

# on the same page



mississippi library commission

spring 2019

## Past and Present

Hulen E. Bivins, Executive Director

Since time immemorial, the role of the library has been to gather, store and safeguard knowledge and the role of the librarian has been to steward that knowledge and help people find and make good use of it.

In just a few days, America's more than 12,000 public libraries shall celebrate National Library Week, which is an annual opportunity to showcase many of the myriad activities that happen in local public libraries. A few weeks later, these same libraries shall kick off Summer Reading Programs. Both events reflect favorably upon the development of libraries over the most recent past. Also, these two actions illustrate consistency in the services rendered by public libraries to their users.

With the ever expanding technological and social changes that have taken place in recent years, the services rendered by public libraries have been evolving. Change has been accomplished which is in some ways subtle, while at other times, quite expansive. Subtle changes might be seen in the services provided to young children in popular story-time programs while expansive changes can be noted in coding classes, maker space robots, gaming programs, computer applications, and electronic databases which provide equal access to information for both the rural and the urban library user.

Reflective of how some things remain the same while concurrently changing quickly is who and what the public library employee is. Today, the public library's workforce consists of multiple generations with widely differing values and capacities. As the large percentage of baby-boomer librarians retire, the field of librarians is left increasingly wide open to a new generation of library professionals who reinvent traditional librarian skill sets with their work tasks that expand and embrace many changes. Certainly, for some senior librarians, they are now using skills that help them work productively in an environment very different from the one in which they signed up to participate, while generation X librarians continue to embrace those new skills needed in their reinvented roles.

Continued....

Just as librarians evolve and reinvent themselves taking on new roles and transforming old ones, a host of new and enhanced skills present themselves as necessary for public libraries to be successful. These include the skill to facilitate the creation of content in addition to curation, the ability to collaborate and partner across the boundaries of cultures, disciplines and world views, entrepreneurial skills, and the skills of negotiation, advocacy and outreach.

Moving forward, librarians must be flexible, adaptable, always learning, willing to reinvent what they do, and able to coordinate with others to invent and try new things. They must become comfortable with failure and view it as part of the learning process. They need to work well in autonomous teams, to have the skill to lead when appropriate and to support others in leading when it is their turn and they must go out into our communities to assess the changing needs of our citizenry and to work with them to create new products and services to address those needs.

Some forecasts a few years ago suggested that libraries would be rendered unable to meet the needs of the populace due to the new, rapidly changing technologies and library user demand. Looking to National Library Week 2019, nothing could be further from the truth. Indeed, knowledge is now easier to acquire than ever before and the source of much of that knowledge is found in the services that are provided as an everyday occurrence at a library by the public librarian.

## Congratulations!

After twenty-two years of service to the Meridian-Lauderdale County Library and the Kemper-Newton Regional Library System, Barbara Gough is retiring!

MLC Executive Director Hulen Bivins and Library Services Director Lacy Ellinwood traveled to Meridian on Thursday, March 14th, to attend a celebration for Barbara. Join us in wishing all the best to this dedicated library director.



# Library Day at the Capitol

On Tuesday, March 12th, librarians and library supporters from across the state gathered on the First Floor Rotunda and hallways at the Mississippi State Capitol to advocate for public libraries. Over 200 supporters attended and members of the legislature stopped to listen to what advocates had to say. It was a great day - many, many thanks to those who participated. Libraries are a passport to knowledge!



# The Power of Support Sharkey-Issaquena County Library

Rolling Fork is a Delta town with a population of about 2,500 people. The community hosts two annual festivals each year: the Deep Delta Blues Fest in the spring and the Great Delta Bear Affair in October. The members of the community are a tight-knit group who not only support these festivals, but support their library, too! Their Friends group periodically sponsors a "Memorial Bricks" fundraiser to raise money for the library. These courtyard bricks are engraved in honor/memory of someone. It has proven to be an easy way to raise funds to help the library and provides a lasting tribute to those honored.

The Friends recently sponsored a very successful t-shirt fundraiser to raise money for an Entergy LED lighting project which will create better and more efficient lighting in the library. The library also has the support of the local Garden Club; they maintain the library courtyards and local individuals use their personal equipment to power wash the engraved bricks. If a patron sees something that needs to be done, they offer to make it happen. That is the definition of supportive patrons!



# Romance Reading Challenge

## Tombigbee Regional Library System

Back in February, the Bryan Public Library in West Point put a little romance in the hands of their patrons! Librarian Priscilla Ivy sponsored a "Romance Reading Challenge". Priscilla decided that since so many people never venture outside their comfort zone when it comes to the books they choose to read, she would challenge patrons to discover what else is out there. She set up a discussion group and everyone shared ideas of new and exciting reading opportunities.

Many of the library's young patrons started their journey to reading with the romance series *Twilight* by Stephanie Meyer. This led to a whole new group of excited readers in the Bryan Public Library.

Priscilla thinks that romance books take people away from their everyday life. The books allow the reader to be somewhere amazing. She loves romance novels with a historical backdrop and she enjoys picturing the Victorian dresses and other things in the time period of a book. She says it's like stepping back in time.

Those who took part in the challenge were entered to win an autographed copy of *An Extraordinary Union* by Alyssa Cole that was donated by their MLC consultant, Louisa Whitfield-Smith. Congratulations to the winner of the challenge, Dominique Rhoden!



# Mississippi Star Libraries

MLC recently named 12 public library systems as Mississippi Library Stars for FY 2017. Mississippi Library Stars were awarded to the best-scoring libraries in the state, recognizing the three highest-scoring library systems in each of four categories. Mississippi Library Stars were awarded to the following libraries for their performance in Fiscal Year 2017 (October 1, 2016-September 30, 2017). Congratulations to all!

## Level I

Sharkey-Issaquena County Library  
Union County Library System (not pictured)  
Carroll County Public Library System (not pictured)



## Level II

Carnegie Public Library of Clarksdale & Coahoma County  
East Mississippi Regional Library  
Waynesboro-Wayne County Library System



## Level III

Sunflower County Library System (not pictured)  
Columbus-Lowndes Public Library System  
Lincoln Lawrence Franklin Regional Library System



## Level IV

The Library of Hattiesburg, Petal & Forrest County  
Jackson-George Regional Library System  
Central Mississippi Regional Library System



# Opportunities For Libraries

## EZRA JACK KEATS MINI-GRANTS DEADLINE: MARCH 31

The Ezra Jack Keats Foundation is offering awards of up to \$500 for public school and libraries to implement creative and innovative programs that foster creative expression, working together, and interaction with a diverse community. The proposed programs must be supported solely by the Ezra Jack Keats Foundation. See: <https://www.ezra-jack-keats.org/section/ezra-jack-keats-mini-grant-program-for-public-libraries-public-schools/>

## BETTER WORLD BOOKS LITERACY GRANT FOR LIBRARIES

Better World Books is looking for libraries and nonprofit organizations with "Life Changing" ideas which help advance a compelling literacy project. Better World Books partners with thousands of libraries across the world. Their grants are intended to compile a wide range of projects and fund the ones that have the longest-lasting impact in their library or community. The maximum grant amount per project will be \$10,000. You can apply for a grant that is less than this amount.

Applications are open now. Deadline is by 11:59pm EST on April 30, 2019.

Link to the grant application: <https://s.surveymonkey.com/p65t5FjqU>

## W.K. KELLOGG FOUNDATION

The priority for the Kellogg Foundation is for their commitment to ensure that all children, families and communities - regardless of race or income - have opportunities to reach their full potential. For details visit: <https://www.wkkf.org/>

Some past grants (more information accessible at website):

- Assure that more Jackson preschoolers enter kindergarten ready to learn by piloting pre-kindergarten services and best practices to arrive at a city-wide definition of pre-kindergarten to share and implement across all early childhood education providers.
- Enhance teacher instruction and technology through a blended learning approach by increasing education technology and partnering with community libraries and museums.
- Strengthen reading proficiency and expand community services to build a strong foundation for long-term academic and economic success for children and families in Albion by providing general operating support.

## FOUNDATION FOR THE MID SOUTH

The main priorities of this foundation are education, health, communities, and wealth building ("We enable communities to develop solutions to better conditions and improve lives"). They focus their funding in Arkansas, Louisiana and Mississippi. <http://www.fndmidsouth.org/grants/>

## THE ANDREW MELLON FOUNDATION

The mission of the foundation is to endeavor to strengthen, promote, and, where necessary, defend the contributions of the humanities and the arts to human flourishing and to the well-being of diverse and democratic societies. <https://mellon.org/grants/grants-database/>

## GE FOUNDATION

This organization has funded grants in libraries that support programs designed to improve the equity and quality of K-12 public education through collaboration and innovation to ensure that young Special emphasis is directed toward preparing students for college and careers. [www.gefoundation.com](http://www.gefoundation.com)

# Inside the Commission

## Technology Department News

Welcome Sharmaine Frazier, State E-Rate Coordinator



Sharmaine started at MLC on March 1st and has hit the ground running! She moved here from Columbia, MS where she was a licensed realtor for eight years. She said she can already tell that MLC has a great group of employees and she appreciates how everyone works together to meet deadlines. She feels that libraries are filled with resources for everyone, most importantly access to books and technology. Because of her busy schedule, she listens to audio books. The last book she read was *The Christmas Sweater* by Glenn Beck. Join us in welcoming Sharmaine to MLC!

Technology Staff Visit Union County Library System



Technology staff members recently performed a network analysis at both New Albany and Myrtle locations in Union County. They examined the cabling infrastructure and mapped out key locations to place new equipment. They gathered information from library Director, Sissy Bullock, to be able to diagnose anything that could degrade the integrity of the libraries network.

They took an in-depth look at devices such as routers, switches, firewalls, and servers to determine whether the infrastructure could support their networking needs. They also took time to survey the area and test the range of wireless devices, such as Wireless Access Points and Mesh Wi-Fi systems. Technology staff were able to help set up a functioning system at the New Albany and Myrtle branches to ensure that they are running at their peak performance. Contact MLC's Help Desk if you need assistance, too!



# Reference Department News

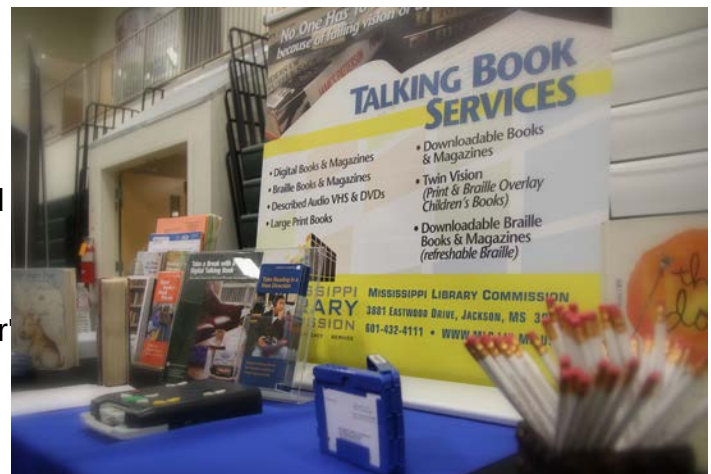
## Alex Brower Joins Reference Staff



Alex recently joined the reference staff here at MLC after receiving her bachelor's degree and MLIS from USM. She enjoys helping people find answers to their questions, making her the perfect person for this position! She is also interested in learning more about collection development. She has always loved libraries and reading, but being a librarian has given her a new and wonderful reason to love them. The fact that libraries are open to everyone is important to Alex. Her favorite book changes all the time but she is particularly fond of *The Hobbit* by J.R.R. Tolkien. Please welcome Alex to the MLC family!

## News from Talking Book Services

The Institute of Museum and Library Services recently released a blog post about all of the great services available through the Talking Books Program. MLC is honored to be a regional library for the Talking Book Program for the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped! Be sure to check out the link below to clear up any misconceptions about the service, such as it being only for the blind, having to have a doctor signature to sign up, or even that all the books come on cartridges through the mail. Find out all the scoop!



<https://www.ims.gov>

## Welcome Taraki Jones, Circulation Services Librarian

As Circulation Services Librarian for Talking Book Services, Taraki checks in and out digital books, braille books, and braille magazines that TBS patrons borrow and return. She started working at MLC two weeks ago and has already made positive changes in her department. One of Taraki's biggest passions is reading and one of her favorite authors is Debbie Macomber. She particularly enjoyed *The Way to a Man's Heart* and the Blossom Street series. She feels that libraries are nice, quiet places to take adventures and gain knowledge through print and audio books. When she's not reading, Taraki loves to knit. She jokingly adds, "Knitting is my life!"



# News from Library Development

## NEW KITS AVAILABLE!

Check out these new additions to MLC's special collections available for loan to libraries.



### littleBits Space Kits

- Collaboration between littleBits and NASA
- Includes 12 bits, used in 5 NASA lesson plans and 10 STEAM activities

### littleBits Droid Inventor Kits

- Over 20 missions and challenges in the required app
- Includes coding
- Requires Smart device



### Code & Go Robot Mouse Activity Set

- Turns coding into a hands-on analog activity for tactile and visual learners
- Program the sequence of steps, then watch Colby race to find the cheese!

### Travel Telescope with Backpack

- Includes Smartphone Eyepiece Adapter
- Includes a copy of *50 Things to See with a Small Telescope* by John A. Read



Contact Charlie Simpkins, MLC's Digital Consultant, for more information or to make a reservation:  
601-432-4498 or [csimpkins@mlc.lib.ms.us](mailto:csimpkins@mlc.lib.ms.us)



# Check out a Recent Episode of Mississippi Roads on Mississippi Public Broadcasting

A recent episode of Mississippi Roads involved three topics near and dear to MLC! The Mississippi Book Festival occupies the first segment and MLC is proud to be a participant and sponsor. This was followed up by our Library Services Director Tracy Carr talking about Mississippi's Little Free Libraries. In the final segment, our friends at Big House Books, an organization that provides books to Mississippi's incarcerated citizens, shares information about their mission. Check out the episode at the link below!

<https://video.mpbonline.org/video/book-load-of-fun-no8vki/>



## A Universe of Stories Summer Reading Kickoff

MLC is so excited to host our second "Summer Reading Kickoff" event to welcome the summer season! The theme for this year's program is "A Universe of Stories". Libraries across the state are gearing up to provide some "out of this world" activities for all ages.

MLC will kick off summer reading on April 25th from 9am to 11am with our partners, Mississippi Public Broadcasting, Mississippi Children's Museum, Central Mississippi Regional Library System, Jackson-Hinds Library System, and Madison County Library System. This is going to be one "spacey" day. Come join in the fun!

**SUMMER READING KICKOFF**  
Thursday, April 25, 2019  
9:00am to 11:00am

*Celebrity storytime, crafts, face painting, and loads of FUN!*

Mississippi Library Commission  
3881 Eastwood Drive  
Jackson, Mississippi 39211

For more information  
contact 601.432.4111

The theme of this year's public library Summer Reading Program is A UNIVERSE OF STORIES.



# Summit Awards Excellence in State Publications

The Mississippi Library Commission recently presented the inaugural Summit Awards to recognize excellence in state government publications. The three award categories were Best Serial in Print, Best Serial in Digital, and Best Monograph. Congratulations to the winners!



Best Serial in Print – Mississippi  
Public Broadcasting for  
*Fine Tuning*

Best Monograph  
Performance Evaluation and  
Expenditure Review for  
*2018 Impact Report*



Best Digital Serial  
Mississippi Department of  
Archives and History for  
*Mississippi History Now*





March	MLC Calendar
26	MLC Board Meeting
April	
7-13	National Library Week
9	National Library Worker Day
10	National Bookmobile Worker Day
11	Tech Academy - Wordpress
18	iPhone/iPad Filmmaking Class
26	Intellectual Property Week
29	State Holiday - Agency Closed
29	Children's Book Week
May	
3	Libraries & Privacy Workshop
15	Tech Academy-Troubleshooting

## About MLC

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Suzanne Poynor, Florence

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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