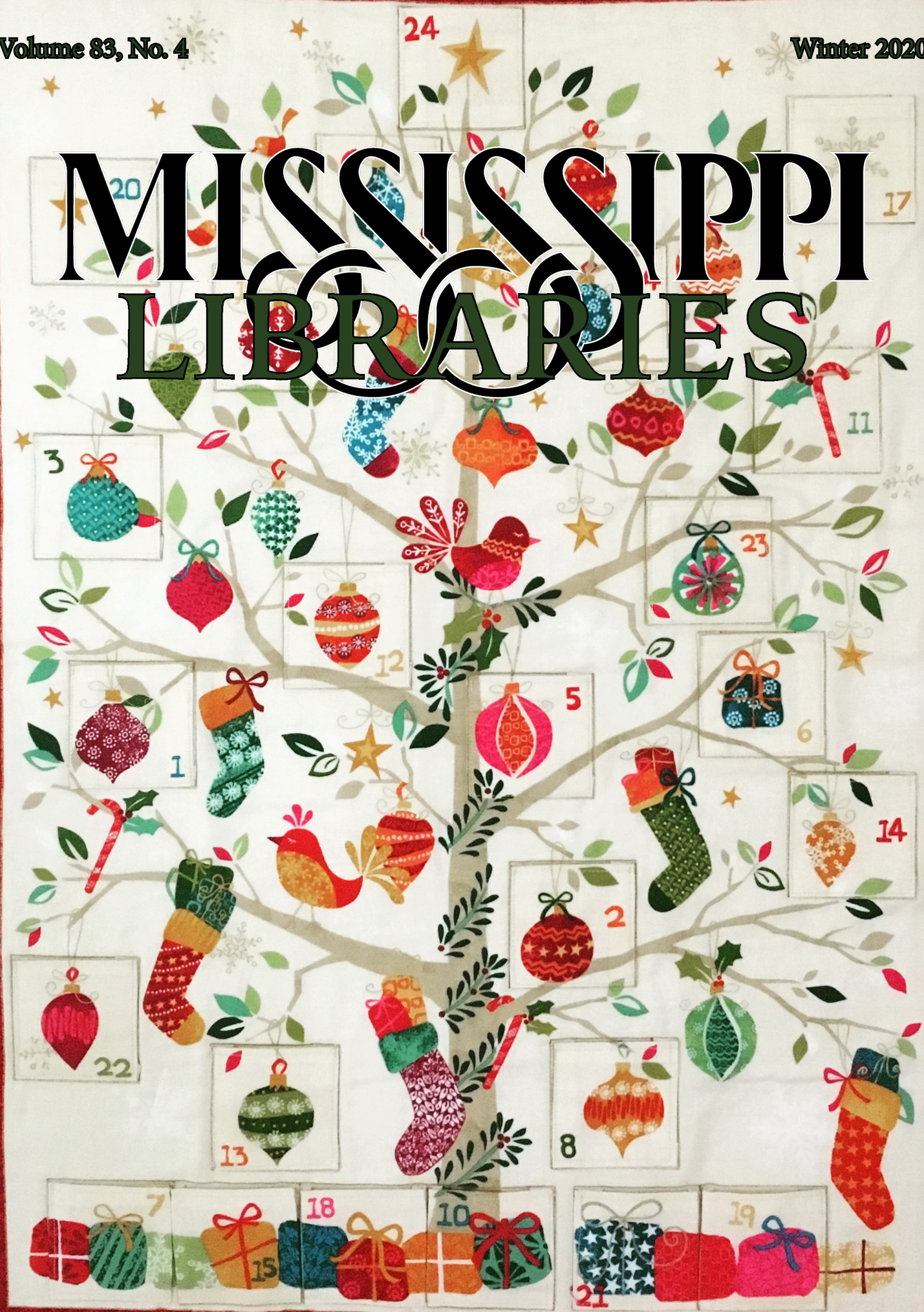


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On the cover: *Present Tree Advent Calendar* by Carrie P. Mastley, Assistant Professor/Manuscripts Librarian at Mississippi State University Libraries
The calendar pieced and quilted by Mastley. The fabric panel design by Henley Studio for Makower.

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President's Page

What a year. I saw a meme the other day that said "2020 is a unique Leap Year - it had 29 days in February, 300 days in March and 5 years in April." Wasn't that so true. My favorite was a meme library sign that said "Please Note: Our Post-Apocalyptic Fiction has been moved to Current Affairs." So apropos. To say that this year has been challenging to all of us would be an understatement. A world-wide pandemic, economic crises, riots, fires, hurricanes, impeachment, elections, murder hornets... Wait. Murder hornets? You gotta be kidding me. Really? I mean, come on! Like 2020 didn't have enough problems.

But here we are at the end of the year. We made it. A little frazzled, tired of isolation, sick of disinfectant, weary of mask marks across our face, contemplating the significance of murder hornets. But all in all, we're stronger, more mindful and resilient. We have a new US president, a new state flag, and a vaccine for COVID will shortly be available. Things work out, maybe not always as we want or as fast as we want, but things work out and life goes on. And we go on. It's the personal kindness, patience and integrity that we demonstrate during hard times, especially during hard times, that defines us and provides us strength.

It's been an honor and privilege to serve you as MLA President this year. It will be a year I'll never forget! But putting aside the tumult of 2020, it was a good year and I feel very privileged to have had the opportunity to work with such a wonderful group of people. I appreciate



the hard work and dedication of all the volunteers who serve MLA as board members, section, round-table, and committee chairs and members, and all those who provide support through legislative actions and letter-writing campaigns. Libraries of all kinds across the state benefit from your actions and are better off because of your service. Continue your efforts! One person can make a difference. Thanks to Tina Harry for her tireless effort in getting the Mississippi Libraries edited & published each quarter. Thanks to Paula Bass, MLA Administrator, who works behind the scenes to make sure all the association's loose ends are tied. Thanks to Mara Polk, the MLA in-coming president, who braved a whole new world this year and orchestrated our first ever virtual conference. And it was fantastic! Incoming vice-president Stephen Park has his work cut out for him but knowing Stephen, he is already thinking, imagining and planning. I guarantee you, MLA continues to be in good hands.

Combating Fake News

Providing a Fake News Library Guide for Students at Delta State University

Michael Mounce

*Reference/Government Documents/
Instructional Services Librarian
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ABSTRACT

Fake news is a major problem. Fake news stories have presented false information as true and have deceived many people. Also, the Internet and social media have made it possible to disseminate fake news to many people online. Librarians must respond by helping their patrons avoid fake news. One way in which librarians can help their patrons is by creating library guides that educate patrons about fake news and provide information on how to recognize and avoid it. The author created a fake news-related library guide to help Delta State University (DSU) students avoid fake news. In this article, the author gives an introduction on the topic, provides a literature review about relevant library guides from other libraries, and discusses the library guide he created for DSU students.

INTRODUCTION

The topic of fake news has become a popular topic in recent years. The basic question to address about the topic is “What is fake news?” According to Macmillandictionary.com, fake news is “a story that is presented as being a genuine item of news but is in fact not true and is intended to deceive people” (2020). Some synonyms

for fake news include phony news, fabricated news, lies, and made-up stories (Powerthesaurus.org, 2020). Before the days of the Internet and social media, fake news was spread through verbal communication, hand-written documents, and print media such as newspapers (Burkhardt, 2017, p. 5-6). Nowadays, fake news stories can be shared online through fake news websites and social media sites. For example, the fake news story “Ocasio-Cortez Proposes Nationwide Motorcycle Ban” appeared on Facebook in 2019 (Gilbert, 2019). That story is only one of many fake news stories that have appeared online in recent years. Another thing to consider is the dissemination of information. Because of the Internet and social media, it is easy to spread information and fake news online. Anyone with access to the Internet and a social media account or accounts can easily post content in multiple places online (Smith-Roberts, 2018, p. 119). In response to the problem of fake news, many librarians have created online fake news-related library guides to help students and patrons recognize and avoid fake news. At DSU, the author created an online fake news library guide to help students avoid fake news. The purpose of this article is to discuss the creation and content of the fake news library guide at DSU.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Many fake news-related library

guides have been created by librarians and are available online. For example, a fake news library guide was created at the libraries of Indian River State College in Fort Pierce, Florida. The library guide is titled “News Literacy” (Neely-Sardon & Tignor, 2018, p. 114-115). This guide discusses what is wrong with fake news, discusses the types of fake news, and provides information about evaluating sources according to the RADAR criteria (rationale, authority, date, accuracy, and relevance). It also includes an infographic about spotting fake news, provides a tutorial to help students practice evaluating sources, and provides other information and links to other resources (Auberry, Neely-Sardon, & Williams, 2020).

Two other examples of fake news-related library guides have been created at Pennsylvania State University and at Kent State University. (A.T. Musgrove, Powers, Rebar, & G.J. Musgrove, 2018, p. 250-251). At Penn State, there is a fake news library guide titled “Fake” News. This guide defines fake news, discusses types of fake news, discusses the issue of the dissemination of fake news through various social media platforms, refers students to fact-checking websites, and provides other helpful information (Knapp, 2019). At Kent State, there is the fake news library guide “Online Satirical News.” This guide defines and discusses satire, provides a list of books about satire, provides

an example of a news story to test one's skills in determining if it is satire or real news, provides a list of relevant web resources, and has a list of satirical news sites (Koltonski, 2018).

Other fake news library guides from academic libraries include "Evaluating News Sources" from Cornell University, "Fake News, Misinformation, and Propaganda" from Harvard University, and "Fake News & Fact Checking" from the University of Central Florida (Mugrove et al., 2018, p. 255). An example of a fake news library guide from a public library is the guide "Help! My News is Fake!" This guide is a resource of the Albuquerque & Bernalillo Public Library (Batchelor, 2017, p. 146).

CREATING THE LIBRARY GUIDE

In the fall 2018 semester, the author examined fake news-related library guides from other libraries. The author reviewed online library guides in order to help him create a fake news library guide for DSU students. The author found fake news library guides by doing a keyword search in Google and EBSCO databases, using the search terms "fake news" and "Libguides." Observing what other libraries included in their fake news library guides helped the author determine what information he would need to include and what resources to refer students to in the library guide. For example, one of the library guides from another library that helped the author create a guide was the guide "Fake News" from Fordham University Libraries. Specifically, the "Fake News" guide refers students to

fact-checking websites and includes an infographic about how to spot fake news. Observing those features gave the author the idea of including links to fact-checking websites and fake news-related infographics on the DSU library guide.

After reviewing other library guides, the author began creating a fake news library guide in the online content management system LibGuides, which is provided to DSU by the company Springshare LLC. The first steps in creating the library guide were deciding on a title for the guide and creating the guide's pages. The author named the guide "Fake News: A Guide for Delta State University Students." Next, the author created the online pages of the library guide. The author created the following five pages: Home; Fake News Q&A; Evaluation; Fact Checking Websites and Infographics; and How to Find True News. To help students find library guide pages easily, the author added a clickable tab at the top of each page. Each tab has the title of a library guide page.

CONTENT OF THE LIBRARY GUIDE

The first page of the fake news library guide is the guide's home page. For the home page, the author created an introduction, which welcomes visitors to the library guide and provides information about how to navigate the guide. The home page also includes links to the DSU Library home page, library hours, and the library staff directory. Furthermore, the library guide home page contains contact information for the DSU Library reference department and contact information for the library guide's author. The home

page of the library guide is the default starting page. As a result, it is the first page a visitor will see when accessing the library guide.

The second page of the library guide is the "Fake News Q&A" page. The purpose of this page is to inform DSU students about fake news. On this page, the author listed questions about fake news and provided answers to those questions. The questions on this page include the following:

- What is fake news?
- What do online fake news stories talk about and what are some examples of online fake news?
- Who are the authors of fake news stories found online?
- Where have online fake news stories been found?
- When did fake news begin?
- Why are fake news stories created?

To find answers to the questions, the author relied on outside sources of information, which included journal articles, a book chapter, and a few web resources. For example, the author consulted a few online resources to answer the question "What is fake news?" A few definitions and some synonyms were provided. The author cited the sources at the bottom of the library guide page.

The third page of the fake news library guide is the "Evaluation" page. The purpose of this page is to teach DSU students how to evaluate news stories. The author added information to this page about how to evaluate news stories according to the RADAR criteria. The RADAR criteria include rationale (purpose of the news story), authority (the author's

authority in writing about the topic), date (how current it is), accuracy, and relevance (to one's research). The RADAR criteria are explained at the top of the library guide page. Below the explanations, the criteria are applied to a "news" story. At the bottom of the page, there are links to three other online library guides, which discuss the RADAR criteria.

The fourth page of the library guide is the "Fact-Checking Websites and Infographics" page. The author created this page to make DSU students aware of fact checking websites and infographics that can help them avoid fake news. On this page, the author provided links to and information about the following fact-checking websites: AP Fact-Check, FactCheck.org, Politifact, and Snopes. The author also added links to and information about five infographics that are relevant to the topic of fake news. Infographics are messages that communicate information in visual ways. For example, the author included a link to the infographic "How to Spot Fake News." The infographic includes eight tips on how to recognize fake news. A visual image accompanies each tip.

The fifth page of the library guide is the page "How to Find True News." This page serves the purpose of providing DSU students with links to databases, newspaper websites, and news media websites that provide true and credible news stories. In the top half of the page, there are links to and information about the following databases: Academic Search Premier, MasterFile Premier, Newspaper Source, and Regional Business News. In the bottom half of the page, there are links to and information about newspaper and news

media websites. The newspaper websites include Mississippi news sites, such as Mississippi Today, and websites from newspapers throughout the U.S. Also included are links to news media websites such as AP News and CBS News.

REVIEWING AND UPLOADING GUIDE

After the author created, proofread, and edited the library guide, he emailed the guide to the Dean of Libraries and to the Assistant Director of Library Services at the DSU Library. The author emailed the guide to the library administrators since the guide had to be reviewed and approved by them before it could be uploaded to the DSU Library website. Next, the library administrators completed their reviews of the guide and made some suggestions for editing. The author made the suggested changes, and the guide was approved. In July 2019, the author uploaded the guide to the DSU Library website. The guide is now accessible from the library website's home page.

DISCUSSION

There are various reasons why fake news is a problem. One reason is because fake news stories can cause problems for those who are mentioned in the stories. For example, there was a fake news story on Twitter and other social media sites that accused the Comet Ping Pong pizza restaurant in Washington D.C. of harboring pedophiles (Smith-Roberts, 2018, p. 118). The conspiracy became known as "Pizzagate." Sometime after the fake news story was posted online, a man named Edgar Maddison Welch,

who was one of the many people who read the story, showed up at the restaurant armed with an assault rifle. Soon after he arrived, he fired shots at the restaurant. It was said that he was there to "investigate the pizzeria." After that incident, the pizza restaurant's business suffered and the owners of the restaurant received threats over the telephone. (Stone-Erdman, 2018, p. 420-422).

The second reason why fake news is a problem is because fake news stories deceive many people who read them. It is easy to fall into the trap of believing fake news stories. One way in which fake news stories deceive people is that they contain information or other things that make the stories seem true. For example, someone wrote a fake news story in 2016 that claimed that tens of thousands of fraudulent votes for Hillary Clinton were found in a warehouse in Ohio. The story contained quotations and photo-shopped images of boxes of fraudulent ballots that seemed legitimate. It soon became evident that the fake news deceived some people, because a county board of elections in Ohio announced "it was investigating the possible election tampering." (Vojak, 2017, p. 125).

Another way that fake news stories can deceive people is by being on fake news websites with web addresses or names that sound legitimate. For example, the fake news website, known as the fake ABC News website, has a web address that is very similar to the web address of the real ABC News website. The web address for the fake website is "abc-news.com.co." The web address for the real website is "abcnews.go.com" (Stone-Erdman, 2018, p. 419-420).

An example of a fake news website with a name that sounds legitimate is the WTOE 5 News website (Riggins, 2017, p. 1311).

The third reason why fake news is a problem is because fake news stories are not good resources for research papers or other assignments. Fake news stories contain false information, and as a result, they can hurt students' grades on their assignments. Fake news stories can also reduce the quality of their papers if they use those types of resources.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, fake news is a problem that will not simply go away. Therefore, librarians need to help their patrons avoid fake news. Creating and providing a fake news library guide is a way in which the author is helping DSU students avoid fake news. The author is encouraged by some good news. According to a statistical report in LibGuides on November 2, 2020, the

author's fake news library guide has been viewed 221 times since it was uploaded to the DSU Library website in July 2019. This indicates that DSU students are interested in the issue of fake news and that they want to learn how to avoid it. The author is confident that DSU students will continue to visit the library guide in the future.

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The Cataloging Manual of the Mississippi Library Association

Helping Catalogers in Need

Joy DuBose

Special Collections Cataloger
Mississippi State University Libraries

INTRODUCTION

The Technical Services Department in most libraries is a department that is most often in flux. Acquisition and cataloger librarians

must stay ready to adapt to new materials and new rules. In addition, in the past few years a new set of challenges has occurred for the cataloging field in Mississippi. There are fewer and fewer experienced and trained catalogers available. Due to this, many times people from other areas of the library, with varying

degrees of training, are asked to catalog. Cataloging can be a challenging profession and even more so for those who are unfamiliar with it.

It was for these reasons that the Mississippi Library Association (MLA) decided that a cataloging manual should be available for their members. It would be created by the

past chair of the Technical Services Roundtable (TSRT). The roundtable would keep the document updated as cataloging policies change in the future. By doing so this manual will be able to help users understand the basics and provide a foundation of cataloging. To get a better understanding of this document, it is important to understand what it covers, what it does not, and where it can be found.

WHAT THE MANUAL COVERS

STATEMENT OF INTENT

This statement simply outlines the purpose of the MLA cataloging manual. It was created and designed to help beginning catalogers and those with less training. Much of the information was taken from other guides to ensure the information's accuracy. The terminology and explanations were changed and reworded to help those who are not familiar with cataloging. These original sources are cited in references.

To get a general overview of what the document contains, users should begin with the table of contents. It shows that the document has sections on common terms for catalogers, Marc fields, authority records, and two appendixes.

COMMON TERMS

Like many different professions, cataloging contains a great deal of professional terms and jargon that people outside the field may not be familiar with. This section identifies and explains some of the more common terms of the profession. The most important of these terms are authority, bibliographic records, and MARC. These terms are used continuously in the cataloging profession.

Authority records are records used for names, titles, and subject. Bibliographic records, or bib records, are the type of records created and used to actually catalog materials. MARC, or Machine-Readable Cataloging, is the encoding standard used to catalog. The profession of cataloging itself is about describing materials so patrons can find the material in the library. Bibliographic records use MARC standards to describe the items. Authority records are used so when patrons search for materials by author or subject they can find multiple items for a single search term. Some of the more basic elements of cataloging have dealt with bib records and their use of MARC fields. Due to this, the next section discusses the MARC fields in greater detail.

MARC FIELDS

Bibliographic records are made up of many MARC fields. Many people have found these fields challenging and confusing. This is the largest section of the manual and covers the most common MARC fields that catalogers use.

FIXED FIELDS

In bibliographic records fixed fields are located at the very top of the record. Now these fields can be confusing because they have shortened names like Ctrl and GPub. This section not only explains what each fixed field means, but also the codes available for each and what type of record they are used for. For example, GPub is used for government publication. The codes then outline what kind of government. For example, "l" is for local government, and "s" is for state government.

Examples are also provided

showing how different materials use common and specific fields. These examples were taken straight from working records that are used by libraries. Examples are available for books, continuing resources, audio records, visual materials, and computer files.

FIELDS 00X-9XX

The rest of the section focuses on fields from 00x to 9xx. These fields contain most of the information that make up bib records. The manual is organized by field section, then in number order of individual fields. An example of this is that for the 00x fields, the individual fields are listed 007, 020, 022, and so on. This organization makes it easier for catalogers to find the particular field they may have a question about. Each section starts off clarifying what the overall section is used for, like 1xx deals primarily with authors and creators. Then every individual field contains a description of how it is used. The specific codes, formats, and subfields are listed and described. Examples are then provided for almost every field and many contain multiple examples. This section breaks down the confusing MARC fields into more simplified terms. That way a librarian who has never seen a 650 field could look it up and not only understand how it is used, but what each individual subfield means.

There are some exceptions to the organization and descriptions. Every field grouping is in order of number except one. The 2xxs starts off explaining the 245 field. This field is used for the title of the piece and the majority of 2xx fields are based off of the information contained in the 245. Due to this, it was

seen as more helpful to catalogers to list the 245 first. Also, not every code is explained for every field. The 007 field has multiple codes for each subfield and multiple subfields. This by itself can cause confusion. To better understand these codes, the “helpful links” area of the reference page contains the 007 guide from OCLC. This guide can help explain these codes in better detail. Also, the 043 and 041 fields contain too many fields to list. These fields identify countries the piece is about and languages the piece was written in. Respectively, there are far too many varying codes for countries and languages to add in this document, so guides are again available in the reference section.

After the MARC fields the guide has a section on authority records.

AUTHORITY RECORDS

As previously mentioned, authority records are records that are used for names, places, and subjects, among other things. However, that does not fully explain authority records. This brief section highlights what authorities are, how they tie into bibliographic records, and their importance. However, this manual was designed for beginner level catalogers, so it does not explain how to create authority records. Many experienced catalogers do not create or edit authority records. Nevertheless, authorities are still an important part of cataloging, and users should have a basic understanding.

The last part of the document contains the two appendixes.

APPENDIXES

There are two appendixes contained in the manual. The first lists references and helpful links. The

helpful links section was mentioned previously. This appendix focuses on cited links and other manuals and guides that will be helpful to catalogers.

The second appendix contains examples of what are known as fast fields and brief records. Many institutions currently consider fast fields a “junk field” and request that they be deleted from records. Fast fields were mentioned in the common terms, and several examples are listed. Also listed in the second appendix are “brief records”. Many institutions use brief records for ILLs and order records. Like the fast fields, these are explained in the common terms and the examples are listed here.

The MLA cataloging manual provides users a good foundation of cataloging information. However, it cannot cover all areas of cataloging.

WHAT THE MANUAL DOES NOT COVER

The manual does contain a great deal of information, but it does not explain how to actually “catalog”. The primary duties of a cataloger involve importing records that match materials, editing them, and assigning the call numbers. This document does not inform users how to search for records, how to edit them, or create them. Nor does it address the different ways that call numbers can be assigned. So, while it does contain useful information for the cataloging profession, it will not train new catalogers.

INSTITUTIONAL INSTRUCTIONS

Many “how to catalog” instructions were not added because individual institutions have a variety of

ways to do them. After all, there are many different types of libraries in Mississippi. Catalogers for an academic library may do some things differently than catalogers in a public library.

For editing records, individual institutions have their own rules about what fields to add and to delete. So, guidelines and rules for editing and deleting fields were not included. Where one library may want to delete “fast fields”, another may want to keep them. Also, instructions on how to import records into a library’s online catalog were not included. Much like editing, individual institutions have different ways of adding records to their systems. Some may use Blue Cloud; some MarcEdit; some may use Sirsi’s marc import. There were simply too many to list.

Also, different institutions treat call numbers differently as well. For non-fiction materials, many public libraries use the Dewey Decimal System, while academic libraries may use Library of Congress. For fiction, many public libraries will just have a call number of “F” and the first three letters of the authors’ last name. Academic libraries again use Library of Congress, so many fiction titles would be under P-PZ classification. These procedures also may be specific to individual institutions, and thus were not listed.

CREATING RECORDS

The process of creating bibliographic records was not included as well. It is considered a more advanced process than this document was designed to highlight. That being said, catalogers can use the information on fields to create bib records. The manual itself just does

not outline the steps on how to create records.

WHERE TO FIND THE MANUAL

Now that users understand what is and is not in the manual, it is important to know where to find it. The cataloging manual is located on the MLA website; however, it is where only MLA members can access it. From the website homepage there

is a blue menu bar with drop down options. By clicking on the member only resources, users will be taken to page where they have to login. After logging in, the cataloging manual will be available. It is available for download and use by any and all who have an MLA account and log in.

CONCLUSION

The field of cataloging has long

been viewed as being a difficult and confusing one in the world of library sciences. It can be even more so for those who may go into the field with little or no training. However, MLA has tried to help beginning catalogers with this manual. It provides users foundational information on terms, fields, and authorities. By using this manual, hopefully beginning catalogers can find a firm footing in the profession.

SLIS Notes

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Greetings, dear scholars. For many, this holiday season will be a bit different in our present COVID-19 world. There is a need for easy, inexpensive, but beautiful holiday crafts and activities for library programming and at-home activities. To get a head start on next year, mark your new 2021 calendar with *Literary Holidays to Celebrate All Year Long* <https://www.5min-lib.com/2016/12/literary-holidays-to-celebrate-all-year.html>.

HOLIDAY CRAFTS, DECOR

Country Living Christmas Crafts (spool wreath, basket wreath, dog bone wreath, etc.) - <https://www.countryliving.com/diy-crafts/how-to/g903/holiday-craft-projects-1209/>

Easy Christmas Crafts (paper napkin poinsettias, pine cone trees, etc.) - <https://www.midwestliv->

[ing.com/holidays/christmas/easy-christmas-crafts/](https://www.housebeautiful.com/entertaining/table-decor/g4005/christmas-centerpieces/)

Holiday Table Centerpieces - <https://www.housebeautiful.com/entertaining/table-decor/g4005/christmas-centerpieces/>

Recycling Old Christmas Cards (bookmarks, gift tags) - <https://holidappy.com/holidays/Uses-for-Old-Christmas-Cards>

HOLIDAY CRAFTS WITH RECYCLED BOOKS, BOOK PAGES

5-Point Star - <https://www.homemade-gifts-made-easy.com/5-pointed-origami-star.html>

14 Book Craft Ideas for Christmas (bird ornaments, wreaths) - <https://www.all-freechristmascrafts.com/Editors-Christmas-Craft-Picks/Book-Craft-Ideas-for-Christmas#section54005757>

Big DIY Ideas for Book Crafts (roses, garland, butterflies, etc.)

- <https://bigdiyideas.com/35-unique-and-creative-vintage-book-crafts/>

Butterfly Ornaments (from old book pages and keys) - <https://www.diyncrafts.com/58298/decor/diy-rustic-butterfly-decoration-from-an-old-book>

Folded Book Christmas Tree - <https://www.instructables.com/Folded-Book-Christmas-Tree/>

Mini Book Page Wreath - <https://2beesinapod.com/2017/11/10/diy-mini-book-page-wreath/>

Package Bows - <https://diyin-spiced.com/book-page-bow/>

Vintage Christmas Carols Sheet Music (to print and frame or use in crafts) - <https://www.roseclearfield.com/printable-vintage-christmas-sheet-music/>

GIFT WRAPPING IDEAS

50 Creative Gift-Wrapping Ideas (gold duct tape, evergreen

sprigs, jingle bells) - <https://www.oprahmag.com/life/g34015639/gift-wrapping-ideas/>

Eco-Friendly Gift Wrap Ideas (maps, old books, paper bags) - <https://www.midwestliving.com/holidays/christmas/eco-friendly-gift-wrap-ideas/>

Recycled Gift Wrapping (scrap fabric, newspapers, twine) - <https://ecocult.com/15-eco-friendly-gift-wrap-ideas-that-look-chic-not-cheap/>

LIBRARY PROGRAMMING AND DISPLAY IDEAS FOR THE HOLIDAYS

18 Best Holiday Displays in Libraries - <https://www.bookbub.com/blog/holiday-library-displays>

20 Bookish Christmas Trees - <https://www.bookbub.com/blog/bookish-christmas-trees>

Holiday Programs with Heart - <https://programminglibrarian.org/articles/holiday-programs-heart>

FUN FOOD IDEAS FOR THE HOLIDAYS

30 Fun Holiday Food Ideas for School Parties - <https://www.forkly.com/food/6-fun-christmas-food-ideas-for-kids-school-parties/>

35 Best Healthy Christmas Treats - <https://www.womansday.com/food-recipes/food-drinks/g2058/healthy-holiday-snacks-for-kids/>

60+ Easy Christmas Treats - <https://www.countryliving.com/food-drinks/easy-christmas-treats/>

[com/food-drinks/g2173/blog-ger-christmas-recipes/](https://www.food-drinks/g2173/blog-ger-christmas-recipes/)

Healthy Holiday Snacks for Kids - <https://www.momables.com/6-healthy-holiday-snacks-for-kids/>

Healthy Snacks for Winter Holiday Parties - <https://www.ptotoday.com/room-parent/room-parent-articles/8668-healthy-festive-snacks-for-your-winter-classroom-party>

HOLIDAY BOOK AND MOVIE RECOMMENDATIONS

Holiday Books for Kids - <https://www.commonensemedia.org/lists/holiday-books-for-kids>

Oprah's 35 Best Christmas Books for the Holidays - <https://www.oprahmag.com/entertainment/tv-movies/g28737773/best-christmas-books/>

The 55 Best Christmas Movies of All Time - <https://www.esquire.com/entertainment/movies/a50565/best-christmas-movies-of-all-time/>

LOW-COST GIFTS AND ACTIVITIES

For creative, inexpensive gifts, print out the paper dolls and gift with a pair of safety scissors; print out the coloring sheets and gift with some crayons or coloring pencils.

Betsy McCall Paper Dolls (color printouts 1950s-1990s in pdf format) - <https://www.thebleu-door.com/betsymccallhome.htm>

Design and Color Your Own Paper Dolls - <https://kidsactivitiesblog.com/62841/design-and-color-your-own-paper-dolls/>

[your-own-paper-dolls/](https://www.your-own-paper-dolls.com/)

Educational Coloring Pages (for adults and children) - <https://www.justcolor.net/kids/educational-coloring-pages/>

Educational Coloring Sheets (by grade or subject) - <https://www.education.com/worksheets/coloring/>

Free Coloring Pages - <https://www.crayola.com/free-coloring-pages/words-and-letters/learning-coloring-pages/>

Free Paper Doll Patterns - <https://homeschoolgiveaways.com/2015/01/free-paper-doll-patterns-for-quiet-play-2/>

Little House on the Prairie Paper Dolls - <https://littlehouseon-theprairie.com/pioneer-girl-and-pioneer-boy-paper-doll-printables/>

Mississippi Coloring Sheets by Marshall Ramsey - <https://mississippitoday.org/category/coloring-sheets/page/5/>

Southern Miss Color Sheets - <https://southernmiss.com/documents/2020/3/31/ColoringPages.pdf>

USA Maps Coloring Sheets - <https://www.bestcoloringpagesforkids.com/us-map-coloring-pages.html>

LOW-COST GIFTS - THUMBPRINT AND HANDPRINT CHILDREN'S ART

Many of these thumbprint or fingerprint projects recommend paint, but you could also use ink pads of various colors instead.

Fingerprint Christmas Tree -

<https://www.artycraftykids.com/art/fingerprint-christ-mas-tree-art/>

Fingerprint Dandelion - <https://kidscrafts.craftgossip.com/kids-craft-dandelion-wall-art/>

Fingerprint Earth - <https://www.craftsonsea.co.uk/earth-day-craft-preschool/>

Handprint and Fingerprint Bugs, Bees - <http://mamacanilickthepoon.com/handprint-and-fingerprint-crafts/>

Thumbprint Tree Pattern - <https://www.clipartkey.com/view/hx-jwo-fingerprint-owl-tree-digit-euclidean-vector-fingerprint-tree/>

VIRTUAL KAIGLER CHILDREN'S BOOK FESTIVAL

Since the USM Children's Book Festival was canceled in April due to COVID-19, the festival was held virtually November 16-20, with keynote speakers Michael Fry, Randy Testa, Emma Walton Hamilton, Jason Reynolds, Laurie Halse Anderson, and the Southern Miss Medallion winner Rita Williams-Garcia. The Kaigler endowment funded the festival, so registration was free, and more than 900 attended from sites across the U.S. and the world. The virtual sessions will be freely available in a few weeks in Aquila digital repository at <https://aquila.usm.edu/>.

Save the date for the **2021 Virtual Kaigler Children's Book Festival**, April 12-16, with Southern Miss

Medallion winner Andrea Davis Pinkney.

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/sl原因> for additional information about the ALA-accredited MLIS degree program, Graduate Certificate in Archives and Special Collections, and Graduate Certificate in Youth Services and Literature. Since the GRE testing centers are closed, Southern Miss Graduate School has approved a GRE waiver for applicants for spring, summer, and fall 2021. SLIS also offers a Bachelor of Science degree in LIS as well as a LIS minor. All classes are online and meet once each week during the evening hours.

SAVE THE DATE

— FOR THE —

2021 VIRTUAL FAY B. KAIGLER CHILDREN'S BOOK FESTIVAL

APRIL 12-16, 2021



with Southern Miss Medallion winner

ANDREA DAVIS PINKNEY

More details coming soon!

News Briefs

Hali Black

*First Year Experience Librarian
University of Southern Mississippi*

THE RIDGELAND PUBLIC LIBRARY HOSTED A ZOOM SPEAKER PRESENTATION: "FAULT LINES: LIVING IN TWO CULTURES"

The Ridgeland Library invited Ms. Seetha Srinivasan, Director Emerita of the University Press of Mississippi, and Jackson resident to talk about becoming a part of the American mainstream while retaining one's ethnic identity (in this case, Indian) and asked the following questions: Can it be done? To what extent? What are the challenges, frustrations, rewards?



The presentation was made possible, in part, from an honorarium from the Mississippi Humanities Bureau. The Speaker's Bureau features the state's finest historians, writers, and storytellers talking about a variety of subjects related to Mississippi and beyond. The MHC selects speakers based on their credentials and the quality of their program and pays them an honorarium for presenting to nonprofit groups

around the state.

For more information about this event, call the Ridgeland Public Library at: 601-856-4536 or email Peter Dean at pdean@mcls.ms.

Submitted by:

Maggie Mayer

*Public Information and Marketing Specialist
Madison County Library System*



2021 SOUTHERN MISS INSTITUTIONAL REPOSITORY CONFERENCE ACCEPTING PROPOSALS

The University of Southern Mississippi Libraries are now accepting proposals for the 2021 Southern Miss Institutional Repository Conference, which will take place virtually on April 29-30, 2021.

We are accepting proposals for short concurrent sessions (approx. 25 minutes), full concurrent sessions (approx. 50 minutes), panels (multiple speakers on a common topic, approx. 50 minutes), workshops (hands-on opportunity for participants to learn about a specific topic pertinent to IRs, approx. 2 hours), lightning talks (approx. 5 minutes), and posters.

We welcome proposals from all institutions that either have an IR, regardless of platform, or that are interested in pursuing an IR for their campus. Topics for proposals may include (but are not limited to):

- Choosing an IR platform
- Promoting an IR on campus
- IR staffing models
- New and emerging IR platforms
- Accessibility for IRs
- Getting faculty participation in IR initiatives

- IRs and student scholarship
- Supporting underrepresented minority researchers through IRs
- Electronic theses and dissertations
- Library-led publishing through the IR
- Open educational resources and IRs
- Data management and IRs
- Open access and IRs
- Supporting DEI initiatives through the IR
- Author rights
- Metrics and tools for evaluating IRs
- Migrating from one IR platform to another

The deadline for submitting proposals is December 18, 2020. Acceptance emails will be sent no later than February 1, 2021. Registration is free for all attendees, and will open in January. Proposals may be submitted at <https://www.lib.usm.edu/smirc/proposals.html>. Please contact joshua.cromwell@usm.edu for any questions about proposals or about SMIRC.

Submitted by:

Josh Cromwell

*Scholarly Communications Manager
University of Southern Mississippi*



SOUTH MISSISSIPPI REGIONAL LIBRARY RECEIVES READING GRANT

The South Mississippi Regional Library system is pleased to be a recipient of a Save the Children reading grant.

Since being founded in 1919,

Save the Children has worked in over 100 countries to give children a healthy start in life, the opportunity to learn, and protection from harm. Working in Mississippi since 1933, they began implementing evidence-based education programs in 2003 and currently serve almost 900 children in Marion County. The grant funds were awarded to promote literacy during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Supporting reading initiatives from June to August 2020, the grant enabled the Library to provide local children with free books, take home activity kits, and prizes for reading and participation. "We are grateful to have a partnership with Save the Children to serve the youth of our community," stated Library Director, Ryda Worthy. "They are truly committed to bettering the lives of our children, and we look forward to working with them on future projects."

The South Mississippi Regional Library, serving Marion and Jefferson Davis counties, with libraries located in Columbia, Bassfield, and Prentiss, provides resources and information for the educational and recreational needs of its customers. Founded in 1912, the Library has been offering a Summer Reading Program for almost 65 years. The system is supported by the cities of Columbia, Prentiss, Bassfield, and the Marion and Jefferson Davis Counties.

Submitted by:
Ryda Worthy
Library Director
South Mississippi Regional Library

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LIBRARY RECEIVES WEYERHAEUSER DONATION

The Columbia-Marion County Public Library is pleased to be a recipient of a Weyerhaeuser Giving Fund donation.

Weyerhaeuser, an American timberland company which owns over 12,000,000 acres of timberlands in the U.S., made its first charitable donation in 1903 and has provided more than \$239 million in grants through its formal giving program, established in 1948. Foundation giving is limited to areas where they have a significant presence, including communities where they have operations and/or where they own or manage forestlands in the United States and Canada. Weyerhaeuser's Mississippi operating locations are in Bruce, Columbus, McComb, and Philadelphia, but they manage timber forestlands in Marion County.

The Library at 900 Broad Street has been closed for construction since being damaged by a tornado that traveled through Columbia on December 16, 2019. Significant roof damage and accumulated overnight rain resulted in severe interior damage. "It is so gratifying to know that we have the support of not only our local government and citizens, but also the business and corporate community, in our efforts to return to providing Marion County with the library services that its citizens have deemed necessary and supported for over 100 years," states Library Director, Ryda Worthy. Weyerhaeuser Funds will be used for construction projects not covered by the County's insurance policy on the building.

The Columbia-Marion County Public Library, part of the South

Mississippi Regional Library system, provides resources and information for the educational and recreational needs of its customers. The Library has been housed at the Broad Street location since 1975, with the building, owned and maintained by Marion County, being dedicated on December 16, 1975. Funding necessary for all Library operating expenses is provided by both Marion County and the City of Columbia.

Submitted by:
Ryda Worthy
Library Director
South Mississippi Regional Library

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ARC FUNDS NEW COMPUTER LAB AT CCLS

Choctaw County Library System was able to replace all staff and patron computers, create a computer lab space, and increase the amount of patron computer stations in the Ackerman Branch with funding provided by the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC).

At the beginning of 2020, the Ackerman Branch Library's patron computer area consisted of only six patron computers lining a wall near the circulation desk. In April, library director Cristin Chandler wrote an ARC grant requesting \$30,000 to use toward replacement of all computers at both CCLS branches, additional computers and laptops to meet the need of public computers and technology classes, and desks and chairs for a computer lab at the Ackerman Branch.

The grant was awarded in June, and CCLS employees were hard at work during the summer rearranging materials in the library to make room for a new computer lab. Installation of an eleven-station computer

lab is now complete, including a new printer and print system for patron use and a charging table for patrons' laptops or devices. With grant funding, all staff and patron computers at both the Ackerman and Weir branches have been upgraded for the first time in almost ten years.

As part of the ARC grant agreement, CCLS was able to purchase a group of laptops and will offer computer classes over the next two years. These classes will support adults through workforce development skills, resume writing and computer proficiency. CCLS will also implement STEAM focused youth programs, introducing different technology-driven career opportunities.

These classes and programs align with ARC's Ready Workforce strategy to increase the education, knowledge, skills, and health of residents to work and succeed in Appalachia and with Mississippi ARC strategy to develop a globally competitive workforce through improvements in workforce training and readiness, education initiatives, healthy workforce initiatives, and increased educational achievement.

Submitted by:
Cristin Chandler
Library Director
Choctaw County Library System



New computer lab at CCLS



HARRISON COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM AWARDED \$276,107 IN IMLS CARES ACT GRANTS

The Institute of Museum and Library Services has announced \$13,800,000 in [IMLS CARES Act Grants](#) to support the role of museums and libraries in responding to the coronavirus pandemic. The funded projects were selected from 1,701 applications.

The Harrison County Library System received \$276,107 to fund its Libraries Unbound Mobile Outreach Project.

Library Director, Sarah Crisler-Ruskey stated, "Capital grants for libraries are rare, so we are elated to receive this funding. Not only will our Libraries Unbound Mobile Outreach Project allow us to better serve the community in the event of future pandemic or natural disaster challenges, it will also allow us to connect more people in the community with the benefits of library services on a regular basis."

The Harrison County Library System will launch a dual approach to respond rapidly to patron needs in a pandemic and provide ongoing connectivity to its users. The library will partner with Coast Transit Authority to supply hotspot access to several county bus routes and a digital material hotspot at the main transit hub. The library will also purchase a mobile outreach vehicle to provide devices, internet access, and library materials where and when needed. Current service figures show over 800,000 trips on CTA routes, giving the library an opportunity to reach

thousands of patrons with transportation challenges and time constraints that prevent them from accessing current library services.

CTA Executive Director, Kevin Coggin added, "CTA looks forward to partnering with HCLS on this project that will enhance services for our riders and improve the quality of life in our communities."

This IMLS grant opportunity will support [68 museum and library services projects](#) that will take place over the next two years, supporting communities across the nation.

ABOUT THE INSTITUTE OF MUSEUM AND LIBRARY SERVICES

The Institute of Museum and Library Services is the primary source of federal support for the nation's libraries and museums. We advance, support, and empower America's museums, libraries, and related organizations through grant making, research, and policy development. Our vision is a nation where museums and libraries work together to transform the lives of individuals and communities.



Submitted by:
Sarah Crisler-Ruskey
Director
Harrison County Library System

People in the News

Hali Black

*First Year Experience Librarian
University of Southern Mississippi*

NEW HIRES AT FANT MEMORIAL LIBRARY

Fant Memorial Library has had four new additions: Makaila Offutt, Linda Morgan, Russell Brandon, and Josh Herrick. All four individuals bring a strong skill set and educational background to our growing program.

Makaila Offutt started as a public services associate in April. She serves patrons at the checkout desk, staffs our online reference chat, helps process interlibrary loan requests, and works on library projects with a particular interest in research guides and accessibility. She holds a Master of Science in Library Science, a Master of Arts in Education, and a Bachelor of Arts in English. She is currently pursuing a Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing.

Linda Morgan serves as the assistant to the dean. She helps to keep our library running smoothly by making sure staff have the resources they need to serve our campus and supports our dean in new initiatives. Her educational background includes a Diploma in Anglican Studies, Master of Divinity, Bachelor of Arts in English, and a Bachelor of Arts in Biblical Studies.

Russell Brandon started working as public service associate in September. He serves patrons by helping them find the information they need, working with our 3D printers, and developing research guides. He has strong interests in learning and

technology. Russell holds a Master of Science in Cognitive Science and Psychology, a Cognitive Science Certificate, and a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology.

Josh Herrick began serving as a public services associate in September. In this position, he works with patrons at the checkout desk and via online reference chat, helps develop research guides, and serves on various committees. He has a particular interest in 3D printing and social media. He earned a Bachelor of Arts in History, and he is currently enrolled in the graduate library science program as University of North Carolina Greensboro.



Jamie Stanfield, Assistant Professor and Science, Nursing, & Health Librarian at Southern Miss Libraries, has been selected as the recipient of the 2020 Mississippi Library Association Past President's Award. This annual award is given to an outstanding beginning professional librarian who is an active MLA member. Award recipients must hold an MLS degree, be employed in Mississippi and have between two and six years' professional experience, two of which must be in Mississippi.

Stanfield is employed at the Gulf Coast Library in Long Beach, MS and has been with Southern Miss University Libraries since February 2018. She received her MLIS in 2015 from Texas Woman's University. Stanfield also possesses a Master of Arts in history and is currently pursuing a PhD in history.



Corrine Kennedy has been appointed as the Coordinator of the Mississippi State University College of Architecture, Art, and Design Library. Ms. Kennedy began her career at MSU as the Humanities Librarian in the Research Services Department at the Mississippi State University Libraries. Prior to her appointment at MSU, Ms. Kennedy worked for seven years at the Georgia Institute of Technology Architecture Library. She has a Bachelor of Fine Arts with a major in Art History from the University of Georgia. Her Masters in Library Science is from the University of Southern Mississippi. Ms. Kennedy's research focuses on visual literacy and the use of images when teaching information literacy.



Mary Hamilton retired at the end of October 2020 having served Dixie Regional Library System for 31 years (and 6 days). During her time at DRLS, Mary served as a bookkeeper and as a cataloger. She did an excellent job in automating the eight-branch system, as well as navigating the ever-changing formats through her years of service.



It is with great sadness that we inform you of the death of **Ms. Jeanne E. Dyar**, retired library director at Pearl River Community College. Ms. Dyar, 73, of Purvis, Mississippi passed away November 7, 2020. Graveside services were held on Saturday, November 14, 2020, at Coaltown Cemetery. She was preceded in death by her parents, Jim

and Evelyn Dyar. She is survived by two sisters, Doris Howell (Bill) of Purvis, MS and Adele Dyar of Purvis, MS; one niece, Adrienne Roseberry (Ronnie); one nephew, Scott Howell (Jessica) of Purvis, MS; five great-nephews, Ty, Cale, and Beau Howell, Trace and Luke Roseberry all of Purvis, MS.



It is with great sadness that we inform you of the death of **Mr. William "Terry" Lajaunie**. Terry of Poplarville, MS passed away on Thursday, December 3, 2020. Terry was born on December 11, 1970 in Hattiesburg, MS to Richard Peter Lajaunie and Dianne



(Anderson) Lajaunie.

Terry is survived by his wife of nearly 30 years, Donna, mother Dianne, brothers Richard and Chad (Misty); as well as nieces Haley and Jade, nephew Aiden and a host of family and friends who will miss him dearly. Terry is preceded in death by his father Richard, and maternal and paternal grandparents.

Terry was raised in Mandeville, La. He graduated from Mandeville High School in 1989 and then moved to Mississippi where he attended The University of Southern Mississippi (USM). He received both Bachelor and Master Degrees in Library and Information Sciences. While in school he worked for Cook Library at USM and once he graduated, Terry began his professional

career with the Lamar County Library System in Purvis, MS. Over the last 20 years he became Head of Technical Services, Systems Librarian, and finally Assistant Director. A dedicated member of the Mississippi Library Association, Terry was very well loved, admired and respected by not only his library system, but the entire library community across the state of Mississippi, whom Terry considered to be family. Terry also enjoyed spending time with family and friends, reading and long scenic drives.

In lieu of flowers, the family has asked that donations be made to the Lamar County Library System. More information can be found at <https://lclsms.org/terry/>.

Book Reviews

Kathryn New

*Arts and Humanities Librarian
University of Southern Mississippi*

Brown, Janet

Deadly Visits: a Novel

Brandon: Dogwood Press of Mississippi, 2019. 222 pages. ISBN: 978-0-997-56979-7 (softcover). Price \$14.

Deadly Visits starts as a ghost story/suspense novel and turns into romantic fiction with some thriller added in. Most of the action takes place in and around Aberdeen, South Dakota, where Alex Durham has moved his wife and children from Arkansas just six weeks before. It is deep winter and Emily Durham is still adjusting to life while Alex is making big changes at Audio Tech. The connection to Mississippi is that

Emily grew up in Jackson, and she returns there when her father dies.

Emily and others in Aberdeen are seeing dead people and experiencing unexplainable phenomena. The same happens to Emily in Jackson. While she is there, George Kwivinan in Aberdeen dies in a light plane crash. Odd physical evidence is left behind, and Alex Durham is suspected because he and George had become opponents at Audio Tech.

Emily's college roommate recommends a priest, who recommends a private investigator to help her find a logical explanation. M.A. Kluge hears Emily's story and agrees to fly to South Dakota with her to help figure out what is happening and, perhaps, help Alex if he is arrested for George's murder. The handshake that seals their business relationship

is followed quickly by Emily's thoughts about M.A.: "There was something about him she liked, something familiar that reminded her of ... the other lost loves in her life. Something that allowed her to trust him and feel at ease." On the plane ride, they bond over personal stories and M.A. comforts Emily by holding her hand. Back in Aberdeen, so that M.A. can stay in the Durham family home rather than in a hotel, she introduces him to Alex as an uncle she just met who had attended the funeral in Jackson.

Logical explanations are eventually found, including conspiracy, murder, cell phone-like boxes that produce psychic phenomenon, and corporate experimentation with unproven technology on uninformed subjects. Along the way,

a relationship between Emily and M.A. intensifies, providing opportunities for each of them to wonder how the other is really feeling.

Overall, I found the story improbable. Alex too readily accepts a previously unknown uncle. Good private investigators don't need to be imported from Mississippi. When Alex is arrested and jailed on a charge of murder, a criminal defense attorney does not appear; instead, a corporate attorney is said to provide counsel. Over several days, Emily visits Alex only once in the jail. How does Sister Celeste, a nun whose convent is very near Audio Tech and who receives psychic messages, know to contact Emily? And hard-to-pronounce last names like Klugh, Kwivinan, and Eisenbeiz are unnecessary roadblocks to the reader.

Deadly Visits may have a place on public library shelves for readers who like romantic fiction, but I would not recommend it for a book club discussion.

Linda K. Ginn
Catalog Librarian
University of Southern Mississippi



Mitchell, Alice Rhea

Scooter Mouse and Rabbit

Magnolia, MS: Magnolia Gazette Publishing Company, 2019. 32 pp. \$20 (hardback).

Scooter Mouse and Rabbit is a children's prose narrative written by Alice Rhea Mitchell with twenty-one beautifully crafted illustrations that capture the adventure of the book provided by illustrator Sheryl K. Perry. Originally, the narrative of *Scooter Mouse and Rabbit* began

in 2013 as a long poem, "Rabbit's Habit," that followed the journey of her grandson's stuffed rabbit after being lost. Following a discussion between Perry and Mitchell, the long poem was converted to prose form to reduce the length of the manuscript and was also changed to include an adventure. This discussion allowed Mitchell's imagination to take over and evolve the long poem into the book *Scooter Mouse and Rabbit*.

The story follows Rabbit, who after Story Hour, falls from the backpack of a young boy, Alexander, and is lost within the library ultimately taking refuge under the circulation desk. Scooter Mouse comes to his rescue and works to reassure and entertain Rabbit while they work to find Alexander. Scooter Rabbit, through the assistance of Miss Mattie, masterminds a hide-and-seek reunion plot to reunite Rabbit and the young boy. This book includes a story of rescues, reassurances, and pure entertainment that is appropriate for any children literature collection.

Scooter Mouse and Rabbit is the second in a series of children books based on the storytelling of retired children librarian Miss Mattie Rials.

Mantra Henderson
Director
Mississippi Valley State University



Thomason, Sally Palmer, with Jean Carter Fisher

The Power of One: Sister Anne Brooks and the Tutwiler Clinic

Jackson, MS: University Press of Mississippi, 2020. 182 pp. \$25 (hardcover)

When Anne Brooks came to Tutwiler, Mississippi, a Delta village known for being one of the poorest places in the country, their medical clinic had been closed for five years because they couldn't find a physician willing to live and work there. But Anne Brooks *did* want the job at the Tutwiler clinic, which she completely transformed as its director for thirty-four years.

Thomason uses extensive excerpts from Anne Brooks' own journals and poetry to let the doctor tell much of her own powerful story, from her doubts and struggles – including debilitating arthritis – to her joys and triumphs.

Brooks, born Kathryn Brooks in 1938, was the daughter of a father in the Navy and an alcoholic mother. She was sent to Catholic boarding school in Florida when she was ten years old. She became a nun and took the name Anne in 1957, later graduating from medical school as a doctor of osteopathic medicine in 1982. In 1983, shortly after accepting Tutwiler as her mission, Brooks wrote:

SEE THE SUN OF JUSTICE
RISING

Ribbon roadways leave the Delta
Plunging quickly through the
hillsides:

Kudzu ghosting stumps and forests:

JESUS, PERFECT DAY IS
PRESENT

Morning breaking like creation:

Consecrated women praying—
Mississippi mission seekers . . .

That mission was a community just north of where Emmett Till had been murdered, where clinic

waiting rooms were still segregated, where a predominantly African American population was not only entrenched in a cycle of racism and poverty but wary of white doctors. Only a decade before, Congress had held hearings on the infamous Tuskegee experiments, and Delta residents well remembered the forced hysterectomies endured by Fannie Lou Hamer and numerous other Black women. Dr. Brooks, however, believed in empowering patients with knowledge about their conditions and treatment. The clinic's philosophy stated:

The Staff of the Tutwiler Clinic
Affirms the dignity of each person
And her or his right to quality
health care
Provided in a Christian manner.

The staff seeks to enable Clinic
patients
To become knowledgeable
About their health or illness
And to participate in their own
care
To their fullest potential.

Dr. Brooks' holistic medical philosophy was exactly what the people of Tutwiler needed. The clinic's reach grew from a few dozen patients per month to 8,500 per year, and Brooks became a nationally recognized figure. She was featured on *60 Minutes* and in *People* magazine, and her work was honored with many awards.

Thomason and Fisher previously collaborated on 2016's *Delta Rainbow*, a biography of another Delta

heroine, Betty Bobo Pearson. *The Power of One* and *Delta Rainbow* are both part of the Willie Morris Books in Memoir and Biography series from University Press of Mississippi. Thomason has also written historical fiction (*The Topaz Brooch*) and nonfiction (*The Living Spirit of the Crone: Turning Aging Inside Out*).

The Power of One is recommended for both public and academic libraries as an accessible, engaging biography of a woman who could "see the sun of justice rising" in Mississippi.

DeeDee Baldwin
History Research Librarian
Mississippi State University Libraries

MLA Annual Conference 2020 Recap

Mississippi Libraries - Improve, Innovate, Impact

Mara Polk

MLA Vice-President

As most of you know, the 2020 Annual Mississippi Library Association Conference had a different look this year. We were not greeted by the smiles and hellos of our registration team, Terry Lajaunie and Jennifer Nabzdyk and their crew. There were no smells of coffee lingering in the halls of the conference site. What was supposed to be a gathering of the best library minds in Meridian, Mississippi, at the MSU Riley Center, became a totally virtual conference. In May 2020, the MLA Board unanimously decided that the conference

should be held virtually in October 13-16, 2020. All things considered; I believe that the virtual conference was a success.

For the conference platform, MLA chose Whova. We also used Zoom as our primary streaming tool. There was a total of 512 registered participants which included attendees, speakers, and authors. Fifty-five attendees earned CEU credits. According to Zoom, the top 10 attended sessions for the conference were:

1. MLA 2020 Virtual Conference:
Keynote Speaker: Sharman
Bridges Smith

2. MLA 2020 Virtual Conference:
The Secrets of Proactive Communication
3. MLA Awards
4. MLA 2020 Virtual Conference:
Creating Your Personal Strategic Plan
5. MLA 2020 Virtual Conference:
Bippity Boppity Boo - Who? It IS your job!
6. MLA 2020 Virtual Conference:
ePrograms: An Online Gathering of Resources
7. MLA 2020 Virtual Conference:
Books & Boards: My Love
Affair With Board Games and
Libraries

8. MLA 2020 Virtual Conference:
Turn Your Personal Passion
into your Professional Passion
9. MLA 2020 Virtual Conference:
Advocacy 101
10. MLA 2020 Virtual Conference:
The Million Dollar Reason Your
Library Should Market the Col-
lection... And How to Do It!

According to the Whova plat-
form, there were 3,147 visits to the
agenda webpage. Attendee visits
were distributed among 2,821 using
desktop, 262 using mobile devices,
and 64 using unknown devices. The
top 3 locations of visits were: Her-
nando (738), Hattiesburg (271), and
Jackson (244), but there were also
visits from Oxford, England, Car-
thage, Tunisia, and Corinth, Greece.
Five hundred responses to the MLA
Session Feedback form were re-
ceived that pertained to 72 sessions
and the virtual exhibits enjoyed a
4.85 of 5 approval rating.

A separate survey was shared to
the membership and here were the
results:

- 16.2 percent of attendees were
first timers
- 52 percent of attendees worked
or volunteered at public libraries,
with 20 percent from community
colleges, 13.3 from academic, 9.3
from schools
- 84 percent of attendees rated the
format and convenience of regis-
tration as 5 of 5.
- 41.3 percent rated the quality of
the exhibit as 5 of 5, while 42.9
percent rated 4
- 27 people rated the ease/difficul-
ty of using the Whova platform as
1 of 5 and had a really hard time,
most likely because they were just

learning it while attending the
conference

- 74.3 percent of respondents felt
they learned new ideas to take
back to their libraries
- The overall quality of the ses-
sions was 4.6 of 5 – same as overall
quality of speakers with Keynote
speaker Sharman Bridges Smith
receiving the highest rating of 4.8
of 5
- Overall, the rating for the confer-
ence was 4.5 of 5 and many noted
that they would favor a hybrid
conference next year

Regarding sessions, the Sharman
Bridges Smith's Keynote address had
the highest attendance with 543, fol-
lowed by Secrets of Proactive Com-
munication with 535, and the MLA
Awards with 422.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13

This year, we had over a dozen
sessions for conference participants
including a keynote session deliv-
ered by National Alliance on Mental
Illness or NAMI. In this session, pre-
senters discussed ways to connect
people to information regarding
mental care. The conference ended
its first day with "Haunted Histo-
ry"; participants virtually toured the
famous McRaven House in Vicks-
burg, MS.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14

Traditionally, the MLA Awards
were announced on Friday of the
conference, but we decided we
needed to celebrate our librarians
earlier. According to Zoom statis-
tics, 422 people attended the event!

MLA AWARD WINNERS

LIBRARY CHAMPION AWARD

Scott Naugle & Shaninun Pittman
Pass Christian Books/Cat Island
Coffeehouse

MARY JULIA ANDERSON AWARD

Lisa Ramage
Mid-Mississippi Regional Library
System

OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Jamie Stanfield & Kevin Walker
Gulf Coast Library
University of Southern Mississippi

PEGGY MAY SCHOLARSHIP

Amanda Osborne

PEGGY MAY AWARD

Corey Vinson
Lafayette County & Oxford Public
Library

MLA PAST PRESIDENT'S AWARD

Jamie Stanfield
Gulf Coast Library
University of Southern Mississippi

CARROON APPLE AWARD

Janice Barnes
Gulfport School District
Twenty-Eight Street Elementary

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

CHAPTER ONE AWARD

Friends of the Choctaw County
Library
Choctaw County Library System

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY RUBY ASSAF PRESIDENTIAL AWARD

Sarah Williams
Tishomingo Friends of the Library
Northeast Regional Library System

BEST NEWSLETTER SUBMITTED BY A LIBRARY GROUP

Hinds Community College

**BEST EFFORT BY AN INDIVIDUAL
LIBRARY TO PUBLICIZE LIBRARY
SERVICES AROUND A SINGLE
THEME OR EVENT**

Waynesboro-Wayne County
Library
“Spectacular Summer Reading
Giveaway”

**BEST YEAR-ROUND EFFORT BY
AN INDIVIDUAL LIBRARY TO
PUBLICIZE LIBRARY SERVICES IN
GENERAL**

J. D. Boyd Library
Alcorn State University

Following the awards recognition, we were enlightened by the morning keynote speaker Sharman Smith Bridges. Ms. Bridges was the former Executive Director for the Mississippi Library Commission. In the afternoon, keynote speaker

Michael Angelo Caruso shared with us the “Secrets of Proactive Communication” He engaged conference attendees by encouraging active participation. The day ended with a virtual Presidential Bash, ‘Tinis, Tapas and Trivia. Prizes were awarded to top trivia scorers.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15

Thursday was filled with over twenty-one sessions to appeal to all types of librarians. Prior to the MLA Author Awards, Kimberly Cook hosted a fun and interactive game called “Are You a Cruciverbalist?” Participants worked together to complete online crossword puzzles. Shortly after, MLA honored three authors who were all able to join us via Zoom. The MLA Author Awards winners were:

Fiction: *The Prison* by Joe Edd Morris

Non-Fiction: *Heavy: An American Memoir* by Kiese Laymon

Special (children’s): *Smack Dab in the Middle of Maybe* by Jo Watson Hackl

At the end of the evening, the Silent Auction closed. Over twenty-five prizes were donated by generous contributors. Many thanks to our Silent Auction and Scholarship chair, Justin Easterday. MLA was able to raise a little over \$800.00.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16

To end the conference, there were a dozen sessions followed by closing remarks. President Mary Beth Applin appreciated the entire association for their perseverance and dedication for the last year.



To join MLA, or to renew your membership:

<http://misslib.org/membership>

2020 MLA Executive Board Minutes:

<http://misslib.org/page-1860567>

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Kristin Rogers

*Electronic Resources & Discovery Librarian
The University of Mississippi*

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