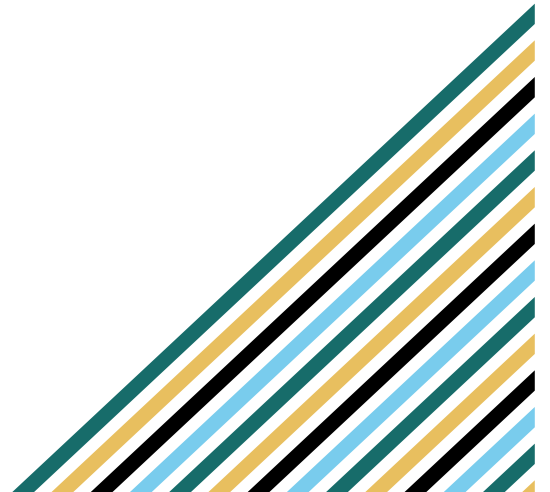




# 2012

Mississippi Library Commission  
**ANNUAL REPORT**





## **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

# INTRODUCTION

In accordance with the requirements set forth in the Mississippi Code of 1972, §27-101-1 - §27-101-11, the Mississippi Library Commission respectfully submits this 2012 Annual Report for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2011 and ending June 30, 2012.

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.



Sharman B. Smith  
Executive Director

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 Mississippians 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](http://mlc.lib.ms.us)

Blog/Reference Chat: [mlcref.blogspot.com](http://mlcref.blogspot.com)

Reference Text: 601-208-0868



[facebook.com/mslibrarycommission](https://www.facebook.com/mslibrarycommission)



[twitter.com/MSLibraryComm](https://twitter.com/MSLibraryComm)



[pinterest.com/MSLibraryComm](https://www.pinterest.com/MSLibraryComm)



[foursquare.com/mslibrarycomm](https://www.foursquare.com/mslibrarycomm)



[goodreads.com/user/show/6193041-mlc-reference-department](https://www.goodreads.com/user/show/6193041-mlc-reference-department)



[youtube.com/mslibrarycommission](https://www.youtube.com/mslibrarycommission)

## **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 Lawrence 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.

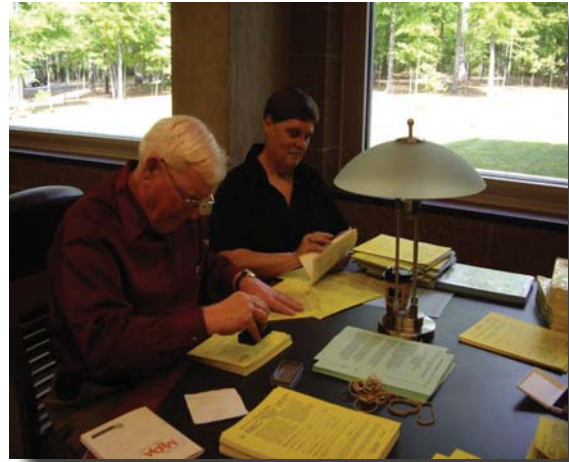


*Cindy Nugent, MLC Outreach Coordinator for the Blind & Physically Handicapped, shares information during the Rankin County Seniors Fair.*

### 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.



*Volunteers put together application packets for the Blind & Physically Handicapped Library Services.*



# DEVELOPMENT 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.



*MLC Executive Director Sharman B. Smith and Dr. Bill Herndon, Associate Vice President, Division of Agriculture, Forestry & Veterinary Medicine, Mississippi State University announce the new partnership between MSU Extension Service, the Broadband Education and Adoption Team (eBEAT) and MLC.*

## New Director Orientation

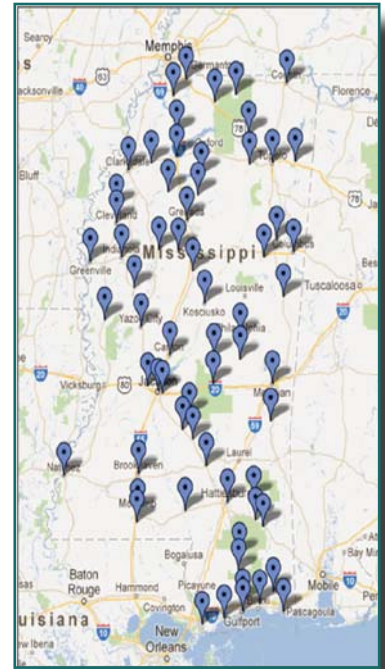
In FY12, six new permanent and provisional public library directors participated in a two-day orientation about Mississippi library law, library administration, grants administration, and library services provided by the Mississippi Library Commission.

## 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, Coffeerville, 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, Pearlinton, Philadelphia, Pontotoc, Puckett, Quitman, Richton, Rolling Fork, St. Martin, Starkville, Tupelo, Yazoo City, Union, Vaiden, Vanleave, Walnut Grove, Water Valley, West Point, and Wiggins.



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!"*

### 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.



Jennifer Wann Walker shares news of Webjunction Mississippi to public library directors.



### 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.



## 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.



Public library directors Jenniffer Stephenson from Greenwood-Leflore and Jeanne Williams of Lamar County at the 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.



Vivian Sanderford demonstrates Computers for Libraries program.

# ADMINISTRATION

Administrative Services provides financial management and administrative support for the agency. Responsibilities include strategic planning, grants, accounting, purchasing, facilities/property management, and human resources.

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.*



*Jennifer Wann Walker (l) and Lorietha Myers (r) discuss the decor of The Quisenberry Library with Port Gibson librarian Pamela Plummer (center).*



*Public library directors attend quarterly meetings at MLC to receive, share and exchange information about their libraries and upcoming events.*

## **Mississippi Library Commission**

3881 Eastwood Drive  
Jackson, Mississippi 39211  
[www.mlc.lib.ms.us](http://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



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