

on the same page



Mississippi Library Commission

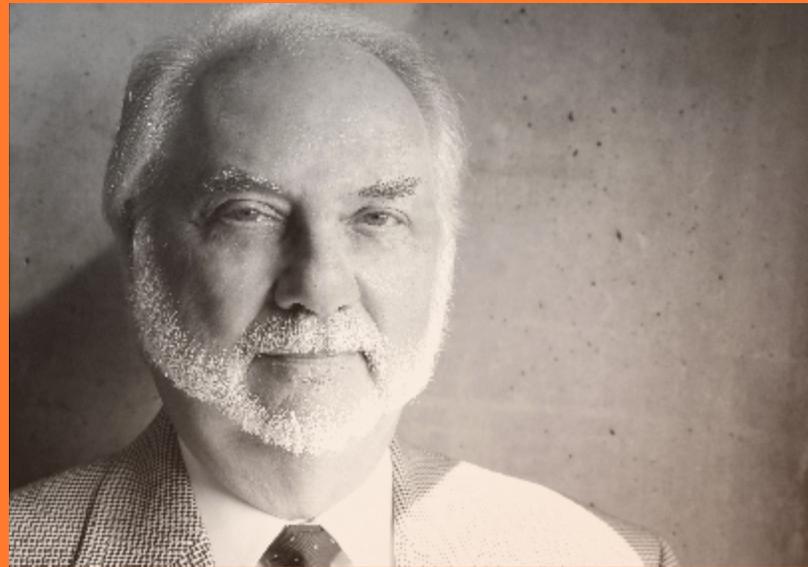
FALL 2020

Changes

by Hulen E. Bivins, Executive Director



United States Congressman Salvatore Phillip Bono, better known by the nickname of Sonny, in 1967 wrote and recorded, with his wife and singing partner Cher, a “Billboard Top 10” song titled “The Beat Goes On.” The general consensus is that the message of the song reminds everyone that “time continues to march onward” with little regard for events, fads, or whims. Certainly, for Mississippi’s public libraries in year 2020, the message cited by Sonny is very true.



In just the past week, issues associated with Hurricane Sally requiring both pre- and post- planning have been undertaken to protect our libraries. Additionally, our libraries have collectively labored to deal with a pandemic virus that continues to persist in our nation, our state, and our communities. The concern about how to best serve library patrons and, most especially, how to aid those engaged in “distance learning” within geographic areas that have slow or limited internet coverage has emerged as an ongoing challenge. Indeed, where we find ourselves presently in year 2020 bears little resemblance to where we were just one year ago. The issues of concern in 2019 have vanished as the beat goes on.



So, amid all the changes and challenges encountered, what lessons have we learned? Perhaps foremost, we have learned that every experience, whether good or bad, is a resource for us. Each experience acts as a teacher that provides information that is exactly tailored to us and our personal circumstances. Most definitely, we have learned not to concentrate on past mistakes because to do so will make us afraid of tomorrow; if we allow the fear of the repetition of our mistakes to be a driving force, we then shall be destined to be part of a failed past and not a part of a successful future.

Having faith that future successes start with the baby steps of our learning, we embrace countless frustrations recognizing that any pain felt in our decisions or actions are temporary because our persistence to achieve shall be rewarded. All of these components of change shall afford us opportunities to broaden the sphere of influence around ourselves – understanding how others enhance our learning and how we elevate their knowledge.

It is not only plausible, but probable, that everything shall continue to change. Expect next month to be different from this month and be assured that the year 2021 will be vastly different from this year. As Sonny said, “The beat goes on.” The public libraries of Mississippi must be ready for change. The citizens, young and old, of Mississippi depend on such readiness.

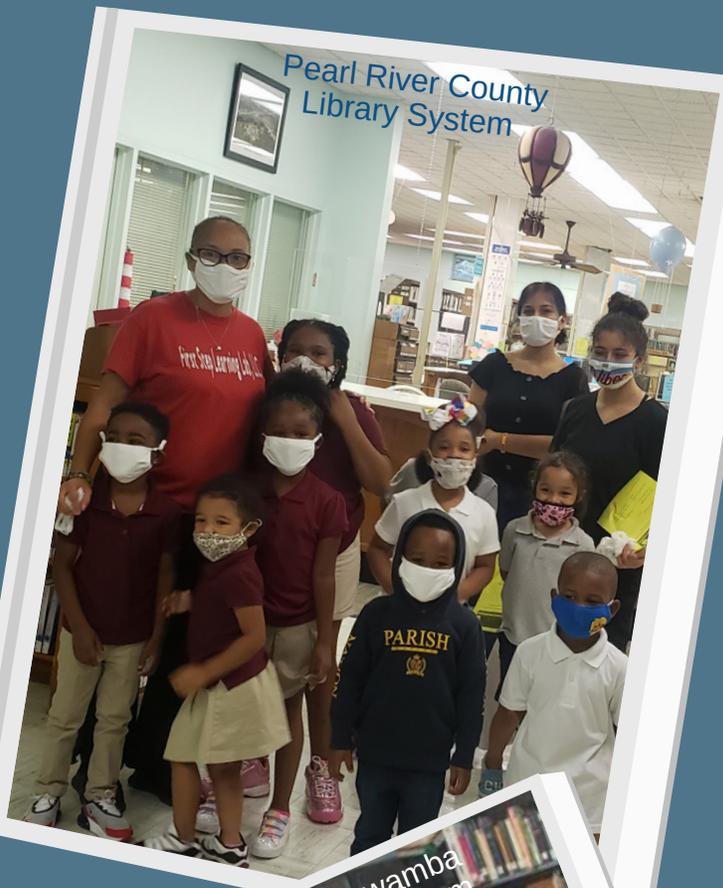


SNAPSHOT DAY

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF MISSISSIPPI LIBRARIES



Pearl River County Library System



Snapshot Day was held on **August 25, 2020**, with 44 libraries from 22 library systems participating.

These libraries served **12,272** patrons that day.

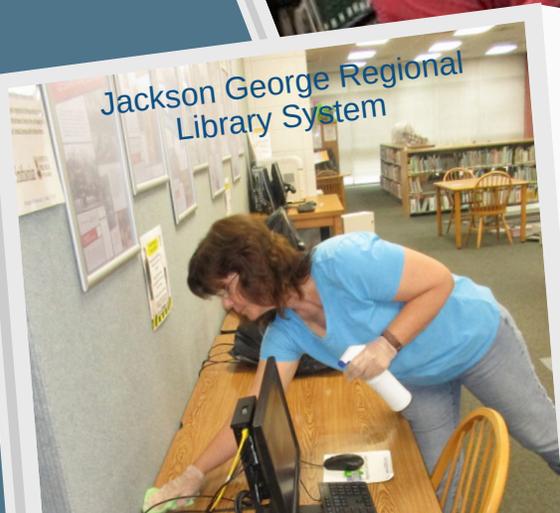
Each participating library submitted their day's information to the Library Commission and the totals were calculated. Additionally, participating libraries were asked to submit photos of what happened in their library on August 25th. It was amazing to see all the great photos of patrons who visited and took advantage of library services during a pandemic. It shows how relevant libraries are even during challenging times.

Lee-Itawamba Library System



These numbers represent a small number of Mississippi's public libraries ; imagine the totals if we were not in the middle of a pandemic!

Jackson George Regional Library System



Bolivar County Library System





Union County Library



Sharkey-Issaquena County Library



Pike-Amite-Walthall Library System



SNAPSHOT DAY
AUGUST 25, 2020
 A DAY IN THE LIFE OF MISSISSIPPI LIBRARIES

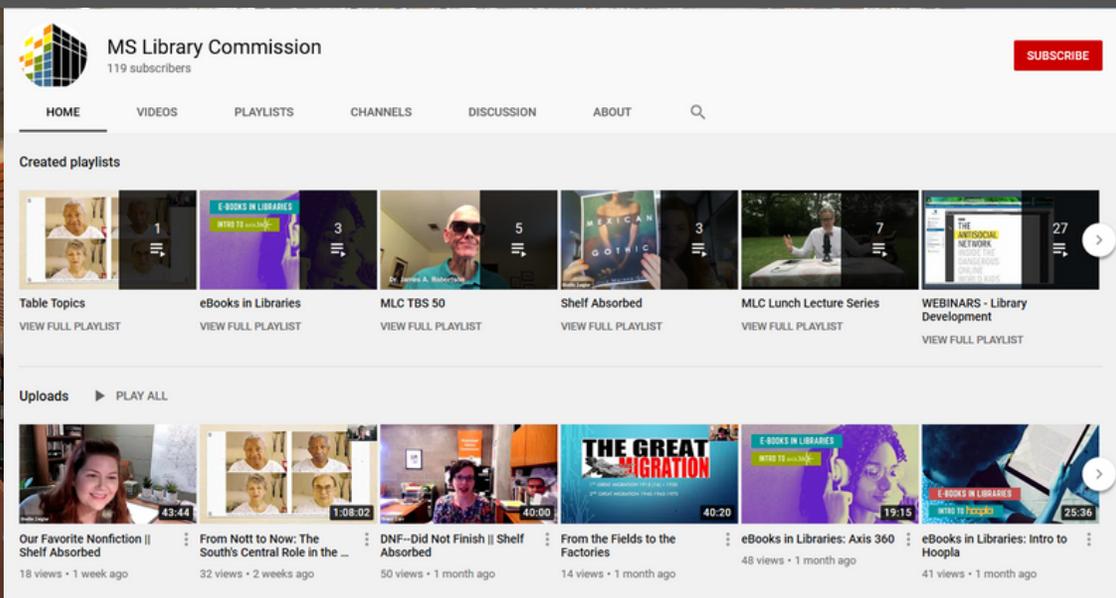


Library System	People Walked in and Curbside	Books Borrowed	Used Computers	Questions Answered	Social Media Visitors
Bolivar County Library System	94	81	59	34	59
Central Mississippi Regional Library System	9,640	860	1,800	3,260	23,297
Columbus-Lowndes Public Library System	275	318	54	75	25
Dixie Regional Library System	105	122	38	39	199
Elizabeth Jones Library	89	45	36	11	0
Jackson-George Library System	184	3,707	44	238	8,427
Jackson-Hinds Library System	345	162	102	182	688
Lee-Itawamba Library System	469	865	69	45	365
Long Beach Public Library	14	45	0	15	101
Madison County Library System	251	943	24	233	638
Marks-Quitman County Library	18	25	15	7	15
Meridian-Lauderdale County Library System	279	108	37	49	0
Northeast Regional Library System	79	243	5	34	482
Pearl River County Library System	52	54	23	24	21
Pike-Amite-Walthall Library System	70	65	15	85	39
Sharkey-Issaquena County Library	48	32	7	9	12
South Mississippi Public Library System	60	64	34	28	54
Sunflower Public Library System	40	105	13	2	414
Tallahatchie County Library System	18	0	8	5	180
Tombigbee Library System	7	50+	10	50+	0
Union County Library System	94	149	0	19	198
Yalobusha County Public Library System	41	21	0	15	267
Total	12,272	8,064	2,393	4,459	35,481

News & Opportunities For Libraries

MLC WEBINARS AND OPPORTUNITIES

There are a wealth of training opportunities available on MLC's YouTube channel! Broken up into categories, these short sessions can help you in the areas of administration and management, summer reading programs, and collection development. <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQ3sc0r86d2-cZ-NngizHRA>



GOOGLE AD GRANTS

This non-competitive grant opportunity through Google allows libraries and nonprofits to boost their viewership on Google searches through ads. The Google Ad Grants program gives \$10,000 a month to eligible entities to advertise their services. Libraries need a free account with both TechSoup and Google for Nonprofits to be eligible and they also need 501(c)(3) status. To learn more about this grant, see: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9002k78uhHI&feature=youtu.be>.

CELEBRATE TEENTOBER

Celebrate TeenTober this October by downloading the new digital poster and bookmark. TeenTober is a new initiative from the Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA) that encourages teens to visit their library in October to discover media in all forms, technology, games, STEAM activities, and more. Learn more at <http://www.ala.org/yalsa/teentober>



News & Opportunities For Libraries, cont.

CARNEGIE-WHITNEY AWARDS UP TO \$5,000 FOR GUIDES TO LIBRARY RESOURCES

The American Library Association Publishing Committee provides a grant of up to \$5,000 for the preparation of print or electronic reading lists, indexes or other guides to library resources that promote reading or the use of library resources at any type of library.

Funded projects have ranged from “A Resource Guide about Disabilities, Disability Theory, and Assistive Technologies” to “A Bibliography for Queer Teens” to “Graphic Novels & the Humanity of Mental Illness” to “Web Accessibility Resources for Libraries”.

Applications must be received by **November 2, 2020**. Recipients will be notified by February 2021.

For more information and guidelines, visit

<http://www.ala.org/offices/publishing/sundry/alapubawrds/carnegiwhitney> or contact Mary Jo Bolduc, Grant Administrator, American Library Association, 50 E. Huron Street, Chicago, IL 60611; e-mail: mbolduc@ala.org.

2021-2022 TEENS' TOP TEN BOOK GROUPS

Apply to Be a Teens' Top Ten Book Group

The application for the Teens' Top Ten book groups is open. The Teens' Top Ten is an ongoing project in which publishers of young adult books provide advanced reading copies of their recent titles to teen book discussion groups in libraries. In exchange, teen readers evaluate books for the publishers. Fifteen groups will be selected to fulfill a two year term, which takes place Jan. 2021 - Dec. 31, 2022.

Learn more and apply by **October 15** at

<http://www.ala.org/yalsa/teenreading/teenstopten/apply>.



Bad libraries build collections, good libraries build services,
great libraries build communities.
– R. David Lankes

Inside the Commission

News from Library Services

New Book Drop

MLC is proud to announce that we have a new book drop at the front of the building on the patio. While our patrons have been patient over the years and waited for us to open to return their books, our closure earlier this year really showed us how often an all-hours book return is needed. This pairs nicely with our new curbside service, which you can use by texting or calling 601-208-0868. We hope to see you (and your returned materials) soon!



Above, the new book drop at our front entrance.

Below, Katie Gill, preparing a podcast.

Stacks and Stories - the MLC Podcast

The podcast seeks to promote Mississippi libraries, authors, and librarians across the state, as well as to give a behind the scenes look at the inner workings of MLC. Previous episodes have focused on the Mississippi author Lewis Nordan, weird and wacky items found in MLC's collections, and the Noxubee Public Library, housed in an old county jail building.

The podcast also occasionally dips into a more general book talk as MLC staff chat about book clubs, books that make you cry, and general book recommendations. The podcast also features an audio-only format of MLC's Lunch Lecture and Table Topics series, where scholars give a Zoom presentation on a Mississippi-based aspect of history or culture.



Inside the Commission

News from Library Services, cont.



Meet Miranda Vaughn!

Miranda, who began working at MLC at the beginning of August, answers reference questions and conducts archival projects. She holds a bachelor's degree in history from the Mississippi University for Women and is currently a student at the University of Southern Mississippi, where she'll graduate this December with a master's degree in Library and Information Science with a graduate certificate in Archives and Special Collections.

Update from Tracy Carr, Library Services Director

Each week, MLC asks library directors to update us on their services. As information regarding safe practice changes, so too does a libraries ability to offer library services such as computer usage, programming and just coming into browse the shelves. The most recent survey showed that Mississippi's public libraries have adapted quickly to our new normal.

Of libraries that responded to the survey:

54% have at least one branch open to the public with no appointment needed

58% have time limits for patrons in building

83% offer interlibrary loan

89% offer curbside service

74% offer grab and go bags

67% provide some type of programming

83% offer computer use in the building

91% offer print/fax/scan service

Inside the Commission

News from Administrative Services

Meet Jennifer Todd!

Jennifer oversees MLC's Technology Services team and the day-to-day operations of the department, as well as planning, developing, and coordinating technology projects and initiatives for the agency.

Jennifer returns to MLC after four years at the Hinds Community College Learning Resource Center in Raymond.



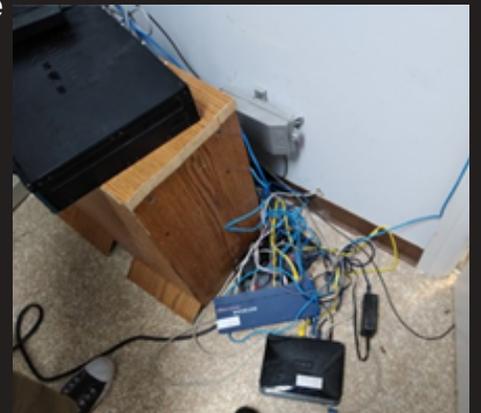
Network Services Activities

Technology Services has been quite busy with helpdesk service tickets, preparing for Contract 5000, and upgrading equipment.

In August, Yalobusha County Library Director dropped off a library computer for Technology Services to troubleshoot and get it running again.

A new email spam filtering appliance was installed and configured by Joseph Tew in the data center. Scott Higdon and Neil Machowski have been on the road assisting in installing computers, straightening wiring closets, setting up wifi, and conducting technology assessments. Technology assessments are used for libraries to know what they have, and what they may need to upgrade for future projects.

Before



After



Inside the Commission

News from Administrative Services, cont.

Contract 5000 is officially signed!

In the coming year, there will be many technology changes—all good changes with much higher speeds, updated phones and cabling. We are quite busy working on the details of how to make all this happen.

Soon, we will be providing public libraries with price options. These will be one-on-one calls so the discussion can be based solely on individual system needs.

If public libraries are currently using CSpire off the state contract, we will compare their pricing. If the contract price is less and a change is desired, we can help make that change.

One big change we are working on is firewall and filtering options. With the current state Contract 4000, these are bundled together and libraries only pay one price. In the new Contract 5000, they are split, which means circuit speed price is Category 1 and firewall price is Category 2. Filtering is not E-rate eligible.

Because of this change, libraries Category 2 funding is now very important. Category 2 funding is based on square footage. For those who have estimated square footage, we will help obtain correct numbers. All systems should be reporting the same numbers each year in the Public Libraries Survey to IMLS and in the USAC portal for E-rate. If a library is E-rate audited, there should be proof of how the library obtained the square footage number. While in a perfect world, this would be blueprints of library building, this may not be an option. We are now including measuring buildings in our Technology Assessments to help resolve this issue.

In addition to all of this, the phones that are on state Contract 4000 (if libraries are paying AT&T now) will expire in February 2022. Many libraries will likely choose to change to VoIP. Regula lines can still be maintained for analog fax machines, elevators, alarms, credit card machines and other specifics. Changing to VoIP combined with new faster broadband speeds will likely mean the cabling in the walls needs to be changed. This means a Category 2 cabling project, which must be included in the next filing.

In response to COVID-19, the Mississippi Library Commission continues to be closed to the public. Staff will still be working to assist patrons and libraries by phone, email and curbside service. Please follow us on social media for updates and news. Thank you for your support and stay well. Contact MLC at (601) 432-4111 or mslib@mlc.lib.ms.us for more information.

Be sure and check out our podcast, Stacks and Stories! Pod Squad members interview authors, talk with librarians, discuss books, and lots of other fun topics. Find it on iTunes, Google Podcasts and at stacksandstories.libsyn.com



MLC Calendar

October

13-15 **MLA Virtual Conference**

November

5-6 **PLD Meeting and Symposium**

11 **Veteran's Day - MLC Closed**

26-27 **Thanksgiving Holiday - MLC Closed**

December

24-25 **Christmas Holiday - MLC Closed**

About MLC

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Connect with the Mississippi Library Commission



Kristina Kelly, 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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