



MISSISSIPPI LIBRARIES

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On the cover: *Overlooking Natchez City Cemetery* by Judy Hilkert, Hinds Community College
Taken Fall 2017 at the Natchez City Cemetery

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President's Page

It feels very odd to sit alone in my library writing this piece for ML. I found it very difficult to write this time. Not because there wasn't much to write - but because so much has happened in the last three months that I don't know where to begin. And I find sitting in solitude is neither inspiring nor motivating. But I suspect we are all feeling that way right about now. We all share a dedication to our patrons and an inert desire to help our communities and to not be with our colleagues to provide such services is antithetical to our nature.

For most of us, this crisis began March 19th when the governor of the state of Mississippi announced that because of the COVID-19 outbreak, all schools and businesses in the state would close for a specified and reviewable time period. MLA issued a letter to all libraries in the state calling on them to close their doors until guidance from public health officials indicated the risk from COVID-19 had significantly subsided. To aid staff and patrons, MLA created a "Status of Mississippi Libraries" list to inform members and the public of which libraries were closed and what services continued in restricted capacities. In addition, MLA board member Amanda Clay Powers and her staff at MS University for Women initiated a WiFi road map mapping a list of libraries, schools and churches throughout the state that provided free parking lot WiFi to patrons. This list and map was shared with students, faculty and patrons throughout the state and was an invaluable resource for them.



On April 6th, Kate Dutro, the MLA Advocacy chair, initiated a survey on behalf of MLA to see what Mississippi libraries were doing to support their communities during the COVID-19 crisis. Nearly 150 academic, school and public libraries responded. 99 percent of libraries throughout the state continued to provide services of some kind to patrons even though their library's doors were closed. These services included chat, email or phone reference, faculty/staff support, curbside drop-offs/pick-ups, virtual instruction, added digital content, virtual story times, teen or adult programming, virtual readers' advisories and book clubs, virtual author talks, community partnerships with food banks and lunch pick-ups and "Suggested Activities" newsletters. Kate utilized the information from this survey to author some press releases from the association which she distributed to various news outlets throughout the state. Both Kate and I were astounded by the innovation and determination of our library colleagues to continue to serve their patrons and communities during this crisis. I have never been prouder to be a librarian and a colleague

of so many dedicated professionals.

The MLA Board met as scheduled on May 8th but via Zoom. As you can imagine, a hefty portion of the meeting was spent discussing whether or not the MLA annual conference should be held this October. After much debate, the board decided that this year's conference would carry on but in a virtual format. Mara Polk, vice-president, is researching and investigating platforms, organization and best practices for holding a virtual conference and will be soon sending out announcements to folks for sessions and programming. A virtual conference has many benefits – 1) conference will not be held hostage to the uncertainty of closures due to the virus; 2) operational costs will be lower and those savings will be passed on to attendees; 3) attendees can view sessions at their leisure; 4) attendees can view all sessions, not just the ones that fit into their conference schedule; and 5) the number of conference sessions won't be limited by available space. Of course, it means that we will not see colleagues and friends, but this is an exciting opportunity for us all and I am looking forward to MLA's newest adventure. I ask for your patience during this time of "firsts" for all those involved in organizing this year's conference.

The Board also approved the slate of elected officers for the year. We appreciate the hard work of the Nominating Committee and Chair, Tisha Zelner, as well as the Election Committee and Chair, Jennifer Smith, on completing the important work of selecting these new leaders. The newly elected officers for next year are:

MLA Vice President/President-

Elect: Stephen Parks, State Law Librarian

MLA Secretary: Adrienne

McPhaul, Assistant Dean of Learning Resources, Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College

MLA Treasurer: Michele Frasier-

Robinson, Education and Human Sciences Librarian, University of Southern Mississippi

SELA Councilor: Sarah Man-

grum, Access Services & Assessment Librarian University of Southern Mississippi

Congratulations to each of you and we thank you for your commitment and your willingness to take on these leadership roles.

Joy Dubose, Special Collections Cataloger for MS State University and chair of MLA's Tech Service RT, has developed a field guide designed to help new and lesser experienced catalogers understand cataloging basics such as common terms and

fields. Not every field or subfield was added to this manual, but it is a handy guide for novices. The field guide is reserved for MLA members and can be found on the MLA website under "MLA Resources."

Though National Library week was disrupted by library closures due to COVID, Tori Hopper, MLA NLW chair, still managed to ensure that libraries were not forgotten and that the wild rumpus celebrating our libraries continued. Governor Tate Reeves signed a proclamation declaring April 19-25, 2020 as National Library Week in Mississippi. Tori commissioned a "Find Your Place at Mississippi Libraries" painting by Columbus/Starkville local artist Heather Hewett and had this unique painting digitized into posters which she shared with libraries throughout the state. Because of the COVID situation, National Library Week programs became a celebration of the excellent services that libraries offer their communities each and every day – whether virtually or in-person - services that Improve, Innovate and Impact.

To each of you - please practice social distancing, wear a mask, wash your hands frequently and be aware of others around you. In other words, stay safe and healthy! It's easy to let your guard down once you start going back to work.

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

Office of the Governor



PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, today's libraries are not just about books but what they do for and with people; and

WHEREAS, libraries of all types are at the heart of cities, towns, schools and campuses; and

WHEREAS, libraries have long served as trusted and treasured institutions where people of all backgrounds can be together and connect; and

WHEREAS, libraries and librarians build strong communities through transformative services, programs and expertise; and

WHEREAS, libraries, which promote the free exchange of information and ideas for all, are cornerstones of democracy; and

WHEREAS, libraries promote civic engagement by keeping people informed and aware of community events and issues; and

WHEREAS, librarians and library workers partner with other civic organizations to make sure their community needs are being met; and

WHEREAS, libraries and librarians empower their communities to make informed decisions by providing free access to information; and

WHEREAS, libraries are a resource for all members of the community regardless of race, ethnicity, creed, ability, sexual orientation, gender identity or socio-economic status, by offering services and educational resources that transform lives and strengthen communities; and

WHEREAS, libraries, librarians, library workers and supporters across America are celebrating National Library Week:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tate Reeves, Governor of the State of Mississippi, do hereby proclaim the week of April 19-25, 2020, as

NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK

in the State of Mississippi and encourage all residents to explore what's new at your library and engage with your librarian.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Mississippi to be affixed.

DONE in the City of Jackson, on the 13th day of April in the year of our Lord, two thousand and twenty, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and forty-fourth.

TATE REEVES
GOVERNOR

School Librarians Find Their Voice During COVID-19

Rachel Williams

*Librarian
Gautier Middle School*

How are you going to still offer services to your students? In what ways can you still promote reading and literacy by working at home? What are the expectations of your job provided by your principal and district at this time? These are just some of the questions many school librarians have at the moment. The plethora of free ebooks and resources that we all have combed through to provide online sources and services has been a challenge during this time. By all means, we do not want to overload our teachers and students with more stress. There are so many options and services that are available for schools to use, both public and private schools. School librarians in Mississippi are up for it because we are the heart of the school! Finding your own voice through much collaboration with teachers and communicating clearly through different venues has worked for the librarians in my school district.

We are all in school districts that now depend heavily on collaboration and communication with either the school media specialist or technology department. We are the ones in the school who instruct and guide on a normal basis, by using creditable links to find resources for our patrons, that's our speciality. With Covid-19, many of us had no idea where to start when the

governor closed school for the remaining school year. How are we to get our library books back? What do the teachers need help with? These are just a couple of questions that we all had once that news dropped. But, we have found different and creative ways to service our teachers and students. Some of us have even taught this instruction to others as well from home. By providing ebooks, work packets, online virtual Google classrooms to creating virtual field trips, school librarians in Mississippi are continuing to help teachers build lessons and foster the love of reading to their students everyday in our out of school building.

Many school librarians have a support group in their district and this collaboration has been beneficial. For instance, in my school district we have a District Librarian over all of us. We meet weekly and do professional development as well. Yet some school librarians do not have that in their district, whatever the case may be. It has been very important to keep up with either Facebook groups, online chats, or any information from the state department on how to continue services while we are physically not "in" school and the expectations from each of our school districts. The tools and support links that school librarians need to stay abreast on can be found at <https://www.mdek12.org/Library>. From how to clean your books to different library lesson ideas, this site can be used to help guide our school librarians

during this trying time. By collaborating together, many school librarians have continued storytimes, read alouds, and or partnered with the local libraries to still provide these services to our students and parents. By providing book suggestions for the classroom teacher, and also educating the staff on copyright laws, school librarians continue across the state to help all stakeholders within the community and one another through this unusual time.

Let's not forget the "other" hats that school librarians wear. Some of us are writing Donor's Choose grants for hygiene supplies and snacks to help families out. Others are taking online classes and earning CEU's during this time and sharpening our research skills. Some librarians are hosting online book clubs, doing cataloging work, and attending social and emotional Zooms and much more. Doing all of this while still providing services daily to staff and students is an undertaking and exhausting. Yet, school librarians in Mississippi do it all for the love of their school communities and still implore the vision and mission of our first standard listed in our school library media guide which states "create collaborative relationships between schools librarians and classroom teachers which transforms the school library program into a support system that strengthens the curriculum by bridging the information literacy gap."

By bridging the information

literacy gap, you can't ignore the elephant in the room. The digital divide still exists in Mississippi, like many other parts of the country. Many students do not have either the technology or internet service to support technology at home. By being in a rural area or having disabilities, some students are not getting the online education as their peers. Many school districts are working very hard to provide services despite these challenges right now. Many parents are working during this time and another guardian is watching/schooling the child. This uncharted territory is frustrating for parents and the main concern we should all have right now is to show patience and guidance to them.

Schoollibrarians and their schools have been working hard to close that gap in providing support as much as possible. Take home packets of work and workbooks have been beneficial to many students across the state to continue learning from home, despite any technological issues. Hot spots, local library parking lots, and telephone calls home are just some ways school districts have been continuing the service outside of the "physical" classroom. Don't forget about grab and go meals being delivered and neighboring school districts providing help and guidance to other school districts. We are all in this together, for the students of Mississippi, and to continue the vision of our mission, which is to have a collaborative support system.

The future of what lies ahead is still unwritten. I am sure policies and procedures will be altered and varying opinions will arise from many educational viewpoints. When will we be returning to our schools? What will the future hold for our students and their well being? How will we continue to support our counselors with the influx of mental health issues with all students? These and many other uncertainties are going to be dwelling on the minds of all educators as we move forward. As we wrap up the school year and close up our school libraries there is one question that still remains. What will next year look like in our schools and especially our libraries?

SLIS Notes

Stacy Creel

Associate Professor

Teresa S. Welsh

Professor and Director

*School of Library and Information Science
The University of Southern Mississippi*

Greetings, dear scholars. The COVID-19 pandemic has focused on the need for educational and creative resources for remote learners and ways for libraries to continue services at a distance. There are numerous resources out there to help you, your libraries, and your customers through the current situation. This list is by no means exhaustive but highlights some of our favorites.

ALA has a site on Pandemic Preparedness - <http://www.ala.org/tools/atoz/pandemic-preparedness>

E-BOOKS

Book Boon Educational eBooks - <https://bookboon.com/>

Harry Potter at Home features craft tutorials, quizzes, audio and e-book Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone - <https://www.wizardingworld.com/collections/harry-potter-at-home>

International Children's Digital Library - <http://en.childrenslibrary.org/>

LibriVox Public Domain Audiobooks - <https://librivox.org/>

Open Library - <https://openlibrary.org/>

PDF Books World - <https://www.pdfbooksworld.com/>

Project Gutenberg - <https://www.gutenberg.org/>

DIGITAL ACTIVITIES

ALA's Programming Librarian Guides - <https://programmin-glibrarian.org/programs>

Coloring Sheets - <https://www.laurenfaulkenberry.com/coloring-pages/>

Color Our Collections - <https://library.nyam.org/colorourcollections/>

Digital Escape Rooms - <https://codc-qldc.govt.nz/blog/digi->

[tal-escape-rooms](#)

Digital Jigsaw Puzzles - <https://blog.library.si.edu/blog/2020/05/07/puzzles/>

Librarian-Recommended Games and Apps - <http://www.ilovelibraries.org/article/kids-staying-home-librarians-recommend-these-apps-and-games>

Olympians Activities - <https://olympiansrule.com/links/>

DIGITAL FIELD TRIPS

American Journal of Archaeology Multimedia and Interactive Learning Resources - <https://www.ajaonline.org/learning#-multimedia-and-interactive>

British Museum Exhibits - <https://britishmuseum.withgoogle.com/>

Metropolitan Museum of Art for Kids - <https://www.metmuseum.org/art/online-features/metkids/>

National Gallery of Art Educational Resources - <https://www.nga.gov/blog/ten-digital-education-resources.html>

World's Best Museums virtual tour - <https://www.travelandleisure.com/attractions/museums-galleries/museums-with-virtual-tours>

Walter Anderson Museum Resources - <https://www.walterandersonmuseum.org/art-plus>

DIGITAL AUTHORS, ILLUSTRATORS & READINGS

George O'Connor Greek Myth Instagram - [@thegeorgeoconnor](https://www.instagram.com/thegeorgeoconnor)

PBS Kids Read-Along Series - <https://www.pbs.org/parents/page/read-along>

List of Authors & Illustrators Doing Online Storytimes - <https://kidsactivitiesblog.com/136038/online-story-time/>

SLJ Tackling Copyright Issues When Taking Storytime Online - <https://www.slj.com/?detail-Story=tackling-copyright-concerns-when-taking-story-time-online>

FUN WITH PAPER

Crafts from Old Books - <https://homebnc.com/best-diy-old-book-craft-ideas/>

Easy Origami - <https://www.origamiway.com/easy-origami.shtml>

Fingerprint Art Ideas - <https://www.thesprucecrafts.com/fingerprint-crafts-for-kids-4129073>

Free Printable Paper Dolls - <https://www.free-paper-dolls.com/FreePrintablePaperDolls.html>

Paper City Templates - <https://www.demilked.com/architecture-from-home-foster-partners/>

SELF-CARE

Coping with Distress for Library Staff Webinar - <https://kcls.org/blogs/post/coping-with-distressing-situations/>

Caroline Conquers her Corona Fears (Coloring Book) - <https://alliedhealth.lsuhs.edu/clinics/docs/CarolineConquersherCoronaFears31820.pdf>

Moodsters Workbook to Help Kids Cope during Pandemic - <https://themoodsters.com/>

Webinar: Libraries and Covid-19, Managing Strategies and Stress - <https://alapublishing.webex.com/recording/service/sites/alapublishing/recording/71af-3c666df243e3b38186e214f3cf54>

STEM & MORE ACTIVITIES

BBC Bitesize Lessons - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize>

Dyson STEM Activities & Challenges - <https://www.jamesdysoufoundation.com/resources/challenge-cards.html>

Easy Multiplication Rules Video - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EI2qZC1vUGk>

How to Code for Beginners - <https://www.bitdegree.org/tutorials/how-to-code-for-beginners/>

NASA STEM Engagement - <https://www.nasa.gov/stem>

Science Buddies STEM Activities - <https://www.sciencebuddies.org/stem-activities>

VIDEO CREATION RESOURCES

- [Animoto.com](https://www.animoto.com)
- [Vimeo.com](https://www.vimeo.com)
- [Headliner.app](https://www.headlinerapp.com)
- [Clipchamp Create](https://www.clipchamp.com)
- [GoPro App](https://www.gopro.com)
- [Splice.com](https://www.splice.com)
- [Animaker.com](https://www.animaker.com)
- [iMoviepc.com](https://www.imoviepc.com)
- [MovieMaker.support](https://www.movie-maker.com)
- [TechSmith.com](https://www.techsmith.com) (Capture)

VIDEO EDUCATIONAL CHANNELS AND RESOURCES

Citizen DJ – Library of Congress
Free Audio and Video Materials
- <https://citizen-dj.labs.loc.gov/>

Crash Course - <https://www.youtube.com/user/crashcourse>

CGP Grey - <https://www.youtube.com/user/CGPGrey>

Khan Academy - <https://www.khanacademy.org/>

National Geographic Video -

<https://www.nationalgeographic.org/video/>

Ted Ed - <https://ed.ted.com/>

Feedback and suggestions are welcome – send to slis@usm.edu or teresa.welsh@usm.edu or call 601-266-4228. Visit <https://www.usm.edu/slis> for additional information on the MLIS degree, archival certificate, youth services certificate, LIS undergraduate degree or minor. All classes are online and meet

once each week during the evening hours. Since the GRE testing centers are closed, applicants for the MLIS degree program may request a GRE waiver for fall or spring.

Enjoy the summer with some Southern Living activities <https://www.countryliving.com/life/g1718/fun-things-to-do-in-the-summer/> and Parents Magazine activities for kids <https://www.parents.com/fun/activities/outdoor/cheap-summer-fun>.

Libraries Focus on Outbreak Response During National Library Week 2020

Tori Hopper

*MLA National Library Week Committee
Chair*

Kate Jacobson Dutro

MLA Advocacy Chair

National Library Week, held between April 19-25, 2020, has offered libraries the opportunity to highlight their services and programs they provide to patrons for decades. However, this year looked differently for many libraries across the state. The pandemic of COVID-19, or Coronavirus, forced libraries to approach programs, as well as their community support, in new ways due to shelter-in-place orders.

Jamie Stanfield, the Science, Nursing and Health Librarian at the University of Southern Mississippi and MLA Scholarship Committee member, hosted a program for her library during National Library Week. She saw no one in person.

The program, “The Academic Library of the 21st Century” sponsored by the Association of Office Professionals, was intended to be a lunch and learn where Stanfield would present on the academic library of today. And she did – via Microsoft Teams with a PowerPoint presentation from inside her own home.

“Our students had to transition from face-to-face, we transitioned to working remote,” Stanfield said. “We still encouraged patrons to have their lunch during our presentation, but of course, that was now up to them.”

Like many libraries, the Mid-Mississippi Regional Library System shifted to virtual programs for the week and offered a bulk of content via its Facebook page. Josh Haidet, Executive Director, said the library system usually schedules National Library Week programming for

2020 MMRLS National Library Week Online

April 20th-24th at 12noon on
Facebook @midmisslib

PBS American Portrait

Children's Craft Time with
Durant Librarian Lea Ellis

Wildlife Photographer
Stephen Kirkpatrick

Book talk with Teen Author
Bet Golston

Live art lessons with
Marshall Ramsey

PLUS! MMRLS Online Story Time
Monday, Wednesday, and Friday

MMRLS announcement

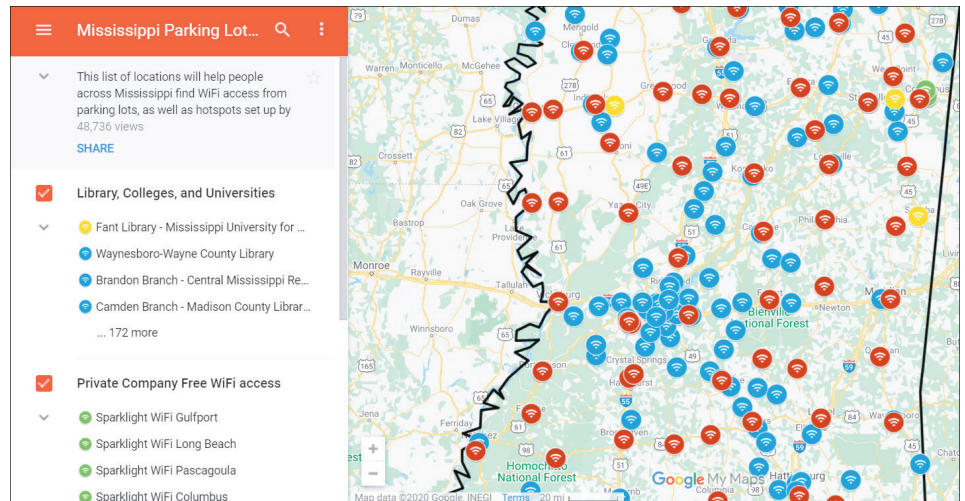
each of its branches.

“National Library Week is an important annual event on our promotional calendar. Each year our thirteen branches schedule programming meant to highlight and celebrate the valuable role libraries play in our communities,” Haidet

said. “MMRLS staff members have been working extremely hard during the COVID-19 crisis to offer the best digital content to our customers. The presentation of an on-line version of our National Library Week programming is just one more way for us to virtually educate and entertain our communities, while enabling us to observe an important event during this time of social distancing.”

Though the COVID-19 crisis affected how librarians marked the occasion, it did not stop librarians from doing what they do best: supporting their communities. Libraries across Mississippi prioritized disseminating information about the pandemic and evolving news over National Library Week, in order to ensure patrons had the most up-to-date information from reliable sources.

“We shared all the resources that the Mississippi Library Commission, the CDC, the WHO, and the Mississippi State Department of Health sent out concerning COVID-19. Prior to closing our branches, we had posted the signs they made for hand washing and social distancing in the bathrooms,



Parking Lot Wi-Fi Map

around the circulation desks and public computers, and around all doors in and out of our branches,” said Dee Hare, director of the Northeast Regional Library. “I also instructed our branches to print out all handouts for free to give to patrons. When our branches closed, we linked the handout information on our website.”

Within days of initial voluntary closures in mid-March, a group of librarians created a “[Parking Lot Wi-Fi Map](#)” for people across the state to use as needed. “It became very clear very quickly as all of the university students transitioned to online-only classes at homes throughout the state that many would not have reliable Wi-Fi at home, keeping them from successfully completing the semester,” said Amanda Powers, Professor and Dean of Library Services at the Mississippi University for Women.

“It also became clear that this would also be a huge benefit for K-12 students. After getting these addresses, MUW’s Vic Jones and Whitney Russell took it from a communal spreadsheet to a Google Map within two days, and it has since

been adopted around the state by educational institutions and copied by other states. Without this map, many of our students wouldn’t be able to successfully complete their semester. It truly was the type of collective work on behalf of our communities that is the hallmark of the work of library folks in this state. I’m so proud to be part of this community.”

To have a better picture of how libraries assisted their communities during the crisis, MLA sent a survey through the list server and shared it through social media. The survey showed that 91 percent of responding libraries already had digital content available to their patrons, and 55 percent of libraries added more in response to shutdowns. Librarians also offered assistance via phone and email to help members of the community find what they need.

“Even though people could not go to the library, our amazing school librarians around the state went to them,” said MLA President Mary Applin in praise of her colleagues. Over 100 school librarians responded to the MLA survey. Eighty-three percent of responding

COVID-19 Resources



are available
on our website @
nereg.lib.ms.us

We have links to WHO
MSDH and the CDC

school librarians marked that they were helping administration, teachers and students during the school closures.

“National Library Week is a

celebration of what libraries offer their communities, and it gives us a chance to recognize librarians. My colleagues have shown once again through this crisis how vital we are

to our communities, regardless of the week,” added Applin. “It truly has been amazing to see all the different ways libraries and librarians are helping the people of our state.”

News Briefs

Hali Black

*First Year Experience Librarian
University of Southern Mississippi*

NEW READING PROGRAM AT WEST JONES HIGH SCHOOL

It’s been said that everyone is a reader... some just have not found their favorite book yet. At West Jones Jr./Sr. High School, Media Specialist, Rhonda Perkins is helping students discover a passion for reading through her new Radical Reader of the month program. For each book checkout, students’ names are entered into the drawing each month for the Radical Reader “swag pack”. The swag pack is made up of various goodies including water bottles, caps, posters, button pins, and books that were donated by The Lion Forge publishing company. Additionally, the annual Scholastic Book Fair earnings were used to purchase prizes like purses, trinkets, balls, games, and school t-shirts. Since beginning the program, Perkins has awarded a January and a February winning student. Winners are announced via school-wide intercom and their picture is made and submitted to local newspapers and displayed on our school website.

Program creator, Rhonda Perkins says, “Although this is just the beginning, I feel certain that this

program will continue to promote student interest in reading as well as bring even more students to the library. Of course, the ultimate goal is to get every student reading! I am so thankful that the Jones County School District generously funds our libraries, so that I am able to regularly purchase high-interest books and any titles requested by students and teachers.” One of her favorite stories during the program is of a student who checked out a book on golfing. When he returned the book, Perkins asked the student what he thought about his selection, and his response was, “I tried a different technique I got from the book, and it improved my golf swing!”

Perkins says “I would love to see every student reading for pleasure

during his or her free time.” Perkins is also currently working on a summer reading program to reduce the “summer slide.” This program would include a few designated dates in the summer to open the school library for book check out to enable students to read all summer long. Do you have any exciting ideas for increasing circulation or decreasing summer slide? If you have any ideas you’d like to share, please reach out to Perkins at rperkins@jones.k12.ms.us.

*Submitted by:
Rhonda Perkins
Media Specialist
West Jones Jr./Sr. High School*

Below: The January & February 2020 drawing winners of the Radical Reading Program



People in the News

Hali Black

First Year Experience Librarian
University of Southern Mississippi

Jennifer Stephenson

started her position as the new Assistant Director for Public Services at First Regional Library in early March 2020. Jennifer has long been a leader in the library community, including most recently serving as Director of the Greenwood-LeFlore Public Library System. She has served in professional leadership roles in both the state of Mississippi and nationally, serving on the Board of Directors of the Association for Rural & Small Libraries and as President of the Mississippi Library Association. She holds her Master's in Library and Information Science from the University of Southern Mississippi.



Jennifer had only been at FRL for a short time before the library closed its doors to the public because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Her skills and experience have been invaluable to FRL during this time of reevaluating library services in 2020, as she helps guide FRL's fourteen branches in finding new ways to provide library service. "I am very excited to join the First Regional Library team," Stephenson says. "If anything, this pandemic has shown me how well this team comes together to handle a tough situation while continuing to provide excellent library services. It's proof that we have such a talented group of people who work hard

for the communities their libraries serve."

Jennifer replaces Barbara Evans, who retired in December of 2019 after serving over 20 years with FRL. Jennifer can be contacted at jstephenson@firstregional.org.

Diane DeCesare Ross

was recently hired as the new Director of the Lamar County Library System. Ross began her new position on April 1, 2020. Ross was born at the Keesler Air Force Base in Biloxi, Mississippi, and now lives in Eastabuchie, Mississippi. Diane holds bachelor's degree in American studies and master's degrees in both anthropology and library and information science with studies in photography, art history, design, and creative writing.



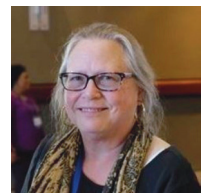
Previously, Diane worked for many years at the University of Southern Mississippi as Managing Editor of *The Southern Quarterly* and as Curator of Manuscripts, Archives, and Digital Collections. As the founding director of the Mississippi Digital Library (MDL), she grew this program from a single scanner in a basement room to a lasting statewide cooperative digital library program involving a variety of institutions. In her spare time, Diane enjoys photography, writing, reading, art, genealogy, making puppets from found materials, walking out in nature, driving along backroads, and getting people to tell her their stories.

Dr. Sarah Mangrum, Clinical Associate Professor and Access Services and Assessment Librarian at Southern Miss



Libraries, has been selected as the recipient of the 2020 Excellence in Librarianship Award by the Faculty Senate Awards Committee at The University of Southern Mississippi. This award is given every other year to a faculty member who has significantly contributed in the practice of librarianship through excellent performance that enhances the dissemination of knowledge and through the advancement of learning. Mangrum has been with University Libraries since October of 2008 and in a faculty librarian role since 2012. She received her MLIS (2011) and EdD in Higher Education Administration (2019) from The University of Southern Mississippi.

Joyce M. Shaw, Head of Gunter Library at the Gulf Coast Research Laboratory and Professor



at the University of Southern Mississippi, was elected to the position of Vice-Chair Atmospheric Sciences Librarians International (ASLI) for 2020. Atmospheric Science Librarians International is an international professional association for atmospheric science librarians, institutions, and organizations involved in

atmospheric research. Vice-Chair serves as chair of the program and conference planning committee for the 24th annual conference: ASLI in 2021: Strengthening engagement with communities through our science and service. This conference is scheduled for January 13-14, 2021, as part of the 101st American Meteorological Society meeting, scheduled for January, 10-14, 2021, in New Orleans, LA. For more information about or to join ASLI, go to <http://www.aslionline.org>. Shaw said, "I am honored, grateful, and energized to be a part of the leadership of this outstanding organization. As we face the challenges of climate change in the midst of a global pandemic, I support this organization's efforts to share information and resources and to provide service to the international community of atmospheric science librarians, researchers, and practitioners. I encourage all librarians who are interested in environmental sustainability to join ASLI and to attend our 24th annual conference in New Orleans."



Jennifer Brannock of the University of Southern Mississippi has been awarded the 2020 Reference and User Services Associations' Genealogy and History Achievement Award. This award from the history section of the organization recognizes a librarian, library or publisher for professional achievement in historical or genealogical reference, service or research librarianship.

Brannock, Professor and Curator of Rare Books and Mississippiana, has worked at the University of Southern Mississippi Libraries since 2004. She coordinates bibliographic instruction, supervises general reference activities, coordinates outreach efforts, curates exhibits, and conducts collection development and management activities for Mississippiana, rare books, and genealogy.

Since 2005 she has worked with Southern Miss history professor Dr. Andrew P. Haley on the Mississippi Community Cookbook Project



which explores the state's culinary and local history through collecting Mississippi cookbooks and digitizing the items for worldwide use. Haley noted Brannock's extensive work with faculty, students, and community members. He said she had "given talks at conferences and in the homes of women's club members and enlisted the help of librarians from across the state to build collections."

Brannock was cited by the association for her expansion of the usage of academic archival materials for professional and family historians, and for her knowledge of the historical value of archival materials. In particular, the organization noted that the cookbooks project is "a marvelous example of bringing together academic users and the community."

Brannock's research interests include special collections outreach, reference service, and popular culture. She is currently working on a book about Mississippi author Con Sellers and ideas of gender and sexuality reflected in the midcentury lowbrow publishing industry.



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Book Reviews

Michele Frasier-Robinson

*Education and Human Sciences Librarian
University of Southern Mississippi*

Bolton, S. Charles

Fugitivism: Escaping Slavery in the Lower Mississippi Valley, 1820-1860
Fayetteville: The University of Arkansas Press, 2019. 302 pp. \$30.95 (hardcover)

Charles Bolton's study illuminates the impact of runaway slaves in the Lower Mississippi Valley before the Civil War. The work begins with a discussion of slavery, the nuances of how and why slaves ran away, and the geographical layout of slavery in the region. It uses primary source material to recount instances of runaway slaves being re-captured, and writers relaying conversations they had with slaves and slave owners in the South. The book also takes into consideration the ownership of the geographical areas in question, the slave laws in those areas, and how they impacted slaves. For example, Bolton discusses the differences between French and Spanish law in the region, as well as the changes that occurred when the United States took over the territory. It was enlightening to see the differences in slave laws among the countries who ruled over parts of the Lower Mississippi Valley.

Notable primary sources that are used in this book include material from a *New-York Daily Times* (now the *New York Times*) writer who travelled throughout the South writing pieces for the paper, and material related to President James

K. Polk, who owned land and slaves in Mississippi. Bolton also includes the history of Solomon Northup and his experiences from the memoir, *Twelve Years a Slave*. The author presents many varied experiences, both from slaves and slave owners, to show how fugitive slaves affected the South. Perhaps one of the most interesting aspects of the study was the discovery of the reasons slaves ran away, even if it was just for a short time to visit friends and family at other plantations, or to permanently run away and live in swamps or move to larger cities to hide.

This would be a great book to include in an academic library because it relies on a large amount of primary source material. The only criticism I have is that it is heavily reliant on primary sources and does not provide much commentary on them. It reads more episodic rather than a narrative, and it sticks to a linear telling, but not always. Overall, though, it gives a lot of insight into what slavery, slave laws, and the plight of runaway slaves was like during the decades before the Civil War.

*Whitney Russell
Library Associate
Mississippi University for Women*



Lee, Joe

40 Days
Brandon, MS: Dogwood Press,
2018. 311 pp. \$24.95 (hardcover)

Duane Key is turning 50 years old. As he approaches this milestone birthday, he begins to see the

countdown of numbers appear in various places during his daily life in and around Oakdale, Mississippi. For example, fifteen days out from his birthday, he sees the number fifteen written in the clouds and on day twenty-six, the digital clock in his laundry room is stuck on 2:26. As his birthday draws closer, Duane begins to see these numbers surrounded by a halo or a purple frame. He also begins to have headaches and he feels a sense of urgency to get his life right and seek forgiveness from those he has wronged before it is too late.

Duane's first marriage to Pam ended badly. He lost all contact with her and their daughter, Abbie, who is now almost thirty years old. When he finds out Pam is very ill, he seeks a reconciliation with her and Abbie. Moreover, his quest for forgiveness extends to his current wife who works out of state. She is unaware of his relationships with two local women: twenty-something Dorothy, and a local librarian, Candi. Duane seeks the counsel of his best friend's priest who compares Duane's quest to the Lent and Easter seasons.

Although the book is centered on Duane's search for forgiveness, it focuses heavily on the relationships among the characters, especially those of Dorothy, and Candi and her family. This book is recommended for public libraries. It is a fast and interesting read and patrons will be able to identify with the characters who are seeking to make their lives better and seeking forgiveness from those they have hurt. Fans of

Contemporary Christian fiction and forgiveness-themed books will enjoy this work.

Audrey Beach
Reference Librarian
Mississippi Delta Community College



Newman, Mark

Desegregating Dixie: The Catholic Church in the South and Desegregation, 1945-1992

Jackson: University Press of Mississippi, 2018. 474 pp. \$63 (hardcover)

Dr. Mark Newman, a University of Mississippi graduate, teaches at the University of Edinburgh's School of History, Classics and Archaeology and publishes award winning works about segregation and desegregation in the Southern United States. These works consider how Protestant and Catholic religious establishments in the South, depending on local laity and clergy beliefs and practices, advanced integration, or reinforced segregationist tendencies.

Newman's thesis is clear regarding the Catholic Church and desegregation in the post-World War II era. While the Church is a hierarchical top to bottom entity in theory, the reality of desegregation in Catholic churches in the South often flipped to a bottom to top hierarchy. Ideologies and practices of racial segregation often swayed laity, local priests, and bishops. Newman notes, "The Catholic Church in the South, for the most part, would only desegregate in the postwar era when segregation crumbled in secular establishments under pressure from the civil rights movement and the federal government" (17). While

some pressed for church and school integration, desegregation occurred because Catholics, local and regional, felt pressured to do so.

Desegregating Dixie includes an introduction, conclusion and nine chronological chapters, presented thematically. The introduction forms an overview of Catholicism in the South and the nation, prior to World War II. Chapter one looks at Catholics in the South. Newman divides desegregation into three phases. The first phase, 1945-1954, includes the Brown vs. Board of Education ruling. The second from 1954 to 1965 involves perceptions of, and actions due to, federal rulings regarding desegregation and Catholic schools. The third phase concludes after 1966, when desegregation attempts by dioceses resulted in the closing of many black Catholic churches and schools. Newman argues that national interest regarding desegregation began to wane after 1966.

The following two chapters discuss how some viewed segregation and Jim Crow laws as a secular, and not a religious issue, while others argued Catholics must embrace and integrate all members, using the Mythical Body of Christ as the divine commandment. The latter chapters explore membership and clergy in the Catholic Church, black and white, responding to secular events seen in the civil rights movement and desegregation of schools and churches across the South. Newman offers comparisons between Catholic desegregation and presence and Protestant denominations.

An impressive appendix supplies information about most Catholic archdioceses and dioceses in the

South from 1945-1992. However, if only to identify locations, for those not familiar with specific states or counties in the South, maps showing these dioceses would benefit readers. Newman's extensive research is seen in 111 pages of footnotes and a 20-page bibliography divided into primary and secondary resources. Examples include rich archival resources, personal interviews, and secular and church papers, equally represented across southern states. This book is appropriate for academic libraries and numerous disciplines, especially religion, history, and sociology. Readers may need additional knowledge about the climate and history of the South, the civil rights movement and Catholic organizational hierarchy. Overall, *Desegregating Dixie* adds to the scholarly discussion involving Catholicism and desegregation in the post-World War II South.

Jamie Stanfield
Science, Nursing & Health Librarian
University of Southern Mississippi



Tutor, Glennray

Portals

Oxford, Mississippi: Yoknapatawpha Press, 2018. 199 p., ill. \$55 (hardcover)

Glennray Tutor is an artist who lives in Oxford, Mississippi, and he works in Photorealism and Hyperrealism. The works in this book portray his deep love of the everyday: automobiles, toys, firecrackers (especially cherry bombs), comic books, and diners provide rich fodder for him. His son Zach Tutor, is also an artist living in Oxford. This study contains an interview with

his father, and is profusely illustrated with photographs of Glennray's work.

There are several things that set this book apart from the standard artist catalog and interview. The intimate relationship between the participants allows moments of informality between them: when Zach tells his father "I've talked with many artists, Dad, but there is something different about you," Glennray responds with "Should I take that as a compliment?" (5). In addition, the book offers an insight not only into Tutor's work, but also into his philosophy as an artist, his personal narrative, and his relationship to the world. He states, "One of the main themes in my art is the concept of childhood and adulthood . . ." (11).

The format of this publication also sets it apart from the typical artist catalog, and by this I refer to the typical artist statement, curator/art dealer interpretation, possibly followed by a brief interview that is placed apart from the works themselves, which are usually given as a series of numbered plates with reference numbers leading to "tombstone" information about each piece. This book is refreshing and extremely informative because it does not follow this formula. Of course there are many rich, colorful examples of Tutor's work, but Zach and his father discuss aspects of many of the paintings and sketches on the same page with images of the work. This allows us far greater access to Tutor's inspirations. This is invaluable and results in us finding out interesting facts such as Tutor's *Long Life* series of works was inspired by childhood visits to his grandmother's canning closet or that the images of two men

fishing may be the same man, but at different times of his life. The interview also garners information about the progress towards a finished piece, and at what point the artist adds in or removes different items. This is especially true of *Salon*, where the reader is given a detailed description of all the parts of Tutor's process.

This is a book that I would recommend for public or high school libraries that have a strong visual arts collection, or a Mississippi collection. This would also fit well into an academic library art collection.

Sheila A. Cork
Retired Librarian and longtime member of
the Mississippi Library Association



Winn, Valerie

The Dance Between

Brandon, MS: Dogwood Press,
2018. 317 pp. \$24.95 (hardcover)

The Dance Between, Winn's second novel and a sequel to *Forsaking Mimosa*, is an emotional return to Mimosa, Mississippi, and a deeply moving coming of age story of understanding what true compassion is in the face of great adversity.

Follow Beth Brinkmann as she struggles through those confusing years of no longer being a little girl, but not quite being a young woman either. Although she has a good life and is raised in a cozy little southern town where everyone knows everyone else, Beth does experience her share of growing pains. Winn's portrayal of Beth's experiences that range from the trials of adapting to a new school to watching a close friend's mother struggle with multiple sclerosis, is deeply moving.

Throughout the book, Winn craftily demonstrates to us Beth's tenacity in how she finds the courage to serve as mascot of the Mimosa High School football team, learns to make new friends, and overcomes her fear of dogs as juxtaposed to her earlier struggles. However, it is the enviable bond that fathers seem to share with their daughters that sees Beth through some of her most difficult experiences. This close relationship between Beth and her father is interwoven throughout Beth's journey in this story. So much so, that Max, Beth's father, gains some much-needed understanding of his own contentious relationship with his elderly father, Josef.

The Dance Between is a beautifully written, heartfelt coming-of-age story that will stay with you long after you have finished the last chapter. The simple joy of reading this novel leads to self-introspection of life and the roles we play in it. Thus, I often smiled and stopped to enjoy the unearthed memories of my own youth while laughing at the characters and their flaws. This book is worth reading for the small-town familiarity of Mimosa, the Brinkmann family interactions, and the lessons that can surely be learned.

Mantra Henderson
Director of Library Services
Mississippi Valley State University