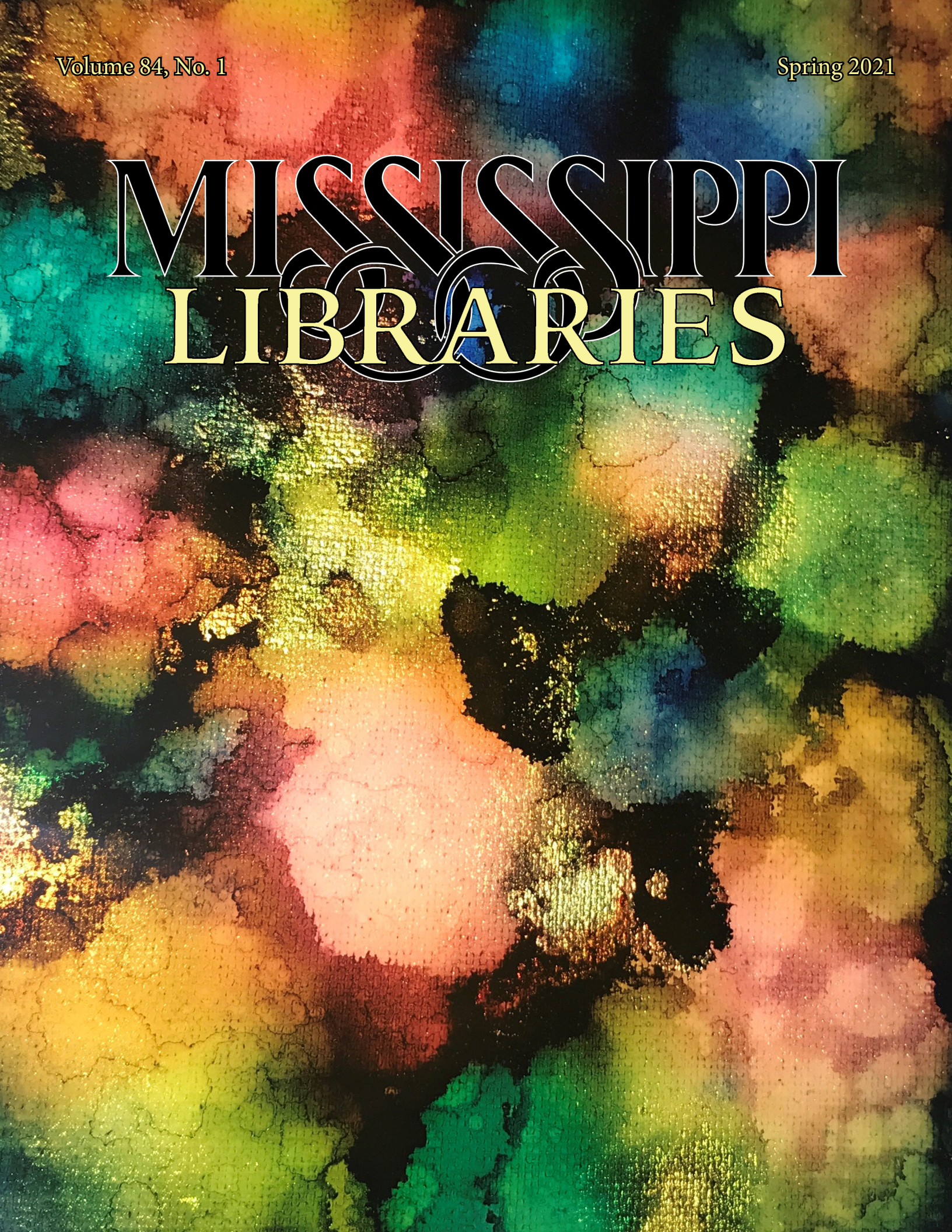


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Editorial Staff

Editor

Tina Harry
Catalog & Asst. Automation Librarian
The University of Mississippi
tharry@olemiss.edu

Assistant Editor

Tracy Carr
Library Services Bureau Director
Mississippi Library Commission
tcarr@mlc.lib.ms.us

Copy Editor

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beachgirl1796@gmail.com

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University of Southern Mississippi
Hali.Black@usm.edu

Book Review Editor

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Kathryn.New@usm.edu

MLA Reporter

Janessa Ullendorf
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Janessa.Ullendorf@usm.edu

Indexer

Kristin Rogers
Electronic Resources & Discovery Librarian
The University of Mississippi
kerogers@olemiss.edu

Contents

President's Page.....	2
The Mindful Magnolia.....	3
<i>Afton Fawn Ussery</i>	
ePrograms.....	6
<i>Stacy Creel</i>	
SLIS Notes	8
<i>Matthew R. Griffis</i>	
National Library Week Proclamation	11
National Library Week 2021	12
<i>Tori L. Hopper</i>	
News Briefs.....	14
People in the News	15
Book Reviews.....	17
<i>The Last Taxi Driver</i>	
<i>I Don't Like the Blues: Race, Place, and the Backbeat of Black Life</i>	
<i>Gay Faulkner: Uncovering a Homosexual Presence in Yoknapatawpha and Beyond</i>	

On the cover: *Spring Breeze* by Nancy Anderson, First Regional Library

This piece was made by layering alcohol ink on canvas. I love the flexibility of alcohol ink, the way it moves, and especially that you can change the look of a painting after it dries simply by adding alcohol, or more ink to it.

The paintings often remind me of stained glass and are so much fun to create!

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

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President's Page

Librarians across the country are celebrating National Library Week from April 4-10, 2021. The National Library Week theme is "Welcome to Your Library". After a year, many of us are starting to welcome back our patrons to their libraries with very little or no restrictions. A WHOLE YEAR! We have learned more about ourselves and our communities. If there is anything this pandemic has taught me, it is to be more FUN. It is most important to be Flexible, Understanding and Nice.

Spring 2020 was mostly stressful and dreadful. Our normal routines were shut down. A cloud of uncertainty hung over our heads. We learned about the areas we were lacking in providing service to our communities. Being FLEXIBLE was key to developing better relationships at work. We learned quickly that the disparity between the different types of Mississippi libraries was and is huge. What our colleagues decided to do for their workplace was not necessarily best for another. No one really knew what they were doing or what the expectations were in our work culture. Allow yourself to be flexible and to expect that of others. Those in leadership roles were tasked to make difficult decisions about access to their physical buildings, how to offer services to their communities, and how to gain the trust of their teams to telework or return to their respective roles. We asked each other and our patrons to be patient with us as we navigated through these "unprecedented times." Supervisors made work schedules that were amended and adjusted to promote safety in



the workplace. Employees adjusted by creating a pseudo office from home. Thoughts like "what do I wear," "do I need to brush my teeth," "do I have enough bandwidth to be on a video conference" pop in your head. As soon as the meeting starts your pet/child, or both decide they are interested in what is going on. You notice that your background looks like a tornado or the like has come through. Remind yourself occasionally, that this probably is the first time you have experienced a pandemic and it is probably the first time for your supervisor.

Next, UNDERSTAND that you do what you can when you can, and how you can. Reach out to your co-workers and colleagues. Ask "how are you (really)?" One of the comforts I had was that I was not alone. I wanted just as badly to connect patrons to the library. While libraries were closed to the public, one of my managers made a statement that I carry to this day. She said that we have given patrons almost two months to find something to fill their library needs whether they

used library for programs, internet, or meeting spaces. I know that I did not want to be irrelevant. While some were figuring out the most effective way to communicate, others were trying to be creative and safe in their traditional services to exclusively curbside services rather than stop operations totally. Many of us flocked towards the internet and social media to reach each other and

our communities. One of the first things librarians did was work together to make a map to show patrons where they could access Free Wi-Fi. It was inspiring to see how quickly Mississippi Libraries responded. Other libraries became novice videographers to reach their communities through virtual programs.

Lastly, Be a NICE human. The last year may not have been too pretty but we rose to the occasion because that is what we do. We are a compassionate and service-driven occupation. We are creative and find ways to engage our communities. We are librarians. Be nice to yourself. Be nice to others. When you are nice to others, it will not only change you, it changes the world.

The Mindful Magnolia

An interest article on the growth of mindfulness in the state of Mississippi and its libraries

Afton Fawn Ussery

*Instructional and Access Services Librarian
Delta State University*

INTRODUCTION

Author, lecturer, and Vietnamese monk Thich Nhat Hanh once wrote that "The most precious gift we can offer others is our presence. When mindfulness embraces those we love, they will bloom like flowers" (<https://www.passiton.com/inspirational-quotes/7877-the-most-precious-gift-we-can-offer-others-is>, 2020).

Institutions and libraries of the Magnolia state have recently been blooming with interest in mindfulness practices. With answers to most questions just a click away in today's world of online information, information seeking and information guiding have become a rushed interaction between patrons and librarians. Libraries are now looking at new technologies and practices to deal with the implications of fast information and the associated stress.

This article looks at the definition of Mindfulness, the rise of popularity of the practices, how that has been used recently in the state of Mississippi and library associations, and predictions of further growth.

WHAT IS MINDFULNESS?

The Merriam-Webster Dictionary refers to Mindfulness as "the quality or state of being mindful, also the practice of maintaining a nonjudgmental state of heightened or complete awareness of one's thoughts, emotions, or experiences on a moment-to-moment basis such as a state of awareness" (<https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/mindfulness>, 2020). As a librarian, the practice of Mindfulness is essential for the well-being of the workplace and patrons. In all areas of librarianship, professionals every day focus on hearing, listening, and responding to each patron's need with nonjudgment and genuine interest. When instructing patrons on the practice, individuals are also opened

to new avenues of dealing with stress and bettering their health. Coping with stress and improving health are currently hot topics in all fields as the year 2020 unrolled with unpredicted challenges, new worries, and heightened pressures.

To combat that worry and stress, many have turned to the need for attention to joy and happiness. Thich Nhat Hanh (1992) believed that every "present moment is filled with joy and happiness. If you are attentive, you will see it" (Peace Is Every Step: The Path of Mindfulness in Everyday Life, p. 21). Health workers and librarians have found ways to spread the practice of Mindfulness with a focus on attention. To tap into that awareness, everyday tasks can incorporate small acts of attentiveness. For example, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends washing hands frequently to prevent COVID-19. That can be done as a mindfulness practice. Anne Dutton, director of the Yale Stress Center, explains that

"before you begin, set your intention that you are going to pay attention to the sensations associated with the experience, as well as any thoughts that arise and emotions you may feel while handwashing. Moment to moment, pay attention to the water, the application of soap to your hands, the smell of the soap, the rubbing of your hands together. If a thought pops into your head while you are doing that - or if you start to feel sad - notice that but go back to the sensations of washing your hands, which is your anchor" (<https://asianetwork.yale.edu/news/mindfulness-how-it-can-help-amid-covid-19-pandemic>, 2020). Libraries are often seen as the anchor of their communities, so it can be assumed that mindfulness practices can impact the entire service area's overall wellness.

The Yale Stress Center also provides other tips and techniques, such as practicing S.T.O.P. The acronym stands for Stop, Take a breath, Observe your feelings, and Proceed. These tips are beneficial to patrons, staff, and librarians and have become a trend as the popularity of the practice of Mindfulness has risen over the last decade.

THE POPULAR RISE OF MINDFULNESS

The emphasis on being intentional and present is a crucial factor when practicing Mindfulness. This emphasis reveals the need for a counterbalance to the autopilot setting that occupies overworked and overstressed minds. Living on autopilot disengages individuals from each other and can be a danger within academic institutions and libraries. The following literature examples

support that this ever-growing and popular practice has found a home in the library and academic world.

In 2015, author and teacher Zaretta Hammond explained the importance of Mindfulness in her book *Culturally Responsive Teaching & the Brain*. Hammond revealed that practicing relaxation techniques and Mindfulness is essential to achieve a calm emotional status and reduce the fight or flight hormones that get released when brains feel a physical or social threat. In any setting or environment, it is essential to remain grounded and centered. Also necessary to library administration, this resilience strategy can enhance productivity and service in a library.

In her column, "Keeping Up with....," Julie Artman saw a rise in interest and wrote on the subject of Mindfulness. In 2017, she explained that Mindfulness had become the current trend in all areas, including libraries. In her article, Artman emphasized the positive reframing potential that being present and aware can initiate. That potential is unlimited and will continue to grow, which is discussed later on.

Two years later, editors Madeleine Charney, Jenny Colvin, and Richard Moniz collaborated on a book that illustrated and contemplated mindful activities. Their work emphasized that there can be a balance between a healthy life and a career through Mindfulness practices. Librarians are one profession of many that require a grounding during these challenging times. Their research saw a growth in interest in Mindfulness, the need for library support, and how it related to the changing times.

Mississippi, in particular, is also

witnessing the growth in interest.

MINDFULNESS IN MISSISSIPPI

The past five years have seen an increase in programs and courses pertaining to mindfulness practices in Mississippi institutions of higher education and libraries. The following are a few examples.

In October of 2018, the Mississippi State University's Psychology Clinic offered a six-week course of a Mindfulness Meditation Group that was open to all M.S.U. students, faculty and staff, and community members. The group was designed to help people learn and build skills in relaxation and mindfulness meditation techniques. This year, M.S.U. is also offering a certificate in Mindfulness. The course is a virtual, eight-hour class that lasts for six weeks. The link expires in July of 2022.

In October and November of 2019, The Mississippi University for Women held two presentations of Mindfulness in the Fant Library, which was open to all faculty and staff. The sessions were part of the Kossen Center's new Mindfulness program to reduce stress and improve well-being. There was also a scheduled informal weekly drop-in mindfulness practice session available within the Fant library.

Delta State University's Roberts-LaForge Library held a "de-stress for the test" outreach event in December 2019. A free Yoga Nidra Class was designed to illustrate meditation and demonstrate the ability to decrease anxiety/stress and increase overall wellness.

In 2020, Jackson-George Regional Library System held a live Mindful

Mondays event over Facebook. This included learning tips on breathing, stress relief, and how meditation can influence perspectives and boost immune systems.

Lastly, Hinds Community College's library includes a list of meditation and mindfulness resources on its Nursing and Allied Health libguide.

The above examples are just a small glimpse of the action that has taken place in the Magnolia state over the past few years. However, 2020 has stood out as an active year for Mindfulness within Library and Information Science conferences.

MINDFULNESS IN LIBRARY ASSOCIATIONS

Mindfulness has been a trending topic in the Library and Information Science world from regional to national stages. The following are a few examples of the broad interest within the field.

The American Library Association's New Members' Round Table Online Programs Committee offered a free webinar opportunity in April of 2020. A former law librarian and current mindfulness meditation instructor discussed emotional intelligence and Mindfulness as a way of navigating and enhancing personal and professional life.

At the 2020 virtual conference of the Southeastern Chapter of American Association of Law Libraries, Heather J.E. Simmons, Associate Director for Instruction and Access Services at the Alexander Campbell King Law Library in the University of Georgia School of Law, presented a TedTalk on cultivating a Culture of Mindfulness in the Law Library and Beyond.

Jeremy Bolom, Assistant Director/Head of Public Service at the Lincoln Parish Library, held a conference session on Mental Maintenance during the Association for Rural & Small Libraries 2020 conference. He delved into the idea of keeping emotional well-being afloat can mean the difference between surviving and thriving in personal and professional life. Bolom included ideas and examples for self-care and stress management and an extensive bibliography.

As illustrated by these examples, Mindfulness has developed into a helpful tool that will only grow larger with further understanding.

GROWTH AND THE FUTURE ROLE OF MINDFULNESS PRACTICES

There has been a boost in the field of Mindfulness and health promotion. According to the publication patterns found within Library and Information Science literature related to Mindfulness in library settings, there has been at least one article published each year on the topic since 2013. From 2017 to 2020, the largest increase of publications existed with four additional articles and at least two articles each year afterward. The blooming interest and study have increased in all sectors of libraries as they have all published an article on the subject of Mindfulness in the past ten years. As libraries continue to look at new technologies and practices to deal with the present and future challenges and stress, the practice of Mindfulness will be developed into more processes, policies, and professional development. This prediction is supported by the understanding of

Mindfulness, the rise of popularity of the practices, and how that has been used recently in the state of Mississippi and library associations.

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ePrograms

A Gathering of Resources

Stacy Creel

Associate Professor

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

“Overall, 84% of teens say they have or have access to a game console at home, and 90% say they play video games of any kind (whether on a computer, game console or cell-phone)” (Anderson & Jiang, 2018, p. 9). Libraries incorporate gaming in a variety of ways including circulating games, hosting events, open in-house gaming (traditional or electronic), and gaming clubs. Games in libraries can consist of tabletop games, role-playing games, computer games, console games, mobile games, game design, and more. (American Library Association, 2021).

With libraries limiting in-person activities, what are some tools we can use with library customers? Most of these games can be played live or passive.

From tours to escape rooms to puzzles and resources, this is a selected list of activities that may work for you in your library. Selected resources from this list were presented in a live game-playing session at the 2020 MLA Virtual Conference.

VIRTUAL TOURS

The Ultimate Guide to Virtual Museum Resources, E-Learning, and Online Collections: <https://mcn.edu/a-guide-to-virtual-museum-resources/>

How to Visit a National Park Without Actually Visiting a

National Park: <https://www.afar.com/magazine/you-can-take-a-virtual-tour-of-the-national-parks-heres-how>

Bored at Home? Here's a Massive List of Museums, Zoos, and Theme Parks Offering Virtual Tours: <https://www.goodhousekeeping.com/life/travel/a31784720/best-virtual-tours/>

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

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

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

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>

Ellis Island: <http://teacher.scholastic.com/activities/immigration/webcast.htm>

Buckingham Palace: <https://www.royal.uk/virtual-tours-buckingham-palace>

Museum of the American Revolution: <https://www.royal.uk/virtual-tours-buckingham-palace>

Yosemite Park: <https://www.virtuallyosemite.org/>

Great Lakes: <https://www.greatlakesnow.org/virtual-field-trip/>

San Diego Zoo Cams: <https://kids.sandiegozoo.org/>

CREATIVE WRITING

Micro Story Contest: Run a contest where library customers create micro stories in a limited number of sentences. Examples are a horror story in two sentences and less than 400 characters in length.

Mini Fiction Contest: 250-500 words or less in original fiction; or join existing online: <http://www.riverstyx.org/submit/microfiction-contest/> or <http://www.nycmidnight.com/Competitions/MFC/250/Challenge.htm>

Poetry Contests: Run your own or join an existing one, like <https://www.poetrynation.com/enter-contest/>

* Side note: please make sure that you get clear permission to publish submission and winners online and let them keep their copyright.

VIRTUAL SCAVENGER HUNTS

How to do a virtual scavenger hunt:

1. Decide if you are doing it live or asynchronous.
2. If live, pick the platform: Goo-

gle Meet, Zoom, FaceTime, etc.

3. Pick your theme.
4. Decide if you are using a specific place—selecting one museum or open-ended.
5. Decide if you are using just online information or interspersing real items.
6. Decide if teams or solos.
7. Make the list of items to be found.
8. Decide the time limit.
9. Pick the winner.

YouTube How to Plan a Virtual Scavenger Hunt in 5 Easy Steps: <https://youtu.be/8wA1tbFTJZI>

50 Best Virtual Scavenger Hunt Ideas for 2020: <https://www.scavify.com/blog/virtual-scavenger-hunt>

SEARCH AND FIND

Think Walter Wick, I Spy, Search and Find. Grab a piece of construction paper and toss on a variety of small objects. Bonus points if you can come up with a rhyming line for the description of what to find!

You can also Google “Search and Find” or “I Spy” or “See and Name” and select Creative Commons.

Social media will often host “Name that ____” images; for example “Name that Scary Movie”: <https://scifi.stackexchange.com/questions/236123/identify-all-horror-movies-in-this-image>

PUZZLES

You can create your own or use the available ones at Jigsaw Puzzles: <https://www.jigsawplanet.com/>

[com/](https://www.jigsawplanet.com/)

Create your own crossword puzzles, word searches, word scrambles and more at: <https://www.education.com/worksheet-generator/reading/>
Smithsonian Libraries Digital Jigsaw Puzzles: <https://library.si.edu/finding-aid/digital-jigsaw-puzzles>

TRIVIA AND QUIZZES

Sorting Games: <https://www.class-tools.net/vortex/>

Make your own or play one of theirs: <https://quizizz.com/>

Jumbles: <https://puzzles.usatoday.com/jumble/>

BuzzFeed Quizzes: <https://www.buzzfeed.com/quizzes>

Quizlet: <https://quizlet.com/>

Poll Maker: <https://www.poll-maker.com/>

Sli.do: <https://www.sli.do/>

ESCAPE ROOMS

Digital Escape Rooms: <https://codc-qldc.govt.nz/blog/digital-escape-rooms> [Majority are still working; some examples are: Hogwarts; Escape from Wonderland; Space Explorer Training; Pikachu’s Wild Rescue; Escape the Fairytale; Cinderella Escapes]

Mama Teaches List of Escape Rooms: <https://mamateaches.com/digital-escape-rooms/>

Digital escape rooms can easily be created using Google tools. The book “Escape Rooms and Other Immersive Experiences in the Library” by Ellyssa Kroski has a nice how-to chapter. Example: [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSed-](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSed-Hb3dWKRcGLZDHdD2XUT-dKfLcG1dpOv2QJaoq1JRF-Pv3LFg/viewform?usp=sf_link)

[Hb3dWKRcGLZDHdD2XUT-dKfLcG1dpOv2QJaoq1JRF-Pv3LFg/viewform?usp=sf_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSed-Hb3dWKRcGLZDHdD2XUT-dKfLcG1dpOv2QJaoq1JRF-Pv3LFg/viewform?usp=sf_link)

PROGRAM RESOURCES

YALSA Teen Programming HQ: <http://hq.yalsa.net/index.html>

YALSA TeenTober: <http://www.ala.org/yalsa/sites/ala.org.yalsa/files/content/2020%20YALSA%20TeenTober%20Toolkit.pdf>

PLA Programming Librarian: <https://programminglibrarian.org/>

Facebook Group: Teen Services Underground

- Facebook Group: Programming Librarian Interest Group

- Facebook Group: Storytime Underground

- Facebook Group: Storytime Craft Share

- Facebook Group: Teen Librarians

ALA’s Programming Librarian

Guides: <https://programminglibrarian.org/programs>

FROM TEEN TOBER SPINE

POETRY

Description: Encourage teen creativity by designing poems using only the titles on book spines. This program offers shy or marginalized teens an alternate mode of expression. For virtual or social distanced programming, you may try blackout poetry, which involves multiple non-shared copies of a single document, where participants can then blackout or color over certain words to have the remaining words form a poem. Setup: Any books will work for this as long as there is a wide selection. One suggestion is to choose

books that have not recently circulated or overlooked formats as a way to draw attention to them. Preselecting books can help you manage possibilities of offensive content. You can also use sticky notes to selectively block out certain words on book spines in order to facilitate easier poetry.

VIDEO CREATION RESOURCES

- Animoto.com
- Vimeo.com
- Headliner.app
- Clipchamp Create
- GoPro App
- Splice.com

- Animaker.com
- iMoviepc.com
- MovieMaker.support
- TechSmith.com (Capture)
- WeVideo

ONLINE MEETINGS

- Zoom
- Facebook Live
- Google Meet

APPS

There are a lot of apps out there that can be used in live sessions and in conjunction with quiz makers (or not) to run trivia programs and more. A smart phone can be a

valuable resource to save you time in creating your own trivia questions. It is important to look for the ones identified as family or kid if you are working with a juvenile audience. Some worth considering are:

- Charades! TM Family Game Night
- 5 Second Guess
- Either—Would You Rather?!
- MadLibs

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SLIS Notes

Matthew R. Griffis

Associate Professor

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

HISTORY BY THE FRAME: THE ALLURE OF OLD POSTCARDS

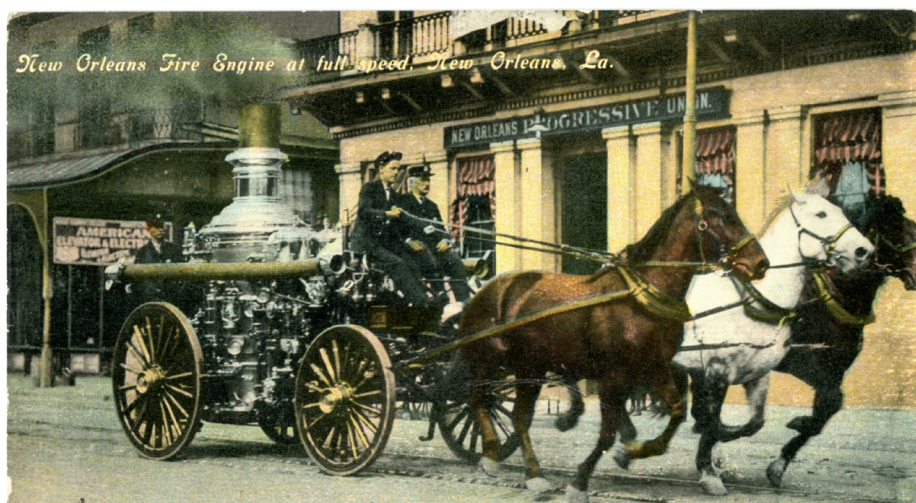
Last fall, I published a book, *New Orleans in Golden Age Postcards*, with the University Press of Mississippi, and so far, the book's reception has been positive. What's been most encouraging perhaps is how readers' feedback has focused specifically on the cards themselves and their presentation - the book's designer did an outstanding job, in my opinion - and how, in some cases, although it wouldn't have been possible for readers to have seen New Orleans a century ago, to them the cards evoke a distinct sense of place.

For many readers, seeing these old postcards is like peering through a "window to the past." There's something about their images that seems eerily real.

I'm certain that many librarians, archivists, and special collections professionals already understand the research value of vintage postcards. Postcards have been part of archival and special collections for a long time. Historians and other researchers regularly consult old postcards for all sorts of reasons, from projects about art and architecture to studies of specific eras, places, events, industries, and people. But what may not be so obvious is how much the general public seems to like old postcards too - at least when they have the chance to see them. Though my book's publisher was an academic press, I wrote the book

primarily for *non-academic* readers, which was probably the most rewarding part of my work. While the book still offers something to scholars, it seems to reach many more people who otherwise would not have cared much for old postcards or may not have suspected that old postcards were interesting at all.

I began the project many years ago, even before I knew I wanted to create a book about New Orleans postcards. I visited New Orleans for the first time in June 2011 to give a paper at the annual conference of the American Library Association. Although my exploration of the city that summer was limited to the French Quarter and Garden District, New Orleans made enough of an impression on me so that, not long after returning home, my discovery of an old New Orleans postcard in



a local thrift store encouraged me to begin collecting old New Orleans cards as a hobby. My move here to the South two years later only accelerated that hobby, and since then, I've acquired four large boxes of cards, most of them dating from between 1900 and 1920—the period widely known as the “golden age” of the postcard. But since I began my collection as a tourist and not as an academic or scholar, I knew that the book I wanted to create would be more for general readers than for academics. Personal experiences encouraged this idea further: for example, showing my collection to others often resulted in hours-long viewing sessions, with many friends asking me the same questions about my cards and the locations they showed: “Oh, where was that building?” was a popular question, alongside its usual follow-up, “Is it still there - and, if so, does it still look the same?” Some friends would later visit some of these places on their next trip to the Crescent City. Looking at these old postcards stirred excitement within them: suddenly, they wanted to learn even more about the history of New Orleans.

My original vision for *New Orleans in Golden Age Postcards* was a kind of annotated postcard album, with each chapter exploring a different aspect of early 20th century New Orleans: main streets and city life, churches and temples, parks, residential neighborhoods, and so forth. It was an experiment in some ways, for while many general interest books about vintage postcards already exist (Arcadia's line is particularly extensive, for example), so few of them reproduce old postcard images in full color, which

can be a problem. It's like watching MGM's *The Wizard of Oz* the entire way through in black and white: it's a completely different experience, and not a very authentic one. Mind you, MGM's *The Wizard of Oz* was captured in real color; yet the coloring of postcards from over a century ago was entirely artificial. Indeed, postcards were often retouched, usually with features not part of the original photograph, like coloring or people walking on sidewalks or automobiles riding down streets - features usually added by the postcard's printer. It's often startling to compare a postcard view of a street or building with its original, photographic counterpart: what a printer changed often reveals much about how they wanted viewers to perceive the card's subject.

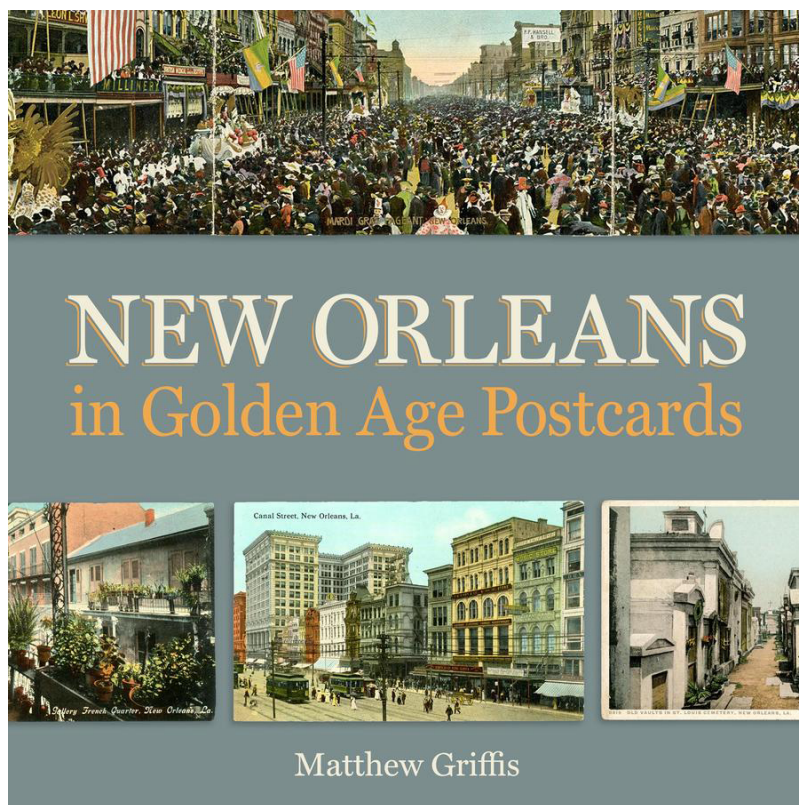
So, while postcard views may not always be as accurate as original photographs, this retouching aspect is often what makes old postcards so compelling, at least to me. Despite the inaccuracies they often contain, postcards bring old photographs to life in a manner that seems more exciting - and I believe this is true of the cards I included in my book. They are almost like MGM's version of New Orleans in the early 20th century. And there's no denying the effect such images can have on everyday viewers, too. Old postcards are just more interesting to look at than old black and white photographs - or so I would argue.

So, I encourage not just archivists but all information professionals engaged in public or community history projects to consider using old postcard views in their work. Though less historically accurate than black-and-white images, old

postcards can evoke more interest from audiences, especially non-academic ones. Fortunately, old postcards can be found very easily, particularly in institutional collections maintained by state archival organizations, historical societies, and universities. I acquired most of the cards in my collection from collector's shops and online marketplaces, where many a breathtaking card can be had for just a few dollars, if not less. They are an easy and inexpensive way to learn (and teach others) about the past.

Note: Dr. Griffis' book *New Orleans in Golden Age Postcards* is available from University Press of Mississippi - <https://www.upress.state.ms.us/Books/N/New-Orleans-in-Golden-Age-Postcards>

For more information about the online MLIS degree, archival certificate, youth services certificate, or LIS bachelor's degree, visit <https://www.usm.edu/slis>



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 4-10, 2021, 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 26th day of March in the year of our Lord, two thousand and twenty-one, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and forty-fifth.


TATE REEVES
GOVERNOR

National Library Week 2021

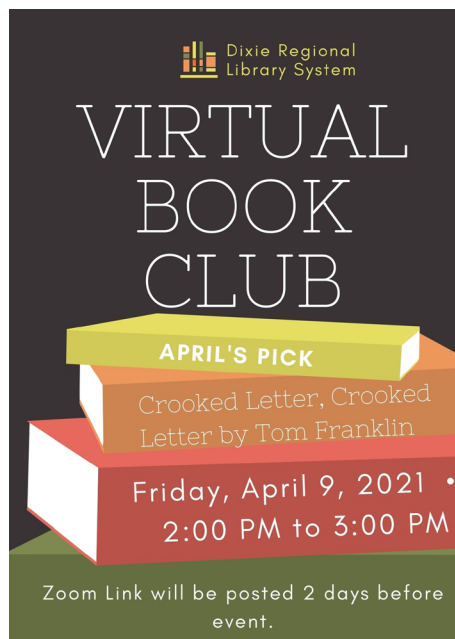
Tori L. Hopper

MLA National Library Week Chair

Mississippi's Libraries continue to meet patrons where they are, and it's no different for National Library Week in 2021. The yearly theme, "Welcome to Your Library" was inspired by the direct actions taken by libraries across the nation as services were adjusted in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic that sparked a state-wide quarantine just one year before. While National Library Week was effectively paused for the year of 2020, libraries are finding original and efficient ways to reach out to their communities for this year's celebration.

Dixie Regional Library System's Pontotoc County Library offered snacks in appreciation for their patrons and set up a bookmark challenge with materials provided during National Library Week. For younger patrons, offered teens a craft kit for creating their own lava bead bracelets, while children were able to enjoy National Library Week activity sheets.

A virtual book club was also started to encourage patrons to use their libraries from the comfort of their own homes, demonstrating that the "Welcome to Your Library" theme goes beyond the confines of the library building. Regina Graham, director of the Dixie Regional Library System, said the virtual book club took off after a patron recommended the idea and with the help of the library's Mississippi Library Commission consultant. The library included staff participation by polling for the book and the start date for



Dixie Regional Library System graphics by Regina Graham.



the club's meetings.

In addition, Sherman Public Library hosted a Story Walk for patrons created by the Mississippi Library Commission featuring *The Gruffalo* by Julia Donaldson. The library plans to welcome patrons to their library outside, as the library's location is situated in a complex near a walking track and other sports fields, ideal for combining health and literacy, Regina said.

For added fun and a virtual community-building opportunity, Dixie Regional Library System also hosted a National Library Week Costume Contest via Zoom. In order to participate, patrons sent photos of themselves dressed as a book character to be included in the NLW Virtual Costume Parade, with submissions also entered for a prize drawing.

Other libraries are continuing both online curbside services, a favorite of those who are still cautious about social distancing and a popular option for elderly library patrons, respectively. Dee Hare, director of the Northeast Regional Library System, said the curbside services are a great service to patrons that keep staff safe at the same time. Hare said she hopes to reach both current and new patrons with their programs for National Library Week, with both curbside and online services.

Curbside offerings for National Library Week included activity packets for children, while online Suggested Family Activities were increased to one per day to celebrate. Activities suggest looking into the late Beverly Cleary's books for children, creating a thank you card for



Dixie Regional Library System's StoryWalk in action. Photograph by Regina Graham.

Teen Craft Kit

Not Suitable for Small Children



Instructions for how to make a Lava Bead Bracelet:

1. Cut a piece of elastic to the appropriate length required plus approximately 10 cm extra.
2. String your beads and tie the bracelet using a surgeon's knot.
3. Place a tiny dot of glue on the knot.
4. Put a drop or two of your favorite essential oil on a few of the lava beads.
5. Wear and enjoy!

Lava bead bracelet instructions from Pontotoc Public Library. Photograph by Regina Graham



Clara Ortega retrieves toiletry donations at Columbus-Lowndes Public Library System.

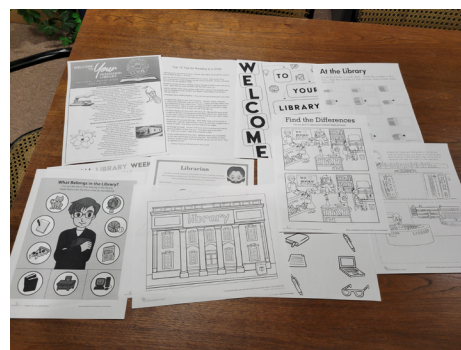
librarians, 10 Tips for Reading to A Child, kitchen activities based off of popular children's books, writing prompts, and more.

At the Nursing and Allied Health Campus Library of Hinds Community College, Jennifer Smith created an online escape room to celebrate National Library Week in 2021. The "Solve My Symptoms" Escape Room intersects this year's theme of reaching outside the library building with an educational opportunity for students. To 'escape' the room, students must use the information given in puzzle-form to find the correct resource and answer questions.

The Mid-Mississippi Regional Library System opened completely for browsing on April 1, 2021 and focused on creating a system-wide welcome back video for patrons that highlighted available services. Youth Services Coordinator Lindsay Fitts added that multiple branches within the system provided passive plant swaps and to-go craft kits for children as well to prioritize patron and staff safety.

The Columbus-Lowndes Public Library System offered a week of events to include Resume Help sessions and a Poetry in the Garden event for adults. Children were provided with a bingo card challenge and teens could complete a scavenger hunt from the safety of their own home to be entered to win a free food gift certificate. The library also accepted toiletry donations to provide Care Kits to the homeless community during National Library Week.

The annual Edible Book Festival was held, with restrictions for viewing only to protect staff and patrons, and new DVD "Binge Box"



Northeast Regional Library System's activity packs for children. Photograph by Dee Hare.

collection was created and made available to patrons at the beginning of National Library Week. The "Welcome to Your Library" theme was celebrated even further as the library met patrons at a local restaurant to host a "Pi K/0.5K for the Library!" event to end the week's celebrations.

Navigating National Library Week 2021 was different from years past, as considerations had to be made for where each library system was individually. Some libraries remained closed due to COVID-19 restrictions, while others have fully re-opened to the public.

Regardless of status, this year's theme of "Welcome to Your Library" promoted the idea that "libraries extend far beyond the four walls of a building – and that everyone is welcome to use their services," according to the American Library Association. It was a theme that Mississippi Libraries embody every day and were easily able to celebrate for National Library Week 2021 through the well-rounded and inclusive services that they already provide.

News Briefs

Hali Black

*First Year Experience Librarian
University of Southern Mississippi*

NORTHEAST REGIONAL LIBRARY RECEIVES 2021 JANE SMITH LITERACY AWARD

The Northeast Regional Library (NERL), headquartered in Corinth, Mississippi was awarded the 2021 Jane Smith Literacy Award by the Mississippi Library Commission and the Mississippi Center for the Book for their Suggested Family Activities (SFA) project. The Jane Smith Literacy Award recognizes innovative and nontraditional literacy programs being used in public libraries across the state of Mississippi. NERL's SFA program offers suggestions for a variety of activities from arts and crafts, games, outdoor activities, STEM experiments, community engagement, and cooking, and more. The short activity write-ups are posted three times a week on Northeast Regional's website, as well as printed out to distribute to patrons without internet access. The focus of the program is to offer ways for families to build early literacy skills in young children and support positive family relationships. Care is taken to ensure that activities do not need special supplies or equipment

beyond common materials found in the home. NERL began the SFA program as a direct response to the COVID-19 pandemic, and as such the suggested activities are social-distance friendly.

Additionally, the Northeast Regional Library (NERL) was also awarded a Library of Congress State Literacy Award for the SFA project.

Submitted by:

Dee Hare

Director

Northeast Regional Library



WAYNESBORO-WAYNE COUNTY LIBRARY RECEIVES NATIONAL GRANTS

Waynesboro-Wayne County Library was the recent recipient of two national American Library Association (ALA) grants, and the only library in the state of Mississippi to receive either of these two highly competitive grants this year.

Out of 170 applicants, Waynesboro-Wayne County Library was one of only twenty selected recipients to be awarded [ALA's Community Connect: Digital Access at Home grant](#). Community Connect: Digital Access at Home is a collaborative initiative between the American Library Association (ALA) and Capital One Bank and offers resources to help support digital access and financial capability in rural communities nationwide. Community Connect seeks to expand the service capacity of rural libraries by offering hotspot lending policies and financial capability seminars; improve the digital access of rural library patrons via hotspots and enhance

opportunities for social mobility by pursuing remote education, economic inclusion, financial management, and health; and demonstrate the efficacy of the pilot program and use results to build consensus on how to address sustainable digital inclusion for rural communities. The grant provides rural, public libraries with five Wi-Fi hotspots (including with two-year service contracts) for lending to patrons; a \$2,000 stipend to support implementing financial capability programs; a curated book list of financial literacy titles featured in ALA's Financial Literacy LibGuide; a copy of ALA Editions' "Rainy Day Ready: Financial Literacy Programs and Tools"; and professional development and support. For more information on grant eligibility and how to apply, visit their website at <http://www.ala.org/tools/programming/communityconnect>.

The Waynesboro-Wayne County Library was also selected as one of 200 libraries to participate in Libraries Transforming Communities (LTC): Focus on Small and Rural Libraries. LTC is an initiative of the American Library Association (ALA) that seeks to provide community engagement resources and opportunities specific to the needs of library workers serving small and rural communities. This nationally competitive award consists of \$3,000 grant funds to help address issues of concern in local communities. The Waynesboro-Wayne County Library will be purchasing Wi-Fi hotspots to check out to the residents of Wayne County and focus on bridging the digital divide. For more information on grant eligibility and how to apply,



visit their website at <http://www.ala.org/tools/librariestransform/libraries-transforming-communities/focusgrants/guidelines>.

Submitted by:

Patsy C. Brewer

Director

Waynesboro-Wayne County Library



SINGING RIVER LIBRARY RECEIVES 2020 CULTURAL HERITAGE AWARD

The Singing River Genealogy and Local History Library was recently the recipient of the 2020 Cultural Heritage Digitization Award offered annually by the Mississippi Digital Library (MDL), in conjunction with partners from across the state. The chosen collection is published electronically as part of the Mississippi Digital Library at the University of Southern Mississippi.

As the awardee of the 2020 Cultural Heritage Digitization Award, the Singing River Library received digitization services for materials highlighting Mississippi's international history and specialized

training to continue to preserve and share the rich history of George and Jackson counties on the MS Gulf Coast.

The Brenda Brentz Heinsch Papers collection contains letters, photographs, and ephemera recording daily activities and significant life events for Germans and German Americans in the late 1800s/early 1900s through the lens of the Breutz/Brentz-Hansen family of Germany and Escatawpa, MS. Heinsch's research provides insight into Germany's social norms and class structure, prejudice towards Germans and German Americans, and poor living conditions in post-WWII Germany.

MDL has an extensive digital collection of state and local historic collections which now include the local history collection that is being digitized at the Singing River library. Future plans include creating more digital exhibits to help further engage local communities with a hope of helping teachers with local history resources. Anyone may view

the collections at MDL at <https://msdiglib.org/jsg>.

Singing River Library has been working on digitizing many collections since 2006. With the help of MDL, the library has several collections available on-line - both on the MDL website and a new Singing River Digital Archive. For more information on MDL partners, visit <https://msdiglib.org/partners>

Over the last few years, various volunteers and groups, the library system IT staff and interns, have given hundreds of man-hours to get the collections up and online. So far, SRGLHL has four collections that are fully digitized and made available at <http://glh.jgrls.org>.

The Singing River Library is located at 3214 Pascagoula Street, Pascagoula, MS 39567. For more information, call (228) 769-3078 or visit the website at <http://www.jgrls.org/>.

Submitted by:

Rex Bridges

Public Relations & Marketing Manager

Jackson-George Regional Library System

People in the News

Hali Black

*First Year Experience Librarian
University of Southern Mississippi*

NEWS HIRES AT DIXIE REGIONAL LIBRARY SYSTEM

With the retirement of several long-time employees, Dixie Regional Library System has welcomed several new faces as well as some familiar faces in new roles. Two branch managers, one cataloguer, and four library assistants have joined the

DRLS team in the past 6 months.

Teri Hamilton

was hired in August 2020 as Branch Manager of Houlika Public Library. As a dedicated library patron with roots in Houlika, she has stepped into her role smoothly. Her first display featuring a Mississippi author even caught the social media attention of the author – Carolyn Haines – and created further networking



opportunities for Hamilton. Hamilton has 'hit the ground running' and has several projects underway.

Marie "Minnie"

Bounds began as Branch Manager at the J. S. Edmondson Memorial Library in October 2020.

Bounds worked in the library a few years back through a NCBA employment program. Bounds says she has "worked over 45 years in several



different job's positions. I have experienced working retail, clerical, administration, and medical. Every opportunity I have undergone I realized they all were dealing with people public relations. So, my goal in life is "not to be judgmental for we don't know the road that others have traveled."

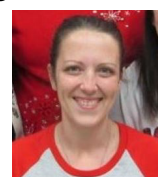
Pam Morton was hired in October 2020 as Cataloger for DRLS' eight branches having previously served as a library assistant at Pontotoc County Library. Morton's attention to detail has lent itself well to her new position and she says "There are so many beautiful reasons to be happy working in the library! I love my coworkers and my job."

A familiar face at Pontotoc County Library's front desk, **Pam Metcalfe** welcomed the opportunity to take on more hours. Her commitment to providing the very best service to patrons is an asset to the community.

Cassie Swords is a familiar face in a new role at DRLS. Having

worked as library clerk for several years, Swords was excited at the opportunity to increase her role and responsibilities as a library assistant at Pontotoc County Library. She says, "I have always been involved at my local library and firmly believe the library is a gateway to success."

At Jesse Yancy Memorial Library in Bruce, two long-time patrons have landed their "dream jobs". **Shea Smith Hubbard**, new library assistant, says, "Before I was hired at JYML, I was a loyal patron, coming in to work on my resume and to search online for a job. It was a wonderful coincidence that I found my dream job right here. It is a perfect fit for me." **Brandy Kellum**, part-time library assistant and substitute, states "Because of my love of reading, I had always dreamed of working in a library surrounded by books. I love it!"



Jamie Stanfield, Science, Nursing, & Health Librarian and Assistant Professor at The University of Southern Mississippi Gulf Coast Library and **Joyce M. Shaw**, Head of Gunter Library and Professor at Southern Miss Gulf Coast Research Laboratory co-presented at the 24th annual [Atmospheric Science Librarians International Conference](#) on January 14, held in conjunction with the annual American Meteorological Society Conference. Their presentation "Strengthening Engagement with Graphic Novels: Climate Change, Clean Energy, and the World" included an annotated bibliography of graphic publications about ocean pollution, climate change, and energy which is available upon request at guntergcrl@usm.edu.

Justin Easterday, Education and Human Sciences Librarian and Assistant Professor at Southern Miss Gulf Coast Library also presented "Creating Accessible Library Instruction for Today's Virtual Learners" at the 2021 ASLI Conference.



To join MLA, or to renew your membership:

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2021 MLA Executive Board Minutes:

<http://misslib.org/Meeting-Minutes-2021>

Book Reviews

Kathryn New

Arts and Humanities Librarian
University of Southern Mississippi

Durkee, Lee

The Last Taxi Driver

Portland, Oregon: Tin House
Books, 2020. 229 pp. \$25.95
(hardcover)

Finally! Lee Durkee has written another novel. I have been on the lookout for more of Durkee's work since I read *Rides of the Midway* (2001) in 2002. He is a Mississippi author to keep an eye on. Remarkably, this is only his second novel, though he has been writing short stories for years. And he has not disappointed with his sophomore effort.

The Last Taxi Driver departs from a strictly linear format to form a character deconstruction of sometimes wannabe hero Lou, a north Mississippi taxi driver. Lou, a broken scholar that ends up driving endless hours for a shady cab company, is a sympathetic character. His interaction with his fares exposes the reality of poverty and factors in the low quality of life for the poor in the Mississippi Delta and surrounding areas. The reader wants Lou to end up a hero or even a protagonist, but the novel instead focuses on Lou's introspection about decisions and life events put him driving around impoverished clientele in a taxi in modern day north Mississippi. Lou realizes that he is pretty much in the same boat as the folks that he drives around. Different chapters illustrate moments in the cab when

Lou has accommodated his passengers by becoming an ambulance driver, food delivery person, and maybe even an accomplice to various crimes. Durkee illustrates these scenes with dark humor and a wit that betrays an insider's knowledge about this way of life.

Lee Durkee's talent puts him in the category of Mississippi literary fiction. I recommend this book for all southern literary fiction collections, both public and academic, and particularly for Mississippi libraries that collect Mississippi fiction or Mississippi authors.

Judith Hilkert
Technical Services Coordinator
Hinds Community College



Foster, B. Brian

I Don't Like the Blues: Race, Place, and the Backbeat of Black Life

Univ. of North Carolina. Dec. 2020.
208p. ISBN 9781469660417. \$95;
pap. ISBN 9781469660424. \$24.95.

Out of the University of Mississippi, B. Brian Foster brings together a well-researched and thoughtful look at race and the blues through a case study of Clarksdale, Mississippi. This case study took place over the span of five years, 2014 to 2019, and interviewed around 250 people. Foster makes the case that this book goes farther than other scholarship in regard to the blues by going into the homes and memories of African-Americans to learn how they view the blues and all that came since the creation of the blues. This book explores the views that African-Americans in Clarksdale have

of the blues which they define as induced poverty and how it has gone on to create a shared history and collective identity.

Foster originally intended to study the Civil Rights Movement and how it was the end of race relations but was a chapter in the ongoing story of race in the South. Throughout the prelude, Foster mentions not wanting to study the blues before finally following the whims of the research that was presenting itself to him. This new direction takes into account how the state of Mississippi changed approaches in the economy to include more hospitality and tourism following the close of plants and factories during the mid-20th Century. For the city of Clarksdale this means blues clubs and festivals.

Overall this book blends scholarship of music and sociology to provide a beautiful study of race, the blues, and what that means for the backbeat of life. This research will be useful to various fields of study but also is enlightening for the general reader interested in culture within the South.

Kathryn New
Humanities Librarian
Mississippi State University



Gordon, Phillip

Gay Faulkner: Uncovering a Homosexual Presence in Yoknapatawpha and Beyond

Jackson, MS: University Press of Mississippi, 2020. 298 pp. \$99.00 (hardcover), \$25.00 (paperback), \$18.99 (Ebook).

One of Mississippi's most renowned

authors and one of America's greatest novelists and short story writers of the 20th century, William Faulkner's works have been widely consumed, critically analyzed, and taught in classrooms across the country. His works explore themes related to Southern culture and history, addressing issues of race, society, and even writing itself. In addition to critical analysis of his literary works, Faulkner's intriguing life has led many literary scholars to use specific aspects of his life and family history as interpretive tools for understanding and bringing deeper meaning to his works of fiction.

Over the years, more details surrounding Faulkner's life and habits have surfaced that were originally overlooked or not included by his early biographers. Details such as Faulkner's involvement with gay communities and life-long friendships with gay men remained buried

until now. *Gay Faulkner: Uncovering a Homosexual Presence in Yoknapatawpha and Beyond* delves into the details surrounding Faulkner's close friendships with several gay men. The book considers these discoveries and how they provide a new understanding of his works, including his representations of homosexuality.

Written by Phillip Gordon, assistant professor of English and gay studies coordinator at the University of Wisconsin-Platteville. Born in Memphis, Tennessee, Gordon grew up just north from one of Faulkner's fictional settings known as Yoknapatawpha County.

Having already received widespread praise, *Gay Faulkner: Uncovering a Homosexual Presence in Yoknapatawpha and Beyond* appeals to literary scholars and casual readers alike. A robust scholarly work, *Gay Faulkner* is well researched with engaging notes and an extensive

bibliography that includes a wealth of resources for further exploration. While Gordon dives deep into queer theory, he maintains a conversational tone, welcoming readers from a variety of backgrounds and experiences. *Gay Faulkner* provides an educational and entertaining ride into the past, as readers discover overlooked details of Faulkner's private life and how they may have influenced some of his famous works.

Hali Black
First Year Experience Librarian
University of Southern Mississippi