

on the same page



Mississippi Library Commission

Summer 2021

It's Different Now...

by Hulen E. Bivins, Executive Director

Being “different” is okay and, in many cases, being different may be preferred.

Consider barbeque sauce. There are four basic styles in the U.S. Perhaps best known are the tomato sauces served either heavy or lightly. They contrast with other sauces that are either vinegar-based or mustard-based. With the four varieties, differences among the eating establishments are created. These differences may be a result of an adaption of circumstances or preferences in a particular geographic region. The tomato sauce of Aaron Frank's Barbecue in Austin (TX) is nothing like the sauce of Southern Soul on St. Simons Island (GA), Big Bob Gibson's Place (Decatur, AL), or Bar-B-Cutie in Nashville (TN). Some locations, serving different sauces, are not far apart as is the case with the mustard sauce of Sweatman's Barbecue in Holly Hill (SC) versus the vinegar sauce of Scott's joint in Hemingway (SC) – two places with differences within 90 miles of each other.

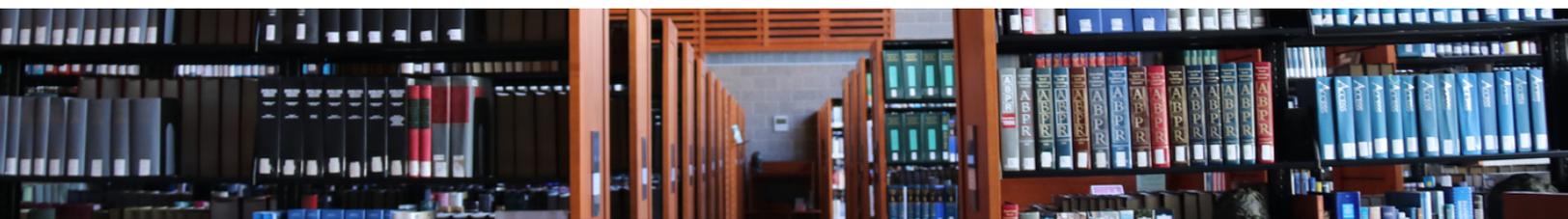
Changes, both drastic or subtle, may create differences. The barbecue style of Charlie Vergos' Rendezvous restaurant, in Memphis, has grown in popularity for more than 50 years with differences always developing to reflect the wants of their clientele. The resulting appeal and acclaim have attracted George Bush, Bill Clinton, and the Rolling Stones as diners. Yet, with differences, change may never appear, as is the case of My Mamma's BBQ in Riverview, FL (near Tampa) which proudly claims to serve pulled pork with a Tennessee sauce – just like Mamma's. So, while many changes have been made to meet different needs and circumstances, the result is Tennessee barbecue sauce in Florida.

In a way, the analysis of barbecue sauces and their restaurant's home locations can be related to our public libraries after a year of dealing with virus infections and safety protocols. During the year, many libraries invested both time and energy into social media platforms to stay in touch with their patrons. Facebook, Twitter, Snapchat, and Instagram let libraries tell the world what they had to offer. Podcasts became a media format enabling librarians to remain in contact with those in their communities. When the best action was to restrict the physical presence of patrons within the library walls, librarians offered curbside service, extended telephone reference, established book drop locations and, in some cases, provided home delivery. To aid families, libraries offered virtual children's programming and STEM activities.

Computers for usage were provided with hot spot connectivity to help families that the virus attempted to cut from society. E-books and the databases of MAGNOLIA were maintained to aid the distance learner and the homeschooled who had information needs. All of these efforts were made with a viewpoint that illustrated that the public library knew their public, they knew how to anticipate needs, and they knew how to fulfill those needs. For many public libraries, the changes were major differences; for some, the changes were not necessarily visible due to the community view that the libraries continued to serve just like they always had done.

In 2020, public libraries having varying sizes of both budget and facility developed varying programs. As librarians perceived how to provide “best value” solutions, both the needs and the desired wants of the local citizenry were fulfilled. It did not matter if the library was serving a rural or urban area, whether the library had a small or a large staff, or even if the library had strong support from local government. Bottom line: the tasks needing to be handled were accomplished. Viewed from a distance, the differences at every library may have been minor. A closer view, however, might illustrate the heavy work accomplished by library staffs often when the differences were not apparent.

Today, because of year 2020, there are, among the state’s public libraries, differences: more variety in our public libraries, greater resolve among our library workers, and a stronger perception regarding the important role the public library occupies in society as a whole and in their individual communities. Our public libraries have met the challenges put forward, embraced these challenges, and emerged with the differences in policy, procedure, and action needed to further the work they are dedicated to complete. Our new differences are the new norm. Let’s enjoy this!



The Mississippi Library Commission is fully open to the public.
We ask that masks be worn inside the building.
Curbside service and curbside book return is still available.

Contact MLC at (601) 432-4111
or mslib@mlc.lib.ms.us for more information.

Two Mississippi libraries selected for second round of *Libraries Transforming Communities (LTC): Focus on Small and Rural Libraries*.

The Pass Christian Public Library and the North Pontotoc High School Library will receive training in how to lead conversations through an ALA e-course on basic facilitation skills; host at least one conversation (in-person or virtual) with community members on a chosen topic; and receive \$3,000 to support community engagement efforts. Grant funds may cover a range of expenses, including staff time and collections and technology purchases.



A SPECIAL GRANT OPPORTUNITY FOR SMALL AND RURAL LIBRARIES

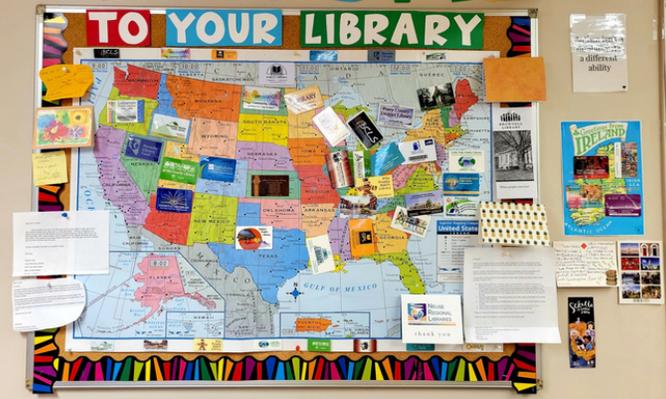
ala.org/LTCFocus

South Mississippi Regional Library Receives Save the Children Community Engagement Grant

The South Mississippi Regional Library System is pleased to be a recipient of a Save the Children Community Engagement grant in the amount of **\$20,000**. The grant will enable the Library to offer Summer Reading programs to children ages 5 and older in Marion and Jefferson Davis counties. The grant also funds a Kindergarten Readiness program, allowing the Library to host two parent workshops and distribute 300 Kindergarten Readiness kits to families with children entering Kindergarten in the next school year. Online coaching and additional free resources will be available for the families to aid them in preparing their children for Kindergarten.

WELCOME

TO YOUR LIBRARY



Stone County Library creates unique display of library cards from around the world

Borrowing an idea from the Teen Services Underground and Public Library Book Displays Facebook groups, branch manager Heather Patton created a unique display of library cards from across the country and around the world!

Tallahatchie Public Library Opens Mississippi Room

The Mississippi Room currently holds state memorabilia and works from Mississippi artists and authors. Key artifacts include the crest and commissioning pennants from the USS Tallahatchie County.

From left, Tallahatchie County Library Directory Angela Etheridge, and Charleston Rotary Club representatives Ken and Patti Gregory, show some of the USS Tallahatchie County memorabilia on display in the new “Mississippi Room” at the Tallahatchie County Library in Charleston.



News & Opportunities For Libraries

WALMART FOUNDATION COMMUNITY GRANT PROGRAM

Application deadline: December 31, 2021

The Community Grant Program awards grants ranging from \$250 to \$2,500 through every local facility (Walmart Stores, Sam's Clubs, and Logistics Facilities). Applications may be received anytime from February 1, 2021 until the deadline of Dec. 31. Eligible nonprofit organizations must directly benefit the service area of the facility from which they are requesting funding.

Eligibility

Organizations applying must meet one of the following criteria:

- An organization holding a current tax-exempt status under Section 501(c)(3), (4), (6) or (19) of the Internal Revenue Code.
- A recognized government entity: state, county, or city agency, including law enforcement or fire departments, that are requesting funds exclusively for public purposes;
- A K-12 public or private school, charter school, community/junior college, state/private college or university; or
- A church or other faith-based organization with a proposed project that benefits the community at large.

All grant applications are made subject to review of the organization's reputation and activities and its agreement to comply with applicable terms and conditions. Submission of an application does not guarantee funding. Funding exclusions include: organizations that deny service, membership or other involvement on the basis of race, religion, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, national origin, ancestry, citizenship, veteran, or disability status. <https://walmart.org/how-we-give/local-community-grants>

MONEY SMART -- TRAIN THE TRAINER WEBINAR

The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) is hosting Train the Trainer webinars for people interested in teaching a financial education program using free online resources.

People interested in these trainings will learn how to use the Money Smart financial education curriculum to help people enhance their money skills, create positive banking relationships and take control of their finances. To register, click <https://www.fdic.gov/consumers/consumer/moneysmart/training-and-events/> .

These webinars will be held:

Thursday, Sept. 9 (12:00 PM - 1:30 PM CT)

Thursday, Dec. 2 (12:00 PM - 1:30 PM CT)

For more information about the FDIC Money Smart program, go to [FDIC: Money Smart - A Financial Education Program](#)

PEGGY MAY SCHOLARSHIP

Deadline: August 31, 2021

The Peggy May/MLA Scholarship is designed to provide financial assistance for the education of individuals planning to be professional librarians, information specialists, or media specialists in academic, public, school or special libraries. The scholarship award of \$1000 will be made each spring to a qualified graduate student currently enrolled or officially admitted in the School of Library and Information Science at The University of Southern Mississippi. Both full-time and part-time students are eligible. This scholarship is made possible by an endowment fund administered by the Mississippi Library Association and awarded annually on a competitive basis by the MLA Scholarship Committee.

Apply at [Mississippi Library Association - Peggy May Scholarship](#)

LIBRARIES AND VETERANS FORUM

The Forum, which was rescheduled due to COVID, will be an online conference format for the safety of our participants. There is no cost to attend due to a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

Dates: September 13th - 24th, 2021 (no sessions on Sept 16th, 18th, or 19th)

Times: 10 am CST to 2:00 pm CST

Register at this link :[Registration Form Libraries and Veterans National Forum](#)

please visit our website: <https://veterans.libguides.com/> for more information.



Public Librarian Scholarship Recipients

MLC is thrilled to announce the return of the Public Librarian Scholarship Program (PLSP)! The PLSP provides financial aid to public librarians in Mississippi looking to pursue, or in the process of pursuing, a Master's in Library and Information Science. As of July 2021, the Library Commission has awarded five applicants from across the state by early August 2021.

Mandy Hornsby, from Harrison County Library System, Loraine Walker, from Starkville-Oktibbeha County Public Library System, Megan Miller, from Pearl River County Library System, Meridith Wulff, from First Regional Library System, and Cynthia Hudson, from Pine Forest Regional Library, will have up to three years to complete their degree under the scholarship. Awardees are required, upon completion, to continue work in a Mississippi public library for at least two years. The scholarship is an exciting opportunity for eligible applicants to further their education and experience in public librarianship. The scholarship opens for applications annually, so if you are interested in applying, please keep an eye out for the application window next year!



Mandy Hornsby



Loraine Walker



Meridith Wulff



Megan Miller



Cynthia Hudson

Inside the Commission

News from Talking Book Services

Mary Rodgers Beal recently sat down with Rebecca Turner, host of the Supertalk Mississippi radio show, *Good Things*. She shared information about Talking Book Services available to residents of Mississippi who are visually impaired.

Mary Rodgers was also named as the member-at-large for the Southern Conference of Libraries for the Blind and Print Disabled!



Talking Books also had a small write up in the July/August edition of Mississippi Magazine. Located in their "A Bit of Magnolia" section, it celebrated the 50+ years of providing services to the blind and visually impaired.



easy reading

Mississippi Talking Book Services, a program of the Mississippi Library Commission, is celebrating 50 years of providing free library service to blind and visually impaired Mississippians. Talking Book Services (T.B.S.) serves Mississippians who cannot read standard print, including the blind or visually impaired, physically disabled, or print disabled. T.B.S. provides digital audiobooks and magazines, large-print books, and braille materials directly to patrons.

"Since July 1970, Mississippians have had access to library materials in appropriate formats. As technology has changed, audiobooks have been sent out on vinyl record, cassette tape, and now digital cartridge," says Mary Rodgers Beal, Talking Book Services director. "T.B.S. will continue to adapt to

changes and to provide free reading material to our patrons in whatever formats come next." Beal adds, "We have over 2,500 patrons who receive braille and audiobooks and magazines. All of our materials can be sent through the mail, but there is also an opportunity for patrons to download books to their devices, such as smartphones or tablets. We are available for outreach events such as health fairs and service club meetings. We love to serve our patrons and help fulfill their reading wishes."-C.K.

New Staff Member - Technology Services



Meet Jason Walker

Meet Jason Walker, Systems Administrator at the Mississippi Library Commission! Jason is one of the helpful voices you hear when you call our Technology Services Help Desk. He also assists with the agency's website. Jason holds a Google Professional IT Support Specialist certificate and has a background in software development.

Inside the Commission

MLC Exhibits at the MS Association of Supervisor's '21 Conference

Ethel Dunn, Executive Support Director for Administrative Services, managed a booth at the Mississippi Association of Supervisors 92nd Annual Conference on June 14-17, 2021 in Biloxi, Mississippi. This was an excellent opportunity to discuss the value of libraries to the communities they serve and to encourage county supervisors to continue to support libraries. Supervisors were eager to brag on their local libraries.



News from MLC Operations



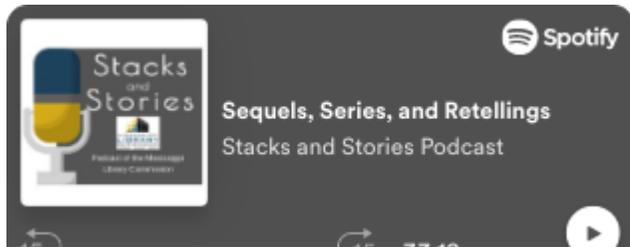
Several improvements are underway that concern the MLC building and property.

Staff members Josh Saxton and Brian Magee are working to repaint the lines in our parking lot. With the above average rainfall this summer, our team is slowly getting it done.

MLC is also undergoing the final restoration improvement to our roof. The improvements currently have our front door blocked for safety reasons as well as having our second floor patio closed. Please use the side entrance until further notice.



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, [Spotify](#) and at stacksandstories.libsyn.com



MLC Calendar

August

21 MS Book Festival

September

6 Labor Day - MLC Closed
28 Board of Commissioners Meeting

October

12-15 MS Library Association Conference

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.

The Mississippi Library Commission is committed --- through leadership, advocacy, and service --- to strengthening and enhancing libraries and library services for all Mississippians.

This publication is made possible in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the Grants to States Program as administered by the Mississippi Library Commission.