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PRESIDENT'S PAGE

The e-rate program that provides telecommunications discounting to schools and libraries across the United States has had a significant impact on libraries in the state of Mississippi. A recent report, *E-Rate: 10 Years of Connecting Kids and Community*, released by the Education and Libraries Networks Coalition and the National Coalition for Technology in Education and Training, stated that e-rate has transformed America's schools and libraries into modern institutions, but that its mission is not yet complete.

This report credited the e-rate program with increasing the overall number of public classrooms with Internet access from only fourteen percent in 1996 nationwide to an impressive ninety-five percent in 2005. It reported that after ten years of e-rate support, more than ninety percent of classrooms in rural, high-minority and low-income school districts, like many districts in Mississippi, now have Internet connections, allowing them to use more modern communication tools to support student achievement. According to the report, the e-rate program has provided nearly nineteen billion dollars in discounted services nationwide.

Congress ushered in the idea of Universal Service Fund or E-Rate in 1996. The Snowe-Kerry-Rockefeller-Exon Amendment to the Telecommunications Act passed that year and was subsequently signed into law on February 8, 1996. Following the passage of the Telecommunications Act, a year of hearings, filings, and suits followed until May 7, 1997, when the Federal Communications Commission issued an order on universal service that officially established the discounts. This new law provided for discounted rates on telecommunications services, internal connections, and Internet access for eligible schools, libraries, and rural health care facilities.

The amount or percentage of these discounts was based on the number of



Catherine A. Nathan

students eligible for the free or discounted lunch program in each school district. The average discounted level for Mississippi has hovered around eighty percent each year. Beginning almost right away, you and I started seeing surcharge amounts called Universal Service charges on our home and cell phone bills that eventually helped pay for this program of discounts.

Since the beginning of the program in 1996, Ruth Pierce has stood out as the "e-rate expert" for the state's public libraries. Therefore, I asked Ruth to provide me with some history of the program within Mississippi. She described herself leading a small group of filers working in public library systems around the state who began to experience unusual sleep disorders and increased anxiety levels. These individuals were heard to mutter among themselves phrases like "SPIN numbers," "Have you filed your BEAR form?" and "When does the filing window end?" with increasing regularity.

As it happened, these discounts could not have come at a more opportune time for public libraries in Mississippi. For in 1996, the Mississippi Library Commission started connecting the public libraries of Mississippi to a state-wide frame relay network that would, by the end of 1997, provide Internet access to nearly all of the public libraries in the state – thus thrusting them onto the Information Superhighway in a big way. The ongoing telecommunications costs facing public library directors around the state looked staggeringly high, especially when their operational budgets were already stretched thin.

So, has the e-rate program really lived up to its financial promise in Mississippi? Once again, I turned to Ruth Pierce for the numbers. Since the reimbursement checks and discounted telephone bills

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Cover Info: Graduating from The University of Mississippi with honors, Charlie Buckley received his Bachelor of Fine Arts degree with an emphasis in painting in May 2004. He was also a Taylor Medal recipient. Currently, Buckley is attending graduate school at Miami University where he is enrolled in the Master of Fine Arts program. His portfolio and contact information can be found at www.buckleystudio.com.

MISSISSIPPI LIBRARIES

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

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Dues must be paid by March 1 in order to receive the Spring issue of *Mississippi Libraries*.

Grant Writing and Management 101

Elizabeth Stephan
 Editor, Mississippi Libraries
 Business Reference Librarian
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 University of Mississippi

Writing grants is something many of us have to do, whether it is a grant to the university administration to pay for software or equipment needed in the library, a grant to fund a program or display at a public library, a grant for more public computers, or a grant to collect and manage a collection. It's something we all have to do, but it isn't something we all know how to do. Once, I even took a grant-writing class. The keyword is "once." I was in school and I guess I decided I had better things to do with my time. If I had known how important grant writing was going to be in this profession, maybe I would've taken it.

Because this is something we have to do but not necessarily something we know how to do, the fall issue of *Mississippi Libraries* looks at grant writing.

Sean Farrell is Assistant Director at the Library of Hattiesburg Petal & Forrest County. In his article, "The Grant Pro-

cess: Cost and Administration," Farrell looks at two areas of grant writing that are often forgotten: cost and administration. Using two grants as an examples – a recent Gates Foundation grant for more public computers and a grant awarded for a graphic novel collection – Farrell encourages libraries to look at the total cost of a project by considering both dollars and resources. He continues to describe another component of grant writing: administration, including fiscal management and reporting.

Continuing with the theme of grant management, Sheila Cork offers advice she has learned through years of grant-writing experience, the most recent of which have been gained while serving as Librarian/Grants Officer at the New Orleans Museum of Art. In her article, "Grant Management: A How-to Guide," Cork describes what has worked for her. Cork points out that while there are plenty of classes on the writing of grant applications, there are few to none that teach a person what to do after a grant is awarded.

Jennifer Brannock, Special Collections Librarian at the University of Southern Mississippi, describes what was needed to

apply for a Preservation Assistance Grant for Smaller Institutions from the National Endowment for the Humanities. In her article, "The NEH Preservation Assistance Grant: A Funding Opportunity for First Time Grant Writers," Brannock describes what needed to be done when writing a grant – specifically, when applying for a preservation grant.

Because this is the Fall issue of *Mississippi Libraries*, it is also the Annual MLA Conference issue. This year the conference is in Vicksburg, Mississippi. In this issue you will find the preliminary program. What you won't find is hotel information and the registration form. This year, the hotel information and conference registration form are being made available on the MLA Web site: www.misslib.org.

The Winter issue of *Mississippi Libraries* will focus on academic libraries. Several people have submitted stories or story ideas, including one library's recovery from Katrina and another library's use of MySpace and other social networking tools. If you would like to expand or add to any of these ideas – or have a story idea of your own – contact me at estephan@olemiss.edu. ■

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The Grant Process: Cost and Administration

Sean Farrell
Assistant Director
The Library of Hattiesburg
Petal & Forrest County

Abstract

Successful grant management includes considered preparation, close attention to detail, and careful record keeping. When pursuing a grant-funded project, libraries must consider total costs of a project, including not only money but time, space, and training. Once a grant has been obtained, close review of the expectations and reporting requirements will ensure a healthy relationship with the grantmaker.

Grants allow libraries to offer new or extended services. But, as with anything of value, grants are by no means free. This article will deal with two major aspects of grantsmanship, cost and administration.

Cost

Grants rarely cover the total cost of a project. It is important to fully estimate the cost of a grant-funded project. Most of us relate cost to an expenditure of dollars. Economists tell us that cost is all resources, not just money, used in transactions. It is crucial for a library to estimate the full cost, in both dollars and resources, as accurately as possible. This is true for a number of reasons:

1. The total cost of a project might be greater than the amount of available resources.
2. The total cost of a project might be less than the amount of available resources, but deemed not worth the expenditure of those resources.
3. The total cost of a project might be less than the amount of available resources, deemed worthy of the expenditure of those resources, but require a reallocation of available resources. Plans need to be made to effectively carry out the reallocation.

4. As a part of the application process, grant-makers often require prospective recipients to estimate cost. The quality of this cost estimate is often part of the criteria in awarding grants.

A less obvious reason to determine the total cost is that, if done thoroughly, it provides a valuable step-by-step outline of the grant-funded project. The Library of Hattiesburg Petal & Forrest County's recent Gates Foundation grant to provide replacement public access computers demonstrates this. The cost would include much more than the money necessary for the purchase of the computers and software. Hardware had to be reviewed for the quality of the product, the values of competing operating systems, and maintenance contracts. Software had to be acquired and loaded. We reviewed the physical, electrical, and networking requirements of the new computers as compared to the status quo. We factored in the cost of the physical breakdown of old and set up of new workstations. This actually entailed moving computers "down the food chain" as old lab workstations replaced OPACs, which in turn had to be physically removed. The OPACs then had to be discarded and new workstations added to the inventory in accordance with auditing procedures. Staff had to be trained in new software procedures associated with the new workstations. Signage and other in-house tools were created to acquaint users with the new workstations as well as to publicize the project. There were a significant number of administrative chores required to carry out the grant. Computers were ordered using the state express product list. Staff had to confirm receipt and make payments for the equipment. Reimbursement was sought following guidelines from the grantmaker. A grant file was maintained throughout the project, documenting each step of the process. The vast majority of the labor for this project was an internal cost, one that was not funded through the grant. We realized that personnel involved

directly in the project would have little time to contribute to other duties at the library. Personnel resources were re-allocated to cover shifts that would normally be done by persons working on the computer upgrade.

Estimating the dollar costs for equipment, supplies, and commodities is usually not difficult, but care to detail is important. Mississippi's express product list and state contracts are an excellent starting point. Web sites are another option for current prices. It may be necessary to actually contact prospective vendors and request a price estimate; written estimates on a firm's letterhead are best and should become a part of the working file for your grant. Expenditures for labor are more involved. When you are submitting a grant request, it is helpful (and sometimes required) to let the grantmaker know the source of your budget figures.

Funding for labor costs is much more complex. Many grants do not cover personnel costs; those that do usually have strict rules as to how the money can be spent. Labor may be provided by individuals as contractors or as employees. The legal implications of both add a significant administrative cost to a grant funded project.

Determining the non-monetary cost – or allocation of resources – is more difficult than producing a dollar cost estimate, especially when a project offers to bring new services or materials to the library. The library recently received a grant for graphic novels. While the library routinely adds materials to the collection, there were factors unique to graphic novels for which we did not fully plan. As graphic novels are a relatively new genre, review and selection tools are not as readily available as for more traditional books. Choosing the materials was more difficult and time consuming than was anticipated. The new format was a challenge for copy catalogers and the relatively low cost (thus high number purchased) of these predominantly paperback books increased

the workload in cataloging to an even greater degree than estimated. The new format and sheer number of volumes also put a strain on both shelvers and shelving space. The internal cost of this grant project ended up being much higher than we had initially thought. Fortunately the response to graphic novels has been very enthusiastic and the benefits still outweigh the cost, but we have been reminded to carefully look at internal costs – especially for new services.

Administration

Administration of grants has three major components: verifying that the activities in the grant are actually carried out; fiscal management; and reporting. A single individual, the grant officer, is usually designated to be responsible for the entire grant. The actual workflow of grant administration mirrors the management of the parent institution – a public library grant might be administered entirely by the library director while universities often have entire offices devoted to grants. Both situations present a different set of challenges and opportunities. Small shops avoid the bureaucracy that larger libraries work with; however, the same bureaucracies deliver skills and expertise that may not be available in smaller settings. Regardless of the setting, the grant officer assumes responsibility for making sure that all necessary work to carry out the project is completed and that all reporting is done. This may require actually doing the work personally, or coordinating the work of several individuals or departments.

A very pragmatic step for a grant officer to follow is to create two grant files. One is kept in the administrative offices of the library. It contains a copy of the application, everything else required by the grantmaker and a copy of all correspondence created as a part of the administration of the grant. A duplicate file becomes a working file to be referred to, doodled on or annotated. Documents that might be related to the project, but not required by the grantmaker (for example, an article reviewing software that was selected for a computer) are kept in this file. Checklists of things that need to be done to keep up with grant requirements would also be

placed here. This helps the grant officer stay on top of a grant while eliminating the possibility of misplacing documents that may be needed later.

In many libraries, the grant officer is actively engaged in carrying out the objectives of the project. Further, grant applications usually call for a thorough description of the activities to be carried out. The requirement of keeping a project moving forward and fulfilling planned activities is one that requires diligence but is not extremely difficult. An important duty of this part of grant management is carefully noting any modifications to the original grant agreement that might occur. It is not at all unusual to request the objectives, activities or budget to change. Written permission (either hard copy or e-mail) must be obtained from the grantmaker and a copy should be retained.

Fiscal Management

Financial administration of grants is complex. There are two main areas of the financial process. The first is the acquisition of goods or services. Ordering, receiving, and making payments are all part of the acquisition process. The second area is receipt of funds. Grant funds are distributed to libraries in a variety of ways, including prepayment, timed distributions, and reimbursement. Adding to the complexity of the management is the fact that there are at least three distinct entities that will have rules for all of the above mentioned processes: the library itself (and potentially parent institutions), the state or other governing authority, and the grantmaker. Purchasing procedures which might be perfectly fine under the terms of the grant might be barred by state law. Record keeping that might be sufficient in normal financial operations might not meet the conditions of the grant. The terms of the grant, as well as relative regulations and laws, should be carefully studied before beginning the purchasing process. If something is not clear in the grant's written documentation, contact the grantmaker with questions (and save a copy of the written response in the grant file). Be sure to check with the financial officer or auditor to make sure you are following the proper local procedure. Grantmakers and finan-

cial officials will be happy to help you; it is actually more work for them to try to correct problems after the fact than to work with you to set up procedures properly from the start.

There are some pragmatic steps you can take to ease some of the difficulties of financial administration. It is usually much easier to make fewer large purchases than multiple small purchases from any one vendor. Similarly, making as many grant purchases as possible in a short time frame tremendously eases the record keeping and reporting burden. Completing a grant within a single fiscal year not only makes things easy on the library locally, it can in fact prove of economic benefit. Auditors will have to deal with grants in a manner different than normal budget expenditures and receipts; if possible it's advantageous to have your auditor handle a specific grant only once. Consider purchasing goods from state contracts and express product lists even if the listed dollar cost is slightly more than ones offered by a vendor. The added internal cost of following purchasing regulations outside the state lists may make the total cost to the institution higher.

Reporting

The reporting requirement of the grants officer varies widely. Some grants require little other than confirmation that planned activities have been completed. Other grants require in-depth evaluations. The reporting and evaluation requirements are spelled out in the grant application. The grant officer must be familiar with them throughout the life of the project. Obtaining required data may be much more difficult or impossible if you wait until the end of the grant period to seriously begin the reporting process. Financial reports are especially important. Close coordination between the financial and reporting aspects of a grant is essential.

Grants do provide us with wonderful opportunities, but they also introduce an increased amount of work as well as tasks that are not usually a part of a librarian's normal work routine. First understanding the amount of effort involved and then managing the grant in a systematic way should lead to a successful project. ■

Grant Management: A How-to Guide

Sheila Cork
 Librarian/Grants Officer
 New Orleans Museum of Art

Abstract

Managing a grant requires organization and skill. While workshops can outline how to write a grant, little has been done to explain what needs to be done after a grant is made. Cork, Librarian/Grants Officer at the New Orleans Museum of Art (NOMA), outlines what one needs to be aware of after the grant is awarded, including how to manage the grant and how to gather information. Her outline revolves around six tips that she has learned from writing grants in Indiana, Mississippi and Louisiana.

In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, many libraries in Mississippi and in the Gulf South have had to make changes both in the number of staff they have and in the jobs that those staff members have to do. While grant writing is not an unusual activity for librarians, grant management may be.

People accept that grant writing can be difficult, and there are many workshops to teach people the process of applying for grant funding. Unfortunately, not enough attention is paid to the management of the grant once it has been awarded. This process can be more time consuming and involve the time and effort of many more people than researching and writing the original proposal did. People are elated when they receive an award notification, and they often don't absorb the rest of the information that comes with the documentation – the terms and conditions of the grant, dates of reports, completion dates and information about supporting documentation and the myriad pieces of information that need to be submitted with the narrative of interim and final reports.

Nearly all grant awards require some reports. Some funders request an informal letter written at the conclusion of a project briefly stating how the funds were expended. Others need monthly or quar-

terly narrative reports that include cash transaction statements. Still others require audited project expenditure reports at the conclusion of the project. Some need duplicate copies of reports sent to different people at different divisions of an agency. All of these can be very complex and time consuming to assemble. If reports are not sent, however, your organization may miss reimbursement deadlines and become ineligible for further funding from a funding agency.

Years of writing grants in both Indiana and Mississippi, combined with my most recent experience as Librarian/Grants Officer at the New Orleans Museum of Art, have allowed me to develop a grant management system. Based on this experience, the following is a collection of very simple and hopefully useful tips aimed at others finding themselves for the first time in the position of managing the grants that their institutions have been awarded.

In this instance, grant management refers to the process of ensuring that grant reports and the necessary supporting documentation are sent in a timely fashion to the funding agency. These are some steps in the grant management process:

1. Ensure that you have a copy of the final proposal, as submitted, with both narrative and budget components, as well as all related documents and correspondence regarding the proposal.
2. Determine when and what kinds of reports are due (the "Reporting Requirements").
3. Determine who should write the report or who to approach for the information needed to write the report.
4. Inform individuals and departments connected with the completion of the grant activities of their obligations regarding reporting; notify them well in advance of the report due date and then follow up with frequent reminders.
5. Make sure that the report is sent to the funding agency.
6. Close the grant file and leave it in good order.

Make sure that you have copies of the entire grant proposal. When you are the person writing and submitting the proposal it is not difficult to keep a copy at hand. There may be times, however, when other people in your organization apply for funding, and it is sometimes difficult to get a copy of the application from them. It is easier to obtain a copy if you borrow the proposal and make the copy yourself, rather than wait for a copy to be made for you. If you are unable to obtain a copy in-house, as a last resort, call the grants officer at the funding agency and ask them to fax you a copy. Remember that no matter who writes the proposal, you may be the person responsible for ensuring that the reporting requirements are met. Having a copy of the proposal to refer to is essential as this is where you will find the information you need to write your report.

Pay attention to file arrangement – being organized will help you in the long run. When you begin to write a grant proposal, or when you are given copies of a proposal that someone else has submitted, set up a manila folder for it immediately. It is helpful to note on the tab brief information such as the funding agency, the amount of the award, the name of the writer, the title of the project and the date. When you receive your award you can add any reference numbers assigned by the funding agency and the funding period.

Set up your filing cabinet in such a way that you have current proposals that still need some action before they are completed in one section, completed proposals in another section and unfunded proposals in another section (do not throw unfunded proposals away – they may be recycled for submission to a different funder). Color coding can be used to quickly identify the files that belong in each section.

When you receive your award make a duplicate hanging file for the "completed" section. When the grant is completed you can just drop it in there, leaving an empty hanging file in the "current" section for your next application to that organization.

It is highly probable that you will be applying to that organization again, and it is helpful to keep a current hanging folder in place for it.

Make subject indexes for your files – a simple Excel document is useful for this. It can be updated and re-alphabetized easily. For example, have subject headings for funding received by exhibition/project name, then by the names of the funding agencies that contributed to that event. The listings should include the amount and specific area of the project they contributed to (e.g., \$1,000 for educational programming during Disability Awareness Month), the year the funds are to be applied to, and who wrote the proposal. Update it often and you have a useful tool

not only to see which projects have been funded and the amount they received, but also which types of projects a particular funder is interested in.

Determine when and what kinds of reports are due. As soon as you receive notice of your award, carefully read all of the terms and conditions of the award, and then re-read all of the paperwork that you accumulated during the application process, preferably with a highlighter in hand to immediately mark any relevant information. It is essential to check all paperwork because it is possible that not all of your reporting requirements will be identified in one place. For example, a National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) grant required a quarterly cash

transactions report, even during quarters when no funds have been expended. In the letter that came with the award there was no mention of this – it was buried in the documentation that was pulled from the Internet during the application process.

Some funding agencies require a report when specific targets have been met, e.g., a National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) award required a narrative and a financial report when two-thirds of the funds had been expended. To ensure that you send reports on time in an instance like this, it is necessary to keep in close contact, not only with the department/individual receiving the funds, but also with your organization's financial department.

As you are reading through your information, keep a calendar on hand (a three-year desk calendar is useful, especially for multi-year grants). It is helpful to have one that has space for a lot of notes. Mark the project start and completion dates, the dates when all the reports are due, the type of report, and the people or departments that need to give you the information to complete your report. Find out when staff members from different departments will be unavailable – it is no good discovering that a report is due in two weeks and that the person who needs to provide the information is out on vacation.

In addition to a desk calendar, have an erasable, wall-mounted, two month calendar that will allow you to note reports that are due in the current month and in the next month. These can be obtained from large office supply companies such as Office Depot. Updating it consistently will have a two-fold benefit. While it may be easy to overlook an entry in a desk calendar, it is hard to miss something written on your wall, and repetition is a memory aid – you will become more familiar with your organization's current proposals.

If you prefer automatic computer updates, look at some of the Web-based calendars that are available. Look for a product that sends updates both to you and to the people who need to supply the information for the report.

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Identify each member of staff who will provide information for reports. It is important to identify the people and the information they need to provide in order for reports to be submitted. This may appear to be obvious – the writer of the grant, the head of adult programming, etc. But there may also be people involved that you did not think about. Look at the grant proposal. Do you have objectives and goals that one particular department needs to provide statistics for? For example, will the library's circulation change as a result of project activities? If so, the head of technical services may have to run a circulation report showing that. Do you have to enclose photographs and examples of publicity material with your report? If so, is there a public relations department that will need to put that together for you? Do you need to get information from someone who is extremely busy? Could another member of staff provide you with the information you need instead?

Correctly identifying individuals at the beginning of the granting period gives you plenty of time to discuss with them the information you need and the dates you need it by. You will be able to follow up and send requests for information in a timely fashion and cause the minimum amount of disruption to their work and their department.

Inform individuals and departments of grant reporting deadlines. Once you have determined who the individuals are that have the information needed for the report, find out if you need to get information from them and write the report yourself, or if they should write the report. In either case let them know well in advance of a reporting deadline. This is best done initially with a face-to-face meeting. Then call or send memos to follow up. Consider whether or not it is expedient to "move up" the date on which the report is due – perhaps tell them that it is due a week before it is. People notoriously leave things to the last minute, especially if it is something that they don't want to do. This will give you more time to get the information you need. Be prepared to send reminders sev-

eral times, and follow up each time, and remind them again at the beginning of the week you have to mail the report. You may have to be a nag to get the information you need.

Include a copy of the complete grant and guidelines for completing the report in the material that you provide. If there are many pages of guidelines that cannot easily be split up and given as small sections to individuals, highlight and put their name by their sections, then paperclip their pages for them. Be prepared to give them this information again.

Make a copy of your request and place it in the grant's file folder. Make sure that the name, date, and type of information needed is noted. If you do not receive the information you need it is easy to pull this out and make another copy. If the requested information is not forthcoming and your deadline is imminent, it may be necessary to approach that person's supervisor and ask them to obtain the information for you. If this is necessary it is useful to have an accurate record of what is needed.

Make sure that the report is sent to the funding agency. It may seem like a no-brainer, but make sure the report is actually sent. Also make sure that the report and supporting documents are delivered to the funder in whatever format is requested – e-mail and attachments, electronically completed and submitted forms, fax, regular mail, or hand delivery for local funders. Check to see if the report needs to be sent to the same person as the grant application. Not all grant reports are reviewed by the same agency or department that awarded the funds, so make sure you have the correct contact information. Also note how many copies you need to send and to who. If you are not sure who should receive a copy, telephone the granting organization and speak to their grants management staff – they will be happy to help.

Be sure to document the date you submit reports, keep copies of fax transmissions and/or postage information. Unhappily, correspondence sometimes is lost during delivery. It is a good idea to have documentation of the fact that you

submitted your report on time. When you submit the report, keep copies of the report exactly as it was submitted; you may need to copy and resubmit. Keep all successful fax transmissions – make sure they show the date of transmission, the number the report was faxed to and the status of the transmission. Any and all receipts should show hand delivery of the report. Make an e-mail folder for all correspondence between you and the funding agency regarding the report as well as all inter-departmental and other internal e-mail correspondence. Keep a record of all telephone conversations, including the date and the names of parties conducting the conversation relating to the report.

Always call and follow up with the funding source's project manager to make sure that your reports and any other related correspondence has arrived. Even though you may have sent a fax successfully to the funding agency, it may not have been given to the correct person, or the person may have forgotten to place it in your file. A follow up phone call can help prevent minor snafus from becoming crises when the final payment of the award is due. The final payments are often contingent on all of the correct reports being submitted!

Close the grant file and leave it in good order. After you have submitted your final reports and received your final payments, read through the folder that contains the original proposal and all subsequent paperwork. Your goal at this point is to weed out duplicate and unnecessary material (keeping copies of all proposal and report drafts and the changes and notes relating to these). Subdivide the file into logical groups such as "Drafts," "Guidelines," "Final Proposal," and "Correspondence." Your aim is to organize the file in such a way that any other person in your organization can look in it and find what they need at a later date.

Finally, although grant management is seldom addressed in workshops, remember that the effective management of grants is essential both to receiving payments for a project and to the credibility of your organization. ■

The NEH Preservation Assistance Grant: A Funding Opportunity for First Time Grant Writers

Jennifer Brannock
Special Collections Librarian
University of Southern Mississippi

Abstract

In past years, overall funding for libraries and cultural institutions has decreased. In order to complete many projects, external funding opportunities are required. Preservation of materials is vital to the missions of libraries and cultural institutions, but often is pushed aside because institutional money is being allocated for more immediate concerns like ordering books or paying employees. This is where grant writing skills can be a valuable asset.

Most librarians can discuss at length the preservation issues they have to face. Many of the problems are minor such as needing boxes or envelopes to properly house items, but there are institutions that have more critical issues like a leaky roof or the inability to properly control humidity and temperature levels. Some of the issues may be overwhelming, but librarians find ways to deal with these situations the best way they can.

At the University of Southern Mississippi, we recognized the need to address certain preservation issues. We could identify our main preservation needs, but needed a consultant to visit and provide us with an overall assessment of our preservation concerns. This led us to the Preservation Assistance Grant for Smaller Institutions offered by the National Endowment for the Humanities (<http://www.neh.gov/grants/guide>

[lines/pag.html](#)). This grant awards \$5,000 to institutions with humanities collections and may be used for a number of activities, including hiring a preservation consultant, purchasing storage equipment and supplies, funding preservation education opportunities for staff, and purchasing environmental monitoring equipment. This is the ideal grant for institutions that have minor preservation needs to be addressed or institutions that are in need of a preservation assessment.

Getting Started

The first thing you will need to do is read the guidelines of the grant to determine what is expected as far as time and information to complete the application. Make sure to look at the activities or purchases that can be covered by the grant. If you want to use the Preservation Assistance Grant money towards the purchase of a new HVAC system, for instance, you will see that other sources of funding are required because this grant will not pay for this type of endeavor.

Once you establish how your institution will use the grant, contact your manager, library director, or institution director and let them know that you are considering applying for a grant. As we all know, it is best to get the boss involved in things as soon as possible. They also may have some ideas on how to use the money and may be able to contribute to the grant writing process. If you are in an institution that has a sponsored programs department or something similar, you should also contact them immediately to alert them that you are working on a grant. At the University of Southern Mis-

issippi, the library has a representative in the Sponsored Programs Administration (SPA) that works with library faculty on every grant project.

If this is your first grant, you may want to check out some books on grant writing or attend a class. The grant application for the Preservation Assistance Grant was the first I had written, so I was nervous about producing a winning grant application. The Southeastern Library Network (<http://www.solinet.net>) offers several classes related to grants and grant writing, one of which is online.

Determining your needs

The first thing you should do is to look over the preservation issues that plague your institution. Do most of your problems relate to the inability to house materials properly because you don't have the supplies? Do you need monitoring equipment to help record the humidity and temperature levels? Is there a particular collection on which you want to focus? Would a general preservation assessment work best for your institution?

We found that the general preservation assessment was what we needed most. By having someone visit and assess our overall preservation needs, we could get an outsider's view as to what our needs were and the best way to address them. We also looked forward to the consultant's preservation assessment report as a means to inform our physical plant and administration about our needs. The American Institute for Conservation of Historic & Artistic Works (<http://www.aic-faic.org/guide/form.html>) and the Southeastern Library Network can help you find a consultant.

When determining how to use the grant funds, keep in mind how much money it is going to cost to successfully perform the desired tasks. If you plan the budget accurately, you can complete several activities with the single grant award. In our situation, the consultant cost about \$4,000 which left us \$1,000 remaining. We used the leftover money to purchase dataloggers to assist in monitoring the humidity and temperature in various areas of our library.

When compiling the list of activities you would like to accomplish, you may have questions about the grant application process. In all stages of the application process, you may contact the preservation officer at the National Endowment for the Humanities. They are available to answer any questions and provide tips on how to write a successful proposal. I was concerned about what projects had been funded in the past and how they were written. The preservation officer e-mailed me some examples of proposals that had been funded and directed me to other awarded grant proposals found on the NEH Web site. Having a chance to look over these funded proposals helped me more than anything when preparing for the writing process.

Preparing the Proposal

To me, writing the narrative was the most stressful part since I was a first-time grant writer. Having the opportunity to look at previously-funded narratives alleviated much of the pressure. Before I received the examples of previously awarded proposals, I spent a great deal of time worrying about how to format the

proposal. I knew what information needed to be covered, but I couldn't figure out the best way to present it. Looking at the samples beforehand would have saved me a great deal of worry. The best way to write the narrative is to type each question that they want you to answer and follow that by your response. It is easy and ensures that all needed information is addressed. The examples also help in determining how to organize the budget for the project. The appendices are not included in the samples, but as long as you abide by page number limitations, your errors should be minimal.

For the narrative of this grant, the maximum length is five pages single spaced. My tendency is to include more information than needed in order to prove a point, which in this case was that we deserved the Preservation Assistance Grant. Initially, the limitations on page length seemed to be a hindrance, but in the end, the guidelines forced me to write in a concise manner, including only the essential information.

Submitting the Grant

With the Preservation Assistance Grant, as is the case with many grants, you are required to submit your application online. Before submitting, make sure you have a checklist of all the information that is required. This will lessen the chance of problems arising while inputting the data.

The easiest way to work with the online submission Web site is to have the materials in a word processing document so you can cut and paste the information from the document to the online form.

Grants.gov, the site used to submit the grant proposal, requires that you convert all appendices to PDF format to preserve the original formatting of the documents. It is a good idea to transfer the appendices into the PDF format before starting the submission process.

When submitting the grant, make sure to take your time. You don't want to rush through the process and accidentally forget to include information. If you encounter problems or have questions related to submitting the grant, customer support at Grants.gov is available to help with these issues.

The Waiting

Waiting for the status of your grant application can seem like a lifetime. The deadline for this grant is in May and recipients are announced in January of the following year. If you receive the grant, you can start working on the grant almost immediately. If you don't secure funding, you can always apply for the grant the following year. Most granting agencies will provide feedback as to why the application was not funded. When making changes, be aware that you may have to alter the budget, update résumés, and get a new letter from the consultant. Once you have edited the grant proposal, it is ready to be resubmitted.

For a first time grant writer, the grant process can be intimidating. The Preservation Assistance Grant for Smaller Institutions sponsored by the National Endowment for the Humanities is an excellent funding source to address an institution's preservation issues and a great way to gain experience in grant writing. ■

2007 MLA Conference

Preliminary Schedule

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 23

Noon-5:00 p.m.

Registration at the Vicksburg Convention Center

9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
E-admission Ticket

Grant Writing 201

Dr. Bettye Ward Fletcher, Professional Associates, Inc.

A workshop designed for public and academic library directors, managers, and staff involved in grant writing who wish to learn the basic how-tos or to upgrade their grant-writing skills. Features using outcome measures to your advantage. Limited to 35 attendees.

Funded by the Mississippi Library Commission

12:30-4:30 p.m.
E-admission Ticket

Basic Book Repair Procedures

Nadine Phillips, Assistant Director, Pine Forest Regional Library

Participants will learn basic book repair techniques required to maintain a circulating collection. Among the procedures demonstrated, workshop participants will learn two types of hinge tightening, paper hinges and "tipping in" loose pages. Handouts and supplies will be provided. Limited to 15 attendees.

Sponsored by the Conservation Committee

1:00-4:00 p.m.

MAGNOLIA Database Demonstrations and Database Selection Committee Meeting

5:00-7:00 p.m.

Presidential Bash/Scholarship Fundraiser

Additional information coming soon

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 24

7:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Registration at the Vicksburg Convention Center

8:00-9:00 a.m.

MLA Executive Board Meeting

9:00-10:00 a.m.

MLA Legislative Committee Meeting

9:30-11:00 a.m.

Poster Sessions: Session I

9:30-11:00 a.m.

Mississippi Auto-Graphics Users Group Meeting

Mary Jackson, Auto-Graphics; Glenda Tilson, Mississippi Library Commission; Kay Clanton, Washington County Library System; and Jennifer Stephenson, Carroll County Public Library System

VUC/ILL System users will be updated on the new user interface and other features. A VERSO user's session on Splash Page creation and other features will follow.

Sponsored by Auto-Graphics

2007 MLA Conference

Preliminary Schedule

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 24 *(continued)*

- 10:00-11:00 a.m. **Mississippi Polaris Users Group Meeting**
Jennifer Smith, Warren County-Vicksburg Public Library
Join Polaris ILS users from Mississippi as they discuss the latest developments in the Polaris software.
- 10:00-11:00 a.m. **Mississippi SirsiDynix Users Group Meeting**
Sean Farrell, Chair and Bill Kessler, SirsiDynix
Mississippi SirsiDynix Users Group will conduct their annual business meeting and Sirsi-Dynix representatives will update current customers on the development and release of Rome.
Sponsored by the Mississippi SirsiDynix Users Group
- 10:00-11:00 a.m. **You can do it! Practical Techniques for Supporting Public Computing**
Barbara Gersh, The MaintainIT Project
Learn practical tips and techniques used by other libraries for maintaining public computers. Get a free “cookbook” and participate in the MaintainIT Project.
Sponsored by the Educational Communication & Technology Roundtable
- 11:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. **Exhibits Open**
Peggy May Scholarship Silent Auction
Bid on irresistible items that will please your family and friends. Great Christmas gifts! All proceeds benefit the Peggy May Scholarship fund. Bidding closes on Thursday at 3:00 p.m. Items must be picked up on Thursday by 5:00 p.m.
- 12:00-1:30 p.m. **Virgia Brock-Shedd Scholarship Luncheon**
Dr. Leatha B. Hayes, D.O., M.S., CPC
Author of the inspirational novel, *Blossom Bit by Bit*, and a retired physician, this speaker will deliver a motivational message about overcoming adversity.
Sponsored by the Black Caucus Roundtable
- 12:00-1:30 p.m. **Box Lunches for Vendors and Attendees**
- 12:00-1:30 p.m. **American Library Association Committee on Accreditation – MLA’s Role in Accreditation**
Dr. Melanie J. Norton, Director SLIS, University of Southern Mississippi
Report of ongoing changes in ALA/COA and how MLA members may wish to participate in directing library education.
Sponsored by USM School of Library and Information Science
- 1:45-3:00 p.m. **First General Session**
Pauline LaRooy, National Library of New Zealand
Brief business meeting followed by keynote address

2007 MLA Conference

Preliminary Schedule

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 24 *(continued)*

3:00-5:00 p.m.

Afternoon Tea with Authors

Sponsored by Friends of Mississippi Libraries

3:00-5:00 p.m.

Don't Just Sit There! Movement Activities for Children & Adults in the Library

Victoria Penny, Early Childhood Services Coordinator, Hernando, MS

Did you know that Mississippi is the most obese state in the nation? The Early Childhood Resource Center at First Regional Library has been actively involved in community initiatives to prevent obesity and promote physical well-being. (Wear comfortable shoes and clothing.)

Sponsored by the Continuing Education Committee

3:00-5:00 p.m.

Boyz-n-Books Workshop and Buzz Session

Kathy Sparkman

Tips will be shared about how to draw boys into the library and keep them interested in reading. In addition, the creation of boy-friendly environments and targeted programming will be discussed.

Sponsored by YPSRT

3:30-5:00 p.m.

Poster Sessions: Session II

4:00-5:00 p.m.

Mississippi University Library Directors Meeting

5:00-7:00 p.m.

Explore Vicksburg with Your Colleagues

Dinner on your own

7:00-9:00 p.m.

Mississippi Community College & Junior College Library Deans & Directors Business Meeting

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 25

7:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Registration at the Vicksburg Convention Center

8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Exhibits

8:00-9:30 a.m.

The History, Traditions, Eccentricities and Absurdities of Southern Food

Robert St. John, Restaurateur/Chef/Author/Food Columnist

Treat yourself to an informative, humorous and sometimes irreverent presentation on Southern culture, past and present, and the foods Southerners love and occasionally hate.

Sponsored by the Public Library Section

2007 MLA Conference

Preliminary Schedule

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 25 *(continued)*

8:00-9:30 a.m.

Breakfast

Ticket required

Limited to 2YCRT members only

Rolling Down the River

Nancy McLemore, Chair of 2YCRT, Copiah-Lincoln Community College

2YCRT members will cruise down the river on the "Sweet Olive" with Mississippi River Tours. Exchange of information on community & junior college library trends and issues will be facilitated. Limited to members of 2YCRT.

Sponsored by the Two Year College Round Table

10:00 a.m.-Noon

Technical Services Management

Marlee Givens, SOLINET

An overview of technical services management issues; cataloging quality vs. quantity; personnel management; and a few real life scenarios.

Sponsored by SOLINET

10:00 a.m.-Noon

Sisters in Crime: Mystery Authors Panel

Roberta Isleib, Pamela Samuels-Young, Mignon Ballard and Carolyn Haines

Join four mystery writers from around the United States as they discuss their own mystery series' stars as well as the pros and cons of writing mysteries.

Sponsored by the Trustees Section

10:00 a.m.-Noon

Private Academic Libraries of Mississippi (PALMS) Business Meeting

12:00-1:00 p.m.

Exhibits closed for lunch

12:00-1:30 p.m.

Box Lunches for Vendors and Attendees

12:00-2:00 p.m.

Luncheon with Kathi Appelt

Ticket Required

Author Kathi Appelt will discuss her works.

Sponsored by YPSRT

12:00-2:00 p.m.

Library 2.0

Ticket Required

David Lee King, Topeka and Shawnee County Public Library

Sponsored by ACRL

2:00-3:00 p.m.

Ice Cream Social with the Exhibitors

Enjoy a delicious treat while visiting with our exhibitors.

Sponsored by Library Interiors, Metairie, LA

3:00-4:00 p.m.

From Imprisonment to Freedom

Eddie Spencer

Eddie was raised in poverty and overcame difficult obstacles to better himself and to encourage students to beat the odds.

Sponsored by the School Libraries Section

2007 MLA Conference

Preliminary Schedule

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 25 *(continued)*

- 3:00-4:00 p.m. **Using CONTENTdm to Provide Online Access to Collections**
Moderator: Jennifer Brannock
Speakers: Chatham Ewing, Laura Capell, and Randall McMillen
 CONTENTdm has become the standard tool for managing digital collections. Speakers will discuss how they use the software to provide online access to their collections.
Sponsored by the Special Collections Roundtable
- 3:00-5:00 p.m. **A Full Life: Review of One of the Most Significant Early Woman Authors of America: Poet, Essayist, Playwright, Judith Sargent Murray**
Doak Maddox Mansfield, DMin, Author and Consulting Minister of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Tupelo and Hattiesburg
 A review of the life and work of Judith Sargent Murray (1751-1820), who lived the last years of her life in Natchez and is buried there at Fatherland Plantation.
Sponsored by Beta Phi Mu
- 3:00-5:00 p.m. **Future of the Federal Depository Library Program**
Cindy Etkin, Program Planning Specialist, U.S. Government Printing Office
 Update on current developments in the federal depository library program.
Sponsored by GODORT
- 3:30-6:00 p.m. **Librarianship 101 Alumni Meeting**
 Past participants in Librarianship 101 Institute will gather for additional training and for a networking reception.
Sponsored by the Mississippi Library Commission
- 4:00-5:00 p.m. **Cite it, Cite it, Cite it: Libraries and Plagiarism**
Tisha Zelner, University of Southern Mississippi
 Ms. Zelner will illustrate services of the University of Southern Mississippi Libraries designed to engage faculty and students in the prevention of plagiarism.
Sponsored by LIRT
- 4:00-6:00 p.m. **Free Resources for Teaching Information Literacy @ Your Library**
Admission Ticket
Melissa Wright, MA, MLIS and Teresa Welsh, PhD, University of Southern Mississippi
 Hands-on training for free Internet resources such as Audacity, PBWiki, Blogger.com, and Flickr. Participants will create podcasts, wikis, and blogs. Limited to 20 attendees.
Sponsored by the Information Literacy Committee
- 5:00-6:00 p.m. **SLIS in Focus**
Dr. Melanie J. Norton, University of Southern Mississippi
 A report on the status of the LIS program at USM and request for alumni, employee and student feedback and comments.
- 5:30-6:00 p.m. **Relaxing on the River Social • Cash Bar**
- 6:00-8:00 p.m. **Mississippi Authors Awards Dinner**
Sponsored by MLA Author Awards Committee

2007 MLA Conference

Preliminary Schedule

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 26

- 7:30-11:00 a.m. **Registration at the Vicksburg Convention Center**
- 8:00-9:00 a.m.
Ticket Required **Past Presidents Breakfast**
Honoring the Mississippi Library Association's past presidents. Limited to MLA Past Presidents.
- 8:00-9:00 a.m.
Breakfast
Ticket Required **The MDAH Collection: Treasures You May Have Missed**
Jane Phillips, Mississippi Department of Archives and History
Books, maps, and photographs from the MDAH archival collection in the William F. Winter Building in Jackson, MS will be highlighted.
Sponsored by the Special Libraries Section
- 8:00-9:30 a.m.
Ticket Required **USM Alumni Breakfast**
Sponsored by School of Library and Information Science, University of Southern Mississippi
- 9:00-11:00 a.m. **Curb Appeal for Your Library: Inside and Outside the Library**
Spring or fall are great times to look at your library's curb appeal – whether inside the facility or outside landscaping.
Sponsored by Friends of the Mississippi Libraries
- 10:00 a.m.-Noon
Admission Ticket **Free Resources for Teaching Information Literacy @ Your Library**
Melissa Wright, MA, MLIS and Teresa Welsh, PhD, University of Southern Mississippi
Hands-on training for free Internet resources such as Audacity, PBWiki, Blogger.com, and flickr. Participants will create podcasts, wikis, and blogs. Limited to 20 attendees.
Sponsored by the Information Literacy Committee
- 10:00 a.m.-Noon **Rare Book Cataloging**
Kathleen Wells and Jennifer Brannock, University of Southern Mississippi
Book printing and binding, cataloging of rare books, MARC tags, physical description, special characteristics.
Sponsored by the Technical Services Round Table
- 11:00 a.m.-Noon **Bringing Special Collections "Close to Home"**
Barbara J. Dean
Description of economic data collections on FRASER Web site and scanning project and procedures for data and archival collections at the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis (<http://fraser.stlouisfed.org>).
Sponsored by the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis
- 12:00-2:00 p.m.
Ticket Required **MLA Awards Luncheon**
The grand finale of the 2007 Mississippi Library Association Conference honoring our colleagues for outstanding professional achievement and special recognition of lifetime MLA members.
Sponsored by the MLA Awards Committee



Mississippi Library Association
 2007 Annual Conference
 October 23-26, 2007 -- Vicksburg Convention Center
REGISTRATION DEADLINE: FRIDAY OCT. 12, 2007

REGISTRATION / NAME TAG INFORMATION

Name _____
 Library/Business _____
 Address _____
 City/State/Zip _____
 Telephone _____

Work Home Email Address ALA

I require special assistance First time attendee MLA
 I require vegetarian meals Other _____ SELA

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FEES

| FULL CONFERENCE | ON-SITE | ADVANCE | AMOUNT |
|---|--|---------|--------|
| 2007 MLA Paid Member | \$45.00 | \$35.00 | |
| Non-Member | \$55.00 | \$45.00 | |
| MLS-MLIS Student | \$25.00 | \$20.00 | |
| Exhibits Badge Only | \$10.00 | \$10.00 | |
| ONE DAY CONFERENCE | <input type="checkbox"/> Wednesday <input type="checkbox"/> Thursday <input type="checkbox"/> Friday | | |
| 2007 MLA Paid Member | \$35.00 | \$25.00 | |
| Non-Member | \$42.00 | \$32.00 | |
| MLS-MLIS Student | \$18.00 | \$13.00 | |
| Friends of MS Libraries (FREE Badge on Friday Only) | Badge | Badge | |

PRE-REGISTRATION, MEALS, AND PROGRAMS

| Tuesday, October 23, 2007 | R.S.V.P. | COST | AMOUNT |
|---|--------------|----------------------|-------------------------|
| Grant Writing 201 Funded by MLC (Admission ticket will be emailed - Limited to 35 attendees) | Yes No | Reservation required | FREE |
| Basic Book Repair Procedures (Admission ticket will be emailed - Limited to 15 attendees) | Yes No | Reservation required | FREE |
| Presidential Bash/Scholarship Fundraiser All proceeds will equally support the Peggy May & Virginia Brooks-Shawdt scholarships. | | \$20.00 | |
| Wednesday, October 24, 2007 | R.S.V.P. | COST | AMOUNT |
| ALA Committee on Accreditation Pre-Order Box Lunch | | \$10.00 | |
| Pre-Order Box Lunch | | \$10.00 | |
| Black Caucus Luncheon with Dr. Leatha Hayes <i>the Black Caucus Roundtable/Funded by LSTA Grant from the MLC</i> | Sponsored by | \$22.00 | |
| Afternoon Tea with Authors Sponsored by Friends of Mississippi Libraries | Yes No | Reservation required | Included w/Registration |
| Thursday, October 25, 2007 | R.S.V.P. | COST | AMOUNT |
| Public Libraries Breakfast with Robert St. John <i>Sponsored by the Public Libraries Section/Funded by LSTA Grant from the</i> | | \$15.00 | |
| ZYCRT Breakfast - Rolling Down the River (Limited to Junior & Community College Librarians & Staff) | | \$31.00 | |
| Pre-Order Box Lunch | | \$10.00 | |
| Young People's Services Luncheon with Kathi Appelt <i>YPSR/Funded by LSTA Grant from the MLC</i> | Sponsored by | \$22.00 | |
| ACRL Luncheon with David Lee King Sponsored by ACRL/Funded by LSTA Grant from the MLC | | \$22.00 | |
| Librarianship 101 Alumni Meeting Sponsored by the Mississippi Library Commission | Yes No | Reservation required | Included w/Registration |
| Free Resources for Teaching Information Literacy @ Your Library (Limited to 20 attendees) Sponsored by the Information Literacy Committee | Yes No | Reservation required | Included w/Registration |
| Mississippi Author Awards Dinner Sponsored by the MLA Author Awards Committee | | \$34.00 | |
| Friday, October 26, 2007 | R.S.V.P. | COST | AMOUNT |
| Special Libraries Breakfast with Jane Phillips Sponsored by the Special Libraries Section | | \$15.00 | |
| USM Alumni Breakfast Sponsored by USM School of Library & Information Science | | \$15.00 | |
| Past Presidents Breakfast (Limited to Past MLA Presidents) | | \$15.00 | |
| Free Resources for Teaching Information Literacy @ Your Library (Limited to 20 attendees) Sponsored by the Information Literacy Committee | Yes No | Reservation required | Included w/Registration |
| MLA Awards Luncheon Sponsored by the MLA Awards Committee | | \$22.00 | |
| Grand Total | | | |

CREDIT CARD PAYMENT VISA MC If my Organization listed above P.O. # _____

CARD # _____ EXP DATE _____

SIGNATURE _____

NO REFUND _____

MLA CONFERENCE INFORMATION: 601-981-4588
<http://www.misslib.org> - FAX (601) 981-4501

MAIL REGISTRATION & PAYMENT TO:
 Mississippi Library Association - Conference Registration
 P.O. Box 13667 - Jackson, MS 39216-3667

Library 2.0 in Mississippi

*Amanda Powers
Assistant Professor/
Reference Services Librarian
Mississippi State University Libraries*

*Deborah Lee
Professor/Coordinator,
Library Instructional Services
Mississippi State University Libraries*



Michael Stephens engages the audience at the MS Library 2.0 Summit. Photograph by Jim Tomlinson.

Library 2.0 has arrived in Mississippi with the inaugural MS Library 2.0 Summit! On June 15, 2007, the Mississippi State University Libraries hosted the first MS Library 2.0 Summit, bringing together over one hundred participants from eight states to examine the Web 2.0 technologies. The goal of the summit was to explore the Library 2.0 environment and ways libraries can provide services to online social networking communities. Nationally known Library 2.0 expert, Michael Stephens, delivered the keynote address, "Hyperlinked Library: Trends, Tools, and Technologies."

Stephens challenged the audience with five things they can do now to make their libraries more Library 2.0 friendly. The first is to be a "trend spotter" by keeping up with the latest innovations in social technology. The second is to form an emerging technology committee, which is charged with identifying new trends and providing support for new technologies in the library. The third recommendation is to try a learning 2.0 program or application. Don't let fear of failure get in the way of exploring some of the new technologies and programs. Some will succeed beyond your wildest dreams; others will fizzle and die out. Have the flexibility to let those that can thrive do so and the courage to let go of those that don't. The fourth recommendation is to create a "what's new" blog, where both library staff and the larger user community can explore the new services and programs available. The fifth and final recommendation is to "explore presence." Throughout Stephens' talk, the need to be open to exploration and experimentation was emphasized.

A post-lunch panel, hosted by the Mississippi State University Libraries, discussed the process of implementing a Library 2.0 project in an academic library environment. Panel members included Amanda Powers, Pattye Archer, Deborah Lee, Stephen Cunetto, and Harry LLull. The panel discussed some of the administrative and organizational challenges faced by the MSU Libraries as it explored ways to introduce more Library 2.0 technologies into the library mix of services. The panel discussed the in-house training that was developed in support of the Library 2.0 initiative and offered suggestions on how other libraries might integrate these new technologies into their programs.

The rest of the summit consisted mainly of "steal this idea" sessions, where librarians from a variety of settings presented ideas and case studies on the use of Library 2.0 technologies. Kyle Cook and Jenny Ellis from the Nashville Public Library gave a grass-roots style presentation on how to implement Library 2.0 technologies. Entitled "No PhD Required," Cook and Ellis included excellent examples of using avatars, Flickr, and social bookmarking clouds on a teen web site as a way to connect to a young and tech-savvy clientele. Other presentations included "Net Generation Reference: SMS to the Rescue" from Angela Dunnington and Beth Stahr of Southeastern Louisiana Library. Dunnington and Stahr reported how their library has experimented with text-messaging reference services and provided a case study on the devel-

opment and implementation of a new reference service.

Pattye Archer and Summer Mord, both from Mississippi State University Libraries, presented a session on the use of the social networking tool Facebook in libraries. Archer and Mord reported on the use of closed Facebook groups to create an online community for library student assistants working in the Access Services Department and in the Instructional Media Center. The Facebook approach promoted the timely dissemination of information to students and a mechanism for students to share issues and scheduling concerns.

Other sessions offered included Barton Spencer's (University of Southern Mississippi) session on Second Life, "Librarians Need to Get a Life! (Second Life, That Is)." Kevin Herrera from the University of Mississippi shared UM's experiences with the collaborative software Sharepoint in "Building a Collaborative Intranet with Microsoft Sharepoint." Rosemary Arneson, Jason Cooper, Alan May, and Kathleen Lowe discussed the use of blogging in "Team Blogging: Blogging at the University of Montevallo's Campus Library." And Julie Dunn, from Mississippi State University Libraries, discussed the use of social librarianship technologies such as LibraryThing in "Thingamabrarians: Social Librarianship and Library 2.0."

In addition to the "steal this idea" sessions, three poster sessions were presented. Laurie Charnigo and Paula Barnett-Ellis from the Houston Cole Library at Jacksonville State University presented a poster session entitled "Facebook-Worms: The Impact of an Online Social Networking Trend on Academic Libraries." The poster session was based on a study conducted by the presenters on the use of Facebook in academic libraries. Bobby Goff and Ginger Williams from Mississippi State University Libraries presented a poster session entitled "RSS Feeds: Promoting New Materials." Goff and Williams focused on the use of RSS feeds to highlight new library acquisitions. The third poster session was presented by Thomas La Foe, Mississippi State Univer-

sity Libraries, and was entitled "Developing the Mississippi State University Libraries' Podcasts: Creating a Collaborative Effort to Promote Library Services." La Foe presented the MSU Libraries' initial efforts to develop promotional podcasts and discussed ways this effort has evolved since its inception.

The evaluations of the workshop were overwhelmingly enthusiastic! Attendees responded that the day-long workshop presented "dynamic presentation(s) that made me excited to work with new technologies to reach students." Didn't make this year's summit? Then check out the workshop archive, available online at <http://library.msstate.edu/mslibrarysummit/>. Here you'll find PowerPoint slides and podcasts from the 2007 Summit. The response this year was so enthusiastic that plans are underway for the Second Mississippi Library 2.0 Summit – watch for it in 2008. ■



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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Mississippi Libraries is looking for a qualified person to serve as assistant editor. The position will assist the editor in editing articles for style, grammar, and substance as well as communicating with writers and other contributors. Other work may include locating cover art as well as contributing story ideas. The individual must have an attention to detail, good communication and writing skills, and must be able to meet deadlines. Interested persons should contact Elizabeth Stephan (estephan@olemiss.edu) or Tisha Zelner (Tisha.Zelner@usm.edu). ■

COPY EDITOR/COPYEDITOR

Mississippi Libraries is looking for a qualified individual to serve as copy editor. The copy editor will work with editor and assistant editor on each issue of *Mississippi Libraries*. This position will proofread final articles for grammatical and spelling errors, consistency, and style. This individual must have attention to detail, good communication, knowledge of rules of grammar, and be able to work under deadlines. The copy editor may also work with the printer by checking printer proofs for errors. Interested persons should contact Elizabeth Stephan (estephan@olemiss.edu) or Tisha Zelner (Tisha.Zelner@usm.edu). ■

News Briefs



Tim Bucknall, Oliver Pesch, Dean of MSU Libraries Frances Coleman, Stephen Abram, Dalene Hawthorne, and Jennifer Watson. Photo by Jim Tomlinson.

E-resource Workshop Held at Mississippi State University

For a seventh year, Mississippi State University Libraries hosted an e-resource workshop for information professionals working in libraries across the Southeast. Sponsors of the workshop included Mississippi State University Libraries, the North American Serials Interest Group (NASIG), EBSCO Information Services, Haworth Press, and SirsiDynix.

Held at Mitchell Memorial Library on July 20, 2007, this year's workshop, titled "Black Cats & Broken Links: Dispelling E-resource Superstitions," provided the approximately one hundred attendees with insights and knowledge that will help enable them to overcome the many challenges of managing e-resources in libraries.

The workshop featured four presentations given by leading innovators in the field of e-resources and libraries. Keynote speaker Stephen Abram, Chief Strategist of the SirsiDynix Institute, got the workshop off to a lively start with a presentation exploring how libraries' tools for information access and management must evolve in light of users' changing needs and expectations. Subsequent presentations were given by Tim Bucknall (University of North Carolina at Greensboro), Dalene Haworth (Emporia State University), Jennifer Watson (University of Tennessee Health Science Center Library), and Oliver Pesch (EBSCO Information Services).

Article-length write-ups of each of the workshop's presentations are to be published in an upcoming issue of *The Serials Librarian*. Audio recordings of the presentations, along with the presenters'

PowerPoint slides and handouts, are accessible at <http://library.msstate.edu/nasig/schedule.html>.

Ribbon Cutting To Mark Opening of Pearlington Library



Pictured from left are, Deborah Hill, Pearlington Library Branch Manager; Andrea Pack, Pearlington Library Customer Service Assistant; Tish Williams, Hancock County Chamber of Commerce Executive Director; Dolly Lundberg, Hancock County Library System (HCLS) Board of Trustees; Suzi Lee, HCLS Board of Trustees; Paul Eddy, HCLS Deputy Director; David Woodburn, HCLS Executive Director; Sharman Smith, Mississippi Library Commission Executive Director; Rocky Pullman, Hancock County Board of Supervisors President; Mary Ellin Santiago, Director of the Gulf Coast Libraries Project for the Southeastern Library Network (SOLINET); Toni Larroux, HCLS Board of Trustees; and Vicky Staehle, Hancock County Chamber of Commerce. Photo by Mary Perkins.

The opening of the new Pearlington Public Library Temporary Facility was Tuesday, July 31, at the site of the former Charles B. Murphy Elementary School. A ribbon cutting followed the ceremony, with more than one hundred people attending.

The Pearlington facility is part of the Gulf Coast Libraries Recovery Project through a grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, administered by the Southeastern Library Network (SOLINET).

The temporary facility is a full-service library that will house approximately five thousand items, including adult and large print fiction and non-fiction, movies on DVD, books on CD, biographies and children's books. Other services will include free fax transmission services, Internet-accessible computers, wireless Internet, and courier and photocopy services. New longer hours are Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to noon.

"We are most appreciative of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and SOLINET for assisting us in restoring full library services to the residents of Pearlington," said David Woodburn, Hancock County Library System (HCLS) director. "Throughout the recovery period, the temporary facility will provide returning residents with all library services, connecting them to county communities and governmental services."

More information is available by calling 228-467-5282 or by visiting the library's Web page at www.hancocklibraries.info.

Delta State University Receives Grant from National Network of Libraries of Medicine

The Roberts-LaForge Library at Delta State University received notification in July 2007 that it had been awarded an Express Outreach Project Award from the National Network of Libraries of Medicine, Southeastern/Atlantic region. The Dancing Rabbit e-Library Health Initiative is designed to promote the awareness of and use of consumer health information products and services developed by the National Library of Medicine, including MedlinePlus and Information Rx.

Ann Mulloy Ashmore, MPH, MLIS, is Project Director for the grant which will develop and conduct training workshops throughout the Mississippi Delta in order to provide geographic accessibility for all of the Dancing Rabbit Consortium libraries and branches in this ten-county northwest Mississippi region. The targeted audience for the training workshops includes librarians and library staff, health care professionals, health educators, representatives of consumer health organizations, K-12 educators and the general public.

From its beginnings in the spring of 2001, the Dancing Rabbit Library Consortium (<http://www.dancingrabbit.lib.ms.us/>) has emphasized cooperative efforts in resource sharing and ongoing staff continuing education. In May 2004, the Southeastern Library Network (SOLINET) awarded the Consortium its

Multitype Library Cooperation award at SOLINET's fifth annual Outstanding Library Awards program.

Ann Mulloy Ashmore received a Masters Degree in Public Health from the University of Oklahoma. She earned her MLIS at Louisiana State University in 2006 and has been an Assistant Professor of Library Services in the Reference Department at Delta State University since September 2006.

Assisting with the training workshops is Melissa R. Dennis, a 2006 graduate of the University of Southern Mississippi's School of Library and Information Science. Since joining the faculty at Delta State, Dennis has developed numerous bibliographic instruction sessions for graduate and undergraduate students and this summer taught LIB 101 – Fundamentals of Information Literacy online. Additionally, Dennis is a talented graphic designer, whose skills will be invaluable in the design and creation of project handouts, brochures, promotional flyers and posters.

Check Presented to Hancock County Library System

The Americans for Libraries Council, with support from the Bush-Clinton Katrina Fund, presented a check for \$400,000 recently to the Hancock County Library System (HCLS) to rebuild the Waveland Public Library. An additional \$200,000 was given for repairs to the Bay St. Louis-Hancock County Library Centralized Headquarters building.



Pictured, from left, are David Woodburn, HCLS Executive Director; Waveland Aldermen Rickey Geoffrey and Lili Stahler; Waveland Mayor Tommy Longo; Diantha Schull, Americans for Libraries Council President; Sharman Smith, Mississippi Library Commission Executive Director; Bruce Astrein, Americans for Libraries Council Executive Director; Steve Seymour, Hancock County Board of Supervisors District 4; David Yarborough, Hancock County Board of Supervisors District 2. Photo by Mary Perkins.



David Brown with Marsha Iverson, Chair, Public Relations and Marketing Section, American Library Association. Photo by Judy Card.

First Regional Library Wins Awards

At the 2007 American Library Association Annual Conference, held in Washington, D.C. June 21-27, First Regional Library (FRL) was presented with two prestigious awards.

The library was awarded Best in Show in the Printed Materials Promoting Websites category (for libraries with operating budgets between \$2,000,000 and \$5,999,999) for its "Info Family" comic book. The piece, featuring First Regional Library's very own team of library superheroes, also captured the Library a First Place L. PeRcy Award from the Library Public Relations Council in the category of Special Events & Projects. David Brown, FRL's Public Relations Specialist (and creator of The Info Family), was in Washington to accept both awards.

"The Amazing Library Race" Visits the Warren County-Vicksburg Public Library

The Warren County-Vicksburg Public Library's Summer Library Program participants were treated to an afternoon of fun this summer as "The Amazing Library Race" Scavenger Hunt was held in the building on June 20. Beginning at 2:00 p.m., ninety-four participants (grouped in teams of one to four players) lined up to run the race. Open to players in grades



Local History Librarian Christine Choucolli answers a roadblock question at the reference desk for two groups of race players. Photo by Jennifer Smith.

first through twelfth, the participants began the race in the auditorium at the "starting line" where their beginning time was recorded and they received their first clue from a library staff member. Players then raced around the library, one clue leading to the next clue, until they reached the finish line in the children's department and their ending time was recorded. As players finished the race they were treated to refreshments provided by the library in the auditorium. The fastest groups in the 1st through 6th and 7th-12th grade groups won the race and grand prizes for their efforts!

"The Amazing Library Race" event was the brainchild of library assistant Leslie Tedder. As Leslie was working with the children's department this summer, the 2007 Summer Library Program theme, "Get a Clue @ Your Library," kept running through her head until the idea for the race formed.

"The best part of the race," said Assistant Director Jennifer Smith, "was watching all of these kids, some whom were not participating in the Summer Library Program, being excited about being in the library." Many of the players begged their parents to extend their library visit after the race ended, so that they could spend some time exploring the children's department. After refreshments were served and the grand prizes were awarded, door prizes of books were also given to race players.

The positive reaction of race players has encouraged the Warren County-Vicksburg Public Library to host "The Amazing Library Race" every year as part of the Summer Library Program. Each year's race will be tailored around the current Summer Library Program theme. Several players' parents asked if the library could host an "adult" version of the game, and the library is considering creating a child and an adult version of "The Amazing Library Race" for next summer. Library staff members thought that when all of the hard work was finished, the race was a huge success for the library. ■

People in the News

The Dixie Regional Library System, headquartered at the Pontotoc County Library and serving Calhoun, Chickasaw and Pontotoc Counties, is pleased to announce that **Emily Taylor** has taken over the duties of Branch Librarian at Jesse Yancy Memorial Library in Bruce. Taylor worked as a student library clerk at Pontotoc County Library for three years before obtaining her BA in music from Mississippi College and her MLIS from the University of Southern Mississippi. "It is exciting to be working with such a fine community and in their wonderful library. Every day seems to bring something new and, most often, interesting and even a little humorous. I look forward to many more years working here. It is truly a blessing."



Emily Taylor

— ◆ —

Lauren M. Young has joined the staff of the Ernest J. Adcock Library on the Ridgeland campus of Holmes Community College (HCC) in the capacity of Assistant Librarian. Prior to moving to HCC, Young served as the Outreach Services Librarian for the University of Mississippi Medical Center's Rowland Medical Library. She has also worked in the Technical Services department at the University of Mississippi Libraries.

— ◆ —

On August 15, **Connie Machado** started a new position as Media Specialist at St. Joseph Catholic School in Madison. She had been the Head of Cataloging at Rowland Medical Library, UMC, since January 1990.

— ◆ —

Barbara Adams, Reference Librarian and Associate Professor, retired June 30 after thirty-two years of service with the University of Mississippi Libraries. Adams received both her undergraduate and graduate degrees in library science from the University of Mississippi. Beginning her career at UM in the circulation department, Adams worked primarily in the J. D. Williams Library reference department. In addition to reference, she was also actively involved with instruction and collection development; she served as the libraries' instruction coordinator for a number of years. Adams has been the subject liaison for the following departments: Exercise Science and Leisure Studies, Family and Consumer Science, Southern Studies, Women's Studies and African American Studies. A member of the American Library Association, the Mississippi Library Association and the Southeastern Library Association, she also served on numerous library and university committees, including the Faculty Senate. She also authored a number of publications in the field of librarianship. University colleagues and family members honored Adams with a reception in the library on Wednesday, June 27.

— ◆ —

J. D. Williams Library at the University of Mississippi is pleased to welcome **Jessica Minihan** in the position of Electronic Resources Librarian. Minihan is a recent graduate of the School of Information Science at the University of Tennessee-Knoxville. She grew up in Knoxville, and earned a BS in computer science from Maryville College, where she was a member of the Programming Team. At UM, Jessica will be maintaining access to the database collection and managing information in the ERM.

— ◆ —

Judy Greenwood has joined the library faculty at the University of Mississippi in the Interlibrary Loan/Document Delivery Department. She has a MLIS from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, and a BS in biology from North Georgia College and State University. Greenwood's most recent position was in interlibrary loan at UNC Greensboro.

— ◆ —

Sybyl Robinson is the recipient of the 2007 Peggy May Scholarship. She works full-time as a technical assistant at the Nursing/Allied Health Branch Library for Hinds Community College and takes graduate library science courses part-time. Ms. Robinson writes of her career choice, "[t]he thrill of this job is actually taking the student by the hand and showing them all of the amazing tools that are available through MAGNOLIA and explaining how these and other tools are used to maximize their efforts. . . I am in love with the world of librarianship and am so proud to say that I work in a library."



Sybyl Robinson

Robinson is cited by supporters as being competent, well organized, wonderful with students, reliable, and a good communicator. A coworker describes her as having a warm, caring personality and as being a joy to work with. She's recognized as having strong leadership capabilities, being very committed to a career in librarianship in Mississippi, and demonstrating academic excellence. She is noted for being cheerful under stress, a quality certain to be an advantage for this busy mom of two pre-school aged children. Dr. Juanita Flanders, District Dean of Learning Resources for Hinds Community College, remarks, "Sybyl is helpful and knowledgeable – exactly the type of person we need in our profession." ■

About Books

Lee, Joe. *Judgment Day*. Brandon, MS: Dogwood Press, 2007. [264 pp.] \$22.95 (hardcover).

Judgment Day, written by Joe Lee, encompasses small town Mississippi, high school football playoffs, illegal gambling, secrets, and revenge. Oakdale, Mississippi, a well-established small town set in the north of the state, becomes the perfect setting for intrigue and blackmail.

While preparing his team for a chance to win a sixth state high school football title, damaging secrets about Coach Crisler are discovered by a longtime enemy. Crisler hopes to escape persecution from family, friends and the community-at-large. Trying to maintain his normal life and career, Crisler continues a precarious balance between his marriage, the training of his players, and his secret life.

At the same time, Gary Quinn, an Oakdale police officer, plans to ruin the man who made his father's high school days miserable. Seeking means to cause trouble while misusing his legal authority, Quinn bullies local residents into subservient behavior with threats and abuse. Planning his means of extortion takes time, and Quinn uses that time to learn all he can about those he has been sworn to protect.

Oakdale, Mississippi – a place where everyone knows everyone else and where secrets thrive and flourish. Multiple characters play active roles in this storyline. Each chapter becomes a story within a story leading to a dramatic conclusion.

In *Judgment Day*, with its fast pace and surprising end, Lee, author of *On the Record* and *Dead Air*, takes the reader into the private lives and hidden secrets of the town's most respected members.

This book is recommended for all Mississippi libraries with a following for mystery.

Donna Phelps Fite

Branch Manager
Purvis Public Library
Lamar County Library System



Scott, R. Tyler. *Vince Profett and the Dead Man's Bones*. Baltimore, MD: Publish America, 2005. [156 pp.] \$20.00 (paperback).

Vince Profett was an ordinary, almost-12-year-old Mississippi kid. Well, except for the summer he spent in the Middle East accompanying his BBC-reporter dad and archeology-enthusiast mother. It is a little white rabbit that changes everything in Vince's life. He spies the creature as his mother finds a piece of pottery, and instead of joining the celebration, he follows the rabbit – an unusual rabbit that turns around to wink at him.

Once out of sight of the camp, Vince falls through a hole in the desert floor and comes face to face with the rabbit, which morphs into Gabriel, one of God's messenger angels. Gabriel asks the soon-to-be hero if he is "saved" although he knows the answer, having watched Vince's baptism from afar. It is only due to Vince's Christianity that Gabriel extends an incredible offer: to touch Elisha's bones and have the powers of all God's disciples in the Bible.

Back in Mississippi, Vince is unsure he even possesses powers. His uneventful summer, except for being passed for the All-Stars baseball league and meeting his angel-designated mentor Sam Lofton, is void of his special blue light. That is until evil sets out to destroy the Profett family and all future good deeds from Vince.

Author R. Tyler Scott has written an engaging first book in what hopes to be a new Christian fantasy series. Before Scott continues the series, I suggest that he take time to define his audience. This is not a children's book, as he claims, but a young adult book focusing on pre-teens and younger teens. The reading level is higher than your typical children's book; plus, it lacks the required illustrations. With a secondary character in his seventies, the book also has older adult appeal.

This book is highly recommended for Mississippi public libraries and middle school libraries.

Maggie Moran

Public Service & Reference Librarian
Northwest MS Community College



Winter, William F. and Andrew P. Mullins, Jr., ed. *The Measure of Our Days: Writings of William F. Winter*. Jackson: University Press of Mississippi for the William Winter Institute for Racial Reconciliation at the University of Mississippi, 2006. [228 pp.] \$30.00 (hardcover).

Former Mississippi Governor William Winter's public service commitment spanned more than sixty years and was punctuated most notably by education reform and racial reconciliation. During this long period, Winter never used a speechwriter, opting instead to pen his own remarks and sometimes to speak extemporaneously. Winter's sincere and abiding fondness for Mississippi and its people is detailed eloquently throughout this compendium of his lectures, editorials, personal writings and public remarks.

Mullins spent more than two years gathering some of the most poignant and relevant remarks of the former governor's work and arranging them into eight broad categories. An index is not included in the book, but the general chapter headings – Government, Politics and Leadership, Justice and the Law, Civic Responsibility, Education, Literature and History, Mississippi and the South, the Measure of Our Days – make it easy to navigate specific topics. In all, the book is comprised of more than 170 excerpts from Winter's speeches, including portions of his unpublished memoir. Additionally, the book contains thirteen black-and-white photographs depicting Winter with famous and ordinary individuals around the state. The excerpts in the book are compelling, inspiring, and speak directly to Mississippians. They range from local Rotary Club speeches to national conference engagements; from television interviews to remarks scribbled on an envelope en route to a meeting.

Winter, also known as the Education Governor, was a champion of education, reading and libraries. Two of the selec-

tions in the book focus specifically on libraries, including a lengthy speech made during the 1962 Mississippi Library Association conference in Greenville. One memorable speech about literature includes the following: "One of the questions that as governor I was asked over and over by people in other parts of the country and, for that matter, in other countries was, 'What is Mississippi really like?' I found in my conversations that our state has a certain mystique that seems to set it apart even from the rest of the South...This mystique has I think really been inspired and given substance by that remarkable group of writers who have come out of Mississippi. Someone has said that for a state where a lot of folks can't read, we certainly can write."

The Measure of Our Days lives up to that selfsame mystique and is recommended for all public, academic, and school libraries in Mississippi.

Gabriel Morley

Director

Pike-Amite-Walthall Library System ■

President's Page...

(continued from page 57)

started coming in during 1998, the state's public libraries have received an amazing \$9,917,330.19 in funding from e-rate – or about one million dollars per year. From 1998 to 2004, public schools across the state received nearly \$180,000,000 worth of e-rate discounts. Mississippi receives over forty million dollars in telecommunications discounts for both school and public libraries annually.

Ruth and these other people who file will tell you in a hurry that the program was (and is) a complicated one, but the numbers of public library systems that file from Mississippi versus other states is impressive – they nearly all file and therefore nearly all of them receive significant money that is used to support public library services. Clearly, the e-rate program has been worth it for many of Mississippi's libraries! ■

MLA Executive Board Meeting Minutes

Thursday, May 17, 2007, 1:30 P.M.

Board members attending:

Catherine Nathan, *President*
 Jeff Slagell, *Vice President/President-elect*
 Carol Green, *Treasurer*
 Susan Cassagne, *Immediate Past President*
 Marsha Case, *Public Library Section Chair*
 Margaret Jane Stauble, *ACRL Section Chair*
 Tracy Carr, *Special Libraries*

Others in attendance:

Mary Julia Anderson, *Executive Secretary*
 MaryBeth Grimes, *ACRL Section Vice Chair*
 Margaret Bell, *Black Caucus Roundtable Chair*
 Jackie Quinn, *Black Caucus Roundtable Vice Chair*
 Paul Cartwright, *Elections Chair*

President Nathan called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. The agenda was presented and a quorum was declared. A sign-in sheet was passed around.

OFFICER AND STAFF REPORTS

■ **Secretary** – In the absence of the secretary, Otha Keys, President Nathan asked S. Cassagne to take the minutes of the meeting. The minutes of the previous meeting had been distributed via e-mail and were accepted.

■ **Treasurer** – C. Green presented the financial reports, which were accepted.

■ **President** – C. Nathan had no formal report.

■ **Vice President** – J. Slagell submitted a written report on the plans for the upcoming conference in Vicksburg.

■ **Immediate Past President** – S. Cassagne had no formal report.

■ **Executive Secretary** – M. Anderson stated that there are currently 475 paid members.

SECTION REPORTS

■ **Public Library Section** – M. Case reported that chef Robert St. John will be the speaker for the Public Library Section breakfast at the conference. (Submitted written report.)

■ **ACRL Section** – Jane Stauble announced the candidates for office of ACRL. M. Grimes has created a wiki for section news. (Submitted written report.)

■ **Special Libraries Section** – T. Carr gave a report of conference plans.

ROUNDTABLE REPORTS

■ **Black Caucus Roundtable** – M. Bell and J. Quinn gave a report on Black Caucus plans for the conference. Travis Hunter is a possible speaker, but final arrangements have not been made.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

■ **Election Committee Report** – P. Cartwright presented the results of the election for approval: Vice President /President-elect – Jan Willis Secretary – Judy Card Treasurer – Amanda Powers ALA Councilor – Sherry Laughlin SELA Councilor – Deborah Lee The report of the Election Committee was accepted.

■ **Legislative Committee** – In the absence of the chair, Deb Mitchell, C. Nathan read the submitted report.

■ **Awards Committee** – M. Case had no formal report.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business to discuss.

NEW BUSINESS

C. Nathan presented the wording for the advertisement for editor of *Mississippi Libraries*, which was approved. She also reported that a request from OCLC regarding digital archive harvesting had been forwarded to attorney Randy Sherard for his opinion.

S. Cassagne reported on plans for the 2008 conference in Natchez. There will be two new hotels and she suggested that a date be arranged for a site visit. She will contact the Convention and Visitors Bureau for an appropriate date and make the arrangements with the site committee.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The date of the next MLA board meeting will be August 24, 2007, at 2:00 p.m., at the Vicksburg Warren County Public Library, with a tour of the Vicksburg Convention Center to follow.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business of the board, the meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
 Susan S. Cassagne, Acting Secretary ■

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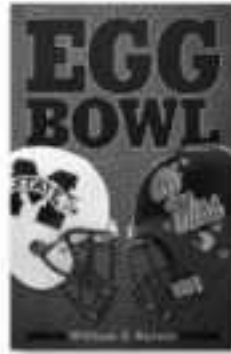


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