection as one of 50 program pilot sites. Our coordinator and scholar flew to Denver, Colorado, on October 18, 2002, for a two-day seminar. A minimal amount of record keeping detailing project expenditures, statistics, and participant and presenter evaluations was required by NVR before, during, and at the completion of the project.

AN EASY-TO-FOLLOW MODEL

The viewing and discussion series is an easy-to-follow model and eliminates much of the worry of public programming. NVR provides complete training and access to online support from national project staff and from experienced colleagues around the country. The training seminar gives library coordinators and scholars a chance to come together, share ideas, and receive training from film and programming experts. A look at the table of contents of the NVR series program manual provides a clue as to the quality and extent of training: *Planning the Series, Guidelines for Scholars, Promotion, Funders, Administrative Documents,*

Program Guides: Overview, Guide to Films, Sample Discussion Questions, Resources, Promotional Documents: Fact Sheet, Sample Press Release, Sample Media Alert, Sample Public Service Announcements, and Sample Letters to Community Groups. Especially valuable for scholar Dr. Busbee was the chance to meet with other scholars to view the films and observe as NVR representatives demonstrated how to facilitate meaningful discussion for each session. Librarian coordinators also met in a group to learn strategies for planning, publicizing, and implementing sessions. Topics for sessions on the seminar agenda include *Presenting the Series (Session by Session); Demonstration Session; Attracting & Building an Audience; Idea Exchange for Leading Discussions; and Evaluating and Reporting.* Each session was extremely well done. Both the scholar and the librarian hostess left excited about the series and well equipped for a successful event from start to finish.

ABOUT NATIONAL VIDEO RESOURCES (NVR)

NVR outlines and promotes all of their current film series on their Web site, www.nvr.org. The site explains that the organization "offers libraries and other nonprofits the chance to present to the public the highest quality independent films, videos and documentaries, along with the scholar-led discussions, on major events, leaders and technologies of the 20th century...NVR believes that independently produced films, videos and documentaries provide the public with lifelong learning opportunities. NVR's Viewing and Discussion series offer libraries carefully selected and professionally curated collections of films and documentaries.

Each series consists of six weeks of two-hour sessions, featuring screenings of award-winning films, along with lectures and discussions led by local scholars. Annotated program material, suggested readings and promotional material are also provided.” NVR currently has six series available and regular purchase prices vary for each topic. (A benefit for libraries: pilot library sites do not have to purchase the series and program films and materials become the property of the library following the initial presentation.)

The *Research Revolution* film series that Flowood Library presented began with the film *I Am Death*, which raises moral questions of the powers granted by science and technology in the context of dropping the atomic bomb. Historian and scholar Dr. Westley Busbee, Jr., who led the question and answer session following each film said, “I think the primary objectives are to stimulate interest, understand the rapid changes occurring, evaluate our own reactions and learn from each other.” Other films in the *Research Revolution* series include: Robotics, Genetics, Forensics, Global Warming, and Biodiversity.

OUR EXPERIENCE

We marketed the program to a very specific audience and used all of the materials provided in our series packets – posters, flyers, sample press releases and media kits, downloadable graphics and quotes from the NVR Web site. During the year, as all of the 50 pilot sites around the United States scheduled their six-week series, NVR established a YAHOO discussion group online. It was wonderful to be able to talk to librarians who had already presented or completed their programs and receive the benefit of their experience. The series is designed primarily for adults – college age or beyond. We did distribute publicity to local high schools, but did not specifically target students. The series was presented for six weeks on consecutive Monday nights from 6:30-8 p.m. Each film was approximately 45 minutes in length and was followed by very animated and lively discussion. Attendance was disappointing, considering the quality of the program and all of the publicity we received. We had from eleven to seventeen participants each week. Most of the public libraries reported

similar attendance figures. University libraries had larger attendance figures as students were encouraged or required to attend in some cases. The positive side of the smaller groups was that *everyone* joined in during the discussion, and all participants had opportunities to express thoughts, opinions, and ideas. The discussion was always meaningful and the exchange of ideas exciting. One of the points that were stressed during training was the importance of selecting a target audience and tailoring publicity to that group. Since we were interested in bringing the “out-of-school” adult into the library, we relied primarily on local media. The majority of those who came to our program were males in the over-fifty age group, and only one was a regular library user. Participants were friendly, enthusiastic, and sessions were exciting and fun. All of the evaluations were positive and participants requested that the library schedule other film and discussion series.

HOSTING A SERIES

To host a series, all that is needed is a meeting area, equipment to screen and view the films, and an audience. We were thrilled with the program from start to finish and have already purchased, scheduled, publicized, and completed a second film series from NVR, *From Rosie to Roosevelt*. As a result of our pilot program and now the World War II series, we are thrilled to have twelve quality, award-winning documentaries in our permanent collection. We hope to repeat both series in the future and to attract larger audiences. For the World War II series we decided not to hire a scholar, and instead used a librarian and a participant as discussion leaders.

The NVR training manual asks the questions, *Why Have Viewing and Discussion Series? What's In It for Me?*

For libraries, the series help to:

- Build social capital for the library by showcasing the public library's role as a vital community center;
- Offer a program format and project procedure that have proven successful;
- Provide materials and videos of exceptional quality;
- Establish and enhance community partnerships;
- Encourage use of the library collection.

For participants, the series provides:

- An open forum for discussion in the user-friendly atmosphere of the library;
- Free access to more information of the series topics;
- A chance to meet and talk with other people interested in the same subjects;
- Interaction with an informed scholar/facilitator.

BENEFITS

As a result of our selection as a pilot site for the National Video Resources film and discussion series, the Flowood Library was able to send two people to a two-day national training seminar. The project provided meals and travel expenses up to \$350 per person. NVR provided our scholar \$1000 honoraria to present the series. We now have a full set of award-winning videocassettes for our circulating collection and numerous support materials that will allow us to replicate the program. We received national and local publicity and forged new partnerships in the community. All that was required of us was a meeting place, projection capability or a VCR and monitor, staff time to implement the series, endorsement of the library board, a short written evaluation at the project's conclusion, local promotion of the series, and a commitment to bring quality programming to out-of-school adults.

We had a most positive experience and hope to use film and discussion based programs in the future. Beginning with a quality film proved to be an excellent catalyst for lively discussion and great programming. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Flowood Library at flowood@cmrls.lib.ms.us.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to thank and acknowledge *National Video Resources* and Sally Mason-Robinson, Project Director, for kind permission to quote from the *Research Revolution* training manual and materials. The American Library Association Public Programs Web site and the National Video Resources Web sites were helpful in providing basic information related above. To subscribe to ALA Public Programs Office electronic discussion list, send an e-mail message to listproc@ala.org.

The Web in Review

Edited by Steven Turner, The University of Southern Mississippi

Favorite Library News and Blog Sites

By Steven Turner

Information Services Librarian

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Internet and computer technology is changing the library as surely as the wheel changed, well, things that needed wheels. Where to go, what to do - thank goodness librarians are such a bunch of evangelical wannabes (just give us a tent, a few folding chairs and a pulpit and we'll have you spouting Web sites and discussing the latest technology at the water cooler the next day). Spreading the news is one thing we do well. Presented below are a few of the better library news and blog sites available, as well as, useful cataloging Web sites reviewed by catalog librarian Tracy Englert.

■ Oss4LIB Open Source Systems for Libraries

<http://www.oss4lib.org>

This site is also included in Tracy's reviews (see following page), but I can't say enough about its purpose (to spread the word about and provide links to FREE and useful library-related software) or philosophy (to keep librarians abreast of new technologies and technology news in the library world). While headlines and links at OSS4 can be jargonized at times, this site is nevertheless useful and enlightening. Consider the double review to be representative of OSS4's utility, especially for the library on the cheap (aren't we all?). Highly recommended.

■ usr/lib/info

<http://usr.lib.info/>

Similar in content to OSS4LIB, usr/lib/info (a Linux path reference) is geared a bit more towards actual library technology news. Hosted by the Universi-

ty of Arizona, USR uses a Slashdot approach typical of these entities wherein visitors and editors submit news items that are linked to, and commented upon, by other users. Skewed more towards library tech topical items rather than the typical editorial approach taken by more 'normal' news entities. Good for the quick perusal rather than the languorous visit, and worth a visit every couple of days or so. It also has a good "Event" section that almost functions as a blog itself, as well as an "Opinion" section.

■ LISNews.com Library & Information Science News

<http://www.lisnews.com>

Another Slashdot look-alike, LISNews is more generalized in its approach to library technology and news, preferring to focus more on traditional library news content (and is part of the LISHOST network). That's a drawn-out way of saying that LISNews is not technology-oriented. But that's okay, since a lot of readers might find this site more accessible than the previously mentioned sites, while at the same time finding some exposure to pure technology issues. In fact, technology issues are but one of the many categories of news and information available for browsing on LISNews, which includes such news destinations as "Harry Potter - Boy Wonder" and "Dr. Laura." Most of the news postings are informative as well as humorous. Highly recommended.

■ LISFeeds.com

<http://www.lisfeeds.com/>

LISFeeds is a pleasant, simple portal that lists a variety of Library and Information Science RSS feeds. For the uninitiated, an RSS feed is simply a data stream in a particular type of XML format - in other words, an XML schema that allows others

access to your news content. LISFeeds grabs a host of news items from various Library news sources and links to them in an easy-to-use, frames-based format. Characterized by a no-frills presentation, LISFeeds is a one-stop location for much of the library world's more interesting news and blog content. If you can't or don't want to remember the other Web sites, you can simply bookmark this offering and be done with it.

■ The Laughing Librarian

<http://www.laughinglibrarian.com/>

Well all right, I agree - this is not really a news site; nevertheless it's still chock full of topical and timely, library-and-librarian-specific humor. Filled with a multitude of links to the silly and ridiculous from across the 'net, the Laughing Librarian is a great way to get topical library news and humor at the same time. Be forewarned, though - you may find some of the content offensive.

See also **Open Stacks**, at <http://openstacks.lishost.com/>, and **The Lipstick Librarian** at <http://lipsticklibrarian.com/>.

■ Information Today Newbreaks

<http://www.infotoday.com/newsbreaks/default.shtml>

Oriented towards the information professional, Information Today Newsbreaks is published by the good folks at Information Today, an industry rag umbrella (they publish such print offerings as *Computers in Libraries*) for the information professional. Consequently, [infotoday.com](http://www.infotoday.com) is a well-put together site with content derived from industry press releases and some in-house reporting (think *Variety*). The site is most useful for tracking changes in vendors, aggregators and companies that specialize in buying, selling, and dissemi-

nating information. If a vendor or big name in the field changes its behavior or itself in some way, the info today site will likely have a story on the topic.

■ Peter Scott's Library Blog

<http://blog.xrefer.com/>

Peter Scott's Library Blog is a slightly different animal from the other resources in this list in that it is a classic 'Blog'; that is, Mr. Scott distributes news items chosen through his own editorial process. Scott seems to have an orientation towards acquisitions and technology, but the many non-ACQ and tech items show a fairly even topic distribution; Scott also includes a considerable (and eminently current) bibliography of LIS-topical books, as well as a fairly decent list of information professional and library conferences.

USEFUL CATALOGING WEB SITES

By Tracy Englert

Catalog Librarian

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■ Catalogablog

<http://catalogablog.blogspot.com/>

Most of us are now familiar with blogs. Blogs are a type of Web log, a cross between a bulletin board and a home page. This forum is a natural medium for catalogers, similar to AUTOCAT. However, unlike AUTOCAT, Catalogablog presents information in separate threads that are short and easy to read. Each posting displays the number of comments, the option to add a comment, threadtrack, and permanent links. According to the source documentation, this is a "web log concerned with library cataloging, metadata, classification and related topics." A listing of different standards such as AACR, CSS, DOM, DC, EAD, GILS, IFLA, ISBN, and ISSN are given with corresponding links. Users can subscribe to additional features, which

include a daily update for new postings, and a bloglet, which alerts users to additions and changes to the blog. Catalogablog is an informative and valuable resource.

Resources consulted: Cross, Jay. <http://www.learningcircuits.org/2002/apr2002/ttools.html> (July 2003).

■ Tag of the Month

<http://www.fsc.follett.com/resources/tagofthefmonth/index.cfm>

This Web site is produced by Follett Software, a provider of software and services for libraries. Tag of the Month features a new topic each month that includes a description of the MARC tag's use and examples. In April 2003, the site began featuring a sample MARC record. So far, these sample records have included a DVD, an electronic resource, and a CD-ROM. Tags previously featured are archived on the site. Meta tags used to describe this site are: "tag, tags, tag of the month, marc, marc bibliographic, marc bibliographic tags, bibliographic, marc authority, authority, authority tags, library of congress, library, cataloging, ms. marc, ask ms. Marc." The site also lists other helpful resources for catalogers, such as the online version of *Understanding MARC Bibliographic: Machine-Readable Cataloging*, co-authored by the Library of Congress and Follett Software. Another neat feature of this site is "Ask Ms. Marc", where users can email questions to Follett's MARC experts. This site can make cataloging "fun" for experienced catalogers, and can be very informative for newcomers.

■ Oss4lib Open Source Systems for Libraries

<http://www.oss4lib.org/>

Open Source Systems is free and designed for libraries. The numerous programs under "Projects" are astonishing, and a variety deal with MARC tools. One such listing is MARC.pm, a program that allows catalogers to create or massage pre-existing MARC data on the way into or out of catalogs. Users of this system are mentioned under the software specifi-

cations. Catalogers in Mississippi libraries who are SIRSI users might be interested in the way one library has used MARC.pm to take MARC records from Baker & Taylor to create SIRSI format order records. I was struck by another library's use of MARC.pm to process NetLibrary records. These types of programs can really make the technology work for you, instead of the other way around! Oss4lib has a blog, the above-mentioned listing of free software, readings, a listserv, and archives. I encourage every cataloger to visit this site.

■ Typographical Errors in Library Databases

<http://faculty.quinnipiac.edu/libraries/tballard/typoscomplete.html>

This site was created by Terry Ballard, Automation Librarian at Quinnipiac University. Revised in February 2003, the site consists of lists of misspellings that are likely to appear in OPACS. The first list consists of very high-probability misspellings; other sections include high, moderate, low, or very low probability. The site offers several options for printing the list, in pdf format. Filing indicator mistakes are the focus of a specialized discussion list, Libtypos-L. The goal is to maintain an effective file of the most likely problem words. I recommend this Web site as an effective way to maintain a clean database.

■ Cataloging Calculator

<http://home.earthlink.net/~banerjek/cutter.html>

This cataloging tool generates LC main entry and geographic Cutter numbers. It also finds MARC tags, language codes, and geographic area codes. Cataloging Calculator was created by J. Kyle Banerjee, a library systems analyst at the State of Oregon Library. He has also designed ILL ASAP, an XML based application which locates interlibrary loan request forms containing availability and location information. A major redesign of this tool has significantly improved its functionality and speed.

What's So Special About...

Column Editor: Peggy Price, *The University of Southern Mississippi*

That Old Book Thing: Continuing Ed Opportunities in Rare Books

By Peggy Price

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Library school flew by. When I realized special collections librarianship was calling my name, classes were over and I had a degree in my hand. I wanted to go back, start over and focus on rare books and manuscripts and all the rest. Instead, I got a job as a special collections librarian. I read articles, took classes related to my collecting areas, attended conferences, and worked late. What I needed was training, continuing education in my particular field – special training for special collections folk. Luckily, I was able to attend Rare Book School, or as a friend put it “that old book thing,” early in my career.

Today is no different. The more I work and learn, the more I want to know and practice. Another training opportunity recently arose with The History of Books and Printing Workshop at Texas A&M in College Station, Texas. Every special collections librarian should participate in both.

Rare Book School offers an extensive line-up of classes aimed at special collections professionals. Courses last a full week with eight-hour work days. Terms are offered winter, spring, and summer with a rotating bulletin of courses. Course listings and descriptions are available online at the Rare Book School Web site at <http://www.virginia.edu/oldbooks/bulletin/>. Examples include general surveys like “The Printed Book in the West to 1800” and such narrow topics as “Publisher’s Bookbindings, 1830-

1910.” Of particular interest to special collections librarians are classes like “Introduction to Special Collections Librarianship,” “How to Research a Rare Book,” “Rare Book Cataloging,” and “Advanced Seminar in Special Collections Administration.”

In the winter of 2000, I participated in Daniel Traister’s “Introduction to Rare Book Librarianship” (now called, interestingly, “Introduction to Special Collections Librarianship”). While the A&M workshop limits class size to twenty, RBS classes only allow ten to twelve students per course. Prospective students must apply for a spot. Perhaps by coincidence or design, my classmates and I were all academic librarians relatively new to the field of special collections. We shared experiences and asked questions from similar reference points. We represented libraries small and large, public and private, and the Ivy League.

Dr. Traister outlined the primary responsibilities of the Rare Book Librarian, including collection management, acquisitions, and exhibits. He emphasized the ways in which we deal with our collections that may be different from traditional library activities. Security, collection development, and outreach stand out as areas that special collections librarians encounter on a different level than our counterparts working in the general collection.

Background readings enhanced the intensive five-day course and continue to serve as a reference tool for me in my work. Evening lectures, videos, and a resource library added to the learning experience. “Bookseller Night” in downtown Charlottesville presented the town’s book offerings as we toured from shop to

shop.

A few features of Texas A&M’s The History of Books and Printing course design resemble Rare Book School. There is an opening reception and lecture the Sunday evening before the workshop, evening lectures from prominent scholars, and an impressive dining list with menus and suggestions. There are morning and afternoon snack breaks. Humor makes an appearance frequently. Now in its second year, The History of Books and Printing promises to be a convenient, popular, and worthwhile effort in the continuing education area. The week-long workshop takes place during the May intersession, a good time for academic librarians to travel. For those of us working in the central and southern portions of the country, College Station offers a convenient shift from the northeastern locations typical of many training opportunities. Dr. Steven Smith, Director of Texas A&M’s Cushing Memorial Library and Archives, coordinates the event, lectures on book history, and assists with hands-on projects. Expert printer and craftsman Stephen Pratt leads daily sessions on specific aspects of printing.

Each day of the workshop brings adventure and new knowledge. The hand press period (1450-1820) is the focal point of the week, with lectures outlining such topics as the social aspects of the printing revolution, the history of papermaking, the book trade, the personnel make-up of print shops, and the influence of religion on book distribution. Dr. Smith uses sample bindings to illustrate the evolution of the book. Various styles have been reconstructed for workshop students to examine and compare. One gains a better understanding of how time

periods are reflected in a book through its physical components and the way they are assembled. Examples from the Cushing Library's special collections provide more tangible examples of book history.

Guest scholars showcase unique perspectives through valuable and entertaining talks every evening. The 2003 workshop brought engineer Henry Petroski of Duke University to discuss the history of the bookshelf, University of Texas historian Ron Tyler enlightened workshop participants on the eccentric American hero John James Audubon, and Paul Needham, curator for Princeton's Schiede Library, reported on the discovery of the Gutenberg Bible. For those who cannot get enough background material, lunch breaks may be spent viewing bookish documentaries.

The real fun begins when the gang heads upstairs to the processing area. Before I knew what was happening, I had donned a plastic helmet, lab coat, and goggles while waiting to cast my very own piece of type. The pouring of molten lead did not come naturally, but I turned out an okay *P* and will show it to anyone without much provocation. I composed a short poem, meaning I set the type in a composing stick. Pieces of type are stored in type cases, incidentally, where the large or "upper case" letters are kept on top, and the small or "lower case" letters are sorted at the bottom. Next I imposed the text in

a form, inked it up, and produced a print. After switching a couple of *bs* and *ds* around, I went through the process once more and came out with a pretty good sample of early printing.

Stephen Pratt's working replica of the traditional hand press allowed us to imitate historic printers. We learned how to make ink balls and "beat" the ink, and even made the paper on which we printed the text before sewing it into take-home pamphlets. I made a printer's hat and wore it almost every day. It was sort of like a camp really, but with more Ph.D.s.

The nature of the workshop limits registration to twenty. Many of my classmates were library science professors teaching book history courses, while others were librarians, archivists and others interested in the mechanics of printing. Library science students from the Univer-

sity of North Texas and the Pratt Institute in New York City took the course for semester credit.

The History of Books and Printing overview and practical experience complements Rare Book School in a laid-back and somewhat jolly way. Printing quality work is tough, and we were relieved that no one was counting on us to do a great job. What we learned was the painstaking evolution of the printed word and what it tells us about our world, the value of repositories that preserve fine and not-so-fine examples of our biblioheritage, and an appreciation for the craft itself. Rare Book School will continue to provide timely courses on meaningful topics. Librarians should review the course listings for potential visits to Charlottesville, but set aside a week in May for College Station.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

On Rare Book School:

Rare Book School, PO Box 400103, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA 22904-4103; fax 434-924-8824; e-mail oldbooks@virginia.edu or call 434-924-8851. <http://www.virginia.edu/oldbooks/bulletin/>

On the Texas A&M Book History Workshop:

The third annual Book History at A&M Workshop is tentatively scheduled for May 16-21, 2004. For registration and other information on the 2003 Workshop e-mail stevensmith@tamu.edu or call 979-845-1951. <http://lib-oldweb.tamu.edu/cushing/bookhistory/2003photos.htm>

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News Briefs

NATIONAL LEADERSHIP GRANT

The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) has funded a \$463,322 National Leadership Grant for Libraries for the Mississippi Digital Library Program, Mississippi's first attempt to establish a collaborative digital library program. The University of Southern Mississippi Libraries will direct the grant, which is a partnership between USM, Delta State University, Jackson State University, Tougaloo College, the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, and the University of Mississippi. The project will create research quality digital collections of letters, diaries, photographs, state and organizational records, oral histories, and other primary sources of the African-American civil rights movement. The result will be the world's largest online educational resource on this topic. The current grant will also provide leadership by creating an alternative model for statewide digital collaboration. The Civil Rights in Mississippi Digital Archive can be accessed online at <http://www.lib.usm.edu/~spcol/crda/index.html>.

NEW ONLINE RESOURCE FOR UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES HAS SFX APPEAL

Mississippi State and four other state universities are subscribing to a new library service – one with SFX appeal – that links all of their online resources and makes it easier for patrons at each school to find information. Stephen Cunetto, MSU's general library system administrator, said the University is joining forces with libraries at Mississippi University for Women, University of Southern Mississippi, Mississippi Valley State and Delta State universities in subscribing to SFX, an OpenURL linking server developed by Ex Libris. "Previously, if an article was available online in a full-text resource such as EBSCOHost's Academic Search Elite, the patron had to know to look in this particular database," said Cunetto. "With SFX, regardless of the database being searched, the patron will be 'linked' to the full text of the article. If the article is

not available online, the patron will be linked to the local institution's online catalog and interlibrary loan online form. For more information, contact MSU's Cunetto at scunetto@library.msstate.edu; Terry Latour of DSU at tlatour@deltastate.edu; Annie Payton of MVSU at apayton@mvsu.edu; or Kay Wall of USM at kay.wall@usm.edu.

VISUALLY IMPAIRED COMPUTER SOFTWARE (VICS) AT LEE COUNTY

The staff of the Lee County Library finally met the voice of one of its telephone reference patrons when the VICS computers were made available to the public. Ginger, a young blind woman, was a regular telephone patron. The new computer software, purchased with a LSTA grant, opened the library for her to research on her own. Valuing her independence, Ginger truly appreciated the Internet access. The three VICS workstations have the following adaptive software: Zoomtext Xtra Level 1 magnifies the print for persons with serious vision impairment; Bigshot Magnifier combats computer eyestrain; Jaws reads the information from the screen aloud. Openbook scans printed material into the computer and reads it, and CCTV Magnifier (or Geniepro) allows printed materials to slide under the large, hands-free magnifier.

CALL FOR KAIGLER-LAMONT AWARD APPLICATIONS

It's time to begin thinking about making an application for the Kaigler-Lamont Award. Each year this award recognizes distinguished accomplishments in promoting children's reading in Mississippi schools and libraries. Teachers or librarians can apply or be nominated for their outstanding work with children. If you are interested in applying for or nominating a person for this award please contact Dr. Rosemary Chance, Director of the Children's Book Festival, The University of Southern Mississippi, School of Library and Information Science, Box 5146, Hattiesburg, MS 39406. Her email is

Rosemary.Chance@usm.edu. Applications must be received by January 15, 2004.

NEW AT MLC

The Mississippi Library Commission is pleased to announce Learn-A-Test, a leading source for test preparation materials and interactive practice examinations, is now available in local public libraries. This interactive online database features more than 300 practice tests based on official school and career exams, including ACT, SAT, GED, Postal Worker exams, and others.

The Blind and Physically Handicapped Library Services (BPHLS) Division of the Mississippi Library Commission is currently participating in the LOBE Library pilot project to explore the benefits and challenges of providing digital audio books to visually and physically impaired library users. Division Director Rahye Puckett said, "Participants will have at least one opportunity to test and evaluate the effectiveness of the digital equipment and format. BPHLS will loan hand-held MP3 type players loaded with a digital audio book to participating users." The small shared collection of audio book titles includes popular books not currently available through the National Library Service (NLS) for the Blind and Physically Handicapped.

MSU WEB SITE RECOGNIZES SCHOLARSHIP AND RESEARCH OF FACULTY

Mississippi State University authors now have a permanent Web site to call their own, thanks to the efforts of the MSU Libraries. The newly revised and enhanced MSU Authors Web site, <http://library.msstate.edu/msuauthors/>, was originally created in 1997 as a project of the Giles Distinguished Professors. Dr. Michael Ballard, University Archivist, said the Web site is designed to allow current MSU faculty to share their achievement of publishing a monograph. If the book is available at the MSU Libraries, a link from the author's Web site to the cat-

alog entry in the Libraries' automation system will allow easy access to the call number of the requested publication.

MSU LIBRARY EARNS NATIONAL HONORS

The American Library Association has listed Mitchell Memorial Library's personalized library service as an "innovative Web-based reference service." Available at MyLibrary via library.msstate.edu, the customizable service "allows the user to create a portable Web page using resources of the MSU Libraries," said system administrator Stephen H. Cunetto. ALA awards this special designation to locally developed sites that provide a completely new service to users, are publicly available, and require no user fee.

SLIS OPENS LISTSERV FOR THE LIBRARY COMMUNITY

The University of Southern Mississippi School of Library and Information Science has launched a new listserv as a method for the library community to have more contact with the School of Library and Information Science and to discuss topics of special interest. Now open to subscribers, the initial topic is "What skills do you believe an entry level (new) librarian should possess when he or she graduates from the master's of library and information science program? Please subscribe to USMslstalk and join in the discussion and survey. <https://ocean.otr.usm.edu/mailman/listinfo/USMslstalk>.

NEW LIBRARY BREAKS GROUND

The Jackson-George Regional Library System celebrated the construction of the new Ina Thompson Moss Point Library with a ground-breaking ceremony last August at the old M & M Bank building in Moss Point. A key part of funding the library project was the \$500,000 donation by the Thompson foundation, which may be the largest foundation gift ever to a public library in Mississippi.

People in the News

Tracy Englert, Catalog Librarian at the University of Southern Mississippi, has been selected as a participant in the Library Administration and Management Association's (LAMA) "Leaders of the Pack" mentor project. This three-year project gives ten participants an opportunity to develop skills while contributing to LAMA's commitment to outstanding programs, life-long learning, and leadership development for library administrators and managers.

Peggy M. Price has been named the new Head of Special Collections at The University of Southern Mississippi Libraries.

Library director **Stella Wheat** recently retired as director of the Lamar County Library System.

Sheila A. Cork, Coordinator of Customer and Information Services at the Hancock County Library System, was recently initiated into the Beta Psi chapter of Beta Phi Mu during the Mississippi Library Association's Annual Conference in Bay St. Louis.



Sheila A. Cork was recently initiated into the Beta Psi chapter of Beta Phi Mu.

Four new employees have joined Mississippi State University Libraries. **Jessica Buehring** is Assistant Professor/Science Reference Librarian; **Robert Fowler** is Assistant Professor/Monographic Cataloger; **Moira Bowen** is Assistant Professor/Assistant Collection Development Officer; and **Karen Davidson** is Assistant Professor/Government Documents/Reference Librarian.

Lawhon Elementary School librarian **Janice Garrett** was honored as a Tupelo Public School District "Teacher of Distinction" in October. This annual award goes to the 10 most outstanding teachers in the district. She was awarded a trophy and a substantial cash award.

Jan Condren is the new Assistant Branch Librarian at the M.R.Davis Public Library in Southaven. Jan received her undergraduate degree from Indiana University, and her Master of Sciences in Library Science from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. Jan was employed by the Memphis and Shelby County Public Library system for over 16 years, working at the Poplar-White Station branch and various departments at the Main Library. Jan has been with First Regional Library since October.



On hand for the "Building for our Community" ground-breaking ceremony were Jackson county supervisor Tim Broussard, supervisor Robert Norvel, Moss Point alderman Tommy Hightower, alderman John Welch, Moss Point library manager Carol Hewlett, supervisor Manly Barton, Moss Point vice-mayor John McKinney, Moss Point mayor Frank Lynn, Library System director Robert Willits, and Dr. Karl Horn, M. Ina Thompson Foundation charter member.

About Books

Tucker, Judy H., and Charline R. McCord. *Christmas Stories from Mississippi*. Illustrated by Wyatt Waters. Jackson: University Press of Mississippi, 2001, 209 pp. \$28.00 hardcover.

Seven authors share their viewpoints of Christmastime in Mississippi, where the temperatures often fluctuate between 50 and 70 degrees, and finding the Christmas spirit relies on tradition, family, and faith. Their stories and essays reflect the joys, distress, and peculiarities of Southern families during the Christmas season.



Christmas Stories from Mississippi begins with Eudora Welty's *The Worn Path*, and weaves its magic with works ranging from the hilarious to the tragic. Readers will find short stories, excerpts, and essays from such greats as Elizabeth Spencer, William Faulkner, Clifton L. Taulbert, and Barry Hannah. Talented Ellen Gilchrist shares a need for peace and quiet during the holidays in *Surviving the Holiday Season*, while newcomer Charline R. McCord dreads the trip back home with Mama in tow in *Home for Christmas*. Heart-wrenching reminders of Christmases past find their way into the pages of Judy H. Tucker's *Clara's Star*, and Caroline Langston's *Christmas 1976*. Authors Chris Gilmer, *Finally*, John Boy, and Marion Barnwell, *Poets, Plumbers, and the Baby Jesus*, communicate their entertaining perspectives of Christmastime in Mississippi.

Watercolor illustrations by Wyatt Waters enrich each story or essay with color and warmth. *Christmas Stories from Mississippi* is recommended for all Mississippi libraries.

Tracy Englert

Catalog Librarian

The University of Southern Mississippi

Waters, Andrew, ed. *Prayin' to Be Set Free: Personal Accounts of Slavery in Mississippi*. Winston-Salem: John F. Blair, 2002, 196 pp. \$9.95 paperback.

During the Great Depression, the federal government, under the Worker's Project Administration or WPA, sponsored the Writer's Project to provide employment to out-of-work editors, authors, and artists.

In the South, the WPA made a major effort to record the stories and memories of former slaves who were old enough to remember their lives before and after the Civil War. Many of these former slaves were quite elderly, between eighty and a hundred years of age, but had sharp memories and a gift for telling their life stories, recalling the indignities and injustice of human enslavement for economic gain. *Prayin' to Be Set Free* is a collection of twenty-eight narratives by former slaves, men and women who lived in Mississippi before and after their emancipation. Through the stark clarity of their voices in simple words, we are given a



glimpse of the lives they led and the hardships they endured to keep the ties of family together. Through these narratives, we see how they lived and worked, what they hoped and dreamed, and where they lived and settled down as free people.

Though the slaves were freed after the Civil War, post-war reconstruction, the era of Jim Crow laws and the years of segregation in all social and political arenas made life a different but an equally difficult kind of hardship. Post-war economic slavery could not destroy their resilience or hope for something better in their lives. Their stories reveal a simple faith and determination to survive with dignity, demonstrated by a strong work ethic to provide for their families and seek a better life for their children.

Prayin' to Be Free is an inspiring little book of narratives in simple words that touch the mind and heart. All collections of Mississippi history would be enhanced by its addition.

Ann Branton

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Book Reviews Needed!

Anyone interested in preparing book reviews for *Mississippi Libraries* should contact Tracy Englert at tracy.englert@usm.edu. To learn more about reviewing books, read Sarah Spencer's "Tips for the Novice Book Reviewer," found at www.misslib.org/publications/ml/spr00/bookreview.htm.

Deadlines for reviews are
January 15, April 15, July 15,
and October 15.



About Children's Books

ROBERT F. SIEBERT INFORMATIONAL BOOK AWARD, 2003

In 2001 the Association of Library Services to Children (ALSC), a division of the American Library Association, first awarded the Robert F. Siebert Informational Book Award. The award highlights distinguished informational books for children, which are defined as those "written and illustrated to present, organize and interpret documentable factual material for children" (ALA web site, 2003). Poetry and folklore are not considered, but honor books may be chosen if they are truly distinguished.

The award honors Robert F. Siebert, the long-time president of Bound to Stay Bound Books of Jacksonville, Illinois. The award is sponsored by the company and administered by ALSC.

This award is particularly noteworthy among other children's book awards. Most awards, such as the well-known John Newbery Awards and the Coretta Scott King Awards, focus on fiction. Few other awards honor informational books. During the last twenty or so years, companies have been publishing better and better informational books, books that are clearly and interestingly written, well researched, and beautifully illustrated. We owe it to the children we serve to share these fine books with them by reading aloud and by making the books available to satisfy young people's curiosity about the world.

MEDAL WINNER

Giblin, James Cross. *The Life and Death of Adolf Hitler.* New York: Clarion Books, 2002. 246pp. \$21.00.

How did a murderous villain like Adolf Hitler manage to take control of a country? Why did Germans admire him? Giblin's readable narrative transports us to Hitler's Germany and shows us Hitler's life as a child, as a young man, and as the Chancellor and President of Germany during World War II. In twenty-five chapters readers learn the factors that lead to Hitler's popularity. Although Hitler's rise to political power becomes clear through historical events and through the choices that Hitler makes, there is one single, nagging question left unanswered: Why did Hitler hate Jews? Giblin admits that his research does not provide a

satisfactory answer. The last chapter is one of the most chilling. According to Giblin, neo-Nazi organizations in the United States and other countries promote anti-Semitism, homophobia, white supremacy, and anti-immigration policies. More than 2,000 groups have Web sites spouting these beliefs. In addition to a riveting narrative about Hitler, there are black and white photographs of Hitler and people close to him, adding important visual information. A glossary of German words and phrases, source notes for each chapter, and an index complete an informative package. Middle school and high school students curious about the Holocaust will find a detailed, interesting source for answers to their questions.

HONOR BOOKS

Blumenthal, Karen. *Six Days in October: The Stock Market Crash of 1929.* New York: Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2002. 156pp. \$17.95.

Blumenthal captures the excitement and preoccupation with the stock market during the 1920s as she reviews the events, personalities, and mistakes leading to the stock market crash of 1929. From October 24, Black Thursday, through October 30, the aftermath, readers can gain insight into the crash. Photographs, cartoons, newspaper articles, letters, telegrams, and copies of other documents are scattered appropriately throughout the text. Sources, picture credits, acknowledgements, and an index round out this well-organized and informative book.

Gantos, Jack. *Hole in My Life.* New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2002. 200pp. \$16.00.

Jack Gantos is the author of the *Joey Pigza* books, the *Rotten Ralph* picture books, and other books for children. *Joey Pigza Swallowed the Key* was a National Book Award finalist, and *Joey Pigza Loses Control* was a Newbery Honor Book. In this autobiography, Gantos writes with candor about the summer of 1971, when federal agents arrested him and his partners for selling hashish. Gantos was twenty years old and an aspiring writer when he was sentenced to six years in prison. This fascinating account will intrigue high

school students as they read about the worst experience of Gantos's life. Hopefully, young adults will learn something from Gantos. His bravery in writing such a revealing account is commendable.

Greenberg, Jan and Sandra Jordan. *Action Jackson.* Robert Andrew Parker, ill. Brookfield, Conn.: Roaring Book Press, 2002. 32pp. \$16.95.

American artist Jackson Pollock's painting style of abstract expressionism is demonstrated in this picture book. Readers follow a snippet of Jackson's painting process as he paints *Number 1, 1950 (Lavender Mist)*. Pollock dripped ordinary house paint onto a large canvas lying on his studio floor. Parker evokes Jackson's painting technique and style with his own shimmery watercolors in black, blue, lavender, earth tones, and sea tones. The text is simple but expressive. Although this is a fictionalized account of Pollock's life, narrative and illustration are based on careful research. A brief biography of Pollock (1912-1956) and source notes complete a satisfying book with appeal to many ages.

Ryan, Pam Munoz. *When Marian Sang.* Brian Selznick, ill. 40pp. \$16.95.

Marian Anderson's story begins with her love of singing as a young girl. Her strong, velvety voice eventually brought her fame as an extraordinary singer and as the first African American to sing in the Metropolitan Opera. In the pre-civil rights era Marian's desire to sing professionally is not without struggle. Text and illustration harmonize to reflect her determination, talent, and strength. Selznick's illustrations in black and dark sepia tones are bold but warm and elegant, reflecting the times and the dignity of Marian's personality from young girl to mature woman. Under the title "Encore," Ryan and Selznick share brief biographical information about themselves and Marian Anderson and comment on the development and research for the book. "Ovations" acknowledges the assistance of people and organizations.

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MLA Executive Board Minutes

Correction to the MLA Executive Board Minutes for May 16, 2003 published in *Mississippi Libraries*, Vol. 67, No. 3, Fall2003, p. 95.

I.

II. NOMINEE LIST FOR MLA MLC BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS APPOINTMENT

I. Billy Beal motioned and Jennifer Smith seconded changing the order of the agenda so that the MLA Nomination List for the MLC Board of Commissioners could be discussed first. All voted yes and the motion passed.

A. The Mississippi Library Association was asked to submit a list of six names to Governor Musgrove, and one of the persons will be appointed to fill the vacant Librarian seat on the Board of Commissioners. All nominees must have an M.L.S. degree and be a member in good standing of MLA. President Plauché thanked all of the nominees for volunteering to serve on this Board. The list of nominees is as follows: Billy C. Beal, Meridian Community College, current ALA Councilor for MLA; Frances Coleman, Mississippi State University, incumbent; Foster Flint, Assistant Dean of Learning Resources as Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College; Thomas Henderson, Millsaps College, Internal Audit Committee member for MLA; Terry S. Latour, Delta State University, Past MLA President; and Henry Ledet, Lincoln-Lawrence-Franklin Library, former MLA President and Pamela Pridgen, The Library of Hattiesburg, former MLA President.

AUGUST 8, 2003

BOARD MEMBERS ATTENDING:

Prima Plauché, *President*
Helen J. Flanders, *Vice-President/President-elect*
Jennifer Smith, *Treasurer*
Sara Morris, *Secretary*
Glenda Segars, *SELA Councilor*
Linda Tufaro, *Public Libraries*
Otha Keys, *School Library Section*
Terry Latour, *Past President*

Others in Attendance

Mary Julia Anderson, *Executive Secretary*
Kathryn Davis, *Mississippi Libraries*
Elizabeth Urbanik, *NMRT*
Freda Hartness, *State Friends*
Donnelle Scott, *Mississippi Libraries*
Sharman Smith, *MLC*

President Plauché called the meeting to order at 10:00 and the agenda was presented. The chair declared a quorum present.

III. OFFICERS' AND STAFF REPORTS

A. **Secretary** – Minutes of the previous Board meeting were distributed and reviewed. S. Morris thanked J. Smith for taking the min-

utes at the previous meeting in her absence. G. Segars moved to accept the minutes. J. Smith seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

B. **Treasurer** – Treasurer Smith submitted the Mississippi Library Association Balance Sheet as of June 30, 2003. The Balance Sheet showed \$79,546.87 as liabilities and equity with a net income for the year of \$8,791.01. J. Smith commented that MLA has 600 members. At ALA in Toronto she attended Chapter Orientation. There she learned that MLA was the only chapter represented with an increase in membership. The treasurers report was unanimously approved.

C. **President** – P. Plauché reported that she mailed an interim report to all MLA members in June outlining what had been achieved so far this year. She also reported that the list of nominations for the MLC board had been sent to the Governors Office. The National Library Week Grant report had been completed and turned into MLC. She thanked J. Smith and S. Smith for all of their help with the grant. Attorney, Mary Sindors had reviewed the constitution and by-laws for the Constitution, By-Laws & Organizational Review Committee. She found that the by-laws need to be updated to reflect the change in the dues structure and also change the address with the Secretary of State's office. K. Wells is working on revising the handbook. A press conference is being planned to announce the Authors Award Winners for September. The 2004 Committee Preference form is available in the most recent *ML* and was also sent via the list serve. These are due by October first.

D. **Vice President** – J. Flanders reported that conference planning was progressing. There is some concern about the financial aspect of the conference. Not as many vendors have signed up for exhibits as in the past. To make the established budget, fifty exhibitors are required. There are currently only twenty-eight with contracts. Also the budget requires \$10,000 in partnerships with vendors. Flanders asked that people contact vendors who have not agreed to exhibit or commit to a sponsorship. MLA received a \$10,000 grant for speakers from MLC. This is very helpful. J. Flanders passed out a draft of the conference program mailer. T. Latour raised a concern about a lack of programming on Friday morning. Few if any of the discussion groups had planned programs.

E. **Past President** – No Report

F. **ALA Councilor** – No Report

G. **SELA Representative** – G. Seagers reported that the SELA conference would be

held in conjunction with the North Carolina Library Association. The Conference will be in Charlotte from November 9-14, 2004.

H. **Executive Secretary** – No Report

I. **ML Co-Editors** – K. Davis and D. Scott reported that everything is working well. They have had excellent responses for their requests for articles. Due to many resignations a number of additions have been made to the editorial board. The deadline for the next issue is fast approaching. This will include detailed information about the October conference.

II. SECTION REPORTS

A. **ACRL** – No Report

B. **Public Libraries** – L. Tufaro reported that Marshall Ramsey, *The Clarion Ledger's* Cartoonist, would be the PL section's speaker at their lunch.

C. **School Libraries** – O. Keys reported that the section had an excellent line-up of speakers and programs for the conference.

D. **Special Libraries** – No Report

E. **Trustees** – No Report

III. OLD BUSINESS

A. **MLC REPORT** – S. Smith reported that the governor appointed Pamela Pridgen, Director of The Library of Hattiesburg Petal & Forrest County. She thanked the MLA Executive Board for their hard work on this issue. The report for the 2003 LSTA Grants for the MLA Conference Speakers Series was submitted to the Board and approved in the amount of \$10,000. That morning she and other MLC staff toured the construction of the new building. The second floor slab had been poured. Currently MLC is still slated to move in during the spring of 2004. The US senate passed funds for LSTA with a large amount of funds for State Library Agencies. The formula used for determining funding has changed and it is unknown currently if Mississippi's funds will increase or not. The Commission recently completed a needs assessment for Mississippi Public Libraries in preparation for new bond funding requests from the Legislature.

B. **2004 Conference Site Contract** – P. Plauché presented the contract from the Natchez Convention Center. She commented that the current contract did not state the rental fee would be waived. T. Latour asked about the required \$15,000 in food. M. Anderson reported that last year MLA spent \$18,000 on food and that it should not be a problem to reach the established requirement. He also commented on the requirements for security and insurance. P. Plauché reported that Richard Green and Linda McKay are looking into insurance for

this convention. The contract had been changed to reflect that MLA had to rent 200 hotel rooms and not 300. Also, MLA will not have to make a deposit. P. Plauché will write all of these requirements in a letter and send it with the contract. T. Latour moved to approve the contract and authorize P. Plauché to sign the agreement. J. Flanders seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

C. 2005 Conference Site Report – The site committee visited Vicksburg on Wednesday, August 6, 2004. The location will be large enough and there are enough hotel rooms. A contract will be prepared and presented to the Board at a future meeting.

D. Fiscal Management Recommendation – J. Smith submitted a report on the possibility of MLA acquiring a credit or debit card for small purchases. In the past M. Anderson has had to purchase items with her own money and await reimbursement. The use of a card would eliminate this. The Fiscal Management Committee presented a motion to authorize MLA to request a debit card with a \$500 a day limit. L. Tufaro seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

E. Other Old Business – none

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. MLA Website Pay Pal – T. Latour reported in the first five months of use 34 people used Pay Pal. The electronic system collected \$1,256 in funds. The system has been easy to use with minimal problems. It was only down for a short period of time. While it is difficult to obtain some information, it is hopeful that a brief training session should resolve this issue.

B. Information Literacy Committee – P. Plauché presented a report for Ruby Licon, Chair of the Information Literacy Committee. Through an oversight, there is nothing in the Handbook covering the Information Literacy Committee. Plauché presented R. Licon's recommendation for the handbook. T. Latour moved that the entry be accepted for addition to the handbook. O. Keys seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

C. Constitution, By-Laws & Organization Review Committee – P. Plauché reported for M. Greene. As she reported earlier, Mary Sanders had reviewed the by-laws and suggested two changes. The committee presented the board with a Organizational Systems Checklist for Nonprofit Organizations. The checklists are to be completed by the board and returned to P. Plauché by the 22nd of August.

D. Regional Salary Guide Recommendation – P. Plauché proposed the formation of an ad hoc committee to investigate a base salary for Mississippi public librarians. After much discussion it was decided that at this time such a committee would not be in the best interest of MLA or Mississippi's libraries. T. Latour did mention that he was

working on a salary survey and perhaps in the future it could be published in *ML*.

E. MLA Annual Membership Meeting – G. Segars moved to have the MLA membership meeting on Wednesday, October 22, 2003 at 1:30 as required by the Association's charter. O. Keys seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

F. ML Ads for Conference – P. Plauché suggested that it might be possible to generate additional revenue by selling *ML* advertisements to local business for the conference. Because the sale of too many ads might require the printing of four additional sheets which would increase the cost of printing *ML*. T. Latour suggested that the ads be sold for the conference program or possibly a flyer inserted in the program. Mary Perkins will investigate if there is any interest of local business owners for such ads.

G. MLA Awards Committee – L. Tufaro moved that the resignation of Stella Wheat as chair of the MLA Awards Committee be accepted and that she be replaced by co-chair, Cathy Kanady. J. Smith seconded. The motion passed unanimously. P. Plauché also announced that the committee would share a few moments of their program for the Executive Board to present any awards or resolutions. Additionally the committee is in the process of reviewing their handbook entry and identifying any revisions. T. Latour asked for awards for the Past Presidents award through September 28.

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Archives & History – No Report

B. MLA Awards – No Report

C. Conservation – No Report

D. Constitution, By-Laws & Organizational Review –

E. Continuing Education – P. Plauché announced that the committee would have a web page by the end of the year.

F. Copyright – No Report

G. Election – No Report

H. Handbook – No Report

I. Insurance – No Report

J. Membership – No Report

K. Intellectual Freedom – No Report

L. Information Literacy – No Report

M. Credentials – No Report

N. Mississippi Authors Award – No Report

O. MLA Children's/Young Adult Awards – No Report

P. Publications – No Report

Q. Publicity – No Report

R. Scholarship – No Report

S. Web Page – No Report

VI. ROUND TABLE REPORTS

A. Black Caucus – No Report

B. ECTRT – No Report

C. GODORT – No Report

D. LIRT – No Report

E. NMRT – E. Urbanik reported that Carol Greene had received one paper for the conference program. Also, Gale gave \$125 to support the student paper contest. This funding may not be available in the future.

F. TSRT – No Report

G. SPRT – No Report

H. 2YCRT – No Report

I. YPSRT – No Report

VII. OTHER BUSINESS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. T. Latour reminded the board about the ad campaign and public service announcements provided by ALA. The information about these is available on the ALA website.

B. P. Plauché announced that the LAMP tour would be August 25 to 29 in Jackson, Tupelo, Hattiesburg, and Grenada. MLC was taking some MLA brochures and other information as part of their booth.

C. The next MLA Board meeting will be on October 23, 2003, 8 a.m. at the Bay Towers Hotel Boardroom, Bay St. Louis, MS.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Their being no further business by the board, a motion was duly made, seconded and unanimously passed to adjourn. The Board adjourned at 12:43.

*Respectfully submitted,
Sara E. Morris, Secretary*

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING, OCTOBER 17, 2002

President Terry Latour called the meeting to order at 4:35 p.m. A quorum of the Mississippi Library Association, based on a membership of 590, is 59 persons; 77 persons were present.

The only item on the agenda was consideration of changes to the MLA dues structure, brought forward by the Membership Committee and approved by the MLA Executive Board. According to the Bylaws, the membership must vote on changes to dues. The proposed changes add two salary ranges to the existing list, change student dues to \$10 and allow for part-time student status with a limitation of two years, and add categories for retirees and vendors. There is also a provision for additional section memberships and the creation of a dues-paying lifetime membership category; lifetime membership is currently an honorarium (see the attached sheet for the complete changes). After some discussion of the provisions, the proposed changes were approved by the membership on a motion by Hester Plauché with a second by Jeff Slagell.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted,
Kathleen L. Wells, MLA Secretary*

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