VISION

The vision of the Mississippi Library Commission is that all Mississippians have access to quality library services in order to:

• Achieve their greatest potential,
• Participate in a global society, and
• Enrich their daily lives.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Mississippi Library Commission is committed—through leadership, advocacy, and service—to strengthening and enhancing libraries and library services for all Mississippians.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

July 1, 2011 - June 30, 2012

Russell Burns, Brookhaven

Celia Fisher, Okolona

Jolee Hussey, Oxford

Pamela Pridgen, Hattiesburg

Glenda Segars, Tupelo

The budget continued to challenge the Library Commission in Fiscal Year 2012. In addition to the cumulative effect of several years of state funding cuts, the agency saw a significant reduction in federal funding for libraries. Nonetheless, the Mississippi Library Commission continues to strive to strengthen and enhance libraries and library services for all Mississippians.

The demand for agency services remained high in FY2012 whether customers were asking a research question, needing talking books when unable to read or hold a printed book, getting help with a library computer or internet issue, securing grants, seeking advice and assistance on a library management issue, or obtaining library staff training in order to better serve local library users.

This report highlights the year’s work and reflects the agency’s ongoing commitment to ensuring all Mississippians have access to quality library services.

Sharman Bridges Smith
Executive Director
Mississippi Library Commission

November 2012
LIBRARY SERVICES

The Library Services Bureau provides direct and indirect services to Mississippi’s libraries and citizens to improve access to quality library services for all, including special populations.

PRIMARY RESOURCE LIBRARY supplements the resources in local libraries, provides access to professional reference specialists to research and respond to queries not filled at the local level, and to circulate materials not locally owned. Direct and indirect services to a variety of customers including all types of libraries, state government, intellectual property researchers, and the public are provided.

- 131% increase in state government requests
- Overall usage increased 32.7%

LEARN-A-TEST is a database of standardized tests provided to all Mississippi residents through local public libraries. LEARN-A-TEST provides online access to hundreds of standardized practice tests and tutorials ranging from 4th grade math to college entrance exams, professional level exams, and job search skills courses. (i.e. GED, ACT, SAT, GRE, PRAXIS I & II, LSAT, etc.)

- 6,468 new LEARN-A-TEST users in FY12
- 25,857 practice tests taken in FY12

Large Print (LP) Collection is available for individuals with visual impairments and libraries/agencies serving these individuals. Current single titles are available to local libraries on a short term basis, as well as bulk loans of titles on a six month basis. The division provides routine interlibrary direct mail services to individuals meeting eligibility requirements with LP materials mailed directly to their home addresses.

- Check out of large print items increased by 17%, representing a value of $429,716

MISSISSIPPI CENTER FOR THE BOOK, as designated by the Library of Congress, promotes Mississippi’s literary heritage and calls attention to the importance of books, reading, literacy and libraries.

National Book Festival
Mississippi’s participation in the September 24, 2011, National Book Festival in Washington, DC highlighted Mississippi’s literary heritage for over 200,000 attendees. This year’s Mississippi children’s book was Margaret McMullan’s When I Crossed No-Bob. The publisher provided 1,000 bookmarks for distribution. Materials on the Blind and Physically Handicapped Library Services along with bookmarks featuring Mississippi authors whose works are available in alternative formats were also provided.

Letters About Literature
FY12 marked the fifth year Mississippi has participated in Letters About Literature, the competition where students in grades 4 - 12 write letters to their favorite authors describing what the books meant to them. Mississippi students submitted 491 letters (a 23% increase over FY11). Cash prizes, provided by the Library of Congress and administered by the Friends of Mississippi Libraries, were awarded to state winners. During the awards ceremony, winners read their letters aloud. An Educator of the Year award was also given to the teacher or librarian who submitted the most winning letters.

Book Club in a Box Program continues to grow in popularity. Each box contains 10 copies of the book and a discussion guide providing support for local library programs. Titles added in FY12 includes Native Guard by Natasha Trethewey and The Secret History by Donna Tartt; three Mississippi Humanities Council’s Food: For Thought — “Dinner and a Movie” programs, with books, a video documentary, and a discussion guide; and five young adult books.
Making Sense of the Civil War
Planning for this multi-year National Endowment for the Humanities program with events to occur during the sesquicentennial of the Civil War (2011-2015) continued. Each program includes a series of discussions conducted by a project scholar. The program, at The Library of Hattiesburg, Petal and Forrest County was completed in FY12 with 35 participants. Programs will also be held at three additional libraries in FY13.

INFORMATION SERVICES endeavors to meet the information needs of Mississipians through a variety of professional services. Requests for information on specific topics ranged from “quick facts” to highly specialized and unique topics requiring in-depth and time-intensive research of print and online resources, as well as contact with other agencies and specialists to provide complete, concise, and timely answers.

- 29.3% increase - Information requests
- 76% increase - Usage of online databases
- 214% increase - Subject inquiries from state government

Social Media
The Library Commission can be accessed through a variety of social media outlets including:

Website: mlc.lib.ms.us
Blog/Reference Chat: mlcref.blogspot.com
Reference Text: 601-208-0868
facebook.com/mlslibrarycommission
twitter.com/MSLibraryComm
pinterest.com/MSLibraryComm
foursquare.com/mlslibrarycomm
goodreads.com/user/show/6193041-mlc-reference-department
youtube.com/mlslibrarycommission

COLLECTION MANAGEMENT SERVICES

Patent & Trademark Depository Library
Requests for patents and/or trademarks assistance and orientation sessions also increased due primarily to the online availability of search resources.

MLC Patent Librarian Laurence Smith and Shivon Rockward, Reference Librarian, exhibit at the Mississippi Market Wholesale Show where Smith conducted sessions on the difference between patents, trademarks and copyrights.

State Document Depository
FY12 saw passage of HB1452 which established the electronic version of public documents as the “official” copy and designated the Library Commission as the permanent repository for the official copy.

MLC’s Digital Collection of online state documents went live in FY12. Born-digital public documents are added as received and print documents are digitized and added as time allows.
BLIND & PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED
LIBRARY SERVICES

Blind and Physically Handicapped Library Services provides free statewide access to library materials in specialized formats to individuals who cannot read or hold a traditional book. Eligibility for the free program includes adults and children with visual impairments (blindness or inability to read standard print), physical limitations (unable to hold a book or turn a page), and those with a reading disability from an organic dysfunction.

BARD (Braille & Audio Recording Download Service) The BARD service allows patrons to search for and download titles directly to a cartridge, thumb drive, or specially-approved playback devices, thus providing instant access to material.

Outreach Services/Partnerships
- Promotional spots aired on cable stations in the northeast section of the state. As a result, new patrons from area increased by 28.6%.
- Information was sent to faith-based organizations in the southern section of the state. To date, a 150% increase in new patrons from this area has been seen.

Volunteers & Friends of Handicapped Readers
4,459 hours were donated by volunteers and friends who helped provide and/or promote services.
The Development Services Bureau provides consulting, continuing education, programming and technical assistance and support to Mississippi public libraries. The Bureau includes the Library Development Division and the Network Development Division.

**LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT DIVISION**
Services include general support of public libraries through consulting services, an extensive continuing education program to support the learning needs of the public library staff members in Mississippi, support of the statewide Summer Library Program, and a wide variety of specialized projects that contribute to the development of public library services in the state of Mississippi.

**New Director Orientation**
In FY12, six new permanent and provisional public library directors participated in a two-day orientation about Mississippi library law, library administration, grants administration, and library services provided by the Mississippi Library Commission.

**General Consulting**
In FY12:
- 1,488 hours — Direct consulting
- 100 — Consulting visits to local communities
- 3,122 — Interactions with public libraries
- 2,383 — Interactions with other public library stakeholders
- Site visits to:
  - Ashland, Batesville, Bay St. Louis, Beaumont, Belzoni, Biloxi, Brookhaven, Canton, Carrollton, Charleston, Clarksdale, Cleveland, Clinton, Coffeeville, Collins, Columbia, Columbus, Como, Corinth, Forest, Fulton, Greenville, Greenwood, Grenada, Gulfport, Hattiesburg, Hernando, Holly Springs, Indianola, Jackson, Kosciusko, Macon, Magee, Magnolia, Marks, McClain, McComb, McHenry, Mendenhall, Meridian, Mound Bayou, Natchez, New Albany, Olive Branch, Orange Grove, Pascagoula, Pearl, Pearl River, Philadelphia, Pontotoc, Puckett, Quitman, Richton, Rolling Fork, St. Martin, Starkville, Tupelo, Yazoo City, Union, Vaiden, Vancleave, Walnut Grove, Water Valley, West Point, and Wiggins.
Summer Library Program
In FY12, the agency continued statewide support of summer reading programs for children, teens, and adults. For children, the theme was “Dream Big—READ”; for teens, “Own the Night”; and for adults, “Between the Covers.”

As a result:

- 3,014 public library programs for children were held;
- 120,992 children attended summer programs at public libraries;
- 571,908 juvenile items were checked out of public libraries in June and July;
- 28 public library systems offered Summer Library Programs specifically for teens;
- 406 teen programs were held with 6,028 teens attending;
- 60,302 young adult/teen items were checked out during June and July;
- 20 public library systems offered Summer Library Programs specifically for adults.

Assistance to Library Trustees
In FY12, the Library Commission provided access to online courses created by the Association of Library Trustees, Advocates, Friends, and Foundations (ALTAFF). The courses, entitled Trustee Academy, are designed to help library trustees become more proficient.

Quote from a Public Library Director:
“We are grateful for the services provided by the Development Division. They are key to Mississippi libraries’ success. Everyone’s so busy, though. Wish there was funding for more of you!”

Jennifer Wann Walker shares news of WebJunction Mississippi to public library directors.
Continuing Education
An integral part of strengthening public library services is increasing the skills, knowledge, and expertise of public library staff members, directors and trustees through continuing education.

In FY12, 16 different workshops were held in 26 locations.

- Librarianship 101 Institute
- Basic Financial Management for Public Library Systems
- Public Library Statistics for Beginners
- Public Library Statistics: Annual Review
- Ebooks: The New Normal (virtual summit)
- The Big, Hairy, Audacious Goal: Library Advocacy
- Librarianship 101/201 Alumni Meeting
- Directors Symposium
- E-Rate for Beginners
- E-Rate: Annual Review
- CIPA: 10 Years Later (webinar)
- LSTA Grant Writing
- Youth Services Training: Using Puppets in the Library
- Summer Library Programs for Teens
- Summer Library Programs for Adults
- 21st Century Customer Service

Three multi-day, in-residence workshops were held—Librarianship 101 Institute for library paraprofessionals; Basic Financial Management for directors and business office staff; and Directors Symposium.

NETWORK DEVELOPMENT DIVISION

Quote from a Public Library Director:
“They [Network Development] have always solved our problems.”

Network Development provides technology support, including email and website hosting, troubleshooting network and computer problems for public library systems, and support and maintenance of a wide area network for public libraries, and the agency’s local area network through a manned help desk.

In FY12:
- 472 helpdesk requests were received.
- Eight onsite network consultations were provided.
- 800 library email accounts including approximately 1,900 outgoing emails per day and 38,000 incoming emails each day were supported.
- 1,848 outside viruses via incoming emails and 1.2 million spam emails were blocked.
- 29 web sites for public libraries were hosted/supported.
- Library internet circuits on state network were monitored for connectivity and bandwidth utilization.
- Internet circuit upgrades were supported.
In FY2012, the Mississippi Library Commission (MLC) was appropriated:

- $14,314,118 (An increase of $73,059 from FY11)
- 52 authorized positions

Grant programs strengthen efforts of libraries in enhancing library services for all Mississippians.

**State Aid Program**
- The Personnel Incentive Grant Program, a major part of state aid for Mississippi public libraries, ensures that all Mississippians have equitable access to well-managed libraries and qualified library staff.
  Expended: $5,272,763

- The Health/Life Insurance Program for public librarians funds health and life insurance coverage for more than 800 public library employees, enabling public libraries to recruit and retain qualified staff.
  Expended: $3,469,033

**Federal Funding for Libraries**
- Subgrants - $692,511
- Statewide Programs - $1,588,306

- Federal funding has decreased $325,016 since FY 2011.

Continued cuts in state funding threaten MLC’s compliance with federal Maintenance of Effort (MOE) requirements. In FY12, MLC had to request an MOE waiver or lose $800,000 in federal library funds (almost one-half of state allocation). Such a loss would decimate statewide library programs and services, many of which are highlighted herein.
Mississippi Library Commission
3881 Eastwood Drive
Jackson, Mississippi 39211
www.mlc.lib.ms.us

General Information 601.432.4111 or 800.647.7542

Executive Director’s Office 601.432.4039

Administrative Services Bureau:
Bureau Director 601.432.4098
Fiscal Services 601.432.4042
Grant Management 601.432.4098
Purchasing 601.432.4049
Human Resources/Payroll 601.432.4071

Development Services Bureau:
Bureau Director 601.432.4068
Library Development 601.432.4067 or 800.647.7542
Network Development HelpDesk 601.432.4158 or 877.652.8324

Library Services Bureau:
Bureau Director 601.432.4124
Information Services 601.432.4492 or 877.594.5733
Patents & Trademarks 601.432.4120
Government Information 601.432.4124
Interlibrary Loan 601.432.4127
Large Print 601.432.4126
Blind & Physically Handicapped Library Services 601.432.4153 or 800.446.0892