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On the cover: *Sunflower* by Patsy C. Brewer, Library Director, Waynesboro-Wayne County Library
A large sunflower complete with a friendly bee that grew in my vegetable garden.

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President's Page

I was invited to speak at a local prison. Wow - that is a unique introductory sentence - right? They requested for me to speak with their inmates about the library. This was part of their accreditation requirements for the year. Because I love attention and the more the better, I was happy to oblige! I have only had one speaking engagement this year and it was a virtual one so this was a welcomed invitation. When I spoke to this group, I asked them, "what is a library?" The audience replied with the following: it is an escape, a place for knowledge, a source of entertainment. What big answers! I thought I would get answers like "a place for books, DVDs and magazines." The group had a broader sense of what libraries have to offer, and I was impressed.

When I had finished and arrived home, I reflected on my time with them and thought their lives really did not change much due to the pandemic. They knew that people were getting sick and there was no known cure. They were confined to their spaces and visitation of family and friends was on hold. The inmates' answers describing libraries still rang loudly in my head. Even being completely separated from the rest of the world, they held libraries in such a high regard.

I reflected even more about how the pandemic affected me personally and our library operations. For over a year, I felt imprisoned; I could not make branch visits or have face-to-face meetings. For a whole year, my library system did not offer in-person programming. We found very quickly how important our



in-person programming was and how much our community missed it. People were borrowing materials, using computers, and picking up to-go crafts. When I would go to work, I found myself repeating that everything was temporary; we would eventually return to in-person programming. Nothing was the same. We were not living library; we were just surviving.

Now as I sit in my office, writing my article for this issue, I feel happier than I have felt in the last eighteen months. My library system started offering in-person programming and I was invited to speak to a special group of people - two of my favorite things to do. I am happier because I was able to connect with the community again. My passion for people has been re-ignited and I am so excited for what the future holds. I am feeling hopeful as well as helpful and I have not felt either of these in over a year. What a great day to be a librarian!

A Teaching Odyssey

A Journey Through the Development and Transformation of an Information Literacy Course, 2001-2021

David Salinero

*Cataloger
Delta State University*

Joi Phillips

*Assistant Director
Delta State University*

INTRODUCTION

College students, including those at Delta State University, often struggle with “library” skills such as basic research, plagiarism, and citation methods. Discovering this deficiency often surprises faculty members who usually assume that someone else has already addressed those skills in other courses. Responding to the students’ need and wanting to fill the gap in the curriculum, librarians at DSU created a one-hour, for-credit information literacy course in 2001. Over the past twenty years, the course has seen many changes given technological trends, institutional developments, and the fluid nature of information. This article celebrates the twenty-year history of Delta State’s information literacy course by taking a brief look at its creation and evolution.

BACKGROUND

Before even considering a full information literacy course, a working group of Delta State librarians examined the efficacy of “one-shot” sessions and even piloted a three-session workshop. While students’ response was generally positive, librarians often felt like they just couldn’t cover everything in such a

limited time frame. Ultimately, they decided that a full semester-long course was the best way to engage students and essentially have more time to convey the full breadth of their vision. In 2001, the working group submitted its findings along with a full course proposal to the library’s director. After what can only be described as academic inertia, the university’s Academic Council finally approved the course in November 2003.

In addition to the council’s approval, the course also received approval from the General Education Curriculum Review Committee. This vital step certified LIB 101 as a general education elective for meeting two of the university’s core general education competencies and ensured the course would reach an even greater number of students instead of being lost in a sea of electives.

COURSE OBJECTIVE AND PHILOSOPHY

Librarians designed this course to address basic principles of information literacy: (1) identify the information need, then (2) search for and (3) evaluate and use the information. Along with this fairly traditional notion of information literacy as defined by ALA (1989), the instructors realized that students needed to be both critical thinkers and problem solvers in order to face modern challenges. Information doesn’t exist in a vacuum. Course content

has to acknowledge the contextual nature of information and the civic, social, and cultural aspects of information literacy. With technological advances, the advent of 24/7 news sources (along with mounds of misinformation and “fake news”), and burgeoning social media platforms, librarians also began to incorporate elements of media and digital literacy into the curriculum as well (Koltay et al., 2016).

MAJOR CHANGES

LIB 101 transitioned to become a completely online course and also increased to three credit hours in 2008 and 2009, respectively. These two factors remarkably changed the look and feel of the course.

MOVING ONLINE

From the very beginning, LIB 101 was a hybrid course with most of the interaction being done face-to-face on a weekly basis. In an effort to support the university’s commitment to technological advancement and to reach more students, librarians began testing the course in a completely online setting in 2006. By the 2008 spring semester, the course was completely online.

Teaching an online course requires a heightened awareness of technological trends and developments. Librarians, therefore, regularly modify course content to reflect these changes. The occasional but guaranteed technological glitch can be frustrating, but both librarian and

student have adapted to the online environment. Although the in-person element is mostly absent, librarians ensure there is sufficient interaction with every student through messaging, chat, videos, and most recently, Zoom meetings. As an unintended consequence, teaching online for over a decade has helped reduce some of the stress and extra preparation that some faculty experienced when moving online during the pandemic.

MOVING TO THREE CREDIT HOURS

Increasing to three hours allowed librarians to focus on the more intellectual and philosophical aspects of information literacy and delve into topics through more hands-on exercises and required readings. For instance, in addition to providing examples of the cultural influence on information literacy, instructors have the time to take multiple writings and have students examine how different groups (or generations past) may interpret the same information. Instructors could hardly give justice to such an involved process in a one-hour course.

This increase also boosted the library's and university's credit-hour production.

ENROLLMENT

As an added and expected bonus from these changes, enrollment

improved. A three-hour course tends to be more attractive for students when trying to make full-time status or meet degree requirements. Likewise, students showed a preference for the course's online version. To illustrate, enrollment for the first four hybrid years averaged only six students per section. After moving completely online and jumping to three credit hours, the course enrollment rose to an average of thirty-two students per section.

These two factors alone cannot wholly account for the rise in enrollment. As the course became more popular, advisors began to recommend it more frequently, and one program even made it a required course.

LIBRARIANS AS INSTRUCTORS

Teaching has always been a part of a librarian's mission, so the idea of an entire course seemed like a natural extension of their everyday responsibilities. To become proficient members of the teaching faculty though, librarians must familiarize themselves with the university's policies and guidelines for teaching courses; regularly participate in professional development activities; and complete certifications required of all Delta State University faculty.

Time management still remains one of the biggest hurdles for

librarians teaching LIB 101. Preparing for a course is time-intensive work; however, the librarian who teaches the course (over the past twenty years, thirteen librarians from five different departments have done so – usually on a rotating basis) must also simultaneously maintain the same professional responsibilities as their colleagues without any kind of dispensation or additional compensation.

CONCLUSION

Ultimately though, the benefits justify the time and effort: scholarship opportunities abound for all who participate; the librarians enjoy a more equal footing with other teaching faculty at Delta State; and teaching adds a new dimension to their understanding of students' needs and behavior. Twenty years and over one thousand students later, librarians successfully achieved their goals of offering a necessary and vital component to the university's curriculum and becoming a part of DSU students' journey to lifelong learning.

References

- American Library Association. (1989). *Presidential Committee on Information Literacy: Final report*. Retrieved April 26, 2021, from <http://www.ala.org/acrl/publications/whitepapers/presidential>.
- Koltay, T., Spiranec, S., & Karvalics, L.Z. (2016). *Research 2.0 and the future of information literacy*. Chandos Publishing.



To join MLA, or to renew your membership:

<http://misslib.org/membership>

2021 MLA Executive Board Minutes:

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

SLIS Notes

Teresa S. Welsh

Professor and Director

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

Greetings, dear scholars.

Are you preparing for retirement, or have patrons who are retirees? Libraries are some of the top places that seniors go for information and entertainment. The American Library Association includes a Committee on Library Services to an Aging Population as well as Services to Older Adults within the ALA's Office for Literacy and Outreach Services. For links to these and other library-related resources for seniors, see <http://www.ala.org/tools/atoz/older-adults>.

What are some of your favorite resources for seniors? Do they include any of the free or discounted resources for seniors and retirees listed below?

TIPS FOR SENIORS OR RETIREES

14 Things Seniors Can Get for Free or at a Discount - <https://www.seniorsmatter.com/14-things-seniors-can-get-for-free-or-at-a-discount/2491856/>

Health & Hygiene Freebies for Seniors - <https://www.free4seniors.com/senior-freebies/health-freebies/>

The Savvy Senior - <https://savvy-senior.org/>

Senior Discounts List - <https://www.seniordiscounts.com/>

Where to Find Free Stuff for Seniors - <https://seniors.loveto->

[know.com/Free Stuff for Seniors](https://www.know.com/Free_Stuff_for_Seniors)

GOVERNMENT RESOURCES

Retirement Planning - <https://www.usa.gov/retirement>

Library of Congress National Library Service Resources for Seniors - <https://www.loc.gov/nls/resources/general-resources-on-disabilities/resources-senior-citizens-families/>

List of Federal Websites for Seniors - https://eldercare.acl.gov/Public/Resources/Federal_Websites.aspx

Mississippi Department of Human Services: Adults & Seniors - <https://www.mdhs.ms.gov/adults-seniors/>

National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Senior Pass - <https://store.usgs.gov/faq#Senior-Pass>

HEALTH AND WELLNESS RESOURCES

10 Steps to Healthy, Happy Aging - <https://www.everydayhealth.com/senior-health/understanding/index.aspx>

How Seniors can Maintain Physical Wellness - <https://www.wheretheyoulive.com/physical-wellness-for-seniors/>

National Institute on Aging Health Topics - <https://www.nia.nih.gov/health/topics>

Mayo Clinic Symptom Checker - <https://www.mayoclinic.org/symptom-checker/select-symp->

[tom/itt-20009075](https://www.uptodate.com/itt-20009075)

Physician's Desk Reference Drug Information - <https://www.pdr.net/>

INFORMATION ON SPECIFIC ILLNESSES

Alzheimer's Association - <https://www.alz.org/>

American Diabetes Association - <https://www.diabetes.org/>

Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute - <https://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/health-topics>

National Cancer Institute - <https://www.cancer.gov/>

Tips on Managing Arthritis Pain - <https://www.gethealthystayhealthy.com/articles/tips-for-managing-arthritis-pain>

Top 10 Most Common Chronic Conditions in Older Adults - <https://www.ncoa.org/article/the-top-10-most-common-chronic-conditions-in-older-adults>

FUN GAMES AND PUZZLES FOR AN ACTIVE MIND

7 Best Free Online Jigsaw Puzzles - <https://www.lifewire.com/best-free-online-jigsaw-puzzles-4179036>

Crossword Puzzles - <https://www.dictionary.com/e/crossword/>

Fun Online Games for Seniors - <https://www.assistinghands.com/20/illinois/hinsdale/blog/best-online-games-for-seniors/>

Luminosity Brain Games - <https://www.lumosity.com/en/>

Memory Games - <https://www.improvememory.org/brain-games/memory-games/>

NUTRITION AND HEALTHY EATING

10 Anti-Aging Foods - <https://www.healthline.com/health/food-nutrition/anti-aging-foods>

18 Quick, Easy, and Healthy Meals for Seniors - <https://www.care.com/c/stories/5445/quick-easy-healthy-meals-for-seniors/>

Anti-Inflammatory Diet - <https://www.drweil.com/diet-nutrition/anti-inflammatory-diet-pyramid/dr-weils-anti-inflammatory-diet/>

Best Dietary Supplements for Seniors - <https://seniorslifestylemag.com/health-well-being/best-dietary-supplements-for-senior-citizens/>

Eat Right for Your Blood Type - <https://www.webmd.com/diet/a-z/blood-type-diet>

Heart-Healthy Recipes - <https://www.mayoclinic.org/healthy-lifestyle/recipes/heart-healthy-recipes/rcs-20077163>

Quick and Healthy Snacks for Seniors - <https://companionsforseniors.com/2020/12/quick-and-healthy-snack-ideas-for-seniors/>

BUDGETING AND INVESTMENT

Aging Comfortably on a Budget - <https://aging.com/the-ultimate->

[guide-to-aging-comfortably-on-a-financial-budget/](https://www.aging.com/the-ultimate-guide-to-aging-comfortably-on-a-financial-budget/)

Better Business Bureau - <https://www.bbb.org/local-bbb/international-association-of-better-business-bureaus>

How to Make a Retirement Budget - <https://www.thebalance.com/how-to-make-a-retirement-budget-2388345>

Investment Guide for Seniors - <https://www.sec.gov/files/guide-forseniors.pdf>

Retirement Pensions and Benefits - <https://www.usa.gov/retirement>

ENTERTAINMENT AND TRAVEL

10 Free Entertainment Activities for Seniors - <https://www.liveabout.com/free-entertainment-activities-for-seniors-2969299>

110 Activities for Elderly & Seniors - <https://www.vivehealth.com/blogs/resources/activities-elderly-seniors>

25 Most Charming Southern Small Towns - <https://bigseventravel.com/most-charming-southern-small-towns/>

Best Vacation Ideas and Destinations for Seniors - <https://www.frommers.com/slideshows/848278-best-vacation-ideas-and-destinations-for-seniors>

Senior Discounts for Train Travel in North America - <https://www.tripsavvy.com/senior-train-travel-discounts-north-america-2972915>

Savvy Senior Travelers - Europe - <https://www.ricksteves.com/travel-tips/trip-planning/savvy-senior-travelers>

The South's Best Small Towns 2021 - <https://www.southernliving.com/souths-best/small-towns?>

Feedback and suggestions are welcome – send to slis@usm.edu or call 601-266-4228. Visit <https://www.usm.edu/slisc> 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 fall 2021 and spring 2022. 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.

2021 SAIL/Cyamus Joint Annual Conference Report

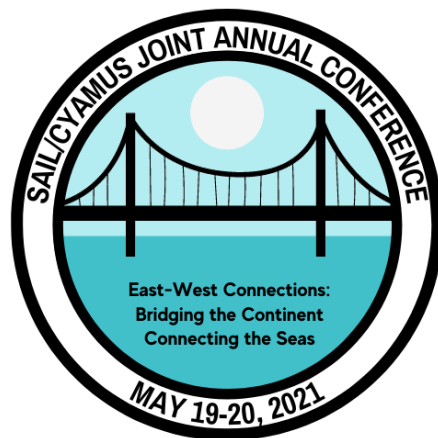
Joyce Shaw

Head Librarian

Gunter Library, GCRL

Over forty marine, aquatic, and STEM librarians from academic and special libraries gathered virtually on May 19 and 20, 2021, to learn about current scientific research, to discuss best practices in librarianship, and to network with colleagues from across the United States, Canada, and with a guest from Iran. Hosted by the Gunter Library at the Gulf Coast Research Laboratory [GCRL], The University of Southern Mississippi Gulf Coast Libraries [USM-GCL] - with technology managed by the GCRL Marine Education Center - the joint conference was planned originally to be sited in Ocean Springs, MS, until the covid-19 pandemic required a pivoting to a virtual format.

The SAIL/Cyamus conference theme was “East-West Connections: Bridging the Continent, Connecting the Seas.” SAIL is a regional affiliate of the International Association of Aquatic and Marine Science Libraries and Information Centers (IAMSLIC) with 50 members representing marine and aquatic libraries from across the Gulf of Mexico, Caribbean, Panama, up the Atlantic seaboard including the Canadian Atlantic provinces, eastern and central Canada, and across the United States west to the Mississippi River. Cyamus is the west coast IAMSLIC affiliate representing 40 members from the West Coast of North America and Hawaii, including



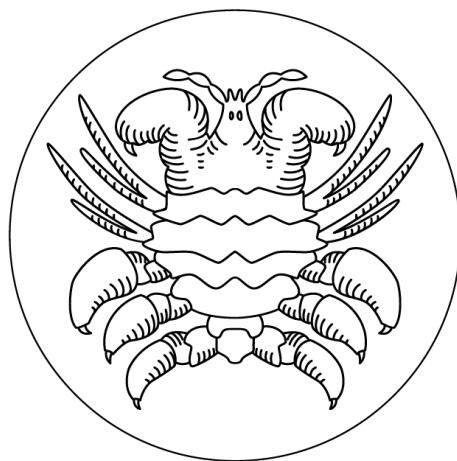
Alaska, British Columbia, Washington, Oregon, California, and Baja California. The conference crossed three time zones and bridged the continent with attendees from Alaska, Hawaii, and Nova Scotia. The theme of bridges included how libraries build bridges within their communities, connecting people and knowledge, and serving as trusted arbitrators. A special effort was made to build on diversity, inclusion, and equity as a foundation of support for each other and our researchers, faculty, students, administrators, and public.

After welcome addresses by SAIL Representative Anne Moser, USM-GCL Associate Dean Edward McCormack, Conference Host Joyce Shaw, and Cyamus Representative Mary Markland, the first day began with a keynote talk hosted by SAIL. The keynote speaker was Kara Gadenken, a doctoral candidate from Dauphin Island Sea Lab and the University of South Alabama. Gadenken studies how marine sediment ecosystems are affected by

low dissolved oxygen and focuses on marine worms in her research. She also discussed being an early career female scientist of color and some thoughts on ways to expand opportunity and access in marine science. Following this talk, a panel (Jasmin Graham, Rachel Buissereth and Gina Hodson) from Mote Marine Lab (Sarasota, FL) described a program developed at Mote called the “Marine Science Laboratory Alliance Center of Excellence” [Mar-Sci-LACE]. The purpose of Mar-Sci-LACE is to serve as a “nexus” training, resource, and supporting partner for independent non-profit marine research institutions to target underrepresented minorities earning undergraduate degrees in marine and ocean sciences and related natural resource fields. One major goal is to promote experiential learning internships at marine labs for undergraduates to help improve academic and career retention success in the marine sciences. In this same theme, the conference attendees held an “all-conference discussion” lead by Amanda Whitmire (Hopkins Marine Station/Stanford University) and Jeannine Scaramozzino (California Poly-Tech) on diversifying collections. The big questions in that discussion were can libraries make intentional changes in collection development practices that not only support the needs of the research community, but also contribute to reducing information inequities? And can we develop a library collecting strategy

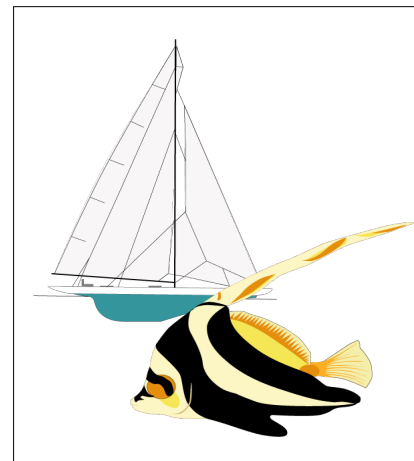
that is more than extractive, but is collaborative with indigenous and underrepresented groups that is in a way beneficial to them? Other first day talks included Geoff Timms (College of Charleston Libraries/SCDNR/NOAA) who talked about a one-hour credit course he created and taught to undergraduates to introduce them to research data management. Denise Wetzel (Florida State University STEM and Music Librarian) presented the results of her project analyzing oceanographic libguides to understand how they are supporting the teaching and research needs of oceanographic degree-granting programs and using that information for outreach to faculty and students. A lightning round/poster session had four presentations: Justin Easterday (USM-GCL) "Plagiarism: Making Academic Integrity More Relatable," Jamie Stanfield (USM-GCL) and Joyce Shaw (Gunter Library/GCRL) "Strengthening Engagement with Graphic Novels: Oceans, Rivers, Rising Sea Levels, Climate Change, and the Water World," Charlotte Schiaffo (Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council) "Gulf Council Research Resources for Researchers and the Public," and Jeannine Scaramozzino (California PolyTech) "Chatbot Use for Library Reference and Instruction." The day ended with a 30-minute video tour of the GCRL Marine Education Center, and a virtual social hour hosted by Dave Bacca, past-president of IAMSILIC, SAIL member, and Director of the Texas A & M University at Galveston Library.

On day two, May 20, the day began with business meetings and a SAIL and Cyamus "State of the



Cyamus logo

Union" composed of member libraries reporting on new programs, institutional changes, and calls for partnering, information, or help. The highlight of the morning was the second keynote address sponsored by Cyamus. Janet Essley, an independent artist, art educator, lay naturalist, muralist, and citizen scientist, spoke about her work studying the Red Knot (*Canutus calidris*) in North America. The presentation was a portfolio of beautiful art drawn in the style of the locale where the birds migrate and nest. <https://www.theredknotsproject.org/> Two presentations rounded out the day. The first was given by Amanda Whitmire entitled "Librarians + Wikipedia: Building Skills to Reduce Information Inequality in the Aquatic Sciences." Whitmire sought to demystify Wikipedia and to encourage librarians to engage with the platform. The last talk of the conference was Kristen Culp, SAIL member and ProQuest Content Specialist, updated us on collections and services, and provided insight to the acquisition announced just one day before the conference of ProQuest by Clarivate. The day



SAIL logo

ended with announcements by Jaime Goldman, SAIL member and President of IAMSILIC and a second day happy hour hosted by Dave Bacca.

The SAIL/Cyamus Joint Annual Conference was planned by a committee composed of members from both regional groups. Representing SAIL were Beth Avery (retired librarian), John Conover (LUMCON), Jamie Fogel (Mote Marine Lab), and Anne Moser (University of Wisconsin, Madison). Representing Cyamus were Sue Gardner (University of Nebraska), Ruth Gustafson (University of California, Davis), Katie Lage (Moss Landing Marine Lab), Mary Markland (University of Oregon), and Amanda Whitmire (Hopkins Marine Station, Stanford University). The planning committee was chaired by Joyce M. Shaw (Gunter Library, GCRL, USM-GCL). The virtual program with links to slides and recordings is linked here <https://guides.library.stanford.edu/jscac2021>

Post Script: All professional conferences are an opportunity to showcase but are also where we learn what are the issues and concerns

impacting other libraries. Twenty-four hours before the conference began, I received an email asking me if I would be providing a “land acknowledgement” statement. After

a major “duh” moment, I emailed back my ignorance and said I had no clue what that was. During the conference, several librarians posted their library’s or university’s “land

acknowledgement” statement in the chat. I guarantee you I know what one is and have begun the work of creating one for Gunter Library.

News Briefs

Hali Black

*First Year Experience Librarian
University of Southern Mississippi*

RECENTLY PUBLISHED BOOK SHOWCASES SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI LIBRARIES' DE GRUMMOND CHILDREN'S LITERATURE COLLECTION

A de Grummond Primer: Highlights of the Children's Literature Collection is the first book-length project on the Collection. The book is comprised of scholarly essays written by children's literature scholars in addition to over ninety full-color images taken from the collection. Edited by Carolyn J. Brown, Ellen Hunter Ruffin, and Eric L. Tribunella, the book examines the de Grummond Collection's key subject areas which includes fairy tales, 19th Century periodicals, African American children's literature, the Golden Age of illustrated books, and early books for children among others.

The book also includes the story of collection founder Lena Y. de Grummond and her arrival at the University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg, MS in 1966. According to sources, Dr. de Grummond wanted her teaching to be “more than a textbook.” Wanting her students to fully experience the courses she taught led her to begin a children's book collection. In addition to de Grummond's initial decision to request original materials from authors and illustrators, she also

began building a library of children's books and books about children's books. Dr. de Grummond sought to not only provide more meaningful experiences in her classes and beyond, but also to provide opportunities for scholarly research.

Contributors to the book include Ann Mulloy Ashmore, Rudine Sims Bishop, Ruth B. Bottigheimer, Jennifer Brannock, Carolyn J. Brown, Ramona Caponegro, Lorinda Cohoon, Carol Edmonston, Paige Gray, Laura Hakala, Andrew Haley, Wm John Hare, Dee Jones, Allison Kaplan, Megan Norcia, Nathalie op de Beeck, Amy Pattee, Deborah Pope, Anita Silvey, Danielle Bishop Stoulig, Roger Sutton, Deborah D. Taylor, Laura Wasosicz, Alexandra Valint, Eric L. Tribunella, and Ellen Hunter Ruffin.

Published by University Press of Mississippi, the book's cover features original artwork from the

Collection by Wendell Minor from *Trapped! A Whale's Rescue*, a book written by Robert Burleigh and illustrated by Wendell Minor. For a more information or to purchase a copy of the book, please visit <https://www.upress.state.ms.us/Books/A/A-de-Grummond-Primer>.

Submitted by:

Ellen Ruffin

Curator of de Grummond Collection, Associate Professor

McCain Library and Archives

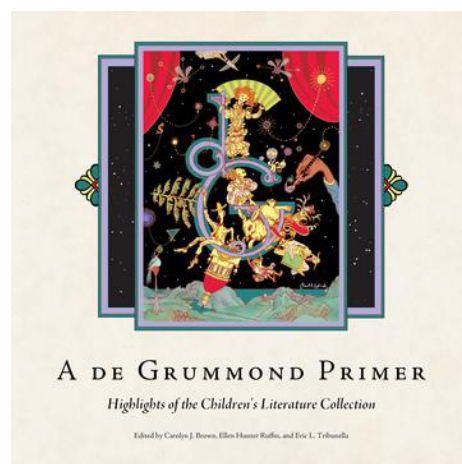
University of Southern Mississippi



STAR LIBRARY STATUS AWARDED TO 12 PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEMS

The Mississippi Library Commission (MLC) recently named 12 public library systems as Star Libraries based on their statistics for fiscal year 2019 (October 1, 2018-September 30, 2019). The library systems are separated into four categories by expenditures that they report on the annual Public Library Survey, required by the Institute of Museum and Library Services. MLC then compares libraries' per capita rates in these four areas:

- Mississippi Measures – This is a combination of interlibrary loan use, statewide database use, number of registered users, and items withdrawn.
- Circulation per capita
- Total program attendance per



capita

- Public Internet terminal uses per capita

Star Library status is decided by recognizing the three highest scoring libraries in each of the four expenditure categories. Star Library status is awarded to the following libraries for their FY19 statistics:

Under \$300,000

- Noxubee County Public Library System
- Covington County Library System
- Pine Forest Regional Library System

\$300,000 - \$599,999

- Starkville-Oktibbeha County Public Library System
 - Pearl River County Library System
 - Sunflower County Library System
- \$600,000 - \$999,999**

- Columbus-Lowndes Public Library System

- Northeast Regional Library System

- Lincoln-Lawrence-Franklin Regional Library

\$1,000,000 and above

- First Regional Library System
- Mid-Mississippi Regional Library System
- Jackson-George Regional Library System

This will be Sunflower County Library System's fourth time receiving Star Library Status, having received this award in 2015, 2017, 2018, and 2019.

The winning libraries received a certificate and a digital Star Library badge to feature on their website. For further information on Mississippi's Star Library Star program, contact Lacy Ellinwood, MLC

Library Development Director, at lellinwood@mlc.lib.ms.us

The Mississippi Library Commission supports innovative programs and initiatives to strengthen and enhance library services for all Mississippians. The agency is funded by the Mississippi Legislature, with additional funding provided through the Institute of Museum and Library Services under provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA), offering leadership in library services, advocacy, and training for library professionals and paraprofessionals.

Submitted by:

Mary Ann Griffin

Director

Sunflower County Library System

People in the News

Hali Black

*First Year Experience Librarian
University of Southern Mississippi*

Beth Anderson, Administrative Assistant at Dixie Regional Library System, begins retirement at the end of June having dedicated 31 years to DRLS. Anderson first served as Pontotoc Branch Manager. During her five years as branch manager, she planned a variety of events from bedtime story times (complete with pajamas and stuffed animals!) to summer reading with tents and (pretend) campfires. Anderson recalls one particularly ambitious summer program where she hand-cranked

snow cones for the entire group of summer reading program participants. She says family was integral during her time as branch manager – from her husband (AKA “friend of the librarian”) changing lightbulbs and fixing toilets to her mother portraying Mother Goose and manning the “make your own” sundae bar to her three sons growing up in the library - her days-old youngest child helping welcome Kindergarteners (including her oldest son) to the library during National Library Week. Promoted in 1995, her time as Administrative Assistant for the system has included juggling PERS, insurance, grant reporting, Dixie

News newsletter (print & digital), payroll, accounts payable, procurement of summer library supplies for



Anderson (left) and Sissy (Lyons) Bullock with John Grisham at the 1991 MLA Author Awards Dinner (photographer unknown)

8 branches as well as many other duties. Anderson's creativity, diligence, and care is a great asset, and she will be greatly missed.



DeeDee Baldwin, Assistant Professor and History Research Librarian at Mississippi State University Libraries, has been selected as the recipient of the 2021 Reference and User Services Association's (RUSA) History Section's Genealogy/History Achievement Award, sponsored by ProQuest. Baldwin received the award for her work on *Against All Odds: The First Black Legislators in Mississippi* in addition to her continued service to the library and archival communities, the American Library Association (ALA), Reference and User Services Association (RUSA), and RUSA's History Section (HS). The award includes a citation and a monetary award to a librarian, library or publisher, in recognition of professional achievement in historical or genealogical reference, service, or research librarianship.



Joy DuBose has been selected as the Mississippi State University Libraries' recipient of the MSU Research Awards sponsored by the MSU Office of Research and Economic Development and the Division of Agriculture, Forestry and Veterinary Medicine. Joy is an Assistant Professor and Special Collections Cataloger at the MSU Libraries.



The Board of Trustees of First Regional Library is pleased to

announce the hiring of **Lori Barnes** as the new Director of First Regional Library.

Prior to her acceptance of this position, Barnes has served as the Director of the Jackson-George Regional Library in southern Mississippi.

Barnes has served on the Board of the Mississippi Library Association and was appointed by former Governor Phil Bryant to serve on the Board of Commissioners of the Mississippi Library Commission. Her public library interests include youth services and outreach programming.

Employees at First Regional Library are "excited to have Lori lead our team!" Barnes will begin work at First Regional Library on July 1, 2021.



The University of Southern Mississippi welcomes two new faculty members at Cook Library on the Hattiesburg campus.

Melissa Brooks

joins the University Libraries faculty as an Associate Professor and the Head of Technical Services.

Melissa earned her BS in Music Education from Indiana University of Pennsylvania and MSLS from the University of Kentucky. She is currently working on an MBA from Indiana University of Pennsylvania. Prior to joining the USM Libraries, Melissa was the Metadata/Discovery at Indiana University of Pennsylvania and the Head of Metadata and Data Services at West Virginia University.



Melissa is excited about being a new member of the Mississippi Library Association and working with a great group of people.

Diana Simpson joins the University Libraries faculty at Southern Miss as an Assistant Professor and Catalog Librarian.

As a member of the Technical Services department, she is responsible for cataloging monographs and serials in multiple formats, with particular emphasis on special collections materials. Diana has 15 years of librarianship experience at both academic and public libraries in Ohio and Michigan, including serving as the Nonprint and Monograph Cataloger at Ohio University Libraries. She earned her M.L.I.S. at Kent State University.



Book Reviews

Tori L. Hopper

*Children's & Teen Services
& Programming Coordinator
Columbus-Lowndes Public Library System*

Haines, Carolyn

Independent Bones, a Novel

New York: Minotaur Books,
2021, Vol. 23: 368 pp. ISBN
9781250257871. \$22.99 (hardcover)

"All the women, who are independent, throw your hands up at me!" That's what I imagine Sarah Booth saying as she solves the next well-crafted mystery in Carolyn Haines' popular *Bones* series. The saga of Sarah Booth Delaney's P.I. practice continues with volume 23, *Independent Bones*.

This time trouble heads to Zinnia, Mississippi, in the most thrilling of ways: a loud woman who has a bone to pick with all men. But what do certain men hate more than a loud woman? A nosy one. Sarah Booth certainly has her hands full when Dr. Alala Diakos moves into town to work on her latest book. While Alala loves to see a man be put in his place – even if it's the grave – things start hitting close to home as the murder of a local puts her at the top of a suspect list. Sarah Booth and her heavily pregnant partner, Tinkie, work together to uncover the truth about Alala's past, while a newer threat is found in a shadowy group hell-bent on keeping women in the kitchen. Will they figure out who the killer is before Alala's new author credits include the term serial killer? Or worse, can they find the killer before Tinkie finally pops?

It seems that not even our beloved

Zinnia has caught up in this timely take on women's rights and the amount of work that goes into creating true progress on equality. But as every *Bones*' reader knows from the series' occasional plot pitstops with Jitty, time can be an impactful teacher, but it is not always the salve. In fact, "Justice never came without blood." (p.355)

Threaded into *Independent Bones* are some telling storylines that allow for character development and growth, not just for our leads, but for each of the supporting characters as well. While Sarah Booth might have always been an independent soul, she must now confront her own privilege and the conundrums that can occur when you have someone beside you who desperately needs protecting.

Kudos to Carolyn Haines for a fun, engaging novel that makes the reader question what they stand for and how far they might go to fight for it. In this particular volume, she writes with prowess that brings the southern dichotomies of gender roles into question without losing the casual southern charm and coziness that her readers know and love. Curl up with your own Sweetie Pie for the best reading experience.

*Lindsey Beck
Librarian
New Hope High School*



Liner, Emily

Stretch Like Scarlet

Columbus: Friendly City Books,
2020. 24p., color illust. ISBN
9780578746050. \$18.95 (hardcover)

This first book from Emily Liner, founder of Friendly City Books in Columbus, Mississippi, showcases the adorable beagle Scarlet as she frolics about. The story is based on the real-life beagle named Scarlet, who the author adopted in 2017.

Scarlet begins her day all curled up in bed and when awakened, she stretches to prepare for a fun day of running, jumping, and rolling as dogs will do. Simple text combined with the colorful illustrations by John Clark IV make this a perfect choice for beginning readers.

The illustrations depict a diverse array of characters and include an appearance by the author's mother and grandmother, to whom the author dedicated the book. The written text highlights words and phrases through the use of color, bold print, and other varying fonts that help draw the attention of beginning readers to important vocabulary words.

Often, the font used for these words give clues to aid the reader in determining the meaning of the word. For example, the word "lean," in fact, leans to the left or right when describing Scarlet's movement to the left and the right to make herself strong.

Together, they enjoy reading with senior adults and children as a part of the nonprofit organization People Animals Love.

*Venetia Oglesby
Library Media Specialist
New Hope Elementary*



Tarabella, Leslie Anne

Exploding Hushpuppies: More Stories from Home

Bloomington: WestBow Press,
2020, 124 pp. \$28.95 (hardcover).

You can't help but to hear Lynyrd Skynyrd's "Sweet Home Alabama" playing in the background of your head while reading this book. The author's stories are hilarious and centered around things that have happened to her while living in the South as a native of Alabama.

Leslie takes us on vivid trips throughout her life as a mother of two boys, a wife, and a daughter. While reading, you will imagine yourself in her shoes as she explains to the reader events, people, places,

and even things in her life. Surprisingly, this is one book you won't want to put down.

At the beginning of a section in the book entitled Witness Protection, you can read these words. "I heard a rumor that the Witness Protection program doesn't relocate people to the South very often, because when you're in hiding, the last place you want to be is where everyone asks you a million questions." (p. 15) To quote the younger generation here, "where's the lie?" This sentence is so relatable, because we all know that in the South, there are no off-limit questions. People ask whatever they want to ask, and they expect you to answer them truthfully.

Leslie inspires her readers with

a new collection of stories, similar to her first book, *The Majorettes are Back in Town*. Her writing and storytelling will resound with readers not only in the South, but throughout the country. She has the uncanny ability to put into words what most people, particularly women, are thinking and that we don't necessarily say out loud.

Leslie reminds us that the South is a special place where there are people who warm, friendly and funny. She captures the essence of true southern living.

Wil'Lani A. Turner
Coordinator of Circulation/Assistant
Cataloger
Columbus-Lowndes Public Library System