

Mississippi Libraries

Volume 86
Issue 1 *Spring 2023*

Article 1

2023

Mississippi Libraries 86(1) Spring 2023 (Full issue)

Follow this and additional works at: <https://aquila.usm.edu/ml>



Part of the [Archival Science Commons](#), [Cataloging and Metadata Commons](#), and the [Digital Humanities Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

(2023) "Mississippi Libraries 86(1) Spring 2023 (Full issue)," *Mississippi Libraries*: Vol. 86: Iss. 1, Article 1. Available at: <https://aquila.usm.edu/ml/vol86/iss1/1>

This Complete Issue is brought to you for free and open access by The Aquila Digital Community. It has been accepted for inclusion in Mississippi Libraries by an authorized editor of The Aquila Digital Community. For more information, please contact aquilastaff@usm.edu.



MISSISSIPPI LIBRARIES

A Quarterly Publication of the
Mississippi Library Association
©2023

ISSN 0194-388X

Editorial Staff

Editor

Hali Black
First year Experience Librarian
The University of Southern Mississippi
Hali.Black@usm.edu

Assistant Editor

Audrey Beach
Resource Librarian
Mississippi Delta Community College
ABeach@msdelta.edu

Copy Editor

Blair Booker
Distance Education & Instruction Librarian
Mississippi State University
bbooker@library.msstate.edu

Book Review Editor

Tori L. Hopper
Children's & Teen Services
& Programming Coordinator
Columbus-Lowndes Public Library System
thopper@lowndes.lib.ms.us

MLA Reporter

Janessa Ullendorf
Head of Circulation
Biloxi Public Library
j.ullendorf@harrison.lib.us.ms

Indexer

Brooke Gross
Research & Instruction Librarian
The University of Mississippi
btgross@olemiss.edu

Contents

President's Page.....	2
MLA Conference 2023 Announcement.....	3
Celebrating Jewish American History Month.....	4
<i>Adam Clemons</i>	
SLIS Notes.....	6
<i>Stacy Creel</i>	
News Briefs.....	8
People in the News.....	9
Book Reviews.....	10
<i>Motherland, Fatherland, Whateverland: Searching for Home</i>	
<i>Man on A Mission: James Meredith and the Battle of Ole Miss</i>	
<i>The King Falls</i>	

On the cover: *What's Up* by Lisa Ketchum of First Regional Library.

This photo was taken at the Memphis Botanic Gardens. A friend and I were there just shooting some pictures when we happened on this little group just chilling under a tree. I carefully laid down on my stomach, to get to their level and snapped this shot. It was a good day!

Mississippi Libraries is a quarterly, open access publication of the Mississippi Library Association (MLA). The articles, reports, and features herein represent viewpoints of their respective authors and are not necessarily the official options of the Association.

In order to assure the widest possible audience for the works published in *Mississippi Libraries*, the work is added, by contractual agreement, to one or more EBSCO Publishing databases. *Mississippi Libraries* is also indexed in *Library Literature* and *Information Science Abstracts*.

For more informaton, visit <http://misslib.org/publications>

2022 Executive Board**President**

Phillip Carter
 Director
 Starkville-Oktibbeha Public Library
 System

Vice-President

Ashley Dees
 Research & Instruction Librarian
 The University of Mississippi

Secretary

Tina Harry
 Catalog & Assistant Automation Librarian
 The University of Mississippi

Treasurer

Audrey Beach
 Resource Librarian
 MS Delta Community College

Immediate Past President

Stephen Parks
 State Librarian
 State Law Library of Mississippi

ALA Councilor

Amanda Clay Powers
 Dean of Library Services
 Fant Memorial Library

SELA Councilor

Sarah Mangrum
 Assistant Teaching Professor
 University of Southern Mississippi

Section Chairs

**Association of College and Research
 Libraries (ACRL) Section Chair**
 Danielle Terrell

Public Library Section Chair

Jamie Elston

School Library Section Chair

Miriam Garner

Special Libraries Section Chairs

Joyce Shaw

Trustees Section Chair

Rickey Jones

For more information, visit:

<http://misslib.org/Executive-Board>

President's Page

Please welcome our new MLA President- Phillip Carter. Phillip currently serves as the Library Director for the Starkville-Oktibbeha Public Library System, a role that administers and establishes procedures according to policies established by the administrative board of trustees in addition to overseeing employment of library staff, preparation of the budget, financial and statistical management, reporting to board of trustees, and other acts necessary for the orderly and efficient administration of the library system.

I hope you will join us in wishing Phillip a very successful term as President!



To contact Phillip, please email phillip@starkville.lib.ms.us or call 662-323-2766 ext. 7.

To join MLA, or to renew your membership:

<http://misslib.org/membership>

MLA Executive Board Minutes:

<http://misslib.org/page-1860584>



2023 MLA Conference

Supporting Our Communities

VICKSBURG CONVENTION CENTER

VICKSBURG, MS

OCTOBER 10-13, 2023

REGISTRATION - COMING SOON!

For any questions regarding registration, please contact [Selena Swink](#) and [Jennifer Todd](#)

GENERAL QUESTIONS?

Contact [Ashley S. Dees](#), MLA Vice-President, University of Mississippi Libraries

EXHIBITOR INFORMATION - COMING SOON!

Contact [Matt Gully](#), East Mississippi Regional Library System

PROGRAM PROPOSALS - SUBMIT PROPOSALS BY JUNE 15, 2023

<https://forms.gle/6h4r5DEutV48oRZj7>

For questions, contact Miriam Garner at mgarner@chickasaw.k12.ms.us

POSTER/LIGHTNING TALK PROPOSAL - SUBMIT PROPOSALS BY JUNE 15, 2023

<https://forms.gle/7guiMPB8M4Nj6ddu8>

For questions, contact [John Sanders](#)

MEETING SPACE REQUEST

<https://forms.gle/7zioVvNJDpcKdBqh9>

For questions, contact [Ashley S. Dees](#)

Celebrating Jewish American History Month

Acknowledging Jewish American Contributions to American Culture and Raising Awareness about the Persistence of Antisemitism in America

Adam Clemons

*Digital Humanities & Data Visualization Librarian
The University of Mississippi*

On April 20, 2006, President George W. Bush proclaimed May as Jewish American Heritage Month, a time to celebrate the more than 350-year history of Jewish contributions to American culture.¹ In spite of this important proclamation, antisemitic activity in America remains high. According to the Anti-Defamation League's Tracker of Antisemitic Incidents², there were 507 antisemitic events reported nationally in 2022, an all-time high which represents a 27.5% increase from incidents reported in 2021. With rising antisemitic activity across the country, celebrating Jewish American Heritage Month is more important than ever. As community centers, libraries across Mississippi should take time during the month of May to highlight the positive contributions of Jewish Americans while also raising awareness about the persistence of antisemitic thought and action in America.

CELEBRATING JEWISH AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

There are a number of simple ways libraries can celebrate Jewish American Heritage Month. Traditional

book displays that showcase Jewish authors, for instance, is a great way to highlight the cultural and creative contributions of Jewish Americans and encourage library patrons to learn more about the Jewish American experience. Depending on the size and scope of a library's collection, creating larger and more interactive exhibits showcasing the Jewish American experience is another way to celebrate Jewish contributions to American culture.

Building strong relationships with Jewish community organizations is another way to showcase the positive contributions of Jewish Americans. For instance, academic libraries should consider fostering relationships with Jewish student groups. The University of Mississippi Hillel group, for instance, provides Jewish religious, cultural, social, and service opportunities for the University and Oxford communities. Similarly, public libraries should consider building relationships with the Jewish communities in their areas. Local chapters of the Jewish Federation serve as hubs for local Jewish community life. Use the FED Finder³ to find a nearby Federation.

Building strong relationships with these groups can lead to additional public programming opportunities such as hosting public speakers and book talks. For more ideas about

celebrating the important achievements of Jewish Americans, several government agencies including the library of Congress and the National Archives and Records Administration along with the United States Holocaust Museum have jointly created a Jewish American Heritage Month website⁴ devoted to highlighting how Jewish Americans have contributed to the history, society, and culture of America.

RAISING AWARENESS THROUGH LIBRARY PROGRAMMING

Libraries are also well positioned to combat antisemitism through public programming that raises awareness about antisemitism as both a global and historical issue as well as a local and contemporary one. Some of the strategies mentioned already, including book displays and exhibits, are simple and

1. *Jewish American Heritage Month*. (2023) The Library of Congress. Retrieved March 31, 2023, from <https://www.jewishheritagemonth.gov/>

2. *ADL Tracker*. (2023). Anti-Defamation League. Retrieved March 31, 2023, from <https://www.adl.org/adl-tracker>

3. *Federation Finder*. (2023). The Jewish Federations of North America. Retrieved March 31, 2023, from <https://www.jewishfederations.org/federation-finder>

4. *Jewish American Heritage Month*. (2023). The Library of Congress. Retrieved March 31, 2023, from <https://www.jewishheritagemonth.gov/>

effective ways of raising awareness about antisemitism. For example, The University of Mississippi Libraries recently hosted *Americans and the Holocaust*⁵, a traveling exhibition from the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C. that examined the motives, pressures, and fears that shaped Americans' responses to Nazism, war, and genocide in Europe during the 1930s and 1940s. It challenged the common assumption that Americans knew very little about the Holocaust, and asked participants to consider not only "what would I have done" but also "what will I do" as antisemitism persists in communities across America.

Though hosting large-scale exhibits like *Americans and the Holocaust* may not be possible for many libraries across the state, the University of Mississippi Libraries' programming efforts to supplement the exhibit may be. The programming, which centered antisemitism as a local issue, featured a public lecture and teacher workshop by local experts as well as a film screening and display cases highlighting the John Rankin Collection. The public lecture explored the changes that the holocaust had on the disparate and often fractious Jewish communities throughout the American South. The teacher workshop promoted

reflection and critical thinking about the factors that shaped Americans' views about the holocaust and how to incorporate such lessons into classrooms. The film screening, *Defying the Nazis: The Sharpes' War*, highlighted the potential for individual action to stop hate and included a virtual question and answer session with Artemis Joukowsky, one of the films' directors. Additionally, two display cases highlighted the papers of John Rankin, a member of the U.S. House of Representatives for Mississippi from 1921-1953 most known for his inflammatory public statements, xenophobia, and anti-Jewish positions.

All of this programming challenged participants to see antisemitism as a local issue that persists in communities across America. To build on this, libraries of all types should challenge their communities to take action by hosting workshops that educate patrons about the importance of engaging with their elected officials about supporting legislation that combats antisemitism. In addition to public programming, there are a number of free resources that Mississippi libraries can use to confront antisemitism in their communities. For example, the Anti-Defamation League has created Resources to Address and Challenge Antisemitism⁶ and the

the Jewish Federation of Washington, D.C. has created Resources and Tools for Addressing Antisemitism, Intolerance, & Bias⁷, both of which include lesson plans, tools, strategies, reports, and backgrounders on antisemitism.

Public programming that celebrates Jewish American contributions to American culture as well as raises awareness about and encourages action against the persistence of antisemitism in communities across the state is great way to engage community members, many of whom may have limited exposure to the Jewish American experience. The examples and resources shared in this essay are just a few of the ways that libraries can achieve this, and there is no better time for this type of programming than Jewish American Heritage Month in May.

5. *Americans and the Holocaust Traveling Exhibition*. (2023) The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. Retrieved March 31, 2023, from <https://www.ushmm.org/information/exhibitions/traveling-exhibitions/americans-and-the-holocaust>

6. *Resources to Address and Challenge Antisemitism*. (2023). Anti-Defamation League. Retrieved March 31, 2023, from <https://www.adl.org/resources/tools-and-strategies/resources-address-and-challenge-antisemitism>

7. *Resources and Tools for Addressing Antisemitism, Intolerance, & Bias*. (2023). The Jewish Federation of Greater Washington Retrieved March 31, 2023, from <https://www.shalomdc.org/resources-and-tools-addressing-anti-semitism/>



To join MLA, or to renew your membership:

<http://misslib.org/membership>

2022 MLA Executive Board Minutes:

<http://misslib.org/page-1860584>

SLIS Notes

In the World of Information, We Need Librarians Trained in Research.

Stacy Creel

*Director & Associate Professor
School of Library and
Information Science (SLIS)
The University of Southern Mississippi*

MISINFORMATION

In a world of information, things have taken a dark turn with fake news, disinformation, misinformation, and more. Fake news “is an umbrella-term synonymous with disinformation, and it is the deliberate dissemination of distorted events, non-cross-referenced facts, or fabricated information that is spread online with the intent to mislead or deceive its target audience” (Rapti, Petridou, & Vergidis, 2022, p.2). Wardle defines misinformation as “false information,” malinformation as factual information dispersed to cause harm, and disinformation as false information dispersed with “malicious intent” (2019, p7). No matter how we define it, misinformation or disinformation is not an easy thing to spot as it is intentionally designed to appear as plausible, reputable information. Even though it happens in an online environment, it has real world implications (Rapti, Petridou, & Vergidis, 2022). Librarians have been combating this issue for decades through information literacy and later on through digital literacy.

INFORMATION LITERACY

“Information Literacy lies at the core of lifelong learning. It empowers people in all walks of life to seek,

evaluate, use and create information effectively to achieve their personal, social, occupational and educational goals. It is a basic human right in a digital world and promotes social inclusion of all nations” (Garner 2006; p. 3). Digital literacy, or “the ability to understand information and to evaluate and integrate information in multiple formats that the computer can deliver” is an important part of combating disinformation (Rapti, Petridou, & Vergidis, 2022, p.8). Information literacy—and its digital counterpart—are being taught in public libraries, schools, and universities across the nation as librarians try to teach customers to be discerning users and creators of information. An often-overlooked skill for librarians to have and to teach in combating disinformation is research literacy.

RESEARCH LITERACY

Research literacy is the ability to search for research, critically read research findings and conclusions, and to utilize research for making informed decisions. The ability to methodically gather data, examine it critically, and analyze it is a key skill for librarians and library professionals (Jakubec & Astle, 2021). Research literacy comes with understanding research methods, the literature review process, and asking critical questions of the research process and results.

Librarians need a firm grasp on research methods (Jakubec & Astle, 2021). Quantitative research

answering measurable questions and qualitative research looking through the lens of people, experiences, and exploration are basics in research. Even though producing research typically falls into the realm of academic librarians and special librarians, understanding these different types of research are necessary for critical assessment of studies in the literature. The literature review is an essential part of the research process—putting the current study into the timeline of the topic. Literature has to be found and evaluated for its contribution, and the pertinent findings and conclusions brought out. Librarians need to ask questions like, “What are the limitations? What are the flaws? Do the authors have the necessary credentials? Do they make unfounded leaps in their conclusions?” “Critical appraisal skills enable you to systematically access the credibility, integrity, relevance and results of published papers” (Jakubec & Astle, 2021, p. 70). How can librarians determine quality resources without a solid background and understanding in research? How can they find solid solutions if they are not reading through a research lens? The American Library Association (ALA) thinks that research literacy is important enough that it is one of the nine core competencies of all librarians.

ALA’S RESEARCH STANCE

The American Library Association has emphasized research as

a core competency for all types of librarians and as a component for accreditation for Library Science schools. The ALA Core Competencies (ALACCs) are intended to “reflect basic knowledge gained through LIS education, job on-boarding, and ongoing professional development early in a library career” (ALACC, 2022 para.1). The newly adopted ALA’s Core Competencies of Librarianship kept research as a component that all librarians should know stating the following:

Library professionals need to be able to discover, interpret, and generate research in relation to efforts that support their institutions, the profession, and/or their own professional development. Library professionals should be able to demonstrate a range of data, evidence, and research skills that include, but are not limited to, the application of research design and methods, and an understanding of methods of data analysis and application of research tools. Library professionals, regardless of their specific title and/or role, should have the foundational skills and understanding to:

7A. Discover, engage with, and synthesize existing research from the field using multidisciplinary approaches to various information issues to align relevant findings to one’s own professional development and/or institutional needs.

7B. Recognize the ethical and appropriate application of key research methods, techniques, and designs in the field, including the generation, analysis, evaluation,

and presentation of data, and the utilization of research tools.

7C. Understand principles and issues evolving with research, including an awareness of how professional and cultural values may influence each stage of the research lifecycle, the barriers related to access to research, and the tension between research and its application to professional practice.

7D. Understand the importance of engaging in the research foundations and scholarly communications that will enable continued professional growth, knowledge, and sharing (ALACC, 2022, pg. 8).

Additionally, the Committee on Accreditation incorporates research in multiple ways including requiring that library schools provide ways for students to “Participate in research” (ALA COA, 2019, p.7). If ALA has determined this is important in both areas, librarians should be doing research and reading research. Research literacy is (or should be) a key component of the lives of librarians.

The School of Library and Information Science strives to make librarians research literate—to help create librarians that know how to read and do a literature review, to know how to ask questions and evaluate questions, to know how to answer those questions through appropriate methodology and judge others methodology, and to know how gather and interpret data and how to critically evaluate others data. LIS 668 (Research Methods in Library and Information Science) and LIS 695 (Master’s Research Project)

are designed to aid in meeting the Research Core Competency, but a great very readable resource is *Research Literacy for Health and Community Practice* (2nd Ed.) by Sonya Jakubec and Barbara Astle (2021). This resource concisely explains the fundamental research concepts and terms needed for thinking critically about research and the methods for understanding research. It takes readers through what is needed for understanding research and the process of reading research as a means to make informed decisions. The emphasis of Jakubec and Astle’s work is on ways to engage and interpret research. It can help get librarians have research literacy so that along with information and digital literacies they can better fight against misinformation, disinformation, fake news, and more.

References

- ALACC. (2022). *ALA’s Core Competencies of Librarianship*. https://www.ala.org/education-careers/sites/ala.org/educationcareers/files/content/2022%20ALA%20Core%20Competences%20of%20Librarianship_FINAL.pdf
- ALA COA. (2019). *Standards for Accreditation of Master’s Programs in Library and Information Studies*. https://www.ala.org/educationcareers/sites/ala.org/educationcareers/files/content/standards/Standards_2019_ALA_Council-adopted_01-28-2019.pdf
- Garner, S. D. (Ed.) (2006). High-Level Colloquium on Information Literacy and Lifelong Learning Bibliotheca Alexandrina, Alexandria, Egypt November 6-9, 2005. *Report of a Meeting Sponsored by the United Nations Education, Scientific, and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), National Forum on Information Literacy (NFIL) and the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA)*. UNESCO & IFLA. Retrieved from the IFLA website: archive.ifla.org/III/wsis/High-Level-Colloquium.pdf
- Jakubec, S. and Astle, B. (2021). *Research Literacy for Health and Community Practice*, Second Edition. Toronto, ON: Canadian Scholars.
- Rapti, M., Tsakalidis, G., Petridou, S., & Vergidis, K. (2022). Fake news incidents through the lens of the DCAM disinformation blueprint. *Information*, 13(7), 306. <https://doi.org/lynx.lib.usm>

[edu/10.3390/info13070306](https://doi.org/10.3390/info13070306)

Wardle, C. (2019). *First Draft's Essential Guide to Understanding Information Disorder*. First Draft. https://firstdraftnews.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/Information_Disorder_Digital_AW.pdf?x21167

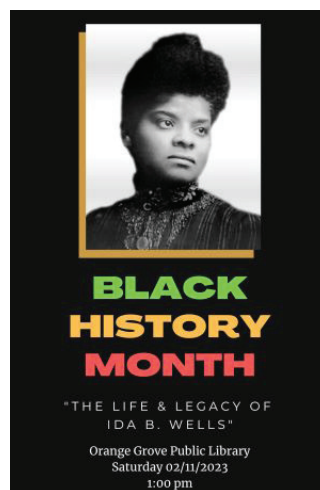
Feedback and suggestions are welcome – send to slis@usm.edu or call 601-266-4228. Visit <https://www.usm.edu/sl原因> for additional information about the ALA-accredited MLIS degree program, Graduate Certificate in Archives and Special Collections, and Graduate

Certificate in Youth Services and Literature. SLIS also offers a Bachelor of Science degree in LIS as well as a LIS minor. All classes are online and typically meet once each week during the evening hours.

News Briefs

MISSISSIPPI-BORN JOURNALIST IDA B. WELLS-BARNETT HONORED BY ORANGE GROVE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Orange Grove Public Library recognized Ida B. Wells-Barnett as part of their Black History Month programs. Born into slavery during the Civil War in Holly Springs, Mississippi on July 16th, 1862, Ida B. Wells went on to become a prolific activist, journalist, and researcher. Well-known for her women's suffrage and anti-lynching activism, Wells-Barnett fought against sexism, racism, and violence. As a journalist, Wells-Barnett also used her position to raise awareness of the conditions of African Americans throughout the South. For more information on Ida B. Wells-Barnett visit the National Women's History Museum website at <https://www.womenhistory.org/education-resources/biographies/ida-b-wells-barnett>. For more information about Orange Grove Public Library, visit the Harrison County Library System's website at <https://www.harrison.lib.ms.us/>.



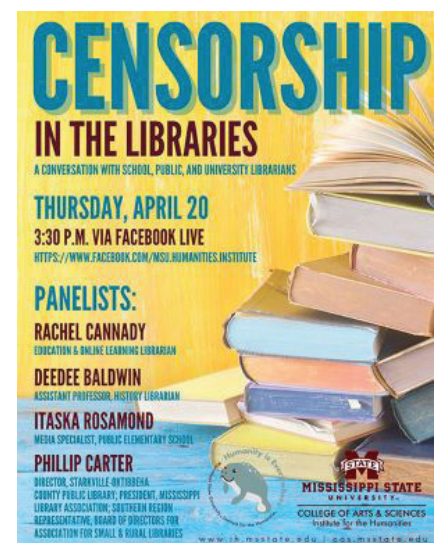
Black History Month Event Flyer, Orange Grove Public Library

AMENDMENT TO BILL COULD HAVE MAJOR IMPLICATIONS FOR MISSISSIPPI'S LIBRARIES

The Mississippi House of Representatives recently took up [Senate Bill 2346](https://www.mshouse.com/bills/2023/2346), amending it to include language that could prevent minors from accessing obscene digital materials in Libraries. Some materials that could be included in this ban are required reading materials for schools, such as the *Scarlett Letter* and works by Shakespeare. Concerns have been voiced that this amendment could stifle free speech, as well as prevent access to important research materials and

LGBTQ-inclusive content for children and adults. [The Mississippi Library Commission](https://www.mslib.org/) says this amendment could also hinder partnerships with the many research databases that the state's libraries rely on. Because libraries cannot censor content on those platforms, they could be forced to refund the service with vendors. For more information, visit <http://billstatus.ls.state.ms.us/2023/pdf/history/SB/SB2346.xml>.

MSU HOSTS 'CENSORSHIP IN LIBRARIES' EVENT



Censorship in Libraries Event Flyer, Mississippi State University

The Mississippi State University College of Arts and Sciences' Institute for the Humanities hosted an expert panel on April 20, 2023, discussing censorship in school and public libraries and the current attempts to ban books or restrict services. The panel featured librarians and media specialists, including

MLA President Phillip Carter, to discuss the current state of censorship in libraries and the banning of books. Part of MSU's College of Arts and Sciences, the Institute for the Humanities promotes research, scholarship and creative performances in the humanistic disciplines and raises their visibility, both

within Mississippi State University and the wider community. For more details about the College of Arts and Sciences or the Institute for the Humanities, visit www.cas.msstate.edu or www.ih.msstate.edu.

People in the News

Austin Justice was awarded the NASIG Paraprofessional Specialist Award for 2023. Justice serves as USM's Metadata Coordinator. The award



covers conference registration, travel expenses, and a year of NASIG membership. The purpose of the award is to "provide a promising paraprofessional with the opportunity to advance their knowledge and understanding of information resource management (e.g., serials and/or e-resources acquisitions, resource metadata and discovery, scholarly communications, collections management, digital publishing, e-resource or serials sales, scholarly publishing, or knowledge-base management), vendor, agent, or scholarly publisher by networking and interacting with a wide range of dedicated professionals working in all segments of the information supply chain" (NASIG). For more information about this award visit <https://nasig.org/2023-Awards>.



Karen Shaw, USM's longest employee at Gulf Park campus celebrates 44 Years of service to University Libraries. Many have utilized the University of



Southern Mississippi's (USM) Gulf Coast Library and seen the smiling face of Karen Shaw. Karen has been at the Gulf Park Campus since 1979 and has seen decades of transformation. Each part of the library runs smoothly because Shaw has worked in almost every department including Interlibrary Loan, Collection Management, Administration, Tech Services and Circulation. With determination, she started her career at age 17 as a Clerk Typist.

"University Libraries wouldn't be the same without Karen Shaw. Her dedication, experience, and contributions have been invaluable to not only the libraries, but to the University," said John Eye, Dean of University Libraries. "When asked almost anything about the library and Gulf Park that I do not know, I find myself repeatedly saying, "Let me call you back, I need to ask Karen." She

is also loyal colleague I treasure for her service and dedication to our university," said Jamie Stanfield, Head of Gulf Coast Libraries.

Shaw was awarded the Outstanding Staff Award at the 2015 Employee Appreciation Luncheon. The award recognized Shaw as an integral employee to USM that exhibited outstanding commitment to the university. "The most rewarding part of my job during all these years has been helping our students, faculty, and staff," said Shaw. "As a matter of fact, it is still the most rewarding part of my job today and that has definitely made my career journey enjoyable." For more information, visit <https://www.usm.edu/news/2023/release/karen-shaw.php>.



Let us share your news! Please send your news and announcements to Hali Black (Hali.Black@usm.edu) to be featured in *Mississippi Libraries*.

Book Reviews

Tori L. Hopper

*Children's & Teen Services
& Programming Coordinator
Columbus-Lowndes Public Library System*

Berry, E.

Motherland, Fatherland, Whateverland: Searching for Home.

Jackson: University Press of Mississippi, 2022. 280 pp. \$35.00 (Hardcover).

Based on the journaling and memories of Erik Smalhout, *Motherland, Fatherland, Whateverland* is a walk through the life of a man displaced by war as a teenager and later engaged in war as a librarian and purser across multiple continents. Smalhout's memoir was diligently compiled by his granddaughter, Erika Berry, on the suggestion of a friend. In Erika's own words, "While this manuscript may naturally appeal to World War II buffs, Nederlanders, seafarers, or Mississippians, we hope this appeals to everyone's sense of place: that no matter where you are or what fortunate/unfortunate circumstances placed you there, an eternal curiosity for humanity will always help you find a place in the world" (viii).

Of first interest to readers might be the portion of Erik's life, a Dutch native of Jakarta, Indonesia, spent in the Mississippi Delta working in the sales and agricultural career fields. Eventually marrying a local school teacher in Greenville, MS, Erik found himself in love with the Delta, only leaving for North Carolina with his young family when the tumult of desegregation hit their community.

Before reaching North America, Erik meanders through his memories of Indonesia, Australia, and the open sea. Happenstance and lucky coincidences are a key thread throughout the compilation, with Smalhout often finding himself called to an office and being told of life changes that he must adapt to on the fly. The tenacity with which Smalhout approached life saturates and changes the atmosphere of each 'home' he finds. He shares a wealth of entertaining stories beginning with what his father might call an unfocused youth to taking chances with sharks and jumping behind the wheel of a vehicle with no training or license on the order of his superiors.

The memoir also showcases the inevitabilities of life lived during World War II. While his early experiences navigating a world at war do not amount to the levels of tragedy seen by some, they offer up an interesting mirror to the displacement of families and minors currently seen through climate migration and war. Erik's memories show the war's impact on a continental scale and showcase how displacement and loss do not always announce themselves loudly.

Erik Smalhout likely did not realize the global scope of his stories and experiences as he documented them. He also never saw the final product of his granddaughter's efforts to share them. An Alzheimer's diagnosis, heart surgery, and stroke were the main events of his last years. Erik finally passed at the age of 82 and was buried in Johns, MS.

He found family and greatly enjoyed the settled feeling that came with finding people to love and be loved by in his middle and later years. A happy and full life carved out from adventurous and restless beginnings that make this memoir an enjoyable read for public and academic library patrons alike.

Lindsey Beck
Librarian
New Hope High School



Goudsouzian, A.

Man on A Mission: James Meredith and the Battle of Ole Miss.

Fayetteville, AR: The University of Arkansas Press, 2022. 140 pp. \$19.95 (Paperback).

Man on A Mission details the events leading up to the desegregation of Ole Miss. James Meredith, the man at the heart of the integration and native of Kosciusko, was the first Black American accepted into the university. Meredith chronicles his life beginning with his intent to register at Ole Miss, and the years that followed his academic career. Readers should note that while racial slurs are censored with asterisks, they are evident on the page and provide a realistic look at the violence and explicit racism that was commonly demonstrated during the time period.

Meredith illustrates how his presence on campus was offensive to his white peers, and how the consistent threats to his life failed to undermine his determination. While searches of campus buildings revealed many

rifles, gas cans, hand grenades, and even a machete, Meredith was more focused on pointing out that the Black troops who accompanied peace-keeping soldiers on campus only served as garbagemen within their unit. Meredith explained that this “was a dishonor and disgrace to the hundreds of thousands of Blacks who wear the uniforms of our military service” (66).

The controversy of Meredith's presence on campus eventually waived, but determined white supremacists continued to pursue him. While on a visit to Chicago, Meredith's sister called to say their home had been sprayed with buckshot in another attempt on his life. This only prompted Meredith's return to Mississippi, where he continued to promote racial equality and received visits from notable artists in the Black community such as James Baldwin.

The graphic novel details these events and more in a grainy, black-and-white illustration style by editorial cartoonist Bill Murray. The illustrations provide a hybrid style of desaturated photos and cartoon depictions of Meredith's life. Moments of violence are described, but not shown, as Murray instead chose to use comic book sound effect lettering to describe gunshots and other moments of aggression. The writer and editor provide a preface, discussion questions, and essay at the end of the graphic novel to explain the book's creation and Meredith's role in ensuring the story was told in his voice.

As the graphic novel ends, Meredith admits that he has confused others with his singular opinions over the years, but that his intention

remains the same: to end white supremacy. While *Man on a Mission* is a graphic novel about a civil rights leader, similar to that of John Lewis's *March*, the similarities diverge there. Meredith paves his own path and ends the memoir with “As for me, I fight in my own way. I know that I have not fulfilled my divine mission. But I ain't dead yet” (115). This graphic novel would be useful for students in a high school library, public libraries, and academic libraries alike.

Tori Hopper
Children's & Teen Services Programming
Coordinator
Columbus-Lowndes Public Library System



Lee, R. J.

The King Falls.

New York: Kensington Publishing Corp., 2022. 264 pp. \$15.95 (Paperback).

The King Falls is the fourth book in *A Bridge to Death Mystery Series*. This series is set in the fictional town of Rosalie, Mississippi. Investigative reporter Wendy Winchester Rierson and detective Ross Rierson, now newlyweds, take center stage in the cast of Rosalie characters. The fourth book finds this dynamic duo inadvertently hurled into yet another cheeky cozy murder mystery surrounding the zany Rosalie Bridge Club.

It seems that King Kohl, local hotshot, and bridge player, is found deceased by several of the Rosalie regulars in response to an uncharacteristic cancelation of one of Kohl's lavish bridge parties. The plot revolves around the illumination of King's public and secret life

to determine motive and suspects in his murder. The result is a crafty reveal of the folks in Rosalie as well as their relationships with one another. A few serious issues are also tossed into the mix. Yet, the overall the telling is light, playful and ultimately clever.

While the book is a part of a series, it can easily be a stand-alone cozy mystery. Mention should also be made of this series' adorable covers. One will find themselves looking for clues in the detailed yet charming illustration on the front of the book. The entire *A Bridge to Death Series* is recommended for any Mississippi fiction collection due to its overall readability and appeal to a wide range of readers. Furthermore, this book would be a delightful addition in all public libraries.

Judith Hilbert
Technical Services Coordinator
Hinds Community College