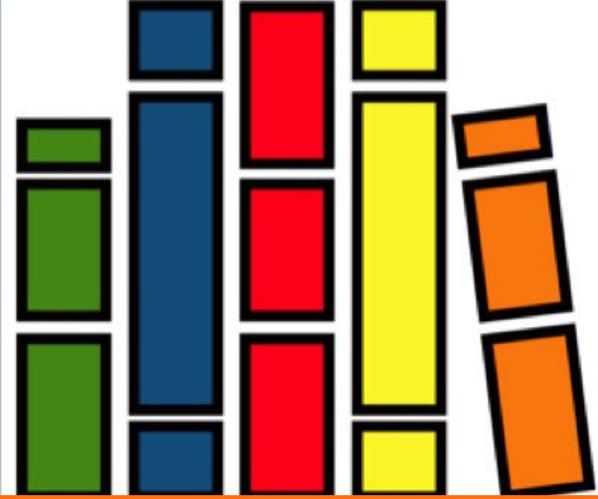


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mississippi library commission

summer 2018

## So, That's What I Want To Do

Hulen Bivins  
MLC Executive Director

Like many when young of age, I was asked what do you want to be when you grow up? Of course, the most common answer was to pursue occupations like doctor, business executive, attorney, or fireman. For some, the choice was to be a cowboy or perhaps a musical artist with the chance to express both emotions and thoughts. I don't remember myself or anyone else in my youth saying they wanted to be a librarian.

So now, four decades later, I am a librarian. And, I am proud of the occupation and proud to be one of thousands in our country dedicated to the principals and concepts of the profession. Indeed, it is a profession that allows for personalization in thought and action, plus it allows one to be persistent, persuasive, and energetic in the task to disseminate information. Librarians know how to overcome both resistance and temporary setbacks. Librarians also understand that it is the conclusion of the query that is most important. For the librarian, the desired result is the satisfied patron who continues life with better information.

And now, I am in Mississippi. To just move next door from Alabama, I took a trip to near the Canadian border, to the Atlantic coast, and to the hills of Tennessee. To have just traveled west on US Highway 80 would have been easier. Traveling US Highway 80 would, however, not allowed me to bring all the experiences I have encountered as a librarian with me. That would make me less than what I am.

In just more than three months, while traveling the state, I have seen so much while meeting some exceptional people. And, let me tell you, most of these exceptional people are librarians! Working in all areas of the state, I have met librarians dedicated to their communities, many times despite the adversity they may be enduring. These are librarians willing to share among themselves as they encourage one another. That is a really, impressive thing.... giving to another to help make another better. So as a librarian who has traveled a few miles, I salute the state of Mississippi as a place filled with librarians who are facing the challenges of the future together, united by character and resolve. I am glad to now be part of the community of librarians in the Magnolia State.

# FEATURES FROM THE FIELD

The Sunflower County Consolidated Schools recognized two staff members of the Sunflower County Library System for “constant and unselfish service above self to the students of Sunflower County.” The award was presented at the school board meeting conducted on May 8, 2018 at the A. W. James Elementary School in Drew, Mississippi.

Library staff member Linda Hannah was recognized by James C. Rosser Elementary school principal Geneva Benson for the programming conducted with the elementary students in Moorhead.

These programs consisted of bringing costumed book characters to classrooms to encourage recreational reading and providing information to parents about school and public library resources. Ms. Hannah collaborated with the school librarian by conducting story time with the children and by serving as the school’s Reading Fair judge.

Sunflower County Library System Director Mary Ann Griffin was recognized by Lockard Elementary School principal, Daphne Heflin for providing parent and teacher training on the resources available through the public library and how to use the MAGNOLIA databases for research. She was also involved with the school’s mentoring program.

This is a significant milestone for the library system, as historically it has been difficult to establish collaboration between the local schools and the public library. Through the library’s marketing plan and the implementation of its strategic plan, the library has met this challenge.



Linda Hannah (left) and Mary Ann Griffin (right) of Sunflower County Library System

# State's Newest Library System Open for Business!

On June 1st, the newly established Choctaw County Library System had its grand opening and ribbon cutting ceremony. This new system was established by the Board of Supervisors of Choctaw County on November 20th, 2017. A dedicated group of five library Board of Trustee members went to work re-opening their local library in Ackerman. Through the support of their Board of Supervisors, the Mississippi Library Commission, and contracted assistance from the Neshoba County Public Library, the Choctaw County Library was able to open its doors in record time.

With a population just shy of 1,500, the turnout for this grand opening in Ackerman was outstanding. People flooded the interior of the library to sign up for library cards. Children indulged in an ice cream tasting competition, voting for their favorite flavor. Friends of the Library sold discarded materials and signed up new members as well. One member of the Board of Supervisors grilled hamburgers for attendees with new library cards. With fun activities for children and live music for adults, it was no wonder that parking was scarce and the news media was on hand to celebrate the ribbon cutting.

This small event highlights the importance of public libraries to many of Mississippi's small rural communities. The Choctaw County Library will be the community hub for the residents of Ackerman and the rest of Choctaw County. All of the state's libraries bring communities together and remind our citizens why Mississippi is called the "hospitality state."



# Inside the Agency

## MLC Hosts "Summer Reading Kickoff"

With encouragement from new agency Executive Director Hulen Bivins, MLC hosted its first Summer Reading Kickoff event on June 7th. Along with partners Mississippi Public Broadcasting, the Mississippi Children's Museum, the Mississippi Light Collaborative, and area libraries, including Jackson/Hinds Library System, Madison County Library System, and Central Mississippi Library System, it was an exceptionally fun day for all of the children and adults in attendance. There were some very special storytime readers, including First Lady Deborah Bryant, Jackson's First Lady Ebony Lumumba, State Senator John Horhn, MPB's Keri Horn, Representative Debra Gibbs, and Representative Adrienne Wooten. Inky the Clown and the City of Jackson Fire Department were on hand to add to the fun.



Ally Mellon, MLC's Information Services Director, was chosen to participate in the Library Freedom Institute that aims to turn librarians into Privacy Advocates. With over 70 applicants, Mellon was one of only 14 who were selected. By teaching librarians about surveillance threats, as well as privacy rights and responsibilities, the Library Freedom Project hopes to create a privacy-centric paradigm shift in libraries and the communities they serve.

# Welcome to Library Development!

The Mississippi Library Commission has welcomed two new additions to consulting services: Shellie Zeigler and Charlie Simpkins.

Shellie Zeigler has been with MLC for six years as Director of Talking Book Services. She has a strong background in public library work and her passion for working with library policy and directors has driven her desire to become a consultant. Along with her professional background, Ms. Zeigler also frequents her own local library and carries a deep understanding of the perspectives and needs of both patrons and library staff. She is a strong advocate for adult and senior library services, which she will also focus on in her position as Library Consultant.

Charlie Simpkins came to MLC after serving as Branch Manager at Northwest Point Reservoir Library in Brandon. As MLC's new Digital Consultant, Mr. Simpkins looks forward to helping libraries and patrons meet their digital information needs. He holds a BA in Elementary Education from Mississippi College, over five years of formal teaching experience, and is currently completing his Master's in Library Science degree at the University of Southern Mississippi.



## Art in the Library - A Perspective of People

Currently in the gallery at MLC, we are featuring the work of photographers James Patterson and Dominic Lippillo and painter Alex Bostic. These Mississippi Arts Commission visual arts fellowship recipients' work will be exhibited until June 28th, so be sure to stop in to see the pieces of these amazingly talented artists. The upcoming show, which will run July and August, promises to be filled with some talented ladies!



### A PERSPECTIVE OF PEOPLE

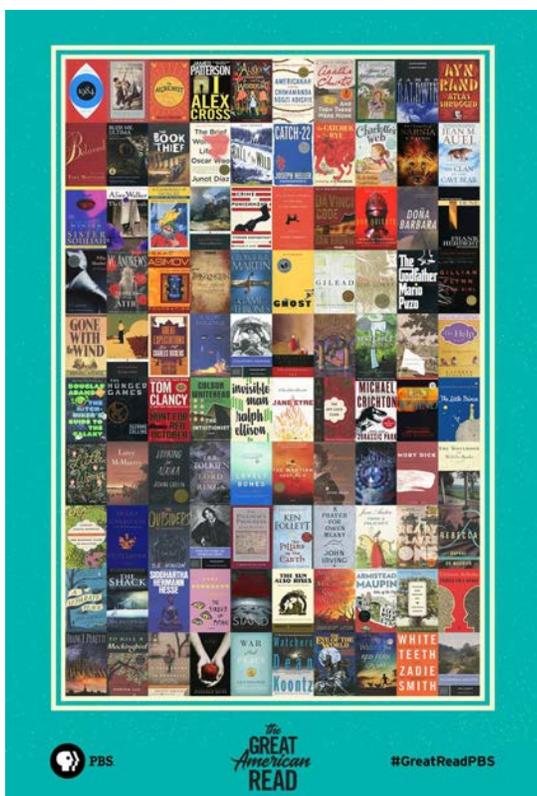
at the Mississippi Library Commission - 3881 Eastwood Drive - Jackson, MS 39211  
Show runs through June 28, 2018 - Mon-Fri 8:00am to 5:00pm (closed state holidays)  
601.432.4111 - [www.mlc.lib.ms.us](http://www.mlc.lib.ms.us)

Public Reception - Tuesday, June 5th - 5:00pm to 7:00pm



# Technology Services Update

Technology Services staff have been providing diligent customer service all across the state. Almost 100 help desk tickets were resolved and multiple site visits were made to resolve technology-related issues. It is the goal of this department to create as many cost saving opportunities for libraries as possible. The Office 365 migration efforts continue by completing two or three migrations most months. These have expanded to include pre-migration site visits. Onsite or remote migration processes followed by end user training are also available, resulting in a smoother and faster migration transition. Additionally, Technology Services is partnering with MSU Extension Services to offer a variety of software training classes in support of the Tech Academy and in response to individual library requests. The Personal Computer Troubleshooting class has been very popular, providing lots of hands on interaction. MLC continues to encourage libraries to take advantage of this training and the other services offered through our Technology Services Division.



## The Great American Read

MLC is proud to partner with Mississippi Public Broadcasting for the Great American Read on PBS! Check out the 100 books that made the list of America's most-loved novels and follow along to vote for your favorites: [pbs.org/greatamericanread](https://pbs.org/greatamericanread)

Join in on the fun all summer long on MLC's social media platforms for all sorts of clever content about the booklist and be a part of our special Mississippi booklist featuring our state's authors and books for our companion program, the Great Mississippi Read: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/greatreadms>

# Charting a Course for Success

## *MLC Continuing Education Offerings for FY19*

The continuing education program is an important part of MLC's services to the public library community. Each year, we provide a skills development program with training opportunities in both traditional and emerging library services. The theme for this year's catalog is "Charting a Course for Success." The Library Development department has been working to put together a diverse selection of continuing education offerings for the upcoming fiscal year. Selections include annual events like Librarianship 101, LSTA grant training, and Directors' Symposium. We are expanding and modifying successful programs from last year's catalog, too. These include Technology Academy, with a focus on computer trouble shooting and website training for front line library staff and a webinar on American Sign language for librarians.

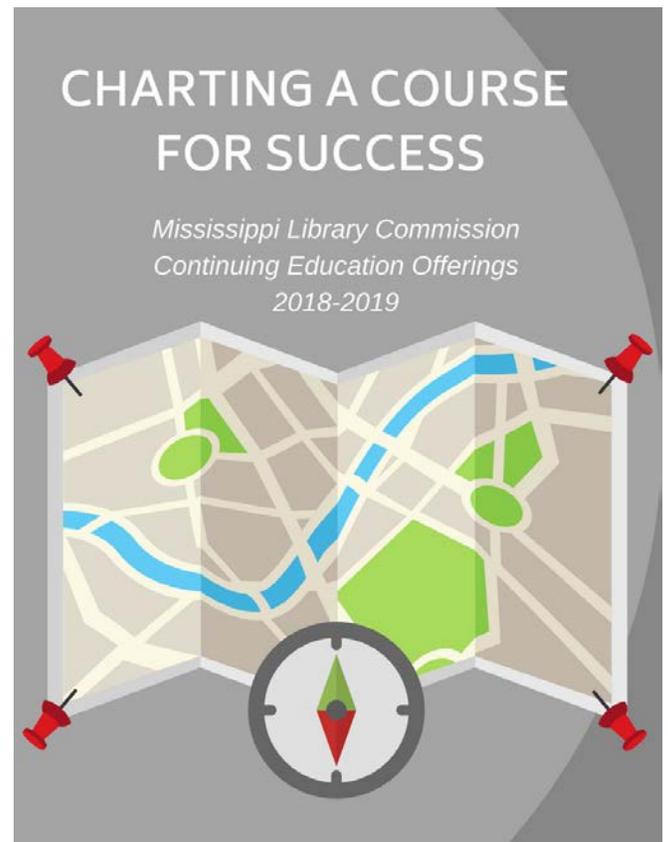
Taking advantage of our staffs' strengths, our Continuing Education Coordinator Natalie Dunaway will host a three-part webinar series focused on English as a Second Language. These webinars will provide an introductory look at hosting English as a Second Language (ESL) courses at local libraries. The ESL Series will discuss how to achieve efficient communication in everyday scenarios and provide the key components for an effective ESL course.

Another area that the Library Development department wanted to expand upon was its offerings for youth services staff. Modeled after the successful Librarianship 101 program, MLC is offering Youth Services 101. This multi-day workshop will have sessions tailored for

youth services staff and those aspiring to focus on youth services in their home libraries. Our goal with this workshop is to train more youth services librarians to help improve the lives of children across Mississippi.

These are just a few of the offerings you can anticipate to see in the upcoming Continuing Education catalog. It will hit your inbox in July 2018!

If you have any questions about Continuing Education, please contact Natalie Dunaway (601-432-4057).



# Mississippi Library Directors On the Move.....

- Josh Haidet, (formerly of East MS Regional Library System) Director of Mid-Mississippi Regional Library System
- Matt Gully, (formerly of Copiah-Jefferson Regional Library System) Director of East Mississippi Regional Library System
- Jennifer Baxter, (formerly of Jackson George Regional Library System) Director of Hancock County Library System
- Sarah Crisler-Ruskey, (formerly of Carnegie Public Library) Director of Harrison County Library System
- Meredith Wickham, (formerly of Kemper-Newton Regional Library System) Director of First Regional Library System
- Sidney Cobb, Director of Humphrey County Library System
- Hannah Berryhill, Director of Kemper-Newton Regional Library System
- Denise Saucier, Director of Long Beach Public Library
- Cristin Henson, Director of Choctaw County Library System
- Sissy Bullock, Director of Union County Library System
- Cheri Godwin, Director of Pine Forest Regional Library System
- Roshella Cole, Director of Tallahatchie County Library System

## Grant Opportunities for Libraries

### VERIZON COMMUNITY GRANTS

Verizon's Community Grant funding priorities are STEM education for K-12 youth and domestic violence education and prevention for youth, women, and older adults. Applications are by invitation only, so you'll need to contact your local Verizon community relations manager. Find their contact information and learn more about their grant program at: <https://www.verizon.com/about/responsibility/giving-and-grants>

### WALMART COMMUNITY GRANT PROGRAM

Walmart awards community grants ranging from \$250 to \$5,000 to K-12 schools, government entities, and other non-profits. One of their eight funding areas is education and they're seeking to support the provision of afterschool enrichment, tutoring, and vocational training for low-income individuals and families. Discover more about the program and apply at: <http://giving.walmart.com/apply-for-grants/local-giving>

### SONY GRANTS

Sony focuses its charitable giving on arts, culture, technology and the environment, with a particular emphasis on education in each of those areas. Sony seeks to apply its financial, technological, and human resources to the encouragement of the creative, artistic, technical, and scientific skills required of tomorrow's workforce. For more information, see:

[https://www.sony.com/en\\_us/SCA/social-responsibility/giving-guidelines.html](https://www.sony.com/en_us/SCA/social-responsibility/giving-guidelines.html)



Mark Your  
Calendar for....

# Snapshot Day! August 3, 2018

MLC wants to know what Mississippi libraries do on a typical day! Make plans now to send us photos of staff and/or patrons in the library. More information to come but mark your calendars now!

## MLC Calendar

### JUNE

Universal Design: What's That? (webinar)  
21-26 ALA Summer Conference - NOLA

### JULY

4 Holiday - Agency Closed  
24 MLC Board of Commissioners Meeting

### AUGUST

3 Snapshot Day!  
16-17 Public Library Director's Meeting - MLC  
18 Mississippi Book Festival

### SEPTEMBER

3 Holiday - Agency Closed  
25 MLC Board of Commissioners Meeting

## About MLC

3881 Eastwood Drive  
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Hulen Bivins  
Executive Director

Board of Commissioners  
Janet Armour, Tupelo  
Jolee Hussey, Oxford  
Ann Marsh, Brandon  
Suzanne Poynor, Florence  
Pamela Pridgen, Seminary

Connect with the Mississippi Library Commission



Susan Liles

Editor ~ *On the Same Page*



The Mississippi Library Commission was established in 1926 to ensure 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.

MLC strives to strengthen and enhance library services for all Mississippians.

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