



Mississippi Library Commission

Winter 2021

Moving Forward

by Hulen E. Bivins, Executive Director

As we collectively enter the year 2021, there is a natural tendency for us to do an assessment of the year past and make observations concerning the new year. One observation would be that we must afford ourselves the luxury of changing our mind regarding issues. This was something continually required last year as the threat and effect of a pandemic virus increased among our communities requiring constant changes for public library services. And, as the months passed, we learned that worthwhile programs and services can take time to develop as there are often no easy solutions but, through cooperation, solutions can be found. Indeed, after ten months of dealing with the complications caused by the virus, our public libraries have created new ways to serve while making necessary modifications to traditional library services to better serve our patrons.

At the forefront of observations of the year past is the value of leadership. Among our public libraries, multiple styles were evident. There were autocratic leaders like **General George S. Patton** who, at the beginning of the pandemic, did not panic but rather encouraged others and led library staffs in providing quality library services while accomplishing library goals. There were leaders who, like **Winston Churchill**, influenced others through the power of personality and motivated others with actions that reflected a strong belief and determination that success could be achieved. Servant leadership, like the actions of **Mahatma Gandhi**, was seen in library leaders who have and still continue to focus on how they can help others, thus bringing value not only for just one community but, rather, the entire state.

Other leaders displayed talents like **Nelson Mandela** who refused the confines of traditional rules as they explored new ideas while still holding on to the foundations of old rules. This leadership provided self-worth among both public library employees and the communities they served. There were also leaders who saw value in the ability to delegate tasks. Like **Warren Buffett**, these leaders gave to others guidance and motivation as well as the tools and resources needed for accomplishment.

Continued...

Now, at the beginning of the new year, the pandemic continues to affect public library services and public library staffs. It is unknown how long the pandemic shall last. Also unknown are the new challenges that shall need to be solved in the work of “being there” for the public library patrons of our state. There is comfort, however, knowing the leadership of our state’s public libraries is firmly in place and that as a united group, this leadership, in its many forms, shall serve Mississippi well.



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.

Waynesboro-Wayne County Public Library Receives a Libraries Transforming Communities Grant

Waynesboro-Wayne County Library has been selected to receive a Libraries Transforming Communities (LTC): Focus on Small and Rural Libraries grant. The notice of the award was recently made by the American Library Association (ALA) which received more than 300 applications for the 200 available grants. The grant shall provide for 20 mobile hotspots and a Zoom business license.

Wi-Fi Services

Patrons with laptops or other compatible devices can use our free Wi-Fi service within the library.

Free to use with a WWCLS Library Card

A yellow callout box with a white border. Inside, there is a photograph of a person's hand pointing at a tablet screen. The screen displays a green background with a white Wi-Fi signal icon and the word "INTERNET". Below the photograph, the word "Wi-Fi Services" is written in bold. At the bottom of the box, there is smaller text: "Patrons with laptops or other compatible devices can use our free Wi-Fi service within the library." and "Free to use with a WWCLS Library Card".

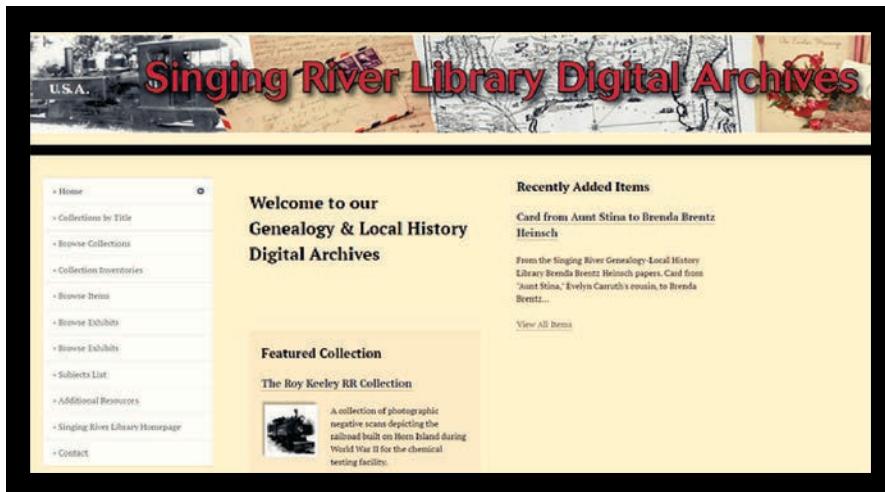
"These are the times in which a genius would wish to live. It is not in the still calm of life, or the repose of a pacific station, that great characters are formed. The habits of a vigorous mind are formed in contending with difficulties."

Great necessities call out great virtues.

When a mind is raised, and animated by scenes that engage the heart, then those qualities which would otherwise lay dormant, wake into life and form the character of the hero and the statesman."— Abigail Adams

Singing River Library receives 2020 Cultural Heritage Award

The Singing River Genealogy and Local History Library, located within the Pascagoula Public Library, was recently the recipient of the 2020 Cultural Heritage Digitization Award offered annually by the Mississippi Digital Library (MDL), in conjunction with partners from across the state. The chosen collection is published electronically as part of the Mississippi Digital Library at the University of Southern Mississippi.



As the awardee of the 2020 Cultural Heritage Digitization Award, the Singing River Library received digitization services for materials highlighting Mississippi's international history and specialized training to continue to preserve and share the rich history of George and Jackson counties on the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

Northeast Regional Library is the Recipient of the 2021 Jane Smith Literacy Award

Northeast Regional's project, Suggested Family Activities (SFA), began as a way to create family literacy at home during COVID-19. The SFA program offers a variety of activities—arts and crafts, games, outdoor activities, STEM experiments, community engagement, or cooking—to build early literacy skills. Posting was done daily during the Summer Library Program, but the program's popularity ensured it continued with posting three days a week. No special materials are needed for the activities so more families can be reached and participate.



South Mississippi Regional Library Receives Reading Grant

Since being founded in 1919, Save the Children has worked in over 100 countries to give children a healthy start in life, the opportunity to learn, and protection from harm. Working in Mississippi since 1933, they began implementing evidence-based education programs in 2003 and currently serve almost 900 children in Marion County. The grant funds were awarded to promote literacy during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Supporting reading initiatives from June to August 2020, the grant enabled SMRLS to provide local children with free books, take home activity kits, and prizes for reading and participation. "We are grateful to have a partnership with Save the Children to serve the youth of our community," stated Library Director, Ryda Worthy. "They are truly committed to bettering the lives of our children, and we look forward to working with them on future projects."



Pictured are the children from SMRLS that won the prizes for Most Books Read (L) and Most Scavenger Hunt Items Found (R).



Ellisville Public Library has reopened for appointments

The Ellisville Public Library, part of Laurel-Jones County Library, has reopened for appointments after a suspension of service back in December for repairs and renovations. The local friends of the library sponsored refreshments for the reopening. The Mayor for Ellisville, the Chamber of Commerce, and local media outlets were in attendance to celebrate the reopening. Interim Director Carolyn Russell and the staff for the Ellisville Library welcomed the community to tour the facility.



News & Opportunities For Libraries

MLC WEBINARS AND WEBJUNCTION 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>

MARGARET MURRAY GRANT APPLICATION 2021

Application deadline: February 26, 2021

The purpose of the Margaret Murray Grant is to advance library programming and literacy for Mississippi public libraries through activities sponsored by local Friends of Mississippi Libraries chapters. Margaret Murray was a retired employee from the Mississippi Library Commission and served as the liaison to the state Friends. Margaret actively supported and encouraged local public libraries in Mississippi to establish Friends of the Library chapters.

Grant funds are earmarked for programming, collection development, and literacy activities. Funds are not intended for administrative or operational use. Grants for 2021 are \$500 and three chapters will be awarded. Successful applicants agree to match grant funds at the minimum of 10% (\$50.00) in financial support from the local Friends.

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScgRfOxkeYsYziK4R43qG2M9RrMN1MO7yoosJsy-x4278Wx-Q/viewform>

MHC AWARDS \$29,000 IN ANTI-RACISM READING SHELF GRANTS FOR PUBLIC LIBRARIES

The Mississippi Humanities Council (MHC) has approved \$29,000 in Anti-Racism Reading Shelf Grants for public library systems across the state. Ranging from \$750 for single branch systems to \$1,500 for larger multi-branch systems, these grants will help put books in over 150 public libraries in Mississippi.

In the response to the national conversation about systemic racism prompted by the murder of George Floyd and other incidents, the Mississippi Humanities Council created a special grant program to help Mississippi public libraries purchase books on the history of white supremacy and how to create a racially equitable society. Working with the Mississippi Library Commission and humanities scholars, the MHC compiled a suggested reading list of over 120 books for libraries to choose from.

View the full list here: <http://mshumanities.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Antiracism-Reading-Shelf-Book-List.pdf>

RURAL LIBRARY SERVICE & SOCIAL WELLBEING: TOOLS IN ACTION MICRO-GRANT

Deadline: February 13, 2021

To be eligible for this \$500 training, \$500 micro-implementation grant, you must be:

- a paid employee of a public library with a budget less than \$150,000 and service population less than 7,500;
- able to personally receive an honorarium of \$500 for time spent learning to use the resources, meeting with a Pathways to Wellbeing guide, and answering written and video recorded questions;
- able to work with your public library trustees for the library to receive and spend \$500 on social wellbeing related activities;
- want to make real long-lasting wellbeing improvements throughout the community through library service

This grant is part of an IMLS funded research grant on Rural Library Service and Social Wellbeing.

<https://rurallibraries.org/>

Application: <https://forms.gle/taVzqrru25GLar649>

FRIENDS MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL 2021 AND IRS 990 E-POSTCARD FILING

Deadline: May 15, 2021

It's that time of the year for the Friends to file their IRS 990 e-Postcards, and renew their membership with the Friends of Mississippi Libraries, Inc. Please remember to fill out the entire membership form. This is what I use to develop a list of emails to contact regarding any important Friends of the library business.

The Friends should NOT be charged for filing the [990 e-postcard at IRS.gov](#). There is no paper form. Remember that even if your Friends did not raise any money in 2020, the e-postcard still needs to be filed in order to remain in good standing with the state Friends and the IRS. If you need assistance, please contact Lacy Ellinwood at 601.432.4154.

LIBRARIES TRANSFORMING COMMUNITIES (LTC): FOCUS ON SMALL AND RURAL LIBRARIES (ROUND TWO)

Deadline: March 4, 2021

Award Notification Date: March 31, 2021

Libraries Transforming Communities (LTC): Focus on Small and Rural Libraries is an initiative of the American Library Association (ALA) that seeks to provide community engagement resources and opportunities specific to the needs of library workers serving small and rural communities

<http://www.ala.org/tools/librariestransform/libraries-transforming-communities/focusgrants>

ARSL IS SEEKING 30 APPLICANTS FOR PILOT LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

The Association for Rural and Small Libraries (ARSL) is now accepting applications for their pilot leadership institute, "Outstanding In Their Field." They are looking for 30 outstanding people who are currently working in rural and small libraries to join this special professional development opportunity.

This Leadership Institute is for accidental library leaders described as individuals who may not have a Masters in Library and Information Science and maybe not even a college degree. Applicants are required to work in a small and/or rural library and they are to be viewed as ready for further training to grow as library leaders. All participant travel, materials, and instructional expenses (worth approximately \$8000) are covered by a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). So, while there are no monetary costs for participants, they will outlay their time, consistent engagement, and dedication to growing themselves and others as leaders. Most desired are applicants representing a wide variety of communities representing groups that have been historically marginalized or excluded due to ethnicity, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, ability, economic background, educational attainment, and age. In the program, participants will undertake 18 months of online and in-person interactive sessions.

For application materials, see: <https://arsloutstanding.org/application/>

CASE ACT

The American Library Association has released information on the Copyright Alternative in Small-Claims Enforcement (CASE) Act. The CASE Act establishes a small claims court tribunal in the Copyright Office. State-run libraries and universities get a pass and are not subject to the infringement claims brought to this court as they can have a permanent "opt-out." This opt-out, however, does not apply to the users of state-run libraries, or faculty or students, or to public libraries (because they are generally run by local governments). Any entity can opt out just by declaring so within the time frame given. By opting out, any alleged infringer is saying, "If you want to sue me, you'll have to do so in a federal court where I have rights." The CASE Act has passed in the House of Representatives and has broad support in the Senate. You can read more about the CASE Act by going to <https://www.recreatecoalition.org/>.

WEYERHAEUSER GIVING FUND

This grant allows for funds to be used for multiple purposes. The application process opens in February (see the link to the site below). Libraries are eligible for multiple focus areas. Weyerhaeuser does not require that a facility be located geographically in your area for you to be eligible to apply; they just have to manage timberland in the county you serve. There are 38 counties listed on the Giving Fund site, under "Where We Give" (just click on "Mississippi").

<https://www.weyerhaeuser.com/company/values/citizenship/giving-fund/>

Summer Library Program

The people of Mississippi have faced a lot of difficult challenges over the past year between the COVID-19 epidemic, the radical changes in educational methods it caused, and increasing political and economic uncertainty. We have all been forced to acclimate, and our public libraries have done a fantastic job of thinking on their metaphorical feet and continuing to provide as many services as possible for patrons during these trying times.

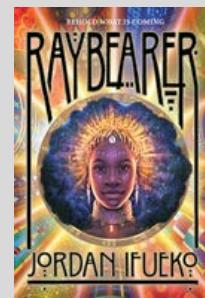
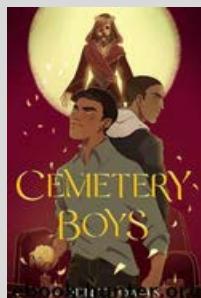
This year's Summer Library Program will be an example of these adaptations in practice. Libraries across Mississippi are working hard to combat the summer slide even without their traditional in-person programs and activities, as students can lose up to two months' worth of academic achievement when forced to go without access to learning opportunities during the summer, particularly those of lower-income households. Summer Library Programs keep children reading and building their vocabularies, motivate teens to expand their literacy and engage in age-appropriate activities, and provide adults with a fun, free avenue to explore their interests and meet people in their communities.

Though not every library system's program will look the same, many of them will share the theme of "Tails and Tales," with a focus on creatures great and small. You can look forward to tons of quality programming this year, from Grab-and-Go activity kits to virtual story times, crafts, games, and more for all ages.



YALSA RELEASES LIST OF 2021 BEST FICTION FOR YOUNG ADULTS

The full list consists of 85 titles selected from 124 official nominations, which were posted and discussed in blog posts on The Hub. From that list, and after receiving teen feedback during a virtual session in early January, the team created a short list of the top ten titles.
<http://www.ala.org/yalsa/2021-best-fiction-young-adults>



Inside the Commission

News from Talking Book Services

TBS attends NLS Virtual Conference

Talking Book Services (TBS) director Mary Rodgers Beal and Patron Services Manager Kristen Hillman attended the National Library Service (NLS) for the Blind and Print Disabled's virtual conference December 1-3, 2020. The biennial conference was held virtually for the first time although it was first planned to be held in Lincoln, Nebraska.

While at the conference, Mary Rodgers and Kristen learned more about what NLS is doing behind the scenes in Washington, DC, and what is to come for our TBS patrons.

There are new features coming to the Braille and Audio Reading Download (BARD) so that patrons will be able to download quicker, subscribe to magazines and book series from their own devices, and updated systems to work better with screen readers. Mary Rodgers and Kristen also were able to virtually interact with other NLS network librarians and toss around ideas with each other. Although meeting virtually was not as social as an in-person event would be, it was still informative to attend the conference this year.



We found Mary Rodgers and Kristen in the Screenshot of the conference!

Talking Book Services Welcomes New Staff Member



Meet Sebastian Murdoch!

Sebastian is MLC's newest Patron Services Librarian/Readers Advisor in the Talking Book Services Department.

"There are so many things libraries do for the community, and without them the world would feel like a much smaller, lonelier place."

Inside the Commission

News from Administrative Services



Our facility maintenance team recently repaired an unsightly and dangerous pothole that had formed in our parking lot. Many thanks to Josh Saxton and Brian McGee!



During December, MLC staff members collected food and other items needed by Community Animal Rescue & Adoption (CARA). Items were delivered before Christmas by Human Resource Director Robin Hedrick.



Bike Share System

This is a service in which bicycles are made available for shared use to individuals on a short term basis. They will be docked on-site and available for use by R&D campus employees during C3 Wellness hours.



There will be eight total bicycles on our campus. Five bicycles will be located on the courtyard side of the IHL building (Bike Share docked-style) and three bicycles will be located in front of the Mississippi Library Commission (individual bikes - not part of the Bike Share docked-style system). Bicycles at both locations will be available to all R&D campus employees.

MLC buries 2020 Time Capsule

January 28, 2021

During the year 2020, public libraries of Mississippi met numerous challenges by reinventing access to traditional sources of information and creating new avenues of service for their communities. The time capsule contains remembrances and items of how the problems were met.

We are putting 2020 in the past and look forward to the opportunities that 2021 brings.



The time capsule contains documents and memorabilia from libraries across the state.



The time capsule will be sealed for 20 years and marked with a commemorative plaque.



The complete ceremony can be found on our social media channels.

Be sure to tune in to MLC's podcast, Stacks and Stories! Pod Squad members interview authors, talk with librarians, and discuss books. Find it on iTunes, Google Podcasts and at stacksandstories.libsyn.com



MLC Calendar

February

4

Virtual Public Libraries Directors' Meeting

15

Holiday - MLC closed

March

23

Board of Commissioners Virtual Meeting

April

18-22

**National Library Week
State Holiday - MLC closed**

26

About MLC

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Hulen E. Bivins
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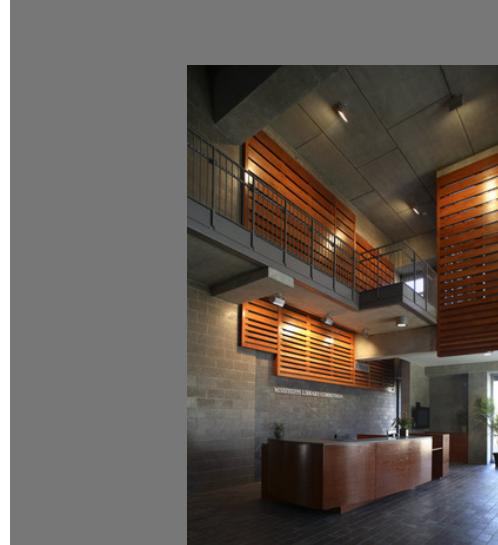
Board of Commissioners
Lori Barnes, Ocean Springs
Stephen Cunetto, Starkville
Jolee Hussey, Oxford
Ann Marsh, Brandon
Becky Wright, Banner

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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