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On the cover: *Iris* by Brandi Katterjohn, Director of Sandra C. Goldsby Library at Arkansas State University Mid-South.
This picture was taken at the Meiji Jingu Shrine in Tokyo, Japan.

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President's Page

I am sure I am not alone in saying this, but I was in a funk throughout the pandemic. The pandemic and its effects that began two years ago this spring impacted my motivation at work and my motivation to continue doing many of the things that I once enjoyed doing. Even though I was deep in this mood, I at the same time felt like I had never been as busy as I was. It was a feeling of being super busy without accomplishing much, though.

Knowing my time as MLA President was starting whether I felt up to the challenge or not, I consciously made it a goal of mine to bring myself out of this pandemic funk and work to rebuild myself this year. Am I meeting this goal? At times, I think it is too early to tell.

I think our Association is also pulling itself out of the pandemic funk and working to rebuild this year. I for one am excited to see it, and I think many, who might have been in the same state I was in, will see the Association rebuilding as a motivator to rebuild themselves.

Here are just a few examples of our Association and LIS field rebuilding this year:

After two years of virtual conferences, MLA is looking forward to hosting a joint meeting with the Southeastern Library Association. This joint Conference is scheduled for October 11-14, 2022, at the MSU Riley Center in the Queen City, Meridian, Mississippi. Your MLA Vice President, Phillip Carter, and his Conference Committee are hard at work planning and crafting an exciting program with a goal of providing it in a hybrid format of in-person



and online. Be on the lookout for a Call for Proposals later this spring.

The Mississippi Library Commission is returning to the Capitol after a pandemic hiatus for its Mississippi Library Commission Day at the Capitol. While pandemic-related restrictions still do exist within the Capitol, it is exciting to know that organizations such as MLC can return to Jackson and meet with legislators. We know MLC will do a wonderful job advocating for our public libraries throughout the State of Mississippi.

The LIS Department at the University of Southern Mississippi is planning to travel across the big pond and resume its British Studies Program in London this summer. Oh how I wish I had been able to participate in this Program when I was a MLIS student.

Our irreplaceable MLA Administrator Paula Bass is hard at work seeking proposals from locations throughout the State for our 2023 Conference. The Executive Board will soon be discussing locations and will be looking across the State. I feel this to be necessary as MLA has not met in our Northern region

since 2006 (Tunica) or on the Coast since 2013 (Biloxi).

Special Libraries Section Chair Joyce Shaw will be holding an informative meet and greet with guest speakers and tours at the Gulf Coast Research Laboratory in March. I myself plan to hold a similar event at the State Law Library/Mississippi Supreme Court in Jackson this summer. By the way, if a Library in our Northern region would like to hold an event, please reach out to me!

I hope all our members will join us in this effort to rebuild our Association and our profession this year. The last two years of the pandemic have led to various committees, roundtables, and sections lacking leadership. As I write this, I am on a continuous search for volunteers to step up for various positions. In early February, Jamie Elston of the Harrison County Library System stepped up and was elected as Chair of the Public Library Section. I want to

urge each of you to consider stepping up like Jamie and others who are actively involved in making our Association better.

Let's commit ourselves this year to rebuild our Association and, by extension, ourselves together.

The Expansion of Digital Services in Mississippi Public Libraries

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ABSTRACT

A content analysis of 53 public library systems' websites listed on the Public Library Directory of Mississippi Library Commission was conducted. The purpose of the study was to find types and levels of digital services offered by these library systems. The term "digital services" has been more used in recent literature, which suggests that more libraries started offering more since the start of COVID-19. This study intended to look closely how Mississippi's public libraries follow the national trend.

INTRODUCTION

The year 2020 was unprecedented for both individuals and libraries. Most working places experienced closures and many individuals retreated to work at home, as society exerted efforts to lower the transmission and infection of COVID-19 pandemic. At the peak of the pandemic many libraries fully closed their buildings and limited patrons' access. While libraries faced cutting down on their expenses, they resorted to expanding their digital services. The study explored the range of digital services listed on Mississippi public libraries' websites and made a preliminary assessment of their efforts.

DEFINITION OF DIGITAL SERVICES

The term "digital services" has

emerged in recent library literature, job ads, and websites especially related to public libraries. For example, public libraries have extended their digital services during the pandemic (Goldstein, 2020; Guernsey, Prescott, Park, 2021). More public libraries are offering digital services librarian positions. A digital services librarian's duty often includes maintaining a library's web presence and access to digital resources. Despite its emergence, the definition of digital services, however, is not clearly defined in library literature as in business literature. Stephan (2015) offers the definition of digital services as "the electronic delivery of information including data and content across multiple platforms and devices like web or mobile." Hänninen, Pajula, Korpela & Taipale (2021) summarized digital

services as “non-material activities transmitted by technology and on-line networks such as the internet.” The activities identified as digital services are widely available and recognizable in society like mobile banking, UBER in transportation, Airbnb in hotel business, Apple in computer, and e-filing taxes. The core of digital services lies in offering a user experience through an online or electronic mode of delivery. The US digital service is created as a government sector to lead “technology that enables effective interactions between government and the people it services” (Balfundo, 2019). Leimeister, Hubert and Steven (2015) described the success of digital services with consumers is “personalized, context adaptive, real time” (p.255). Digital services can be included as part of social infrastructure. An optimal user experience is what digital services should aim for. An understanding of types of digital services and their purposes and benefits is relevant to improving digital services.

Therefore, such emphasis on user experience or consumers has an implication for libraries, especially public libraries, to develop viable services for users. McMenemy and Poulter (2005) addressed what public libraries utilize ICT (Information and Communication Technology) to provide access to users for lifelong learning and social inclusion. Di Duro (2008) pointed out the benefit for public libraries as “by providing more digital services that allow the public library to remain progressive and relevant to its patrons.” The PEW Research Center (2013) reported that Libraries have offered digital services for more

than a decade including eBooks, access, bringing services to patrons, and collaboration with local governments. By offering digital service, public libraries attempt to transform themselves from mere repositories to resource centers for communities.

ACCESS AND EXPANSION OF DIGITAL SERVICES

The American Library Association (ALA) (2006) pointed out “digital resources and services, or resources and services made primarily available online or on digital devices, are integral to libraries’ mission in the twenty-first century.” Libraries are supposed to meet “prevailing needs” of the community they serve (Michnik, 2015). Because of the prevalence of digital content, libraries have a mission to provide access to information both in print and the digital format. Higgs, Lanford, and Fry (2013) investigated levels of digital provision, librarians’ skills, library training programs through providing networked-GIS digital services by public libraries in Wales. Michnik (2015) discussed the impact of digital services on the sustainability of public libraries including the use of library physical space, librarians’ skills, and cost on libraries such as eBooks.

The expansion of digital services is purported to reflect the mission of libraries to provide access to information to meet patrons’ needs and adapt to unexpected changes. ALA’s survey (2020) reported that many libraries in the nation were physically closed but offered virtual services during the pandemic. Most libraries identified that users would most need access to physical materials, computers and the Internet,

government applications, and job search support after their buildings were closed (ALA, 2020). Breeding (2021) reported while vendors expanded access to digital collections and added online workflows to assist libraries, public libraries retained flexibility to mix a variety of services from different vendors. Goldstein (2020) noted public libraries that were closed during the pandemic, “have been using a variety of technologies to rapidly expand digital service offerings and aid their communities”. And such access is not limited to computers, internet, or digital tools, which indicates a potential for libraries to continue enhancing their digital resources and access. Access to digital resources offered by public libraries includes a broad range of digital products (audio books, e-books, databases, podcasts, videos, virtual events, and webinars).

The COVID-19 pandemic set realities for libraries to provide more digital services to mitigate the closures and continue services. Guernesey, Prescott and Park (2021) pointed out that public libraries have upheld their mission “to provide services to residents seeking knowledge, learning opportunities, and connections to information” during the pandemic (p.7). By doing so, public libraries made available online resources, Wi-Fi options and computer stations, and educational programs so many patrons became aware of online resources offered by their public libraries, which they found through a public library’s website. Over the years public libraries have faced challenges to improve outreach and overcome stereotypes. Public

libraries' viability and transformation could be improved to provide communities' learning and access to knowledge and training staff and users (Guernesey, Prescott & Park, 2021).

More digital services have been offered by public libraries during the pandemic. Digital services provided a response to libraries' physical closure. The Mississippi Library Commission already has the digital services branch to provide consulting, training and web development to public libraries. Facing the COVID pandemic, the Mississippi Library Commission's annual report (2020) marked "the new norm by constraining decisions, attitudes, and services." Public libraries' provision of digital services during the pandemic becomes the new norm. Given this new norm, this study intends to answer these two research questions.

1. What are types of digital services offered by the public libraries in Mississippi?

2. What are levels of digital services?

METHODOLOGY

From literature review, a public library website became the logical focal point of the investigation. A content analysis of the library websites was employed in this study because the content analysis is helpful to find the presence of words, themes, and concepts. Since the focus of this study is on digital services, content analysis is an ideal method to find the presence of digital resources. Data of content analysis was collected from the directory of Mississippi Public Libraries by Mississippi Library Commission

with links of public library systems in all parts of Mississippi was employed. The analysis of data was focused on the use of the keywords "digital services," "electronic services," or "services," which shows an implication of using a computer or Internet. In the meantime, alternative terms such as resources could be checked if they include Internet and computer access. A total of 53 public library systems weblinks were counted for the study. Data collected were focused on electronic resources and technology applications ranging from computer access to Internet resources.

RESULTS

Of 53 public library systems, as stated on their websites, all the library systems experienced temporary closures, and most have been fully open after a year of pandemic. As of 2022, they are all open. The results after the content analysis were presented in three aspects of data analysis: the terms' usage associated with digital services, access to digital technologies, and products offered by libraries.

After the analysis, terms including "services," "library services" "digital services," "adult services," "curbside service," and "current services" are present on these library systems' menu. Of 53 library systems, the term "services" is still most used (n= 9, 17%), then followed by digital services (n=6, 11%) and library services (n=6, 11%), adult services(n=1), curbside service(n=1). All the computer and internet offered that can be found among these public library websites, "resources" is most used (n=9, 17%), followed by digital resources (n=3, 5

%) and electronic resources (n=3, 5%), then online resources (n=2, 5%) and featured resources(n=1). Some use "digital library" (n=2) "learning and research" (n=1) or "weblinks" (n=4, 8%) or do not specify a name but they do provide services and resources.

All public libraries provide online catalog (N=53, 100%), Research (genealogy or databases n=32, 60%), social media (n=29, 55%), and eBooks (n=28, 53%), health information(n=18) and computer access (computer, Wi-Fi, mobile printing, n=9), career information (n=9, 34%), virtual story time (n=6, 11%), online driving practice (n=4, 8%), and computer training (n=4, 8%).

A variety of digital products is associated with digital services. Of 53 library systems, most digital products available on all the library systems' websites are Magnolia(n=36) for research, LearningExpress(n=34) for academic skills, Facebook(n=25) for social media, and Hoopla(n=10) for eBooks. Many provide external links to the government job resources, language learning, test tutorials, and even childcare and mortgage. Table 1 shows the results of categorizing functions of digital services and names of databases and products.

CONCLUSION

The results show that the words like "services" and "resources" are still most used by these public library systems. A variety of digital services or electronic resources are listed under services or resources. Most services and resources offered are internet-based or accessed by computers. It is reasonable to

Table 1. Digital services function and databases and products

Digital Services Functions	Databases and Products
Research (search and genealogy research)	Magnolia, Ancestry.com, Heritage Quest
Ebooks	Project Gutenberg, Hoopla, Overdrive, Axis360, Libby, Digitalmagazines, Worldbook
Learning and test prep	LearningExpress, Akhan academy, Digital learn
Language learning	Rocket Language, Transparent Language, Google translate
Driving test practice	Online permit practice, renewal
Social media	Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, blog, YouTube, Pinterest
Health information (COVID)	Health Information Complete, Mississippi State Department of Health, CDC, COVID updates
Career resources	Cypress resume builder, Mississippi State Department of Employment, Careeronestop
Computer access, WI-FI, mobile printing	

interpret that not all services or resources offered by all these public library systems are the same because of confounding factors including the service population, funding, library management, staff trainings and skills, or web design. Even the use of the term “digital services” does not determine there are more services in a comparison with those which don’t use it. Although digital services can entail extra costs on libraries, these public library systems provide external links to free resources benefit both libraries and their patrons. The current digital services and resources provide a snapshot of what public libraries offer and how they engage with their communities. They cater to diverse groups of patrons with a variety of services, resources, and tools. Virtual story time, mobile printing, driving test practice, and learning and career resources, and health

resources offered imply that public library has made efforts to meet current needs of their patrons at all ages. Although this study generated preliminary results, the variety of services and resources match with national trends. A further study like using a survey with the library staff may help to figure out how the services are expanded exactly and their impact.

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Juneteenth and African American History

Reading List for Children and Teens

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INTRODUCTION

During the 2021 spring and summer semesters, as part of a University of Southern Mississippi School of Library and Information Science practicum, graduate student Alesha Lindsey and practicum mentor Joyce M. Shaw worked together to create two curated lists of books, one for children and teens and one for adults, about African American history with an emphasis on the new federal holiday, Juneteenth. Ms. Lindsey performed her practicum at the Gulfport Museum of History where she helped organize and conduct tours of displays and exhibits for Black History Month and Juneteenth among other tasks. Each list provides 10-15 books with short summaries, and notes any awards, recognition, and bestselling titles. Both lists are available at the Museum as handouts for visitors touring the exhibits.

In October 2021, Ms. Lindsey talked about her practicum experience and the book list project as one of the lightning session talks at the Mississippi Library Association annual conference (Lindsey & Shaw). Based on the reception of her presentation and the number of times the children's and teen's list was downloaded at the conference,



Juneteenth Exhibit at Gulfport Museum of History. Photo by Betty Shaw.

the list was expanded and now includes national and Mississippi websites with links to Juneteenth resources. The list is provided here to support librarians who may want to build a collection that can be used for Juneteenth and other holidays and times that highlight African American history.

Resources used to create the lists and identifying award winning books include:

- ALA Association for Library Services to Children (ALSC)'s Book & Media Awards website: <https://www.ala.org/alsc/awardsgrants/bookmedia>)
- ALSC's Children's Book Awards from other organizations website: <https://www.ala.org/alsc/awardsgrants/bookmedia/childrens-book-awards-other-organizations>
- Children's Literature Comprehensive Database
- New York Public Library's website: <https://www.nypl.org/>
- Chicago Public Library's website: <https://www.chipublib.org/>
- Cincinnati Public Library's website: <https://cincinnati.library.org/>
- Cleveland Public Library's website: <https://cpl.org/>

WHAT IS JUNETEENTH?

On June 19th, 1865, Union General Gordon Granger and his troops marched into Galveston, Texas, to enforce President Abraham Lincoln's 1863 Emancipation Proclamation. President Lincoln declared all enslaved Americans were free and announced the end of the Civil War. Celebrations were held in Texas starting a tradition of festivals and celebratory events hosted by communities and groups across the United States. Juneteenth is a special time of family reunions, parades, art shows, picnics, and most of all, a time to remember a painful past and look to a more inclusive and equitable future ("Juneteenth").

A NEW FEDERAL HOLIDAY

On June 17, 2021, President Joe Biden signed into law S. 475, officially called the "Juneteenth National Independence Day Act" which designates Juneteenth National Independence Day on June 19th. Juneteenth is the second federal holiday created to honor diversity in the United States and the first new holiday since 1983 when Martin Luther King, Jr. Day was established. This holiday may inspire librarians in public and school libraries to create displays of books and hold special programs to engage their readers and entice them into learning more about this holiday. When signing the bill, President Biden said "all Americans can feel the power of this day and learn from our history...we can't rest until the promise of equality is fulfilled for every one of us in

every corner of this nation” (Biden).

READING LIST FOR CHILDREN AND TEENS

The following list combines the topics of African American History with books about Juneteenth. It gives librarians and teachers a starting point for incorporating reading as part of the activities for Juneteenth, our newest federal holiday, and Black History Month. On June 19th, 1865, Union troops marching into Galveston, Texas where they stated that Abraham Lincoln’s Emancipation Proclamation of 1863 declared all enslaved people were free. Since then, Juneteenth celebrations occur around the country, consisting of religious services, cookouts, community service events, and more. The following titles are a small selection of books that introduce and discuss Juneteenth, and on a broader scale, Black history in America. The list includes both fiction and non-fiction titles.



Brown, Linda Beatrice. *Black Angels*. G. P. Putnam’s Sons/Penguin Young Readers Group, 2009.

Three orphaned children lost in the woods as the Civil War is coming to an end, meet and must depend on each other to survive. “Best of the Best books of 2009” selected by the Chicago Public Library; Notable Books for a Global Society 1996-2021. Ages 12-17.

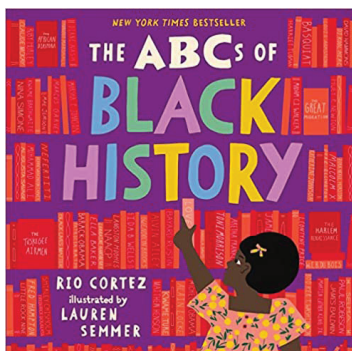
Bryant, Ashley. *Freedom Over Me: Eleven Slaves, Their Lives and Dreams Brought to Life*. Atheneum/Caitlyn Dlouhy Books, 2016.

Bryant used original documents from a slave auction and plantation estate to imagine the enslaved people and their dreams shown in beautiful art and poetry. Newberry Honor Book; Coretta Scott

King Author Honor Book; Coretta Scott King Illustrator Honor Book. Ages 6-10.

Cooper, Floyd. *Juneteenth for Mazie*. Capstone, 2015.

A young girl learns of the hardships her great-great-grandfather had to endure and the celebration of freedom. 2015 National Parenting Publication Awards; GOLD (NCSS) 2016 Notable Social Studies Trade Books for Young People; 2015 INDIEFAB Book of the Year Award Winner Gold; 2015 Nautilus Awards Silver. Ages 5-8



Cortez, Rio. *The ABCs of Black History*. Workman, 2020.

Poet Cortez created a lyrical alphabet book that goes beyond A = apple. Using words that include concepts, iconic people, and history, Cortez rhymes her way through triumphs, defeats, joy, and heartbreak—letter by letter. Folk-art style illustrations are brightly colored. Nautilus Book Award 2020 Gold; Skipping Stones Honor Award Winner 2021. Ages 3-10.

Gill, Joel Christian. *Strange Fruit, Volume I: Uncel- ebrated Narratives from Black History*. Chicago Review Press, 2014.

Astonishing true stories of nine real life heroes told in text and pictures. Each of the nine illustrated chapters chronicles an uncelebrated African American hero or event. Voted a Great Graphic Novel for Teens by the Young Adult Library Services Association. Chosen as a Finalist for the Best Young Adult Graphic Novel by the Cybils Awards (Children’s and Young Adult Blogger Literary Awards). Voted a BEA Buzz Book by Shelf Awareness. Featured on *HuffPost Live*. Chosen by *Publishers Weekly* for their Notable African American-Interest Titles of 2014. Chosen by the *New York Times* as “9 Books That Would Make Great Gifts”. 10 Best Indie Comics/Graphic Novels of 2014 by *ForeWord Reviews*. Featured on the Black History Month Recommended Reading List from A Room of One’s Own Bookstore. Included on the Top 100 Books for Holiday Gift-Giving from *The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*. Ages 12-YA.

Green, Amanda Jackson. *Hidden Black History: From Juneteenth to Redlining*. Lerner, 2021.

This book talks about African American history moments that are rarely or not discussed schools or in the media, but have great importance, such as Juneteenth and the Tulsa Race Massacre. NY Public Library selection for Juneteenth reading 2021; Dallas Public Library selection for Juneteenth reading 2021. Ages 8-12.

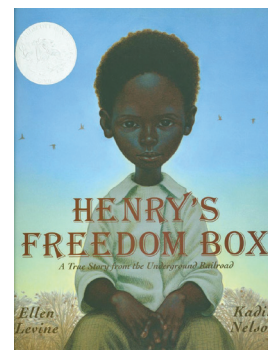
Johnson, Angela and E. B. Lewis. *All Different Now*

Juneteenth, the First Day of Freedom. Simon & Schuster, 2014.

The story of a Texas family learning of their freedom. They leave the sweltering cotton field to celebrate at the beach. Beautifully illustrated free-verse poetic telling of the story. ILA Teachers’ Choices; Kansas NEA Reading Circle List Primary Title; CBC/NCSS Notable Social Studies Trade Book; Capital Choices Noteworthy Books for Children’s and Teens (DC); Georgia Children’s Picture Book Award Finalist; Jefferson Cup Overfloweth Title; Bank Street Best Children’s Book of the Year Selection Title; MSTA Reading Circle List; Arnold Adoff Poetry Award. Ages 5-9.

Lee, Opal. *Juneteenth: A Children’s Story*. Updated edition, Unity Unlimited Inc., 2021.

Written and updated by retired educator and social change leader Opal Lee in partnership with award-winning children’s books illustrator Peter Viska and designer Sandra Nobes, this 2021 edition is a solid and engaging introduction to the story of Juneteenth. President Joe Biden recognized Miss Opal in 2021 as the “Grandmother of Juneteenth” in his remarks at the signing of the Juneteenth National Independence Day Act (Biden). Ages 5-10.



Levin, Ellen & Kardin Nelson. *Henry’s Freedom Box: A True Story from the Underground Railroad*. Scholastic Press, 2007.

Based on the true story of Henry Brown, an enslaved man, who mailed himself to freedom. Caldecott Honor Book; ALA’s Notable Book; IRA Notable Book for a Global Society. Ages 4-8.

Lewis, John, Andrew Aydin, and Nate Powell. *March. Vols. 1-3*, Penguin-Random House, 2013-2016.

The life and times of Congressman John Lewis, an American icon, told in a compelling and historic graphic memoir trilogy. #1 *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, and Amazon Bestseller; National Book Award; ALA’s Printz Award, Coretta Scott King Award Sibert Medal, and YALSA Nonfiction Award; Will Eisner Award and two Harvey Awards; Robert F. Kennedy Book Award—Special Recognition; Walter Dean Myers Award for Outstanding Children’s Literature—Young Adult Category; Flora Stieglitz Straus Award; YALSA’s Outstanding Books for the College Bound & Great Graphic Novels for Teens; *Reader’s Digest’s* Graphic Novels Every Grown-Up Should Read; Added to public school curriculum from New York City to San Francisco, taught in over 40 states. Named one of the best books of 2013 by *USA Today*, *The Washington Post*, *Publisher’s Weekly*, *Library Journal*, *School Library*

Journal, Booklist, Kirkus Reviews, The Horn Book Magazine, Slate Magazine, and ComicAlliance. Ages YA.

McKissack, Patricia C. & Fredrick McKissack.

Days of Jubilee: The End of Slavery in the United States. Lerner, 1997.

Uses narratives, letters, diaries, and military orders and other official documents to tell the story of abolition and emancipation of enslaved people in the United States. Coretta Scott King Book Award (author), 2004. CCBC Choices, 2004. Ages 10-17.

Nelson, Kardin. *Heart and Soul: The Story of America and African Americans.* Harper Collins, 2012.

Heart and Soul is over 100 pages of beautiful illustrations and a story told from the unique point of view and intimate voice of a one-hundred-year-old African American female narrator. 2012 Coretta Scott King Author Book Award; 2012 Coretta Scott King Illustrator Honor Book; Audie Award, 2012; Cybils Awards Nominee, 2011; NAACP Image Award, 2012, Nominee, Outstanding Literary Work Children; White Ravens Award Winner, 2012; YALSA Award for Excellence in Nonfiction for Young Adults Nominee, 2012. Ages 9-14.

Nelson, Vaunda Michaux and Drew Nelson. *Juneteenth.* Lerner, 2006.

The amazing story of how slaves in Texas learned about their freedom June 1865. Children's Book Committee at Bank Street College Best Children's Book of the Year 2006; Society of School Librarians International Book Awards, 2006. Ages 7-10.

Otfinoski, Steven. *The Story of Juneteenth: An Interactive History Adventure.* Capstone Press; Illustrated edition, 2015.

Offers three story paths, 42 choices, and 23 different endings as readers decide their own journey on the road to freedom. Includes teachers guide. Junior Library Guild Section for non-fiction, 2015. Ages 1-15.

Smith, Charles R., and Shane Evans. *28 Days: Moments in Black History That Changed the World.* Roaring Brook Press, 2015.

A look at some of the people who influenced and shaped African American history over many years. Designed to have one person featured per day during Black History Month. Notable Social Studies Trade Books for Young People, History, Life, Culture in the Americas Selection, 2016; ALSC Notable Children's Books, Com-mended 2016; NCTE Notable Children's Books in the Language Arts Award, Selection 2016. Ages 6-10.

Taylor, Charles. *Juneteenth: A Celebration of Freedom.* Open Hand Pub, 2002.

A look into the excitement and exhilaration of June 19, 1865, when Texas slaves learned of the end of the Civil War and their freedom from slavery. Publishers Marketing Association's 2003 Benjamin Franklin Award; 2002 Book of the Year Award from *ForeWord Magazine*; 2002 INDIEFAB Book of the Year Awards, Skipping Stones Honor Award, 2003. Ages 10+.

Wesley, Valerie Wilson. *Freedom's Gifts: a Juneteenth Story.* Children's Press/Scholastic Inc., 2010.

In 1943, two children visiting their great-great aunt in Texas who shares her life story of

enslavement and freedom and of the ongoing struggles caused by segregation. Includes scenes of the celebration of freedom held on June 19th. Notable Social Studies Trade Books for Young People, 1998; recommended by Cincinnati Public Library. Ages 8-14.

WEB RESOURCES

Smithsonian National Museum of African American History & Culture (<https://nmaahc.si.edu/>)

- <https://nmaahc.si.edu/juneteenth>
- <https://nmaahc.si.edu/explore/stories/celebrating-juneteenth>
- <https://nmaahc.si.edu/explore/stories/why-juneteenth-important>
- <https://nmaahc.si.edu/explore/stories/historical-legacy-juneteenth>
- <https://nmaahc.si.edu/explore/stories/what-juneteenth>

Mississippi Civil Rights

Museum (<http://www.mcrm.mdah.ms.gov/>)

Listen as the Director of the Museum of Mississippi History and the Mississippi Civil Rights Museum Pamela Junior talks about the significance of Juneteenth and its correlation in Mississippi. Freedom came on May 8, 1865, for enslaved Mississippians.

- <https://www.facebook.com/mscivil-rightsmuseum>
- <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=600400530920076>

Mississippi Digital Library

(<https://msdiglib.org/>)

Includes a wide range of documents, oral histories, and other archival materials from libraries with special collections about the civil rights movement and other materials related state African American history.

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"Juneteenth." Cultural Studies: African American Holidays, Festivals, and Celebrations, edited by Keith Jones, Omnigraphics Inc., 2nd edition, 2019. Credo Reference, <https://search.credoreference.com/content/entry/ogiahfac/juneteenth/0>. Accessed 15 Mar. 2022.

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SLIS Notes

Stacy Creel

*Director & Associate Professor
School of Library and
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Just this past year in 2021, the American Library Association (ALA) had to release a statement in response to an increase in censorship of materials centered on LGBTQIA+ issues and books by Black authors, Indigenous authors, or other people of color. The statement in its entirety is found here: <https://www.ala.org/advocacy/statement-regarding-censorship>. The statement reaffirms that ALA and its Executive Board, Divisions, Roundtables, and other units stand firm in the freedom to read and against censorship. One paragraph of the statement specifically focuses on the libraries instead of the association:

Libraries manifest the promises of the First Amendment by making available the widest possible range of viewpoints, opinions, and ideas, so that every person has the opportunity to freely read and consider information and ideas regardless of their content or the viewpoint of the author. This requires the professional expertise of librarians who work in partnership with their communities to curate collections that serve the information needs of all their users. (ALA, 2021)

What does it mean to manifest something? According to the Oxford English Dictionary, it means several things. While all of them have some

similarities, perhaps these two best fit what the American Library Association was trying to convey: “To make (a quality, fact, etc.) evident to the eye or to the understanding” and to “display (a quality, condition, feeling, etc.) by action or behaviour; to give evidence of possessing, reveal the presence of, evince.” (OED, 2022). Another word to clarify the libraries’ role could be embody—libraries and librarians need to embody, exemplify, make obvious by action and behavior their support of intellectual freedom and anti-censorship so that all users can find themselves in the shelves of the library.

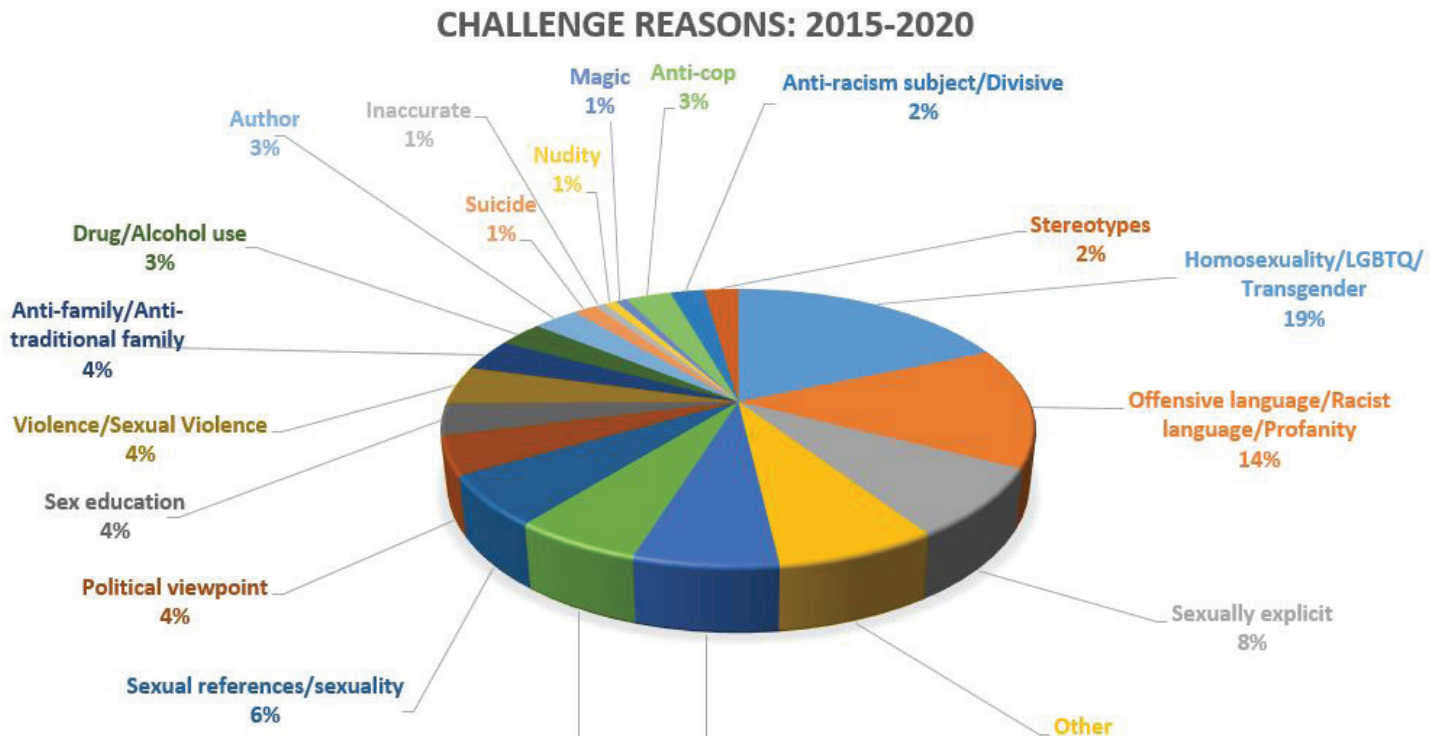
For the last thirty years, 1990-2019, books have continued to be challenged for a variety of reasons with violence, sexually explicit content, and offensive language usually being the top reasons (Aucoin, 2022). Chart 1 provides a look at the top 10 challenged books from the State of American Libraries from 2015-2020 and shows that the top three reported reasons for challenges are homosexuality/LGBTQ/transgender topics, themes, and characters; use of racist language, offensive language, and profanity; and sexual explicit materials (Rosa, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019; Zalusky 2020; 2021).

Traditionally, as seen in Graph 2, libraries have faced challenges to materials and services most frequently from parents and library patrons (Rosa, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019; Zalusky 2020; 2021). Elected officials or the government, on average, were responsible for 3.5% of the challenges from 2015 to 2020.

However, 2021 and 2022 have been fraught with libraries and schools across the nation facing government interference and demands of censorship over topics dealing with race and LGBTQ topics.

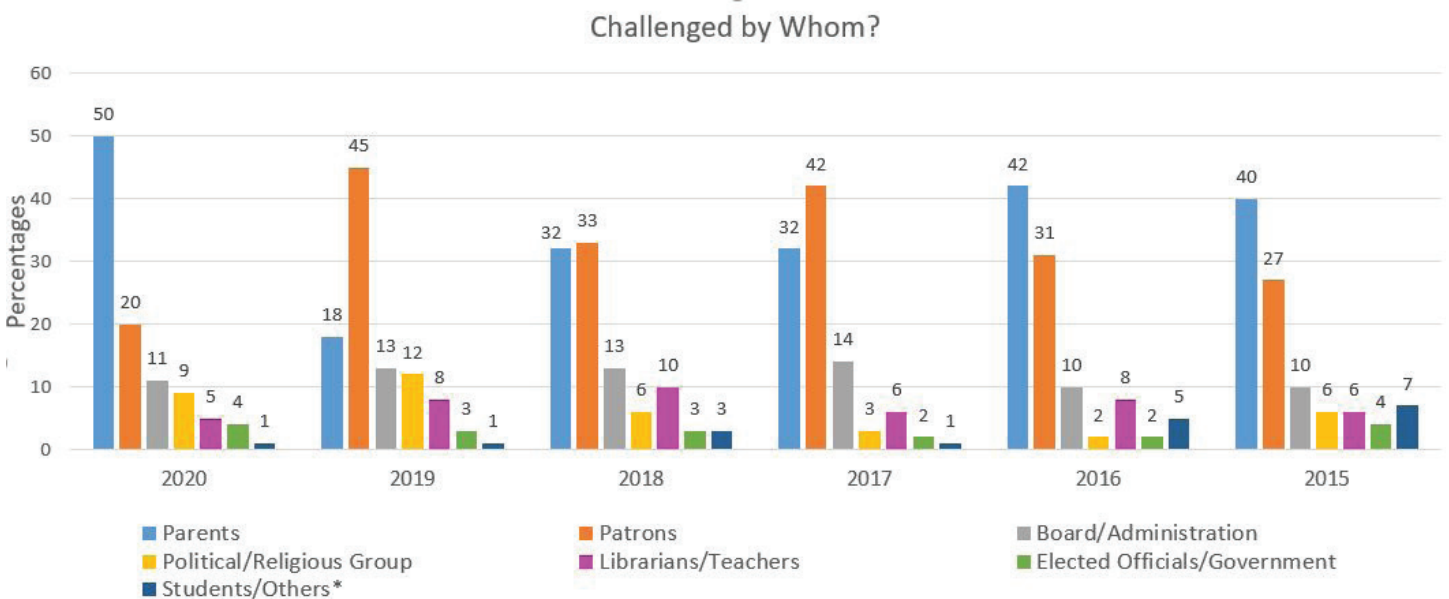
Multiple states have passed laws to restrict educational materials and lessons on race and others have proposed laws at various stages (2022, Legal Insurrection Foundation). Here in the state of Mississippi, a mayor holds the library’s budget hostage since the materials do not match his own personal religious beliefs (Garner, 2022), and another state official has voiced support for banning books from the Anti-Racism Reading Shelf program of the Mississippi Humanities Council (Pittman, 2022). These battles with government entities will no doubt play out in a court of law. Censorship by the government is unconstitutional and freedom of expression cases are historically determined by “content neutrality”—the government cannot limit expression just because any listener, or even the majority of a community, is offended by its content,” and by an “expression may be restricted only if it will clearly cause direct and imminent harm to an important societal interest” (ACLU, 2022). Censorship and banning of books have a long history with the courts and the United States Government. James Joyce’s *Ulysses* was banned for 12 years before it was permitted to be published after the US District Court ruling *United States v. One Book Called Ulysses* and other government reports have led to industry bowing resulting in self-policing

Graph 1. Top 10 challenged books by topic (Rosa, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019; Zalusky 2020; 2021)



Graph 2. Challenges by group by year in percentages (Rosa, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019; Zalusky 2020; 2021)

*Other was used in 2015 and 2016



like The Comics Code Authority (Head, 2019). It seems, for now, as if history is doomed to repeat itself with a return to the 1950 McCarthy era, “a time in which books or films that dealt with race issues were often attacked as Communist propaganda” (Robbins, 1994, p. 331). Until these things work their way through the legal system, it is more important than ever before for there to be plans and procedures in place given these tumultuous times. If it has been awhile since the libraries’ reviewed their policies for handling complaints, some of these resources can help.

RESOURCES

The American Civil Liberties

Union (<https://www.aclu.org/>) provides resources about censorship, anti-discrimination, LBTQ rights, race, current fights, and more.

American Library Association

(<https://www.ala.org/>) offers a plethora of information on intellectual freedom, reporting and handling challenges, and how to gird up library collection development policies.

Mississippi Library Commission

(<https://www.mlc.lib.ms.us/>) has resources to help librarians gather information to defend against challenges and tips for handling complaints.

National Coalition Against

Censorship (<https://ncac.org/>) serves to provide resources including toolkits for defending materials.

National Council of Teachers of English’s Intellectual Freedom Center (<https://ncte.org/resources/ncte-intellectual-freedom-center/>) offers a variety of resources and kids specific to schools.

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Feedback and suggestions are welcome – send to slis@usm.edu or call 601-266-4228.

Visit <https://www.usm.edu/slis> 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

Hali Black

*First Year Experience Librarian
University of Southern Mississippi*

SOUTH MISSISSIPPI REGIONAL LIBRARY SYSTEM ANNOUNCES NEW FINE FREE POLICY

The Board of Trustees of the South Mississippi Regional Library System are pleased to announce that, as of January 1, 2022, the library system will no longer charge late fines for overdue materials.

Traditionally, late fines were charged to encourage patrons to return library materials in a timely manner so that they would be available for more patrons. However, in recent years, libraries across the nation have raised the argument that fines may create a barrier to patrons accessing services due to economic reasons.

When the Columbia-Marion County branch closed in December 2019 due to tornado damage, library staff were instructed to waive all late fines of materials currently out on

loan. Then, in March 2020, when the entire library system participated in the mandatory pandemic shutdown, the rest of the library system began enforcing the same directive. Over the course of the next year and a half, as the Library fluctuated from complete closures to curbside only, to restricted access, and finally re-opening fully, staff continued to waive fines.

At their November 9, 2021, meeting, the Board of Trustee members reviewed data on fine collection for the five years prior to the pandemic and concluded that fines did not constitute a significant portion of the library's revenue. "Our Board members were happy to eliminate any barrier to individuals in our community receiving the full array of services the library has to offer," states Director Ryda Worthy. "We invite anyone who may have old late fees on their account to come see us, so that we can get their account active again." The Library will continue

to charge for lost or damaged items.

The five members of the SMRL Board of Trustees are appointed by the Marion and Jefferson Davis County Board of Supervisors and serve a 5-year term. All library policies are adopted by the Board and are available to the public at each library branch location.

Submitted by:

Ryda Worthy

Library Director

South Mississippi Regional Library System



To join MLA, or to renew your membership:

<http://misslib.org/membership>

2022 MLA Executive Board Minutes:

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

People in the News

Hali Black

*First Year Experience Librarian
University of Southern Mississippi*

State Librarian Stephen Parks, State Law Library of Mississippi, has been appointed to a Task Force by the United States Government Publishing Office, GPO. The Task Force will study the feasibility of an all-digital Federal Depository Library Program, FDLP. The Task Force's official charge is to "determine whether an all-digital FDLP is necessary, and if so, define the scope of an all-digital depository program and make recommendations as to how to implement and operate such a program." Comprised of 23 members, the Task Force includes members representing the Depository Library Council, the Depository Library Community, Federal Agencies, and library associations. The Taskforce will deliver a final report to GPO Director Hugh Halpern by December 2022



Dr. Lis Pankl has been appointed Professor and Dean of Libraries at the Mississippi State University Libraries. Dr. Pankl holds a PhD in Geography from Kansas State University, a MPA from the University of Utah, a MSLS from the University of North Texas, a MA in English from Abilene Christian University, and a BA in English from Washington State University.



Her research interests include higher education administration, organizational development, strategic planning, academic libraries, and critical/cultural geographies.

The Jackson-George Regional Library System will say a tearful goodbye to longtime Assistant Director and librarian **Alisa St. Amant** as she retires January 31, 2022. Alisa will retire after serving a total of 14 years as a librarian with the Library System which began at headquarters in 2008. The library system staff and Friends held a retirement reception in her honor and presented her with a Gold JGRLS library card. The presentation was made by Angela Stewart, JGRLS Library Director.

Alisa has worked in libraries since high school, working for the Library of Hattiesburg and later received her Bachelors. She earned her MLS from the University of Southern Mississippi and worked for several library systems in the state including the Madison County Library System, Lamar County Library System and First Regional Library System. Alisa said, "I have stretched myself beyond anything learned or even discussed in library school several decades ago. I will fondly remember my staff and administration along with my years with this system. I greatly appreciate all the help over the years and that of the administrative staff, my co-managers and co-workers."



For more information about the Jackson-George Library System and branch libraries visit online at www.jgrls.org.

Meg Wang, also known as Chu-Ping Wang, joined the Mississippi State University libraries as Assistant Professor/Electronic Resources Cataloger in November 2021. Wang has 15 years of collection management and digitization experience in libraries, archives, and museums. Wang is responsible for cataloging ETDs, E-Books, online government documents and streaming videos. She also is the bibliographer liaison for the College of Business and the Department of Agricultural Economics. Meg received her B.A. in Library Science from the National Taiwan University, her M.A. in Museum Studies from the University of Leicester (UK), her M.Sc. in Conservation for Archaeology and Museums from the University College London (UK) and her M.L.I.S. from the University of Southern Mississippi.



Book Reviews

Tori L. Hopper

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

Altobello, Brian.

Whiskey, Women and War: How the Great War Shaped Jim Crow New Orleans.

Jackson, MS: University Press of Mississippi, 2021. 264 pp. \$28.00 (Hardcover).

A native New Orleanian, Altobello states that his interest in the history of New Orleans during the war years of 1917-1918 was sparked by a report filed by a volunteer with the American Protective League (APL) reporting "suspected disloyal behavior" of a New Orleans citizen. The APL deputized over 260,000 Americans with credentials to assist in identifying spies after it was founded by Chicagoan Albert M. Briggs as a volunteer auxiliary under the Justice Department in 1917 to help with counterintelligence during World War I. When few actual spies were found, their mission evolved, first, to identify "slackers," or those evading the draft, and later in New Orleans to combat vice after the Armistice. The organization was, however, plagued by overzealous volunteers who had no problem trampling on Americans' civil rights.

Prior to the war, the citizens of New Orleans enjoyed a vibrant culture and exhibited an unwavering tolerance toward prostitution, alcohol, and the drug trade in its city. The war effort brought soldiers and

sailors to newly constructed barracks in the city, and the government's goal to clean up vice in the city led to the eventual close of Storyville, where prostitution had been concentrated, leading predictably to the spread of prostitution and other vices to other areas of the city.

In the mix was New Orleans Mayor Martin Behrman, considered a leading Progressive of the South, who skillfully led the city along the path of morality—in public, that is, while behind the scenes working just as skillfully to protect his power base, the so-called New Orleans Old Regulars. Behrman and the Old Regulars publicly denounced local vice and support for women's suffrage, but profited handsomely from gambling, alcohol, and prostitution in the city, privately ensuring that the status quo was maintained.

Despite its subtitle, the book does not so much outline how World War I shaped Jim Crow New Orleans, but rather merely confirms that social attitudes towards African Americans saw no improvement despite the contributions of the community, both in military service and at home, to the war effort. The book does provide an engrossing, extensively researched survey of the rampant vice, political corruption, prejudice against African Americans (and later those of German descent), Progressive campaigns, and the war effort during the prescribed period in New Orleans. Unfortunately, an inordinate amount of space is devoted to cataloging the prostitution trade in the city, including many rather salacious details about individual

madams and brothels.

To its merit, the book includes an extensive bibliography for readers interested in further study. The book is recommended for public libraries with local historical interest in New Orleans and/or the effects of World War I on the home front.

*Tamara D. Blackwell
Reference Services Librarian
Bolivar County Library System*



Giles, Rebecca M.

Coastal Mississippi Alphabet.

Biloxi, MS: Brother Mockingbird, 2021. 38 pp. \$12.00 (Hardcover).

Coastal Mississippi Alphabet begins with a challenge: Can you find Missy? Centered on a rainbow dolphin patterned page, Giles makes this alphabet book a learning opportunity as well as a scavenger hunt through the pages for Missy, the bottlenose dolphin. 'A' is for aquarium and kicks off a book of letters and fast facts about the Mississippi coastal region. Fun facts include information about both the animals and nature found on the coast, but also facts about the culture of the region. Giles informs readers that the longest man-made beach "stretches for 26 miles from Biloxi to Henderson Point," that the Mississippi Sound protects one of the world's largest stable populations of Atlantic Bottlenose Dolphins, and names the Sound barrier islands including, Cat, Ship, Horn, Petit Bois, and West Petit Bois Islands. Cultural highlights mention George E. Ohr,

the “Mad Potter of Biloxi” whose mustache was 18 inches, the first bottle and sale of root beer by Edward Charles Edmond Barq, Sr., and of artist Walter Inglis Anderson.

Giles finds representations for each letter with Mississippiana that provide a range of different insights into the area. Most notably, ‘T’ is for tribes features the Biloxi and Pascagoula tribes that resided in the land before it was colonized. Illustrator Liliya Todorova provides a retro style that combines vintage photographs local to the region, watercolor illustrations, and graphic design that is perfect for new parents, grandparents, and young readers alike. The book wraps up with a glossary of terms for readers who may need help with ‘A’ is for aquarium or other terms that are more challenging for beginning readers. Finally, if the reader wasn’t successful in their hunt to find Missy, an answer key is located in the back in case a little extra help is needed. Coastal Mississippi Alphabet is ideal for public libraries in the coastal Mississippi region, as well as public libraries in the state looking to add to their juvenile Mississippiana offerings.

Readers ages birth to 5 years old would benefit from guided readings with this book, and readers ages 6 years to 9 years old would still enjoy the read as the factoids are perfect for nonfiction lovers, and the scavenger hunt element would appeal to all.

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

Monroe, Stephen M.

Heritage and Hate: Old South Rhetoric at Southern Universities.
Tuscaloosa, AL: The University of Alabama Press, 2021. 256 pp.
\$39.95(Hardcover).

In *Heritage and Hate*, Stephen M. Monroe, assistant professor in the Department of Writing and Rhetoric at the University of Mississippi, has laid out a well-researched, substantive study examining the historical roots and continued influence of the rhetoric of the Old South on college campuses. Using the University of Mississippi as a primary case study along with examples from other predominately white, southern universities, Monroe makes the argument that Old South racist rhetoric persistently exists today in the form of words, images, and traditions. Some rhetoric is blatantly obvious such as confederate flags at football games, while others are hidden in plain sight in the lyrics of seemingly innocuous songs and sports cheers.

Monroe demonstrates that these words and symbols, what he calls “confederate rhetoric,” act as a bodiless, unrelenting force that bonds the US South to its racist roots. He suggests that harmful rhetoric will continue to flourish on college campuses and in larger society if not brought to light and critically examined, and that allowing confederate rhetoric to maintain a foothold is to undermine the very welcoming, inclusive environment universities attempt to cultivate. Monroe does not lay blame but encourages acknowledgement and honest reflection rather than passive acceptance or deflection.

Monroe’s work is a timely, sobering account of the 21st Century state of the continued harm accomplished by both blatant and hidden racist rhetoric. The book’s inclusion of examples of contemporary racist quotes as well as images from historical yearbooks such confederate flags and racist caricatures are disturbing to view but aptly illustrate the harm accomplished by their lingering legacies.

Monroe ends with a hopeful chapter that describes his vision for a new rhetorical landscape, one where all hope is not lost. He begins by challenging primarily those in the linguistic scholarly community to listen to colleagues who have questioned established orthodoxy. He asks scholars on individual campuses to raise awareness and amplify voices that challenge the status quo. Finally, he calls on all who occupy positions of white privilege to push through their own feelings of discomfort and actively participate in dismantling Old South symbols and rhetoric.

This book is primarily aimed at and suitable for scholarly audiences, especially those in the fields of communication and education, but any library with a current affairs collection would benefit from the addition of this book. Though dense and academic, it is not inaccessible to the general reader, and would be of specific interest to those working in educational fields or for anyone who wants to better understand why controversies over sports mascots and campus traditions matter. This book also serves as a way for white audiences to challenge their complicity in upholding structural racism by remaining inattentive,

complacent, and silent.

*Diana Simpson
Catalog Librarian / Assistant Professor
The University of Southern Mississippi*



Nolden, Jewel.

The Tale of the Dingy Handkerchief.

Illustrated by Kashish Rai.

Gulfport, MS: Gemlight Pub., LLC,
2021. 30 pp. \$18.99 (Hardcover).

Lucy, her mother, father, brother, and sisters live on the Hollyway Plantation. They attend church with other families in the community on the third Sunday of each month. Attending the Rising Star Missionary Baptist Church service was the day of the week Lucy enjoyed most, even the three-mile walk it took to get there.

The church was always very clean, because Deacon John and his wife Pearl kept it that way. John was the Head Deacon, and he began each service with a song and a prayer.

When he prayed, Lucy noticed he always had a dingy handkerchief in his hand. The other children laughed at the dirty handkerchief, but Lucy was saddened by this and wanted to buy Deacon John a new one. She told her mother what happened, and her mother explained that it is not nice to laugh at the adversity of others. She told Lucy they could not afford to buy Deacon John a new handkerchief, and that she should pray for God's help. That very night, that is exactly what Lucy did.

This is Jewel Nolden's first children's book. She is a graduate of Rosedale High School in Bolivar County, MS. She received a BS from MS Valley State University and a Masters from Concordia University in Illinois. Nolden has crafted a comforting story that will bring back memories, for some readers, of childhood, the "Black Church", and community. Rai's illustrations compliment the text, as they are soft, warm, and celebrate kindness.

All readers are reminded that practicing kindness makes a difference and that God answers prayers.

Recommended for youth collections in school and public libraries.

*Alisa St. Amant, MLS
Assistant Director,
Collections & Technology Services
Jackson-George Regional Library System*



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