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**On the cover:** A photomosaic of medieval manuscripts held by the Department of Archives and Special Collections at the University of Mississippi. Ranging from the 9th to the 15th centuries AD, they are available for full-resolution viewing online at <http://clio.lib.olemiss.edu/archives/medieval.php>.



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For additional information and a list of committees and roundtables, see the Mississippi Library Association's Web site at <http://www.misslib.org>.

# PRESIDENT'S PAGE

It's hard to believe that another year and another conference have passed. I had no idea what this year would bring as President of MLA, but I was certain that I would learn a great deal about our Association and its members. It goes without saying that we have a strong Association whose members are passionate about what they do. Whether your specialty is reference, cataloging, youth services or administration or you represent schools, colleges/universities, special libraries or public libraries, the common theme that we can and will persevere runs through our membership, our Association and our libraries. Yes, our environment is continuously changing with budgets dwindling and technologies continuing to emerge, but we continue to adapt and change with the times!

This year, after being published in print for over thirty years, the Board voted to discontinue the print version of *Mississippi Libraries* and to move it to an online-only publication with one issue per year's being peer-reviewed. Moving *Mississippi Libraries* to an online publication will greatly save the Association money and will also allow us to join the ranks of other associations that are now publishing their journals online using open source software.

The Membership voted in October to discontinue some of the committees that are no longer active. These committees can be resurrected by future Boards as the needs of the Association change. Also, the Membership voted to increase annual dues. The Board greatly appreciates your understanding of our need to increase dues. This will allow us to serve you better, to achieve our



*Stephen Cunetto*  
2012 MLA President

goals and to be financially solvent. The committees discontinued include: Conservation; Constitution, Bylaws and Organizational Review; Copyright Review; Credentials; Handbook; Information Literacy; Insurance; Intellectual Freedom; Memorial Fund; Mississippi Libraries; Publications; Reprint; Right to Read and Salary. Likewise, the Board voted during the December Board Meeting to discontinue inactive Round Tables. These include: Collections, Automation and Networking, Educational Communications & Technology, Government Documents, and Library Instruction.

Many of you participated in the Long Range Planning discussions we had this year under the leadership of Jeff Slagel and Catherine Nathan. This has been invaluable to the Board and resulted in the creation of a Strategic Plan for MLA, something we haven't had for many years. I invite you to look at the Plan that has been added to our website. The document will be a living document that will guide the Board and the Association.

I thank all of the committee chairs and members, the officers and the section chairs for their hard work and dedication. Congratulations to Lynn Shurden and her conference committees for another successful conference. I also thank the MLA sponsors for supporting the Mississippi Library Association. If you work with any of these vendors, please be sure to thank them for sponsoring MLA!

Thank you again for allowing me to serve as your President. I feel confident that Lynn will do an excellent job as your new President. ■

**mla**

# A Database Comparison of ERIC and Google Scholar

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## INTRODUCTION

Online access of databases has had tremendous growth in recent years. Google Scholar brings another resource to library and information professionals. For education, ERIC has long been one of the most frequently accessed databases, and has gained notoriety among scholars in that field. As more users access Google Scholar it too has become more widely accepted as an information gathering tool. A comparison between these two resources could help inform more accurate searches and illustrate best practices for information retrieval.

As a database for scholarly literature in the field of education, ERIC was established just after World War II. The design of this database served to illustrate the creation of bibliographic indexes in an accessible format, and inspired the creation of many other databases (Weiner 2009, 456). Weiner added that ERIC was created by the US Department of Education as the Educational Resource Information Center and was meant to be a comprehensive resource of peer reviewed and unpublished documents covering all aspects of education. The early version of ERIC was accessible by microfiche provided to libraries that subscribed to the database (Weiner 2009, 456). In order to expand and develop a broad collection of material, Weiner stated that ERIC established a clearinghouse system. He added that this resource went on-line in 1971. Weiner wrote that in 2002, developments in the scientific community impacted the scope and content of ERIC. A restructuring commenced and the clearinghouse model was replaced with a technological emphasis, resulting in a selective database that could more easily be accessed on-line (Weiner 2009, 456). Although smaller in content, Weiner stated that ERIC is still widely used and accepted as an authoritative resource.

Google Scholar was released in 2004 as an addition to the Google search engine.

The search engine was established in 1998 by Sergey Brin and Larry Page (Miller 2009, 303). Miller wrote that the design of Google worked on a system called PageRank, which functioned on a link-based retrieval system. The exact nature of the web-crawler design is a closely guarded secret and the number of pages indexed daily changes frequently (Miller 2009, 303). Since its creation, Google Scholar has been an indexer of scholarly peer reviewed journals, dissertations, books and other materials (Dougan 2010, 78). Dougan added that the methodology for acquisition of these items is similar to that used by the Google search engine. As such, the precise size and scope of this on-line database has not been firmly established (Dougan 2010, 78). Dougan wrote that the ability to access scholarly material from any computer, using any Internet connection, has been a huge draw for the use of this database.

## Problem Statement

This study examines and draws comparisons between the ERIC database, and the Google Scholar database. This investigation will include coverage and search results for selected search terms relating to occupational education in the community college.

## Research Questions

R1. What was the coverage of ERIC compared to Google Scholar?

R2. How much, and what types of material were retrieved from ERIC compared to Google Scholar using the selected search terms for occupational education in the community college?

## Definitions

**Occupational Education:** an adaptive education program providing flexible, low-cost, job-specific skills to learners primarily found in two-year community and technical colleges (Education National Research Center for Career and Technical, et al. 2010).

**Scholarly Articles:** Articles that have been peer reviewed, and described as a feature article. Does not include letters to the editor, opinion papers etc.

**Precision:** a formula where the number of documents retrieved is divided by the number of relevant items retrieved (Walker and Janes 1999, 263).

## Limitation

This study is limited to the ERIC and Google Scholar databases. Journal articles retrieved will also be limited to include "peer reviewed" and "featured articles" published in the academic year 2007-2008.

## Assumptions

It is assumed that the information from the databases was indexed completely and correctly so that only pertinent articles were retrieved.

## Importance of the Research

This study may inform library and information professionals on the usability of each of these databases as research tools. This study may also aid in the development of more accurate search strategies when using one or both of these databases.

## LITERATURE REVIEW

Howland, Wright, Boughan, and Roberts (2009, 227-234) noted that since the debut of Google Scholar, many researchers debated how useful it was when compared to other databases. Their study was undertaken to establish an answer to this question of usefulness, and to attempt to describe how searches conducted using Google Scholar vary by discipline (Howland, Wright, Boughan, and Roberts 2009).

The methodology for this study involved seven librarians from the Brigham Young University Library (Howland, Wright, Boughan, and Roberts 2009, 229). The authors asked the librarians for sample questions typically asked by patrons, a structured search strategy undertaken to answer such a question, and an indication of the library database that would most likely be consulted in order to locate an answer. From this Howland, Wright, Boughan, and Roberts created a search string that could be used simultaneously in both the library database and Google Scholar. The results from each database were then

examined using a predetermined rubric in order to establish the scholarly nature of the returned citations (Howland, Wright, Boughan, and Roberts 2009, 228-229). For returned results in Google Scholar, Howland, Wright, Boughan, and Roberts only included items from the first three pages, as studies have indicated most users do not search beyond the third page.

The authors reported that in general, they found Google Scholar to have a 17.6% higher score of scholarliness than the library databases. Across disciplines Howland, Wright, Boughan, and Roberts reported that this also held true. However, they added that when using their scholarly rubric, results of both databases were found to be more scholarly together than when accessed independently (Howland, Wright, Boughan, and Roberts 2009, 232). The authors wrote that Google Scholar provided much broader results, and that the library databases tended to be more focused.

Howland, Wright, Boughan, and Roberts stated that despite Google Scholar providing a greater amount of scholarly content, it could not serve as a research tool independently. They added that it was through the cooperation of publishers that Google Scholar functioned, and said that this function was based on serving as a discovery aid. It was determined that library databases were the tools that provided the access to the content with which Google Scholar only referenced (Howland, Wright, Boughan, and Roberts 2009, 233). The authors concluded by recommending the use of both Google Scholar and library databases in concert in order to obtain the most complete results in a search.

Finch (2010, 9-13) examined the ERIC and *Education Full Text* databases. She explained that with increases in electronic resources it was difficult for scholars to know about the complete search features available to them, and that in the field of education it was particularly important to remain actively involved with the most current resource gathering methods. This study was developed to identify features in the ERIC and *Education Full Text* databases, and to draw comparisons from each as research tools (Finch 2010, 9).

In order to explore the characteristics, features, and coverage of each of these databases, the author conducted the same structured search in each resource. Finch limited

her results to peer reviewed, and feature article, and examined only those articles published 1994-2009 for abstracted results, and 1996-2009 for results in full text. The author entered five search terms in each database that included; gifted education, special education, advanced learner, gifted children, and gifted disabled children.

After conducting the search, Finch reported that the results obtained from ERIC were greater than that of *Education Full Text*. It was also noted that ERIC offered more search options and parameters for conducting searches (Finch 2010, 11-12). The author added however, that *Education Full Text* had a much easier navigation method.

Finch stated that in order to gain a more complete picture of these two databases, more studies should be done. One aspect offered for further investigation was the amount of overlap between these databases (Finch 2010, 13). The author wrote that if there was little overlap between the two databases, the perceived value of *Education Full Text* would increase. She added that examination of these databases by subject specialists could better evaluate the precision of each index.

Howland, Wright, Boughan, and Roberts (2009, 227-234) examined the usefulness of Google Scholar. This study is similar, in that Google Scholar will also be examined as a research tool. The Finch (2010, 9-13) article relied on a similar methodology to this study, and was also focused on the examination of education databases.

## METHODOLOGY

Many studies conducted to compare databases have similar methodologies that relied on a search using a predetermined set of search terms and drawing comparisons from the results. For this study, in order to determine the precision and features of ERIC compared to Google Scholar a search was also conducted. Data were collected from the returned results of this search guided by the five terms, each entered accordingly: "occupational education," "workforce education," "labor force development," "vocational education," and "workforce development." These terms were entered individually in ERIC using Boolean/Phrase, and limited to peer reviewed items published 2007-2008.

Because users rarely access listings after the first three pages, only the results listed on the first three pages using the default 10 results per page were included, as in the methodology by Howland, Wright, Boughan, and Roberts (2009 227-234). The version of ERIC accessed was through Ebscohost.

These terms were also entered in Google Scholar using advanced scholar search, with the terms appearing anywhere in the article, and limiting the years 2007-2008. Results were also limited to those listed on the first three pages using the default 10 results per. This methodology was adopted to acquire the most scholarly results possible related to the search terms for one designated publication year selected randomly. The precision of the scholarly articles retrieved were calculated as described by Walker and Janes (1999). Returned results were examined to determine relevancy by reviewing the bibliographic record and paying particular attention to the subject terms and abstract in ERIC, and the keywords and abstract in Google Scholar. Items were deemed relevant in how closely they related to the subject of "occupational education" in the community college, as defined by Githens, Crawford, and Sauer (2010). The results from each search were then placed in tables created in Microsoft Word. The results in the tables were used to identify how many, and what types of material were retrieved.

## RESULTS

### *What is the precision of ERIC compared to Google Scholar?*

This question was answered by conducting a series of searches. Tables for the results retrieved are located in the appendix. The calculation of precision was followed as outlined by Walker and Janes. These authors identified the precision of a database search as a formula where the number of relevant items retrieved is divided by the number of documents retrieved. With this information, the precision of each database for each search was examined.

For the search term "occupational education," ERIC returned a total of 12 results. Of the citations retrieved four were relevant, so the precision of ERIC in this search was 0.33 or 33 percent. The results from Google Scholar numbered in the thousands. However, the limitation of including

only the first three pages provided a sample number of 30 citations. This was found to be the case for each of the five searches. Of these 30 items, only seven directly related to occupational education in the community college. This gave Google Scholar a precision score of 0.23, or 23 percent.

For the search term workforce education, ERIC returned 28 items, of which 10 were relevant. The precision of ERIC for this search was 0.36, or 36 percent. Google Scholar again retrieved a minimum 30 documents. Of these, there were 11 relevant articles retrieved. The precision for Google Scholar in this search was 0.36, or 36 percent.

The next search term included "labor force development." For ERIC, 144 items were returned. However, since the majority of researchers do not examine results beyond the first three pages, only the first thirty (with 10 results per page) were sampled. Of this number 11 were found to be relevant, providing a precision of 0.367 or 37 percent. The precision of Google Scholar for this search was found to be one article out of 30 (0.03), or three percent.

For the search terms "vocational education," ERIC retrieved 475 results. With the limitation of 10 results per page for the first three pages, this again provided a sample of 30. Of these 30, only seven were pertinent to occupational education, providing a precision of 0.23 (23 percent). Of the 30 results examined from Google Scholar, 11 were found to be relevant. The precision here was at 0.366, or 37 percent.

The final search terms "workforce development," retrieved 31 results. Using the limit of 30, this provided a sample of 30. Of these, half of the items retrieved were relevant for a 50 percent precision rating. Google Scholar returned four relevant results out of the 30 total. The precision calculated for this search was .13 or 13 percent

When the numbers from each search were added, ERIC returned 47 relevant items out of 130 total. This gave the database a combined precision of 36 percent. For Google Scholar, 40 relevant items were found, out of a total of 150. This placed the precision of Google Scholar at 26 percent. Although Google Scholar returned more items the coverage, as defined through precision, was greater for ERIC by 10 percentage

points. It was found that ERIC returned the most relevant articles when using the search terms "workforce development," and Google Scholar had its highest number of articles with the terms "workforce education" and "labor force development."

### *How much, and what types of material were retrieved from ERIC compared to Google?*

For ERIC, the search terms "occupational education" returned 12 items. Eleven of these were journal articles, with only one item identified as a report. Google Scholar returned several thousand items. However, this study only examined the first three pages leaving 30 results. Of these, 22 were journal articles, three were research papers, three were books, and two were government documents.

For workforce education ERIC provided 28 citations. These were made up of 15 reports, 12 journal articles, and one meeting proceeding. More than half of the 30 items returned from Google Scholar included journal articles with 21 titles. Four were identified as books, two government documents, two reports and one research paper.

The term "labor force development" returned 144 results in ERIC. By relying on only the first three pages, this limited the sample to just 30 items. These results were made up almost exclusively of journal articles with 29. One item was identified as a report. Google Scholar returned 17 journal articles, eight books, four reports, and one paper.

For "vocational education," ERIC returned several hundred results but only 30 were analyzed. All 30 items were from journal articles. Of the 30 items Google Scholar retrieved, 15 were journal articles, 10 were books, and five were identified as reports.

For the final search terms of "workforce development," 30 results from ERIC were examined. All 30 results were identified as journal articles. Google Scholar returned 30 items with 21 journal articles, five reports, two research papers, one government document, and one book.

Google Scholar retrieved a greater variety of material from each search. Some of these items included books, research papers, and journal articles. The items retrieved from ERIC were primarily journal articles.

## DISCUSSION

For each individual search, the two databases were usually within 10 percentage points of precision. The exception being "workforce development" where 50 percent of the items returned in ERIC were on-topic, but only 13 percent of those from Google Scholar related to the search. However, the pertinent coverage on the topic of "occupational education" in the community college was greater in ERIC. ERIC had an average precision rate of 35.8 percent, while on average Google Scholar ranked 27.8 percent. Although Google Scholar returned more results, many more of these citations were off topic.

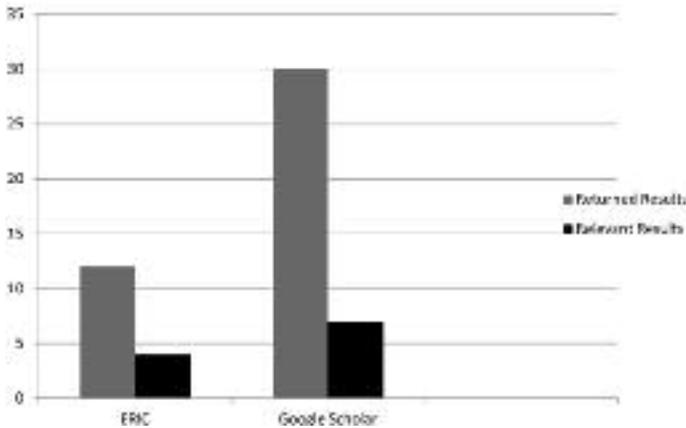
There was greater variety of material returned with Google Scholar. ERIC primarily returned journal articles. Google Scholar returned journals, books, manuscripts and other scholarly items. However, despite these higher returns many of the items in Google Scholar were citation only. Often a link was provided to obtain the document in question, but this was not always the case. In contrast, most of those citations found in ERIC were full-text, and were obtainable as part of the subscription to ERIC.

The Howland, Wright, Boughan, and Roberts (2009) article found that the items returned using Google Scholar were in greater variety, and scholarly in nature. They also noted that many of the returned results were citation only, and stated that it would be difficult to rely on Google Scholar alone (Howland, Wright, Boughan, and Roberts 2009). This study also noted the variety and scholarly nature of the items returned using Google Scholar. This study was in additional agreement in that many of these returned results were citation only. Considering these findings Google Scholar could be used as a tool to initially develop a search. Related topics, and key citations to studies on a designated discipline could be found using Google Scholar. With this information a follow up search in another database could be used to obtain the actual items. Further studies could examine how the simultaneous use of Google Scholar and another database might enhance the precision of returned results. ■

APPENDIX

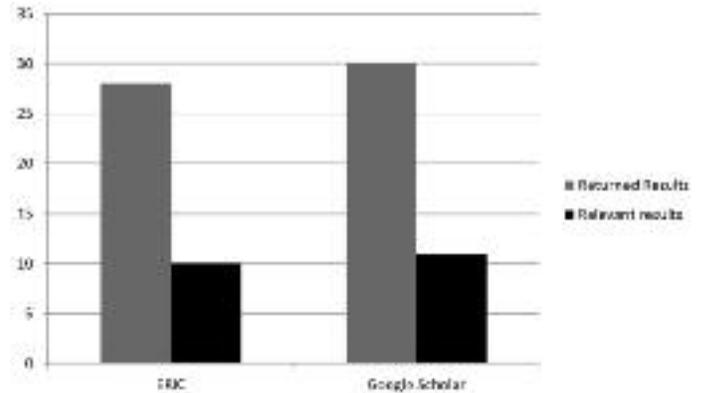
**TABLE 1**

Database results using the term “occupational education.”



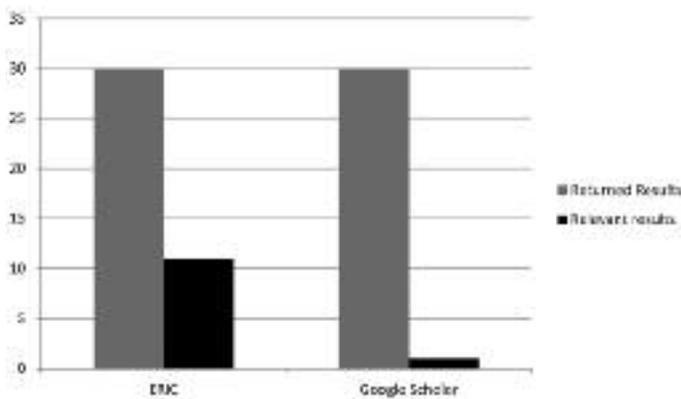
**TABLE 2**

Database results using the term “workforce education.”



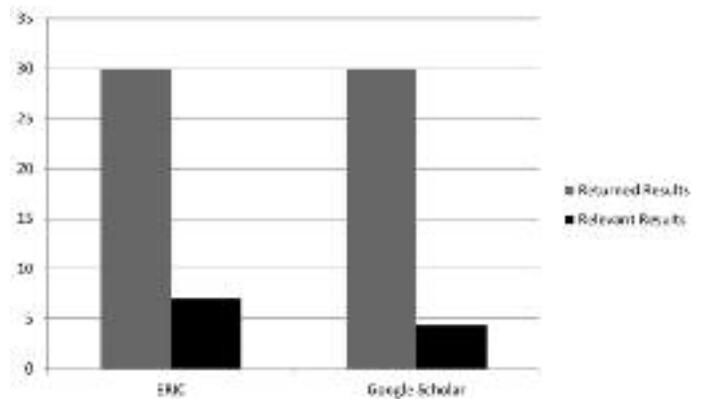
**TABLE 3**

Database results using the term “labor force development.”



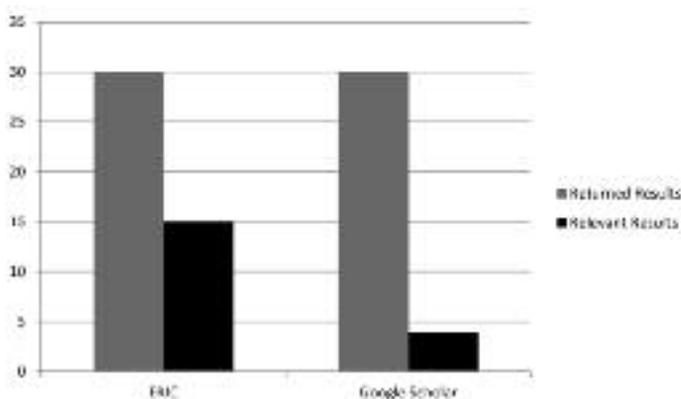
**TABLE 4**

Database results using the term “vocational education.”



**TABLE 5**

Database results using the term “workforce development.”



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# Library Lunchtime Lecture: Invite, Involve and Inform a Community

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## INTRODUCTION

In the spring semester of 2008, the Library Instruction Committee of the Houston Cole Library at Jacksonville State University (JSU), in Jacksonville, Alabama, decided to offer Brown Bag lectures for students, faculty, staff and the community. The Committee set out to teach those willing to come and learn about library skills in the library's computer classroom. Two months of weekly instruction was scheduled with topics ranging from "How to find books and articles" to "How to cite research material." After a lack of attendance by students, faculty and staff, the chair proposed to the committee to open the lectures to anyone willing to present. Therefore, the purpose of the lectures changed from teaching library skills to promoting information literacy and networking on campus and throughout the community.

## BACKGROUND

Jacksonville State University (JSU) was founded in 1883 in Jacksonville, Alabama, and is a public comprehensive teaching institution serving more than 9000 undergraduate and graduate students.<sup>1</sup> The Library Instruction Committee's mission is to help promote JSU's library instruction program at the Houston Cole Library (HCL) on campus. The committee reviews methodology and instructional aids to make recommendations and incorporate revisions to enhancements, and has decided to seek creative ways to promote the library and its services.

## PLANNING

The committee's plan was to educate new students and faculty members about services offered at the HCL, as well as refresh some of the veteran faculty and staff members. During a brainstorming session, a proposal offering informal lectures to JSU students, faculty and staff was proposed by the chair and

approved. Because of the small size of the committee, a request went out via email welcoming other JSU librarians interested in presenting at lectures. Since many of JSU's staff members are extremely knowledgeable about librarianship as well as a number of non-library topics, the chair invited all JSU faculty and staff members to speak at these sessions. However, attendance was so poor that the Committee decided to change the mission to a promotion of the library as a place for everyone to find scholarly as well as popular information. In addition to JSU staff and faculty, the Committee also invited community leaders and citizens to present on any topic. The purpose of opening the lectures to any topic was to demonstrate that the library can assist in all areas. The goal was to create a shared learning and outreach forum welcoming all to the library and more importantly, to increase information literacy.

When performing a literature search on the benefits of library brown bag instructions, the term "brown bag" appeared to be dated. In addition, when searching for community and academic library articles, the number of published articles was low. One article containing similar elements to the HCL lunchtime lectures is "Communication Outreach Is Self-Promotion and Marketing: Proactive Community Outreach Is an Unshirkable Responsibility (sic) of Academic Libraries." The author, Haiwang Yuan from Western Kentucky University, states:

It is not enough to transform a conventional library of book storage and lending into an electronically driven powerhouse of digitization. In addition to increasing and enhancing its collections, facilities, equipment and patron services, a library needs (sic) also act proactively to reach out to its patrons and its community. Outreach projects and programs will help build community and thus library's support bases. Besides, community outreach is one way to extend library services to the society and help build it into a harmonious one.<sup>2</sup>

If individuals are not aware of the treasures

libraries can offer, why would libraries be useful? Therefore, marketing and promoting the library and its various services is imperative to informing its potential users. Western Kentucky University held internet workshops, book festivals, writers' conferences, Black History Month lectures, and numerous other events. The benefits of the outreach project were plentiful. Major advantages experienced by WKU were:

1. Excellent community service
2. Positive marketing of its libraries
3. Connecting and partnering with local businesses
4. Using technology and media to advertise the libraries' events

Another creative community and library information sharing projects is taking place at the Lismore City Library in Australia. The Lismore's Living Library project is a unique collaboration of a public library serving as a learning resource in an informal setting. According to Lucy Kinsley, the author of "Lismore's Living Library: Connecting Communities Through Conversation" "...The Living Library gives the city's diverse community the opportunity to talk to people and learn from them – people they would not normally meet. This is promoting and leading to better communication and understanding within the community."<sup>3</sup>

In the article Kinsley writes that the community, not the library, first developed the idea of having individuals as talking books. The largest music festival in Denmark sparked the idea of living books; organizers of the event wanted to prevent violent riots and a nongovernmental youth group thought of a creative way to "Stop the Violence."

Concert goers were invited to be Books, to tell their Reader about aspects of their life. This could be their country of origin, their lifestyle, and their beliefs. To facilitate this communication, Living Dictionaries were also established to accompany Books and to act as interpreters to the

dialogue between Book and Reader. This idea, a Living Library, proved to be able to involve all nationalities and ages, leading to more communication and understanding.<sup>4</sup>

Once the festival was completed and the Living Library was well received, a group of citizens from the Lismore City Library and the city council representatives combined efforts to recruit Living Books and Readers. Readers were invited to attend a media promotion, intended to be a one time event with occasional special events. However, due to the overwhelming success of the occasion, the Living Library was requested again the next month, and the Lismore City Library volunteered to arrange monthly events.

### OUTREACH

Attendance was extremely low at the first JSU library lunchtime lectures: only one faculty member attended the first library instruction session; the second instruction session was attended by two faculty members/librarians, one paraprofessional and a student worker. Unfortunately, the next session was only attended by the presenters. These two librarians/professors decided that it would be great practice for them to present their findings, even though no other students, faculty, or staff members were present. Both librarians learned from each other so the two did not consider their preparation to be a waste, agreeing that obtaining knowledge during the preparation period was beneficial. The next library instruction session was the exchange book/material partnership of several academic libraries in Alabama. One library manager and one reference librarian attended the presentation.

Since the library lunchtime lectures had low attendance, the chair of the committee asked the members to provide feedback concerning their thoughts of the sessions. All of the librarians wanted to continue with the lunchtime lectures, though they recommended the following:

- Changing the time of the year for the lectures
- Changing the time of day they were held
- Changing the frequency of the lectures
- Allowing non-librarians to present

Marketing also played an integral part in attendance for the lunchtime lectures. Fliers, emails and electronic announcements on the university's newswire and verbal announcements were all used. Due to budget issues, there was no food allowance and not having refreshments and/or food also was a reason for low attendance. After reviewing the outcome of the library instruction sessions, one observation was that there was no student representative or student input to what is needed or desired by students; knowing what the students want and when they want it would be beneficial to the committee.

### RESULTS

The first non-librarian to present at the brown bag session was Mr. Simon Bevis – a local and natural farmer of Noah Valley Farm in Jacksonville, Alabama. Since it was close to Thanksgiving 2008, it was a fitting

and informative exchange highlighting the importance of purchasing natural and locally grown foods. Over 20 people attended the session and nearly all of the attendees stated that they learned about the importance of supporting local farmers (the few which exist) and eating all natural foods. Mr. Bevis gave suggestions about the types of vegetables individuals can plant during the fall and how to take care of them. Books concerning natural foods and farming were displayed. Two books were actually checked out of the library after this successful session, which was attended by a mix of faculty, staff, students and community members.

The next presentation was given by two active and well known local citizens: Mr. David Zeigler, a JSU administrator and active Habitat for Humanity board member and Mr. Ron Hindman, executive director of the Calhoun County Habitat for Humanity. One of the guests, a community

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counselor, needed to find organizations searching for volunteers. Habitat for Humanity needed volunteers and after the inspirational talk, the two leaders met for the first time and began a partnership. The library lunchtime lecture therefore served as an informal referral system.

The library was also honored to have the first African American student to enroll at Jacksonville State University, Mrs. Barbara C. Curry, talk at the February (Black History Month) 2009 library lunchtime lecture. She discussed how her family sacrificed to send her to the “white school” because it was the closest school to her home and about how her brother gave up his car to help her complete her education. Marketing the session was challenging: not many students attended. The low attendance may have been due to the midday hour and/or various other Black History events which were scheduled on campus around the same time. Mrs. Curry was asked to return and to possibly record an oral history of her experiences for the HCL collection on university history. Despite the attendance issues, Mrs. Curry’s lecture inspired the Committee chair to continue the lunchtime lectures.

The next lecture was well presented and well attended after the word got out that these lectures were interesting and a JSU faculty member called the chair of the Committee and became the first presenter to volunteer. The Wellness Center Director, Ms. Gina Mabrey, needed a forum for her students to give a presentation. This was the perfect opportunity to give students practice in public speaking and to promote the library’s materials. The topic was “Creative

tips to prepare and eat vegetables and fruit” and nearly all of the students from the wellness class attended. Refreshments were served and overall attendance was high: this was the most-attended library lunchtime lecture to date. The students did an outstanding job of presenting the material using PowerPoint and speaking from the knowledge they gained from their class and research. Suggestion forms were available to the audience to give comments and to suggest additional presentations.

Snacks were provided by the committee chair and once the chair explained the lack of funds for refreshments, some of the speakers volunteered to bring snacks. Advertising the provided food for the guests and door prizes increased the numbers. In order to keep accurate records of the lunchtime lectures, recordings were made of the sessions that will serve as a reference source and a history of library and community events.

### CONCLUSION

Offering weekly library instruction sessions at the beginning of the fall semester was not initially well received by students, faculty or staff. A plan was needed to involve students and ask their opinions about lunchtime library research sessions. If the sessions are needed, details of how and when the instruction sessions should be offered must be addressed.

The lectures indicated that the exchange of information and networking is a vital part of the learning process. Gathering together is essential in the networking process: in today’s economy, there are many

displaced highly skilled individuals, and networking of this sort is essential to meet possible future employees or employers by congregating in an inviting and informal environment. Finally, the library lunchtime lectures advertised to the community that the library has access to nearly any topic and can assist in meeting the informational needs of students, faculty, staff, and the community it serves. ■

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# Creating and Utilizing a Mobile Website & QR Code for the Library

**Courtney M. Hicks**

*Reference Librarian • R.C. Pugh Library  
Northwest Mississippi Community College*

## INTRODUCTION

With declining library usage, libraries must find new and creative ways to reach their users. One way is to develop a QR code that makes the library’s website easily accessible on a mobile device. Mobile web-

site access helps meet users on the grounds that they prefer and are accustomed to. The following describes the basics of creating and utilizing a QR Code and mobile website to its greatest potential.

## REACHING OUT TO OUR USERS

Libraries are always looking for new and innovative ways to reach out to their patrons and meet their information needs.

Doing this, however, requires keeping in mind both cost and time. R.C. Pugh Library at Northwest Mississippi Community College (NWCC) is no different. When we think of what engages students today, two things instantly come to mind: Facebook and mobile devices. Since the library already reaches out to its user community via Facebook, mobile devices are the next logical step. So, NWCC decided to

test the water and create a QR code that would link to information available on the library's webpage, while costing the library little or no money.

**WHAT IS A QR CODE?**

What is a QR Code exactly and what does it do? QR codes (quick response codes) are two-dimensional matrixes that when scanned using a Smartphone, will link directly to a page displaying information, most commonly a webpage or advertisement.



**METHODS FOR CREATION AND IMPLEMENTATION**

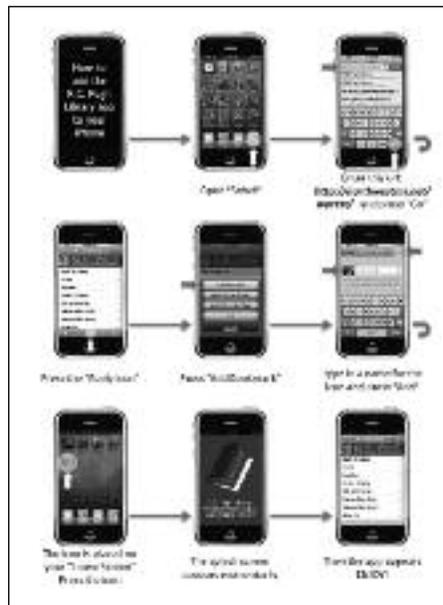
After researching different strategies, the library found that the best way for creating a QR code would be to use a Plug-in available through WordPress. Once the plug-in, called inbox, was installed on the server, a blog was created. This resulted in the creation of a mobile-friendly site. A plug-in linked to the existing library page would have caused problems. Without a mobile site, the information on the library's page would not display correctly for mobile users. With the blog completed, the URL was put into a free QR Code generator and the mobile site was ready to launch!

The total fees for creating the mobile site were less than fifty dollars. The total amount of time spent to create and ensure properly functionality four to six hours.

**THERE'S AN APP FOR THAT!**

One additional feature that will also be available to users with mobile devices is the ability to create an App. Just follow these steps: open the internet browser, type in the URL for the mobile website and press "Go" or enter. Once the site is open, it can be

saved as a "Bookmark." The device should prompt the user then to add a name for the App. After adding a title, the icon will then be placed on the user's "Home Screen" for easy access in the future. From the first scan and/or save of the library mobile site, the users will have the library's information readily available on their mobile device!



**BUT...WHY?**

The QR code has become a new and exciting way for the library at NWCC to reach out to students. It is obvious from a quick visual scan of the library that a large majority of the students have some sort of mobile device whether that is a Smartphone, an iPod, or a tablet. Any of these are sufficient for employing the new technology.

When the question, "how many of you carry a device capable of supporting an application such as a mobile webpage?" was asked to a freshman orientation class, 81% of the students responded that they did. All these students also use their mobile device regularly to access the internet.



**PROMOTING THE SERVICE**

Students are told during instruction classes and have the opportunity to configure their devices with the help of librarians. But what about the students who do not have the opportunity to attend any more instruction sessions while at NWCC? How would the library reach out to these users? The codes will be hung around signs displayed with road signs around it along with the phrase "Have you been here?" This will intrigue students to find out more and thus gaining more users. It's also a possibility that the code be printed on bookmarks that students take or are given when they check out a book.



**CONCLUSIONS**

The library staff and faculty are very excited about the features offered through the mobile application. There is a link to the hours as well as a staff directory that will allow students and faculty to call any staff member with one click of their screen. Other features include the library's online catalog, a link to the Ask a Librarian virtual reference feature, plus location and floor plan of the library. The application also includes a "Video of the Month" section for users to view for informational and entertainment purposes.

Within hours of hearing the news of the new application for Northwest Mississippi Community College, faculty members responded positively about the app using it to call and e-mail librarians from their phones.

Library users can now contact the library anytime, anywhere. Everyone at Northwest Mississippi Community College looks forward to seeing an increase in usage of the library due to this great new feature. ■

# People in the News

## **Tina Harry**

*Associate Professor/Catalog and Assistant  
Automation Librarian  
University of Mississippi • tharry@olemiss.edu*

The University of Southern Mississippi School of Library and Information Science is pleased to welcome a new tenure-track faculty member, **J. Brenton Stewart**, Ph.D. Dr. Stewart recently earned his doctorate in Library and Information Studies from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. His dissertation was "Informing the South: On the Culture of Print in Antebellum Augusta, Georgia, 1828-1860 and areas of interest include Southern print culture, history of libraries, and social informatics. Dr. Stewart earned a M.S. in Library Science from Clark Atlanta University and a B.A. in History and African-American Studies from UNC Greensboro. He was recently a Stephan Botein Fellow at the American Antiquarian Society, has presented at various conferences including the Association for Library and Information Science Education (ALISE), and has papers under review for journal publication.

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The Mississippi Department of Archives and History is pleased to welcome three new staff members to the Archives and Records Services Division.

**Indira Bhowal** joined MDAH as the section head of published information. She worked at the Mississippi Library Commission in Jackson for twenty years, most recently as the technical services director. She received her Master of Library Sciences from the University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg.

**Jeff Gambrone** joined MDAH as a historian in the archives research library. His previous work includes historical researcher and writer for Communication Arts Company in Jackson and historian at the Old Courthouse Museum in Vicksburg. He received his Master of Arts in History from Mississippi College.

**Tyson Koenig** joined MDAH as an archivist. He earned his Master of Science in Information from the University of

Michigan – Ann Arbor and his Bachelor of Arts in History from Truman State University in Kirksville, Missouri.

The Mississippi Department of Archives and History is the second-oldest state department of archives and history in the United States. The department collects, preserves, and provides access to the archival resources of the state, administers various museums and historic sites, and oversees statewide programs for historic preservation, state and local government records management, and publications. The department is headquartered in the state-of-the-art William F. Winter Archives and History Building, located on the corner of North and Amite Streets in downtown Jackson. For more information call 601-576-6850 or see the MDAH Web site, [www.mdah.state.ms.us](http://www.mdah.state.ms.us).

— ◆ —

**Ellen Hunter Ruffin**, Curator of the de Grummond Children's Literature Collection, has been elected to serve on the Laura Ingalls Wilder Committee for 2013-2015. The Wilder Committee, a committee of Association for Library Services to Children (ALSC), selects a lifetime achievement award for a children's author or illustrator. Some of the previous recipients of the Wilder Award are Tomie dePaola, Ashley Bryan, Eric Carle, Maurice Sendak, Theodor S. Geisel (Dr. Seuss), and Laura Ingalls Wilder. Ruffin looks forward to serving on this prestigious committee.



*Ellen Hunter  
Ruffin*

— ◆ —

**Harvey Brenneise**, new Associate Dean for Research Services, began work at USM on July 16. His MSLS is from University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and he also has an M.A. in history (Andrews University). Prior to his appointment at USM, he has worked in libraries at Andrews University (MI), Michi-



*Harvey  
Brenneise*

gan Public Health Institute, Seattle Public Library, University of La Verne (CA), Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden (CA) and Chadron State College (NE). Personal interests include gardening, orchid growing, travel, classical music, and of course reading!

**Brian Young** joined the University of Mississippi Libraries as the new Engineering Reference Librarian. He received his degree from University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and his B.S. in Electrical Engineering from Clemson University. Previously he worked in reference as a graduate assistant at N.C. State University and Duke University and at Milliken & Co. as a process/industrial engineer.

**Jennifer Brosek** joined the University of Mississippi Libraries as the Electronic Resources Librarian. She received her MLS from Indiana University. She also has a BA in Political Science and MA in International Relations from the University of Chicago. Previously she worked as the WISPALS Library Consortium Coordinator.

— ◆ —

**Laura Beth Walker** has been selected as the new Head Librarian, Lafayette County & Oxford Public Library replacing Dorothy Fitts, who is retiring after 44 years of service to the Oxford and Lafayette County communities.

Laura Beth graduated from Ole Miss in 1995. She was received her Master's Degree in Library and Information Science in 2001. Laura Beth has been employed by the First Regional Library since March 1997. She currently serves as the Library's Reference Librarian. Laura Beth will begin at Head Librarian on November 1, 2012.

Mississippi State University Libraries is proud to welcome a new faculty member to its Acquisitions Department.

**James Rodgers** joined MSU Libraries' faculty as an Assistant Professor/Acquisitions Librarian in July of 2012. He completed his MLS from Indiana University in 2009. James also holds a MA in musicology from Indiana University and a BM in Renaissance lute performance from Clayton State College.

For more information on MSU Libraries, please visit: <https://library.msstate.edu/> ■

# News Briefs

**Tina Harry**

*Associate Professor/Catalog and Assistant  
Automation Librarian  
University of Mississippi  
tharry@olemiss.edu*

## MSU LIBRARIES RANKS NATIONALLY IN LIBRARIES JOURNAL PUBLICATIONS

Based on preliminary study results from the University of Illinois at Chicago, Mississippi State University is the tenth most productive institution in terms of journal publications by librarians.

The preliminary study results were revealed in "Publication Patterns of U.S. Academic Librarians: 2003-2011," a poster session presented at the American Library Association Annual Conference in Anaheim, CA in June of this year.

Deborah Blecic; Stephen Wiberley, Jr.; Sandra De Groote; Mary Shultz; John Cullars; and Vivian Chan examined issues of 32 previously studied peer-reviewed library and information science journals published between 2003 and 2011. They determined the frequency of publication by U.S. academic librarians and compared the productivity of individual institutions.

Of the top fifteen institutions listed in this study, MSU Libraries ranks tenth in number of author instances in the journals studied, and the Libraries tied for sixth with the University of Illinois at Chicago in number of refereed articles. The higher number of author instances is a result of co-authorship, which the study authors attribute to collaboration among librarians.

A PDF of the poster with a list of the top fifteen institutions, description of methodology, list of journals studied, and more is available at <http://ala12.scheduler.ala.org/files/ala12/pubpatternsposter-REVISED.pdf>.

The authors plan to extend the study through 2012 and similarly examine additional journals.

For more information on MSU Libraries, please visit <http://library.msstate.edu/>.

*– Submitted by Angela M. Patton, Library Associate, Mississippi State University Libraries*

## MSU'S COMPLETE REVEILLE NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE, 1898-2008

Mississippi State University's Reveille has gone digital.

Every volume of the student-published yearbook is now freely available online via MSU Libraries' website. The project to digitize all Reveille volumes began in April 2012, and was completed in August. Pages from the yearbooks have typically been the most often-requested material for digitization from the University Archives. While the more recent volumes are pretty sturdy, some of the oldest books are not able to be handled by the public due to their frail condition. Now, due to the completion of this digitization, anyone can access all years of the Reveille from anywhere in the world.

The Reveille chronicles the lives and

events of Mississippi State University (previously named Mississippi Agricultural & Mechanical College and Mississippi State College) throughout the institution's history. MSU Libraries partnered with the Lyrasis Mass Digitization Collaborative to complete this digitization project through a subsidy grant from the Sloan Foundation. Each of the volumes from 1898 to 2008 is searchable – thanks to the use of optical character recognition (OCR) software – and freely available for partial or complete download.

For more information on MSU Libraries and to peruse the yearbooks, please visit <http://library.msstate.edu/Reveille>.

*– Submitted by Angela M. Patton, Library Associate, Mississippi State University Libraries*

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*Pictured at the contract signing are (l to r) Celia Fisher, Member, Mississippi Library Commission Board of Directors; Vicki Gault-Farmer, Member, Lee-Itawamba Library System Board of Directors; Stephen Cunetto, Administrator of Systems for MSU Libraries & Executive Director, Mississippi Library Partnership; Glenda Segars, Member, Lee-Itawamba Library System Board of Directors; Jeff Tomlinson, Director, Lee-Itawamba Library System; Mark Keenum, President, Mississippi State University; Dalton Anthony, President, Friends of the Lee County Library; Julie Battaile, Chair, Board of Trustees for the Lee-Itawamba Library System; and Frances Coleman, Dean of Libraries, Mississippi State University.*

### LEE-ITAWAMBA LIBRARY SYSTEM JOINS MSU-BASED MISSISSIPPI LIBRARY PARTNERSHIP

Mississippi's largest library consortium added new libraries in September. After the acquisition, the system will serve 55 libraries in 16 Mississippi counties.

The Mississippi Library Partnership (MLP) welcomed the Lee-Itawamba Library System to the consortium in an official contract signing on Thursday, August 23, 2012. The Lee-Itawamba Library System currently serves Tupelo's Lee County Public Library & Fulton's Itawamba County Public Library.

The Lee-Itawamba Library System joins the MLP, which serves libraries on the campuses of Mississippi State University, Mississippi University for Women, East Mississippi Community College, Starkville High School, and in the cities of Aberdeen, Ackerman, Amory, Artesia, Batesville, Caledonia, Carthage, Coldwater, Columbus, Como, Crawford, Crenshaw, Duck Hill, Durant, Eupora, Goodman, Hamilton, Hernando, Horn Lake, Jackson, Kilmichael, Kosciusko, Lexington, Louisville, Maben, Mathiston, Mayhew, Meridian, Nettleton, Olive Branch, Oxford, Pickens, Sardis, Scooba, Senatobia, Southaven, Starkville, Sturgis, Tchula, Tunica, Walls, Walnut Grove, Weir, West, West Point, Winona, and Wren.

During the contract signing in Mississippi State University Libraries' John Grisham Room, Dr. Mark Keenum, president of Mississippi State University, welcomed the new members to the MLP stating "We are very proud of Mississippi State University's role in the growth and develop-

ment of the Mississippi Library Partnership. The affiliation of the Lee-Itawamba Library System with the Partnership brings even more strength and prestige to this important consortium."

Lee-Itawamba Director Jeff Tomlinson is pleased with the decision to join, remarking "We are very excited about joining the Partnership as a way to provide additional books to our patrons and also as a way to save taxpayer dollars; when we can borrow the books from another library, we don't have to buy those titles." Tomlinson went on to share "Once our patrons get familiar with this service, I expect we will see many requests for books from other libraries. This is just too good a deal to pass up, and the people of our community know a good thing when they see it!"

The Mississippi Library Partnership was established in 1993 as a means of increasing the sharing of resources and automation costs as well as the sharing of technical expertise. The mission of the Partnership is to provide a central database that customers can utilize to provide easy access to resources available in the North-Central regions of the state. Building upon the success of the venture between charter members Mississippi State University and Mississippi University for Women, the Partnership continues to impact libraries and provide exceptional service to its members.

"We are very pleased to have the Lee-Itawamba System join the MLP," said Cunetto. "With the addition of these new libraries, the Partnership, the only one of its kind in the State, now includes over 55 libraries, including academic, public, and



*Jeff Tomlinson (left), Director, Lee-Itawamba Library System, and Mark Keenum, President, Mississippi State University sign the contract officially merging the Lee-Itawamba Library System with the Mississippi Library Partnership on Thursday, August 23, 2012, during a ceremony at Mississippi State University Libraries.*

school libraries."

The Lee-Itawamba Library System will be live on the MLP system beginning October 18, 2012.

Since its establishment, Starkville High School, Tombigbee Regional Library System, Starkville-Oktibbeha Public Library System, the East Mississippi Community College Libraries, the Mid-Mississippi Library System, Columbus-Lowndes Public Library System, and the First Regional Library have joined the Partnership. Training and ongoing development and support for the Partnership is handled by the Mississippi State University Libraries.

For more information on the Mississippi Library Partnership, please visit: <http://library.msstate.edu/grlrc>.

— Submitted by Angela M. Patton, Library Associate, Mississippi State University Libraries • Photographs by Jim Tomlinson, MSU Libraries

### UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI LIBRARIES RECEIVES CIVIL WAR 150 GRANT

The University of Southern Mississippi Libraries received the Civil War 150 grant from the Gilder Lehman Institute of American History. As part of the grant award, The University Libraries will receive a traveling exhibit that will focus on various themes of the American Civil War including slavery, Civil War literature, and the home front. In addition to the exhibit, the library will receive \$1,000 for event programming which will include additional exhibits highlighting col-

lections in University Libraries' Special Collections and presentations from numerous Southern Miss professors on various aspects of the war. The exhibits and programming will take place in September 2013.

Jennifer Brannock, Curator of Rare Books and Mississippiana, with assistance from Library Grants Administrator Ann Branton, successfully wrote the grant proposal. The University of Southern Mississippi Libraries was the only institution in Mississippi to receive the award. For more information, contact Jennifer Brannock at [Jennifer.Brannock@usm.edu](mailto:Jennifer.Brannock@usm.edu) or 601.266.4347.

– Submitted by Jennifer Brannock, Curator of Rare Books and Mississippiana, The University of Southern Mississippi

#### NEW ONLINE AND ONSITE RESOURCES AT MSU LIBRARIES CELEBRATE LAND-GRANT INSTITUTIONS

In conjunction with Mississippi State University's historical investigation of the sesquicentennial land-grant university, "Thinking Land Grants: A 'Cerebration' of

the 150th Anniversary of the Morrill Land-Grant Act, October 3-6, 2012," and the national recognition of October as Archives Month, the MSU Libraries announce a number of online and onsite resources celebrating the Morrill Land-Grant Act.

An exhibit detailing the land-grant origins of MSU is newly installed on Mitchell Memorial Library's second-floor Information Mall. Utilizing materials from the vast collections of the University Archives, this exhibit hosts for visitors documents, photographs and memorabilia related to the early days of the University, known then as the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Mississippi. Among the items on display are excerpts from the original Board of Trustees meeting minutes from 1878, showing the selection of Starkville as the site for the College and of Stephen D. Lee as the College's first president.

The MSU Libraries have also created The Mississippi State University Founders Digital Collection as a supplement to the exhibit. This collection features the complete 1878 Board of Trustees meeting minutes and the Presidential Papers of both Stephen D. Lee (from 1880-1899) and

John Marshall Stone (from 1899-1900), second President of the College. This collection can be accessed by visiting <http://library.msstate.edu/specialcollections/archive/founders>.

In addition, "The Morrill Act, Celebrating Land-Grant Universities," a new research guide, is now available, providing users with access to information on the Morrill Act, land-grant institutions in the United States, agricultural resources on the web, books and journals dealing with agricultural and mechanical topics and a variety of digital resources related to land-grant institutions and their missions. This research guide can be accessed by visiting <http://guides.library.msstate.edu/MorrillAct>.

For more information and to begin accessing these resources, please visit <http://library.msstate.edu/> or contact MSU Libraries Assistant Archivist Ryan Semmes at 662-325-9355 or by email at [rsemmes@library.msstate.edu](mailto:rsemmes@library.msstate.edu).

– Submitted by Lyle Tate, Administrative Assistant/Special Events, Mississippi State University Libraries ■

## About Books

**Jennifer Brannock**

Curator of Rare Books and Mississippiana  
University of Southern Mississippi  
[jennifer.brannock@usm.edu](mailto:jennifer.brannock@usm.edu)

#### FICTION

**Cochran, Michael.** *Sir Bubba*. Castroville, TX: Black Rose Writing, 2010. 230 pp. \$16.95 (paperback)

In the novel, Christian "Bubba" McCall is a typical Mississippi farmer who works hard, loves his family and plays by the rules. One day, the simple Delta life he loves so much is turned on its end when he is paid a visit from a man from England. Bubba, who was orphaned as a teenager and adopted by the neighbors, is told more of his lineage. He learns that he is a descendant of The Knights of the Round Table. A condition of being a member of this organization is that all future male heirs are promised to be available for

duty whenever the need arises. Bubba rapidly finds out that the need has arisen. There is a series of unsolved murders happening in England, and they appear to be leading to the Royal Family. Despite his protests that he is a farmer, not a detective, Bubba is taken to England and plunged into a world completely opposite of the one he has always known. Not long after his arrival, an attempt is made on his life, and the pace never slows down. Bubba brings new insight – and cuisine to his new comrades and turns the investigation on its ear.

Michael Cochran does an excellent job of describing life in the Mississippi Delta. From the weather this area is known for ("the humidity is at 90% and it is so oppressive that it is like soaking a wool blanket in hot water, putting it over your head and walking around in 100 degree heat") to describing an Englishman's first sip of iced tea ("He felt a cooling effect on his body and decided that he needed to remember

this beverage in the future"), Cochran nails southern life. Bubba is a character whom is easily identified with and definitely breaks the mold of the "slow southerner."

This fiction novel is best suited for public and academic libraries. Due to some mild language, it is not recommended in an elementary school library. High school students and older would enjoy this tale of intrigue.

*Cesarina Dancy*

Librarian

Sacred Heart School (Southaven, MS)

— ◆ —

**McMullen, Margaret.** *Sources of Light*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 2010. 240 pp. \$16.00 (hardcover)

After her father's death in Vietnam, 14-year old Samantha moves with her mother from Pittsburgh to her mother's home state

of Mississippi. The year is 1962. The story is told from the point of view of a young white girl observing the beginnings of the Civil Rights Movement.

Samantha interacts with her mother, an art teacher at a Jackson College, her friends at school, the family maid, and her mother's boyfriend, Perry. It is Perry, a photographer, who teaches Samantha how to look at the world through the lens of a camera. She begins to take photos, first of ordinary scenes from her everyday life, but then begins to record some of the events that are taking place around Jackson, including sit-ins at the local soda fountain, and the integration of an audience listening to author Eudora Welty speak. Samantha also witnesses the effect that the struggle for integration has on her friend, the family's maid, Willa Mae. A subplot of the book involves Samantha's burgeoning romance with Stone. Stone is caught between his desire to be a boy who Samantha can admire and his loyalty to his family, who believe that segregation should remain a way of life. When Perry is murdered, Stone has to make a difficult decision that could change his life forever.

The author lived in Mississippi during some of the most violent years of the Civil Rights Movement. Although the events have been fictionalized, many are based on true events, such as Eudora Welty's speech at Millsaps College. By incorporating personal experiences with fiction, McMullen has been able to bring this powerful part of history to life.

*Sources of Light* is recommended for all school and public libraries. It would also be a valuable addition to academic libraries that maintain children's literature collections.

Allisa Beck

Collection Management Librarian  
University of Southern Mississippi,  
Gulf Coast



## NONFICTION

**Bracey, Earnest.** *Fannie Lou Hamer: The Life of a Civil Rights Icon.* Jefferson, North Carolina: McFarland and Company, Inc., 2011. 199 pp. \$38.00 (softcover)

Partially inspired by his life growing up in Mississippi during the Civil Rights

Movement, Bracey's work provides a candid look into the life of one of Mississippi's most respected civil rights leaders. The twenty-two chapters in this work chronicle Hamer's life and the many difficulties she faced from her beginnings as one of twenty siblings growing up in the Mississippi Delta. The first chapter vividly describes Hamer's childhood and takes the reader on a journey to a time where picking cotton provided most families with their sole source of income. It is in these fields that a young Hamer daydreamed of better days ahead. The author provides a look into her thoughts of one day living a life without limits...a life where she would not be looked down upon because of the color of her skin. Chapter two, which continues much along the same lines, provides more insight into Hamer's childhood and the days her family spent as sharecroppers.

Chapters three and four cover the life

and death of her parents with chapter five providing details of her marriage and the adoption of her children. The author provides painful details on Hamer's forced sterilization, which was unfortunately not uncommon for black women during that time. The next chapters provide in-depth detail on Hamer's life as she becomes more involved in activism and civil rights. Hamer's remarkable work in regards to voting rights, her speeches that mesmerized many audiences, and her unsuccessful attempt at a freedom farm, it is apparent that Hamer never stopped fighting for the rights of African Americans in Mississippi and throughout the world.

The book ends by taking you to the end of Hamer's life where she suffers from a nervous breakdown and eventually succumbs to cancer. She endured a long, painful battle that ultimately stole the strength for which she was so well known.

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Overall, this is a very sound and interesting work. It seems that the author could have combined some of the very short chapters while still retaining the integrity of the work. However, it is still a very interesting work on a very remarkable woman. Therefore, *Fannie Lou Hamer: The Life of a Civil Rights Icon* is recommended for academic and public libraries especially for readers with a interest in civil rights and African American history.

Chameka Robinson

Outreach Librarian

Rowland Medical Library,

University of Mississippi Medical Center



**Newton, Michael.** *The Ku Klux Klan in Mississippi: A History.* Jefferson, North Carolina: McFarland & Company, Inc., Publishers, 2010. 252 pp. \$75.00 (hardback)

Michael Newton presents his readers with an authoritative account of Mississippi's oldest and most virulent hate group. While he conveys this story in a straightforward and almost dispassionate manner, it is, nevertheless, grim reading. The sheer accumulation of documented accounts of man's inhumanity to man is both daunting and sobering.

*The Ku Klux Klan in Mississippi* is divided into six chapters, beginning with the Klan's inception in 1866 and its role during Reconstruction. Newton follows its rise, the cycles of decline and resurgence, and its graphic and deadly presence during the 1960s civil rights era. He concludes with the Klan's virtual self-destruction in the 1970s. The work is illustrated, contains extensive notes, a good index, and a substantial bibliography. The somewhat prosaic narrative is largely a catalog of racially, socially, politically, and economically motivated crimes perpetuated mostly against Blacks but also against Jews, Catholics, bootleggers, adulterers, and others by the KKK and Klan-like sympathizers in Mississippi over a hundred-year period. It is not slanted or biased and does not indulge in prurient sensationalism; it is devoid of the hyperbole of mythology.

Some readers may see *The Ku Klux Klan in Mississippi* as a long-on-facts-short-on-analysis rendering of Klan history in our state. Nevertheless, the book provides a

sound basis for the future work and study of any scholar wishing to produce a deeper examination of Klan activity, purpose, and influence than Newton does. The field is still open for an in-depth comparison of the three distinct incarnations of the Mississippi Klan as well as a psychological probing of why and how a "social club" purportedly founded to "have fun, make mischief, and play pranks on the public" transformed itself into a night-riding, rhetoric spewing, hate-mongering, murdering, lynch mob of domestic terrorists sometimes deeply involved in and supported by politicians, law enforcement, and organized religion.

Newton's book may not be the definitive history of the Ku Klux Klan in Mississippi, but it is certainly a seminal one. It is deserving of consideration by public and academic libraries and by other institutions that support African-American studies, Mississippi and southern history collections, and sub-collections related to the study of violence, vigilantism, and hate groups in the United States.

Teresa Neaves

Librarian

Mitchell, McNutt & Sams Law Firm



**Wilkie, Curtis.** *The Fall of the House of Zeus: The Rise and Ruin of America's Most Powerful Trial Lawyer.* New York: Crown Publishers, 2010. 385 pp. \$25.99 (hardcover)

Curtis Wilkie's new book, *The Fall of the House of Zeus*, attempts to cast the rise and fall of Richard "Dickie" Scruggs as a Greek tragedy. Instead, the book comes across as a gritty true crime novel detailing corruption, favoritism, and jealousy in the world of Mississippi law and politics. In fact, after reading the book, readers may wonder precisely who is looking after the public interest. Wilkie, a friend of Scruggs, sees him very much as "a plaintiff's lawyer representing the powerless masses" (7). Early on we realize that Wilkie believes Scruggs' downfall resulted from his enemies rather than from his own shortcomings. There is even a halfhearted attempt to blame Scruggs' downfall on prescription drug addiction.

Scruggs, a Mississippi-based attorney revolutionized personal injury law when he developed a successful class action lawsuit against Pascagoula shipyards on behalf of

workers who had died from exposure to asbestos. A decade later, Scruggs led the massive class action suit against the nation's four largest tobacco companies. That litigation turned political when Scruggs used a variety of legal and public relations maneuvers to extract a settlement worth over \$200 billion. Many reporters and politicians lionized him and the legal team who took on the Goliath tobacco conglomerate. Scruggs and the Mississippi Attorney General Michael Moore were even portrayed during a pivotal scene in Michael Mann's *The Insider*, the 1999 film about the tobacco industry.

In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, Scruggs went after insurance companies who refused to pay claims. In 2007, during this insurance litigation, Scruggs' associates attempted to bribe a Mississippi judge in return for a favorable ruling. A decade after the monumental tobacco settlement and the accumulation of a massive fortune earned from legal fees, Scruggs, his son, several associates, and even a Mississippi judge were imprisoned for bribery and corruption. A federal sting operation caught them and hastened the downfall of the Scruggs law firm and the career of the "King of Torts." In the end, Wilkie believes Scruggs ceaseless attempt for money and victory had turned opponents and friends into enemies. They pursued Scruggs until he handed them the sword that would bring him down.

While the story may compel some to read *The Fall of the House of Zeus*, the often confusing cast of characters and intricate legal maneuvering will lose many casual readers. Furthermore, Scruggs comes across less than compelling in the book, despite Wilkie's effort to humanize and understand him. In fact, nothing seems to have propelled Scruggs' success than the simple drive to win at all costs. While the asbestos, tobacco, and insurance cases were developed to help the powerless against the powerful, money seems to have been Scruggs' primary motivator. Wilkie's book is a valuable and interesting story, despite some flaws. This important examination of Mississippi's recent legal and political history should be widely read in Mississippi and available in every university, college, and public library in the state.

Aaron Crawford

Assistant Editor

*The Papers of Ulysses S. Grant*

Mississippi State University ■

# Mississippi Library Association Author Award Winners, 2012

*Amy Poe, Staff Development Coordinator  
First Regional Library System • Hernando*

At the recent Mississippi Library Association Conference in Natchez, Mississippi, officials were proud to present the annual Mississippi Author Awards to three outstanding authors. Those present were privileged to hear the charming Stokes McMillan, the vivacious Margaret McMullan, and the endearing Ramona Bridges.



*Stokes McMillan*

Stokes McMillan won the Non-Fiction award and for his book "One Night of Madness" and spoke about how he came to write about the subject and the personal connection he has to the tragedy. Guests were also treated to a scrapbook almost as large as the table it laid on, detailing the newspaper coverage of the event and other related documents.

"One Night of Madness" is the true story of a dark event in American and Southern history. Mary Ella Harris, a black mother of five, works with her sharecropper husband who has a likeness for gambling, drinking and hanging with a rough crowd. One of that crowd, is Leon Turner, an ex-convict who sparks the largest manhunt in Mississippi history when he tries to rape Mary Ella and escapes leaving a bloody revenge in his wake.

Mr. McMillan is the fourth generation born and raised in Kosciusko, Mississippi, the county seat of Attala County, where the events of One Night of Madness occurred. While writing is his sideline, his day job is at the Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas, where he works for NASA as an engineer on the Space Shuttle. McMillan lives with his wife in Houston. "One Night of Madness" is his first book.



*Ramona Bridges*

The Fiction Award went to Ramona Bridges who proved to be as sweet and engaging as the book she wrote. She was excited to share about the main character in her book, Addie, and to let everyone know that her adventures will continue in her next book published.

"Sweet By and By" is the story of thirty-three year old Addie Coulter who is certain life cannot get worse: a drunken husband, invalid mother, and a son banished from home. However, life is full of surprises and after a tragedy, Addie's faith is tested. On the road to recovery, she meets Hiram who could be the answer to a prayer or the beginning of another tragedy.

Ramona Bridges is a native of Mississippi, where she resides with her family. She and her husband have three sons, and she is employed as a nurse at a facility for war veterans. "Sweet By and By" is her first book.



*Margaret McMullan*

The special award went to Margaret McMullan who endeared herself to an audience of librarians with her special thanks to those who work in libraries and how much they have meant to her and her writing career.

In "Sources of Light," fourteen year old Sam and her mother move to Jackson, Mississippi. It is 1962 and racial tensions are high. All Sam wants to do is live life her way while staying out of the way. This becomes difficult when their family is a target of a white supremacist group. Given a camera by her mother's friend, Perry, she uses it to record the sit-ins, voter registrations, and the violet rage provoked by peaceful protests. In the black and white world of 1962, Sam learns to see shades of gray.

Margaret McMullan is a native of Newton County, Mississippi, and although she moved with her family at the age of ten to Chicago, she returned in 2007 as the Eudora Welty Visiting Writer at Millsaps College in Jackson. She has authored six award-winning novels, including "How I Found the Strong," winner of the 2006 MLA Author Award for Fiction. She currently teaches at the University of Evansville, in Evansville, Indiana, where she is Professor and Melvin M. Peterson Endowed Chair in Literature and Writing. ■

# Mississippi Library Association Award Winners, 2012

**Barbara Evans**

*Assistant Director for Public Services  
First Regional Library • Hernando*

Awards honoring Mississippi's professional librarians, paraprofessionals, library Friends and library advocates as well as scholarships for those pursuing Master's degrees in Library Sciences are given out at the annual Mississippi Library Association Conference. These awards are always one of the highlights of the conference, and those awarded at MLA 2012 in Natchez were no exception.

These annual awards and scholarships can only be given if the respective committees receive nominations and those nominees meet the guidelines set by each committee and the Mississippi Library Association. This year, the School Library Section received no nominations, so no Carroon Apple Award was given out in Natchez. It is hoped next year will be different!

The Black Caucus announced the winner of the Virgia Brocks-Shedd Scholarship at a luncheon Thursday, October 25. This year, the award went to Roberta Martinez Fotter. Mrs. Fotter works at Lakeshore High School, Saint Tammany Parish in Mandeville, Louisiana as a Special Education Coordinator, Teacher and Librarian. She is presently attending University of Southern Mississippi and is enrolled in the Masters of Library and Information Science Program, with projected completion May, 2013.

This year's recipient of the Peggy May Scholarship is Jaelyn Lewis, Youth Services Director for the Madison County Library System. Jaelyn is a member of the MLA Special Libraries Section and is enrolled in the University of Southern Mississippi's MLIS program. She hopes to complete the program with her Master's degree and Graduate Certificate in Archives and Special Collections by 2014.

The Friends of Mississippi Libraries honored the winners of the Chapter One Award and the Ruby Assaf Presidential Award at the Afternoon Tea with Authors Wednesday, October 24. The Chapter One Award this year went to Friends of the Wal-

nut Grove Public Library, a branch of the Mid-Mississippi Regional Library System. Under the leadership of President Mike Johnson, this chapter, helped by many other groups and agencies, worked to acquire the funds to renovate the much loved and well used library. The newly renovated facility opened on May 6, 2012.

Two individuals were honored with the Ruby Assaf Presidential Award this year. Claude Jones, Board member, library advocate and fundraiser extraordinaire, was one of the honorees. Mr. Jones is a member of the Friends of the Pontotoc County Library in Pontotoc, a member of the Dixie Regional Library System.

The other honoree was Ms. Pat Monsour of the Friends of the Madison Public Library in the Madison County library System. In addition to serving as a Library Trustee, Ms. Monsour helps select titles to take to area nursing homes. While there, she chats with the residents about books and solicits requests for additional materials to bring the next time.

The rest of the awards are usually given out during the luncheon on Friday. However, this year's winner of the Outstanding Achievement Award could only attend the MLA conference for one day, Wednesday. Thanks to Deb Mitchell, Director of the Warren County-Vicksburg Public Library and MLA President Stephen Cunetto, arrangements were made to present the award at the MLA Business meeting Wednesday to a very surprised Pamela Pridgen, Director of the Library of Hattiesburg, Petal and Forrest County. Deb had made arrangements for Pamela's family and staff to be present, all unbeknownst to Pamela. What fun!

Pamela was honored for her efforts on behalf of Mississippi Libraries with her service on the Mississippi Library Board of Commissioners, her very active role in MLA activities, including the Presidency of the organization, longtime membership on the legislative committee and other committees too numerous to mention. Her efforts to secure funding for and oversee the building of a new library in Hattiesburg led to Pamela's recogni-

tion as Distinguished Citizen of the Year by the Hattiesburg Lions Club.

The Past Presidents Award was given to Mr. Jorge Brown, Access Services Librarian at the University of Southern Mississippi. Jorge is a member of ACRL, the Association of College and Research Libraries, and chairman of TWO roundtables-Library Instruction and New Members!

The Library Champion Award honoree this year was Vicksburg's Randy Sherard. A professional engineer and practicing attorney, Mr. Sherard served on the Board of Trustees from 1986-1993, guiding the Warren County-Vicksburg Public Library system through the arduous process of separating itself from the Jackson Metropolitan Library System, and protecting its interests. He served four years as Chair of the Mississippi Library Association's Trustees section. He attends every MLA Legislative Day in Jackson and has often served as a Mississippi delegate to the American Library Association's National Library Legislative Day in Washington, D. C., and advocates tirelessly on behalf of MS Libraries at every opportunity. Congratulations, Mr. Sherard!

Mrs. Nettie Moore, Youth Specialist at the M. R. Davis Public Library in Southaven, a branch of the First Regional Library System, was the recipient of the 2012 Mary Julia Anderson Award. Given for outstanding performance by a paraprofessional working in a Mississippi Library, Nettie personifies the energy and enthusiasm of the dynamo for which this award is named. She has served as the Youth Specialist at the Southaven Public Library for nine years. For many in the community, Nettie IS the face of the library. She goes beyond the basics with her programming, looking for new ways to involve the community, which includes Family Storynights at Chick-Fil-A and Texas Roadhouse as examples.

She was the only First Regional Staff member selected to work with the PBS program Between the Lions in 2007 and is now the trainer for FRL. She helped submit the grant and plan the many activities involved with having the Smithsonian exhibit *Jour-*

neys at the branch in 2009. On her own, she recently took classes sponsored by the State Library of Virginia about connecting libraries with families with autism. This led to a series of programs at the branch, a Jack Ezra Keats Foundation grant, and a poster session at MLA 2012. We look forward to seeing what other exceptional ideas this talented woman comes up with in the future.

Awards were given in two Public Relations categories. The winning entry for "Best coordinated effort of several libraries to publicize library services around a single theme or event" went to First Regional Library system for "Our Library Story." FRL's Public Relations Specialist David Brown combined photos and testimonials collected from patrons at each branch, telling how the local library had helped them, with brief statistics and a "Library Values" calculator showing how wisely FRL spends the funds given to them each year. The end result was an eye catching document to show funding officials just how important and vital their support of the libraries is to their communities. 18 different brochures were created by David, one for each of the five county Board of Supervisors and one for each of the 13 Boards of Aldermen. This has morphed into an ongoing project as a tumblr blog, which can be viewed at <http://firstregionallibrarystory.tumblr.com>

The second award was for "Best effort by an individual library to publicize library services around a single event or theme" The Emily Jones Pointer Public Library in Como, MS won for the promotion of the Hill Country Blues with two major pieces: the repatriation of Alan Lomax's recordings, field notes, photographs and videos of Como, MS blues musicians to the library in

Como and a long term loan of the Hill Country Blues Photography Collection from the Jesse Mae Hemphill Foundation.

Como was the first Mississippi community to be selected to receive copies of the Lomax materials from his archives. Because of his prominence in the world of folklore and musicology, this was reported by National Public Radio and The New York Times, among others. Branch manager Alice Pierotti further targeted the international crowd by hosting the Hill Country Blues Celebration on the coattails of Blues Foundation's International Blues Challenge in Memphis. The event was wildly successful, and names from countries as far away as Norway were discovered in the guest book. I was there, and it was an unbelievable day for a town with only 1,291 citizens, one very dedicated, energetic and enthusiastic branch manager, a small cadre of teen volunteers and two part time staffers.

The Peggy May Award was the last one presented this year. This honors the memory of Peggy May, an exemplary librarian whose life was cut short at the age of 36. In her memory and to celebrate her life, this award was created to honor the librarian who embodies the same characteristics she did: a love of life, a love of people and a desire to bring the best in library service to all people. Two nominees were SO outstanding, the awards committee decided they both deserved recognition.

The first went to Kaileen Theiling, Director of Central Mississippi Regional Library System. She has served in Mississippi libraries for over 26 years, and has been Director at CMRLS for the past 11. To quote one of the nominees, "Kaileen has

skillfully and quietly challenged the status quo, pushing herself and others to exceed expectations in the delivery of quality services by: mentoring many library staff, encouraging personal and professional growth and development; by educating elected officials and local residents on the value of the public library to community vitality and quality of life; and by exploring possibilities for new services and new roles for public libraries.

The second honoree was Catherine Nathan, Director of the First Regional Library System. Catherine spent several years with the then Shelby County-Memphis Public Library System before coming to First Regional in 1994. She became Director in 2004 and has been going strong ever since. She is a tireless advocate for public library services, always seeking new and better ways to improve citizens' lives with great library services, locally and statewide. She has been an active member of the MAGNOLIA steering committee since its inception and has worked long and hard to educate legislators on the impact of this project.

She sent staff down to the MS Gulf Coast to help out libraries after Katrina hit; she has partnered with Mississippi State on early childhood initiatives, and collaborated with many other libraries, institutions and community groups on several other projects too numerous to mention; encourages staff at ALL levels to participate in professional development, and sends staff off to share ideas/train others at various conferences state and nationwide. She asks EVERYONE if they have ever thought about going to library school! ■

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Fill out and return the membership card located on the inside back cover of *Mississippi Libraries* and be a part of the ever continuing promotion of libraries throughout Mississippi.



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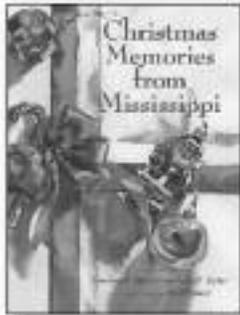
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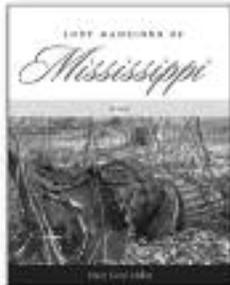


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