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## News You Can Use: Highlights of IMLS-Funded Research and Early Career Development Projects (Presentation for the American Library Association Annual Conference, June 2018)

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## THE ROOTS OF COMMUNITY: Segregated Carnegie Libraries as Spaces for Learning, Shared Identity, and Community-Making



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## Overview

- **3-year project**, \$82,251.00
- **multicase historical study:**
  - examines these libraries' role(s) as places of learning, community-making and shared identity
  - identifies the mechanisms by which these libraries helped create social/community capital
  - explain the importance of these libraries to the broader history of library development
- **create deliverables** for researchers, libraries, and the general public



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## Research Design

- **archival methods**
  - Y1: Meridian, MS; Mound Bayou, MS; Louisville, KY; New Orleans, LA; Atlanta, GA; Savannah, GA
  - Y2: Evansville, IN; Greensboro, NC; Houston, TX; Knoxville, TN; Nashville, TN
- **oral history methods**
  - 30-40 min. discussions with former library users about the role(s) of the library in their lives, its place in the community, impact



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## Deliverables

- **project website**
  - case summaries, historical materials, interviews, recruitment, partner information, related resources
- **monograph**
  - Academic; summary of key findings
  - 2 consultants for review
- **BlackPast.org**
  - articles about each library
- **toolkit for libraries**
  - planning materials for community knowledge and outreach librarians



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## Contact

Feel free to contact me at [matthew.griffis@usm.edu](mailto:matthew.griffis@usm.edu).

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The views, findings, conclusions or recommendations expressed in this presentation do not necessarily represent those of the Institute of Museum and Library Services.



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Meridian-Lauderdale County Public Library.

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