

State-Wide Reference Database Access Celebrated on "MAGNOLIA Day"

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Note — In the last issue of Mississippi Libraries, I incorrectly included a news brief about the MAGNOLIA alliance that was, in fact, an inter-office memo about the topic, rather than a full press release. This was a completely unintentional error on my part. This article, along with Glenda Segars' "President's Page," will correctly describe what MAGNOLIA is and what it is accomplishing.

— Barton Spencer, Editor.

"This is a great day for all librarians, and for all of Mississippi." Frances Coleman, who serves as Dean of Libraries at Mississippi State University, summed up the feelings of those librarians and dignitaries assembled at Vicksburg High School's auditorium on August 15, for an event entitled "MAGNOLIA Day." Coleman has a special insight into the efforts that led to this day, as she has also served this year as Chair

of the Steering Committee for the MAGNOLIA alliance.

MAGNOLIA is the "Mississippi Alliance for Gaining New Opportunities through Library Information Access." The group formed in May of this year to implement a plan to provide numerous electronic reference resources to every library in the state. The effort to fund such an endeavor was led by Mississippi Senator Grey Ferris, of Vicksburg, and a total of \$568,030 was made available for this fiscal year.

Librarians involved in the MAGNOLIA project represent all types of libraries, from across the state. Members of various committees, under the leadership of the Steering Committee, managed to organize a smooth selection process, and invited numerous vendors of electronic resources to demonstrate their products. Ferris congratulated the librarians on their swift work, crediting the speed to, in part, the lack of "turf battles" during committee meetings. Carola Yeakle, Regional Sales Manager for EBSCO Information Services, stated, "Mississippi is a leading

example in this country of the things that you can accomplish by working together. Everybody has made statements that things have happened so quickly. Everything has worked like clockwork."

EBSCO was chosen as the primary vendor, and has supplied access to several key reference databases for all citizens of Mississippi. Information is delivered over the Internet, and in some cases via CD-ROM. Mississippians will be able to access the databases at any publicly-supported library, or on the Internet from home or office. EBSCO is providing the following resources: Academic Search FullTEXT Elite (1,000 journals), MasterFILE FullTEXT 1,500 (1,500 journals), Business Source Elite, ERIC, Health Source Plus, Newspaper Source, The Serials Directory, MAS FullTEXT Premier, Middle Search Plus, Primary Search and EBSCO's Encyclopedia of Animals.

Senator Ferris spoke for several minutes to the assembly, and was also awarded a plaque commemorating the event. "What we are seeing today is the beginning of a journey that will result in an explosion of resources made available to the people of this state," Ferris said. "For the first time we are going to see resource material that's going to be made available to everyone in the state."

A total of 1,138 public libraries, elementary, middle and high schools, community and junior colleges, and universities will have access to these resources. After the assembly in the auditorium, Senator Ferris performed a search of an EBSCO database in the school's library, to officially kickoff the statewide online connection to these resources.

While a one-year appropriation of funds is certainly welcome, librarians recognized that succeeding appropriations would be needed as well. Senator Ferris addressed this issue, saying, "The most exciting thing about all this is that this is just a first step." He joked that Francis



Mississippi Senator Grey Ferris (seated) performs the ceremonial "first search" of a database on EBSCOhost at the Vicksburg High School library.



Above Top: Kermit Harness, Principal of Vicksburg High School, welcomes librarians and dignitaries to the MAGNOLIA Day festivities, which began in the school auditorium.

Above: Sandra Baggett, a member of the MAGNOLIA Steering Committee, served as moderator for the MAGNOLIA Day ceremonies at Vicksburg High School.



Frances Coleman presents Senator Grey Ferris with a commemorative "MAGNOLIA Day" plaque.



Frances Coleman, Chair of the MAGNOLIA Steering Committee, provides remarks about the MAGNOLIA alliance and the efforts of Senator Grey Ferris.

STEERING COMMITTEE LIAISONS AND COMMITTEES

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- Sandra Baggett, *Liaison*; Vicksburg High School
 Pat Matthes, *Chair*; Mississippi University for Women
 Jim Anderson; First Regional Library
 Jessie Arnold; Alcorn State University
 Florence Box; Starkville High School
 Victor Fratesi; Mississippi Library Commission
 Jim Martin; University of Southern Mississippi
 Beverly Nobile; Mississippi Delta Community College
 Rosie O'Neal; Jackson State University
 Glenda Segars; Itawamba Community College
 Fran Shoemaker; Mississippi Library Commission
 Annette Wilson; Clinton High School

DATABASE SELECTION/TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

- Terry Latour, *Liaison*; Delta State University
 Suzy Turner, *Chair*; Mississippi State University
 Margaret Evans, *Recorder*; Delta State University
 Cheryl Baxter; Moss Point School District
 Stephen Cunetto; Mississippi State University
 Sherry Dixon; Mississippi Library Commission
 Sean Farrell; Hattiesburg Public Library
 Gail Graves; University of Mississippi
 Susan Hall; Mississippi State University
 Carol Killough; Northeast Mississippi Community College
 Sherry Laughlin; University of Southern Mississippi
 Linda Lewis; Jackson State University

MAGNOLIA COMMITTEES

STEERING COMMITTEE

- Sandra Baggett, *Treasurer*; Vicksburg High School
 Billy Beal; Meridian Community College
 Pat Beard, *Vice Chair*; Mississippi Library Commission
 Florence Box; Starkville High School Library
 Velma Champion; Mississippi Library Commission
 Frances Coleman, *Chair*; Mississippi State University
 Carol Killough; Northeast Mississippi Community College
 Terry Latour; Delta State University
 Deb Mitchell; Warren County - Vicksburg Public Library
 Catherine Nathan, *Secretary*; First Regional Library
 Stephen Cunetto, *Technical Advisor*; Mississippi State University

Coleman had already approached him concerning an increase in budget for next year, and added that "I think we are going to be able to accommodate her on this." Loud applause greeted his statement.

Adults are sure to reap benefits from the efforts of the state legislature and MAGNOLIA, but the benefits to Mississippi children were also stressed. "This is an opportunity for us to do many great things for the citizens of Mississippi," Coleman said, "especially for our schoolchildren." Senator Ferris added, "MAGNOLIA will level the playing field. It's not going to make it perfect, but it's going to allow us to provide opportunities to children who live in remote areas of the state. That is the greatest value of MAGNOLIA." The work of those persons involved in MAGNOLIA, in all committees and groups, along with the work of Ferris and the Mississippi legislature, should serve as a shining example to other states and libraries around the country.

DATABASE SELECTION/TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (cont.)

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Nancy McLemore; Natchez-Adams School District
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Anna Schwind; Delta State University
Glenda Tilson; Mississippi Library Commission
Sara Tubb; Mississippi Library Commission
Rhonda Tynes; Tupelo High School
Joe Tynes; Dixie Regional Library System
Beverly Vinson; Natchez High School
Eddie Williams; University of Southern Mississippi

GRANTS COMMITTEE

Velma Champion, *Liaison*; Mississippi Library Commission
Pam Pridgen, *Chair*; Library of Hattiesburg, Petal, and Forrest County
David Nowak, *Recorder*; Mississippi State University
Juanita Flanders; Hinds Community College
Jean Hudspeth; Mississippi Library Commission
Gail Peyton; Mississippi State University

IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE

Glenda Segars, *Chair*; Itawamba Community College
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Pat Beard; Mississippi Library Commission
Gus Bowering; Mississippi Dept. of Education
Florence Box; Starkville High School
Garnett Campbell; East Mississippi Community College
Frances Coleman; Mississippi State University
Stephen Cunetto; Mississippi State University
Sean Farrell; Library of Hattiesburg, Petal, and Forrest County
Carol Killough; Northeast Mississippi Community College
Pat Matthes; Mississippi University for Women
Rhonda Tynes; Tupelo High School
Joe Tynes; Dixie Regional Library System
Annette Wilson; Clinton High School

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Kim Hill; University of Southern Mississippi
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Karen Williams, *Chair*; Rosa Scott Middle School

TRAINING COMMITTEE (cont.)

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Marybeth Charters; Mississippi State University
Queda Denley; Grenada Upper Elementary School
Jane Kinkus; Mississippi State University
Ruth Pierce; Mississippi Library Commission
Claudia Rebaza; University of Southern Mississippi
Alan Withoff; Mississippi Library Commission

COUNCIL FOR EDUCATION TECHNOLOGY

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Appointed Members

Larry Anderson, *Council Chair*; Mississippi State University
Norman Collins; Mississippi Power Company
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Those attending MAGNOLIA Day were free to test out the EBSCOhost databases at the Vicksburg High School library.