

2023

## Mississippi Libraries 83(1) Spring 2020 (Full issue)

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### Recommended Citation

(2023) "Mississippi Libraries 83(1) Spring 2020 (Full issue)," *Mississippi Libraries*: Vol. 83: Iss. 1, Article 1. Available at: <https://aquila.usm.edu/ml/vol83/iss1/1>

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# MISSISSIPPI LIBRARIES

Volume 83, No. 1

Spring 2020

A Quarterly Publication of the  
Mississippi Library Association  
©2020

ISSN 0194-388X

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On the cover: *Baby Quilt* by Libby Thornton, Bay Springs Municipal Library, East MS Regional Library

*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.

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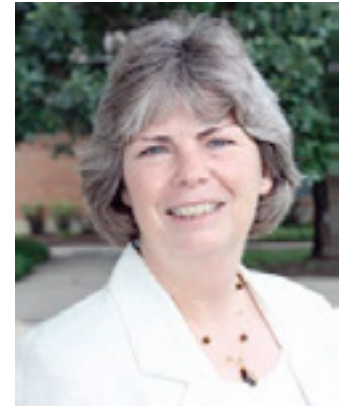
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# President's Page

Happy spring to everyone and welcome to new members of our association! MLA board and membership have been busy this year with a variety of projects. The 2020 *MLA Advocacy Campaign* kicked off this spring and has been active with librarians and staff from all over the state participating in forays to the state capitol and visits, phone calls and messages to legislators. This year's legislative advocacy campaign is an effort to ask lawmakers to 1) provide level funding for the Mississippi Library Commission (MLC), 2) fully fund MAGNOLIA at \$1,350,000, 3) provide the MLC with an additional \$395,000 to their budget to offset the loss of federal funds from the IMLS, and 4) provide a 10% increase (\$330,000) to the Personnel Incentive Grant which provides funds to help hire and retain qualified public library professionals. This year's legislative campaign was organized by Tonja Johnson, Executive Director of Madison County Library System, and was themed "Libraries Change Lives." The campaign included photo opportunities for lawmakers with their constituents in front of giant postcards of oversized library cards. These cards contained stories from community members of how the library "Changed Their Lives." Library supporters were provided an additional opportunity to gather at the Mississippi State Capitol on February 5th for MLA's *Library Action Day*. Libraries from around the state set up exhibits in the rotunda of the Capitol highlighting some of the wonderful library programs and services provided by their libraries.



*Library Action Day* was recognized in the House and Senate that day and goodie bags were assembled and distributed to all of the legislators to help keep Mississippi libraries on their minds. Legislative visits will continue through March 18th, including *Mississippi Library Commission Day* at the Capitol on March 10th. Thanks to Tonja Johnson, Hulen Bivens, Paula Bass, Mississippi libraries and their wonderful staff and volunteers who make our *Advocacy Campaign* possible.

In addition to advocating on behalf of the public libraries in our state this year, the association is advocating on behalf of K-12 libraries. In 2012, the Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) removed a vital standard that assured adequate budget funding for public school libraries. Since then, many school libraries across the state have seen significant cuts in library funding. For a school library to have a collection of books that is balanced, diverse, and updated, as well as computers and other technology that meets the needs of students, teachers, parents, and the school's curriculum, school librarians must have adequate, consistent, and sustained funding. Therefore,

MLA has begun a letter campaign to ask the legislature to require that MDE reinstate standardized funding that ensures EVERY school library receives adequate and sustained funding to achieve the vision established by the MDE to provide a world-class educational system in Mississippi.

On the national level, the American Library Association (ALA) held its *Advocacy Fly-in* February 10 and 11 and invited chapter presidents from around the country to participate in advocacy training. After the training, participants were scheduled meetings with congressional members and/or their staff. I attended on behalf of MLA and met with aides of Senators Wicker and Hyde-Smith as well as staff from Representative Thompson's office. We discussed the important role libraries play in the communities in this state and I encouraged their support of 1) increasing funding to the Institute for Museums and Library Services from \$189.3 mil to \$206.3 mil, and 2) increasing the Innovated Approaches to Literacy funding from

\$27 mil to \$30 mil. Both of these federally funded programs provide dollars to our public and school libraries for technology initiatives, literacy programs and professional development. On May 4-5, a few MLA officers will participate in another ALA initiative in Washington, D.C. - *National Library Legislative Day* to again advocate for this funding before the budget is finalized.

As part of these legislative pushes, MLA has updated its Advocacy web page. New to the page are important facts about Mississippi public libraries, school libraries, and MAGNOLIA. In addition, the page provides details on the issues MLA is advocating for on behalf of libraries and library professionals across the state. Most importantly, the page provides MLA members and community constituents with a simple way to contact their state or national legislators to encourage them to support funding for their libraries. Utilizing the ALA provided *CQ Engage* software, constituents can quickly send letters and/or twitter messages on specific issues to their elected

officials. Please check out our Advocacy page and support funding priorities for your libraries by writing your congressman/woman today <http://www.misslib.org/advocacy>.

National Library Week (NLW) is April 19-25 with the theme "Find Your Place at the Library." MLA has a new NLW coordinator this year named Tori Hopper. Tori is the Children's Services and Programming Coordinator for Columbus-Lowndes Public Library and she is actively working to put together NLW posters, activities and other materials for MLA members to use for their festivities. Though Tori will be sharing those soon, please contact Tori if you need materials, information or have some ideas you'd like to share.

As always, I appreciate all of the volunteers who continue to make the library association a success and all the members of the libraries across the state – academic, school, public and special – that serve our communities and help them be better places to live, learn and grow. Elections for MLA office will be held this March/April. Be sure to vote!



**To join MLA, or to renew your membership:**

<http://misslib.org/membership>

**2020 MLA Executive Board Minutes:**

<http://misslib.org/page-1860567>

# The Butterflies Flutter By

## *at the University of Southern Mississippi's Gulf Park Campus Colossal Waystation*

### **Jamie Stanfield**

*Science, Nursing & Health Librarian*

### **Jason Cantu**

*Architect & Space Planner for the  
Gulf Park Campus*

### **Jordan Roberts**

*Graduate Student*

*University of Southern Mississippi*

Each year, monarch butterflies migrate south from Southeastern Canada and portions of the Northeastern United States through the Gulf Coast states to Mexico, following the warmer climates as winter begins. Each spring, monarchs return to the Gulf Coast states, where they lay eggs in milkweed plants, native plants to these states. The larvae grow, hatch, and depend on milkweed for shelter and nutrients for growth. Adult butterflies depend on nectar plants for food, and while some forms of milkweed bloom flowers, there are many other nectar plants native to Mississippi adult monarchs use for nourishment. In the Gulf Coast states, monarch populations are suffering due to industrialization and agricultural expansions which remove the milkweed, necessary for monarch sustainability. Cities across Mississippi, and other southern states, mow or pull native milkweed in favor of other landscape designs. Because monarch lay their eggs on milkweed and larvae must eat it to survive, the decimation of Mississippi's milkweed has effectively devastated the monarch population. Additionally,

the use of herbicides and pesticides on the remaining monarch friendly plants hinders healthy larvae and subsequent butterfly growth, if the caterpillar hatches at all.

In July of 2018, University of Southern Miss graduate student and library assistant Jordan Roberts approached Jamie Stanfield, Science, Nursing and Health Librarian at the Gulf Coast Library, about creating a small monarch butterfly garden and waystation just outside of the library. Their first plan was to gauge student, staff, and faculty interest. Did people want a butterfly garden on campus? Would it be of value to students? To find out about student interest, Roberts and Stanfield reached out to organizations such as Beta Iota Omicron, known as the BIO Club. The BIO Club promote ecological and biological issues affecting our communities. The Student Government Association also became involved. These organizations spoke with students across campus. They found out that many students liked the idea of having a butterfly garden, with a walkway and benches allowing for student relaxation in the garden areas. Roberts and Stanfield also spoke with students, faculty, and staff. They found faculty expressed interest in possible research opportunities for students that could arise with this project, including the Vice Provost at Gulf Park.

Roberts and Stanfield understood the costs associated with a project

like this and decided to apply for a grant to assist with these costs. Roberts and Stanfield met with the Gulf Park Physical Plant Director Pam Smith and Architect & Space Planner for the Gulf Park Campus, Jason Cantu, to pitch their idea for the project. They discussed the letters of support obtained from student organizations, other students and university faculty to show student and university employee interest. They discussed plans to apply for a grant from the Southern Miss Fund to fund the project. Smith and Cantu expressed interest in a monarch garden and waystation and offered generous assistance. With revised locations for the butterfly garden, Roberts and Stanfield submitted the grant.

Though it initially came as a disappointment when Stanfield and Roberts found out they did not receive the grant, the Gulf Park Physical Plant offered to help fund the project by replanting existing beds with organic plants and maintain the beds without the use of herbicides or pesticides, which can retard or kill growing larvae. The revised plans took a small butterfly garden project to a colossal monarch waystation, providing thousands of square feet as a monarch refuge and reproduction grounds. Through further collaboration with faculty from biology and geography, because a monarch waystation holds the potential for original research by both graduate and undergraduate

students and organizations across campus, Roberts and Stanfield organized the University of Southern Miss Planting Committee (hereafter USMPC).

The USMPC created by-laws and became a standing committee on the campus. Equal representation was a high priority to Roberts and Stanfield, so the committee has equal representation from 3 faculty, 3 students and 3 staff members. The USMPC created social media accounts to maximize exposure and engage not only university folks, but those in the community. The vision of the committee was inclusion. They sought to develop many unique waystation areas across the 52-acre campus, inviting both the USM community and everyone in the surrounding communities, including tourists.

Committee representatives met with university and student organizations to create events giving all involved a sense of ownership and a stake in the success of the waystation. For example, Monarch Madness, held in spring 2019 for the first time, invited everyone to meet at the greenhouse to plant organic flowers, plants, and shrubs across campus in freshly prepared beds. These plants, carefully designed by Jason Cantu, accommodate the life cycle of not only the monarch butterfly but other butterflies and pollinators as well. The first Monarch Madness was a huge success. Nurseries donated organic plants, biologists grew over 100 milkweed seedlings to plant, and physical plant landscape specialists prepared the beds using no chemicals at all. These beds are not only organic and will remain free of herbicides and pesticides, but



*Photograph by Jason Cantu*

contain truly beautiful native plants, shrubs, and flowers.

Further flower and plant bed reorganization followed as Cantu created plans designed to certify over 16,800 square feet of organic beds certified by monarch waystation organizations. Dwarf Holly, Gold Blood Flower Milkweed, and Black-eyed Susan are just a few of the many plants in strategically designed beds with the life cycle and migration path of the monarch butterfly in mind. With this feat, the Gulf Park campus became one of the largest monarch waystations in the state, the largest on the Mississippi Coast, and achieved Monarch Waystation status/certification with Monarch Watch and the North American Butterfly Association.

Creating a small monarch waystation is not difficult. In fact, libraries across Mississippi might find all aspects of their community members interested in designing, creating, and maintaining a dedicated area. Creating planting or

landscaping events at the library can be fun, and participants feel they are stakeholders. Nurseries will often donate seeds and sometimes plants in support of such endeavors to help maintain the ecological balance. For school and public libraries, children can plant seeds in cups as part of an activity, or perhaps during a reading program about nature. In academic libraries, biology labs may incorporate planting seeds as part of lab assignments. Once seedlings are ready to plant, family planting days are a fun way to give all ages a sense of pride, and they become stakeholders in their libraries and often become stronger advocates for the library. Monarch Maintenance is a day designed to hand weed and do needed maintenance to the gardens. Families, students, faculty, and just about anyone in the community can easily assist. The ideas for involving library patrons are unlimited.

To illustrate an example of a small monarch friendly garden, notice the Lofty Return plans created by Jason Cantu for the Gulf Park monarch beds. Select an outdoor area that receives at least six to eight hours of sunlight near areas with small trees or large shrubs. When selecting plants, choose a variety of native species that will bloom throughout the growing season (both annual and perennial) plants. Focus on plants that will support every stage of the butterfly's life cycle. Monarchs will lay their eggs on a single milkweed plant that they will eat during the larval stage. Once Monarchs emerge from the pupa stage, they will dine on nectar plants within the butterfly garden.

Regarding plant spacing, place colorful host and nectar-rich plants



close enough to each other to provide the larva with some protection, but far enough apart to prevent overcrowding. Place taller plants at the back of the garden and start adding smaller plants toward the front or at garden edges. Including shrubs may also help, as they can offer shelter as well as food for the caterpillars. Again, avoid pesticides and herbicides that will harm the butterflies and host plants. Should you need to control pests, hand-pick

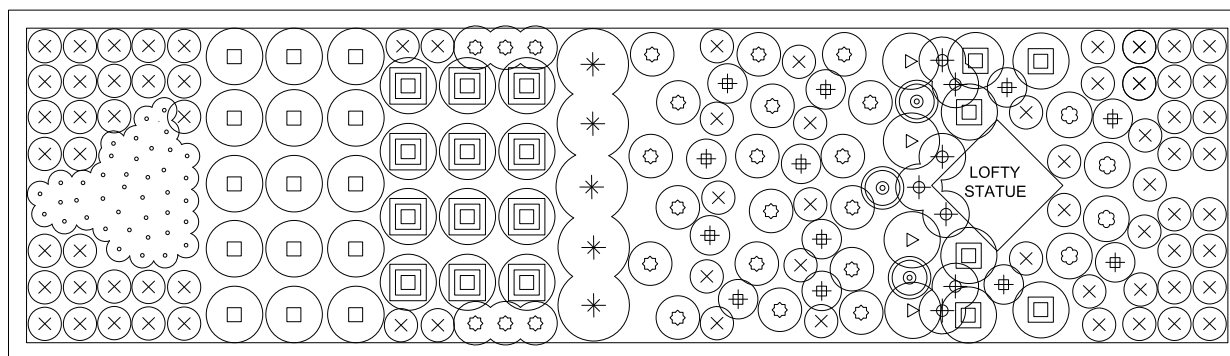
the pests, or make your garden attractive to pest predators like ladybugs and birds. To reduce weeds in your garden, include a layer of mulch that will also help with keeping your butterfly garden moist.

Monarch watch events are especially fascinating when thousands of butterflies migrate through the area. Organizations across the coast create monarch centered library parties, events and other activities. A startup garden requires a sunlit

area, a few plants, a few shrubs butterflies can hide in, some eager hands, and a small outdoor space. Many items may be donated or purchased at discount prices. The cost of creating a library monarch waystation can be surprisingly low. However, the payoff in terms of patron participation and recognizing they are stakeholders in their library is genuinely priceless.

**PLANT LEGEND**

IMAGE	SYMBOL	NAME/ QUANTITY	IMAGE	SYMBOL	NAME/ QUANTITY	IMAGE	SYMBOL	
		CAMELIA			COLEUS SOLAR SHADE (SPRING/SUMMER)			WHITE AZALEA
		HYDRANGEA			COLEUS COLOR BLAZE (SPRING/SUMMER)	AREA = 868 SF		
		MILKWEED			DIANELLA			
		BLACK-EYED SUSAN			ELEPHANT EAR			
		ROSE			RED AZALEA			
		BIG BLUE LORIOPE			PINK AZALEA			



01 LOFTY RETURN LANDSCAPE PLAN  
1/2" = 1'-0"

THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI  
GULF COAST PHYSICAL PLANT  
730 EAST BEACH BOULEVARD  
LONG BEACH, MISSISSIPPI 39060  
TEL: (228) 214-3483

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LOFTY RETURN  
730 East Beach Boulevard  
Long Beach, Mississippi 39560

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DATE OF ISSUE:  
SUBMITTED FOR PROPOSAL: 11 NOV 2019  
PROJECT NUMBER: 130616  
DRAWN BY: JASON CANTU  
CHECKED BY:  
FILED: USM-G&P Park  
Harris Campus Landscapes/Arb

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SHEET NUMBER  
**L32**  
DATE: 11 NOV 2019



# SLIS Notes

**Teresa S. Welsh**

*Professor and Director*

*School of Library and Information Science  
The University of Southern Mississippi*

Greetings, dear scholars. Have you ever conducted a collection analysis? There are two basic types of analyses - *materials-centered*, such as determining how many materials in a collection support a particular curriculum i.e. collection strength (White, 2008), or *use-centered* such as analysis of circulation statistics to determine items that were most and least checked-out (Crowley-Low, 2002).

Ciszek and Young (2010) sub-divides these two basic types of collection analysis into quantitative or qualitative methodology:

1. Collection-centered quantitative assessments such as those that compare one collection to another or to a list of recommended books or growth of the collection over time
2. Collection-centered qualitative assessments such as examination of the condition of items in a collection or a content analysis of a collection
3. User-centered quantitative assessments of *usage* such as circulation or citation statistics
4. User-centered qualitative assessments of user needs, experiences, and perceptions such as focus group or interviews.

Below are some examples of each type of collection analysis to inform and inspire you to conduct an analysis or assessment of your library's collection.

## **1. COLLECTION-CENTERED QUANTITATIVE ASSESSMENT**

- *Checklist method* - the researcher compares a portion of a library's collection to a curated list of titles covering the same subject (Nisonger, 2008). "A Collection Analysis of the African-American Poetry Holdings in the de Grummond Collection" (Heidelberg, 2013) used poet lists for the Harlem Renaissance and Black Arts Movement and found that the collection included all of the poets on the Harlem Renaissance list but only 48% of the poets on the Black Arts Movement list.

- *Comparative method* - "A Comparative Analysis of the Religious Non-Fiction Collections of a Public Library and a Christian Church Library" (Bolton, 2014) compared the non-fiction religious books in the collections of a public library versus a church library. The study found that the public library had seven times the number of religious non-fiction books than the church library.

## **2. COLLECTION-CENTERED QUALITATIVE ASSESSMENT**

- *Condition assessment* - "Condition Survey of the Circulating Collection: Cook Library, University of Southern Mississippi" (Reinke, 2013) assessed a random sample of books in a university collection for age, types and condition of cover material, types of physical damage, paper acidity level, and degree of paper brittleness. More than half the books in the study had some form of damage; about 80% contained acidic paper and 21% had already become embrittled.

- *Content analysis* - "A Content Analysis of Cinderella Illustrated Storybooks Housed in the de Grummond Collection" (Smith, 2012) found that 71 Cinderella illustrated storybooks in the collection included an animal helper character rather than a fairy godmother and most of those were classified as Asian or multicultural stories.

## **3. USER-CENTERED QUANTITATIVE ASSESSMENT**

- *Circulation analysis* - "Monograph Circulation Over a 15-Year Period in a Liberal Arts University" (Cheung, Chung, & Nesta, 2011) found that about one-third of book acquisitions in the study were not checked out and that circulation within the first few years of a book's acquisition was a good predictor of future circulation.

- *Citation analysis* - "Citation Analysis of Masters Theses as a Tool for Collection Development in Academic Libraries" (Gunasekera, 2013) analyzed the format, relative age, and journal titles cited by graduate students.

## **4. USER-CENTERED QUALITATIVE ASSESSMENT**

"Beyond the Scanned Image: A Needs Assessment of Scholarly Users of Digital Collections" (Green & Courtney, 2015) analyzed interviews and qualitative responses from workshops to determine how digital collections were used and how they could be enhanced.

## **MIXED METHODOLOGIES**

- *Citation analysis (user-centered quantitative) and surveys, interviews (user-centered qualitative)* - "Moving

Beyond Citation Analysis: How Surveys and Interviews Enhance, Enrich, and Expand Your Research Findings” (deVries, Kelly, & Storm, 2010) used citation analysis of faculty publications as well as faculty surveys and interviews to determine the effectiveness of library collections and services.

- *Citation analysis (user-centered quantitative) and collection analysis (collection-centered quantitative)* – “Serials Use in Post-Graduates’ Dissertations of Pharmaceutical Sciences: Collection Building by Citation Analysis” (Nagaraja & Prashanth, 2015) analyzed a university library’s resources cited by pharmaceutical science students in order to identify what frequently-cited sources were missing from the library’s collection.

You may have noticed that the above articles, save the Bolton article (2014), focused on academic libraries or special collections. There are also articles that focus specifically on the collections of public and school libraries.

## PUBLIC LIBRARY COLLECTION ANALYSIS

- *Collection-centered quantitative comparative* - “An Evidence Based Methodology to Facilitate Public Library Non-fiction Collection Development (Kelly, 2015) used *WorldCat* collection data of eight public libraries’ non-fiction holdings to compare against OCLC Conspectus subject categories to determine the strength of coverage of the libraries’ collections.

- *Collection-centered quantitative checklist* - “An Assessment of Frequently Challenged LGBTQ Books in Alabama Public Libraries” (Sheffield, 2017) used the ALA

list of the top ten challenged books with LGBTQ content to determine the strength of the collections of those materials in public libraries in Alabama.

- *User-centered, quantitative* - “Assessing the Collection of a Large Public Library: An Analysis of OPAC Use” (Waller, 2010) is an analysis of transaction logs of users of the online catalog of a large public library.

## SCHOOL LIBRARY COLLECTION ANALYSIS

- *Collection-centered, quantitative and qualitative* - “Characters of Color: A Content Analysis of Picture Books in a Virgin Islands Elementary School Library” (Brissett, 2012) examined the geographic setting as well as the ethnicity of the main characters of storybooks in a school library collection then compared it with ethnicity of the student population.

- *Collection-centered quantitative and qualitative* - “Assessing the Graphic Novel Collections in Northeast Mississippi High Schools: A Collection Analysis” (Minor, 2016) examined the graphic novels in six high school library collections, including genre, gender of the main characters, as well as number (and percentage) of fiction and non-fiction graphic novels on YALSA’s “Great Graphic Novels for Teens” lists.

Feedback and suggestions are welcome – send to [slis@usm.edu](mailto:slis@usm.edu) or [teresa.welsh@usm.edu](mailto:teresa.welsh@usm.edu) Visit [www.usm.edu/slisc](http://www.usm.edu/slisc) for additional information, email [slis@usm.edu](mailto:slis@usm.edu) or call 601.266.4228 to speak with one of our great graduate assistants.

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# Libraries at the Capitol

**Tonja Johnson**

*MLA Legislative Chair*

On February 5, 2020, librarians from across the state gathered at the Capitol in Jackson to showcase the value and impact of Mississippi libraries. As part of the Mississippi Library Association's "Day at the Capitol" libraries staged a pop-up library highlighting computer and technology services, story time, teen STEM/STEAM programs as well as adult programming such as workforce development in the Capitol rotunda.

One section of the rotunda featured a "computer lab" with a 3D printer from Canton Public Library's Digital Innovation Lab. The printer produced Mississippi key chains while laptops displayed free services and resources including the MAGNOLIA databases, language learning softwares, SAT and ACT test prep and job skill development. Across the rotunda the Waynesboro-Wayne County Library discussed their award winning Laundry and Literacy program while the children's area featured a lively story time for local school children led by Jackson-George Regional Library System's Youth Services Director Bethany Carlisle and Youth Services Librarian Becky Bowen from the Madison County Library System followed by Harry Potter themed STEM/STEAM programming presented by youth services staff from the Jackson Hinds Library System.

Bethany Carlisle said, "Participating in the pop-up library at MLA Day at the capitol was a wonderful opportunity to showcase the

important work done in our libraries. While interacting with children in the youth services section, I was very encouraged to see so many state leaders engage with and discuss the work done in public libraries."

The event gave librarians and library supporters the opportunity to visit with legislators and discuss MLA's legislative agenda for 2021. Those asks are:

Level Funding for the Mississippi Library Commission plus:

- \$330,000 (10%) increase in the Personnel Incentive Grant (currently \$3,300,000)
- Additional \$350,000 for the MAGNOLIA databases for total funding of \$1,350,000
- \$395,000 to MLC to restore loss of Federal funds

Lori Barnes, Director of the Jackson-George Regional Library System summed up the day this way:

"I feel that setting up the pop-up library in the Capitol was not only very effective, but it allowed our elected officials to see firsthand the tremendous impact public libraries make on their constituents' lives every day. The truth is we do those things and so much more; our value is immeasurable when you consider the affect we have on the lives of Mississippians!"

Public libraries embody the values of democracy by offering free access to knowledge, and they play a crucial role in connecting people not only to a wide range of resources, but also to their communities and their best selves. Everyday, Mississippians find new skills, new

information, culture, opportunity and so much more at their local library. Mississippi libraries truly change lives.



## Photograph captions, page 10

1) *Children participate in activities in the pop-up childrens area.*

2) *Becky Bowen, Children's Librarian with Madison Public Library, reads Curious George assisted by Beverly Tarpley to a group of kids, February 5th at the Capital in Jackson, MS.*

3) *Children participate in activities in the pop-up childrens area.*

4) *Becky Bowen, Children's Librarian with Madison Public Library, reads Curious George assisted by Beverly Tarpley to a group of kids, February 5th at the Capital in Jackson, MS.*

5) *Bethany Carlisle, Youth Service Coordinator with Jackson George Regional Library sings along with Becky Bowen and Beverly Tarpley from Madison County Library System with a group of kids at the MLA Day at the Capitol on February 5th.*

*Photographers:*

**Braley Reed**

*PIO/Asst. System Admin*

**Evanne Flanders**

*Special Needs Programming and Outreach Specialist*

*Madison County Library System*









1) Hulen Bivens, Mississippi Library Commission's Executive Director talking with Senator Sollie B. Norwood from District 29, Hinds County and Jennifer Stephenson, new Assistant Director for Public Services, First Regional Library.

2) Magnolia information board.

3) Jill Ford, House Representative, speaks with Tonja Johnson, Director of the Madison County Library System, about the need for funding of the Personnel Incident Grant (PIG) to hire qualified staff at the library systems' in the state.

4) Greg Haney, House Representative, speaks with librarians.

# News Briefs

## Hali Black

*First Year Experience Librarian  
University of Southern Mississippi*

### USM'S 2020 CHILDREN'S BOOK FESTIVAL, EZRA JACK KEATS AWARDS CEREMONY CANCELLED

The steering committee for the upcoming 53rd annual Fay B. Kaigler Children's Book Festival regrettably informs you that the festival and all associated activities are cancelled.

Out of an abundance of caution and for the safety of festival participants, the committee made the decision to cancel the festival due to the ongoing threat of COVID-19 (coronavirus). No participants have been diagnosed with COVID-19, nor are they showing symptoms; however, a number of speakers and participants have indicated that they will be unable to travel to the festival.

We understand this is a major inconvenience to festival-goers and a loss to the City of Hattiesburg from an economic and tourism standpoint, but the health and safety of all involved is being prioritized. We hope all of those who are impacted by this cancellation will understand and respect this decision.

Please visit the Fay B. Kaigler Children's Book Festival website at <https://www.usm.edu/childrens-book-festival> for information on registration return options, or contact registration coordinator Adrienne Patterson at [Adrienne.Patterson@usm.edu](mailto:Adrienne.Patterson@usm.edu) with questions regarding previous registration.

*Submitted by  
Karen Rowell  
Assistant to Director & Special Events  
Coordinator/Children's Book Festival  
Coordinator  
The University of Southern Mississippi*



### USM LIBRARIES RECEIVES GRANT TO DIGITIZE AND TRANSCRIBE MISSISSIPPI COMMUNITY COOKBOOKS

Jennifer Brannock, the Curator of Rare Books & Mississippiana at Southern Miss, and Dr. Andrew P. Haley, Southern Miss history professor and food historian, are recipients of an £8,000 (\$10,400) grant from the Arts & Humanities Research Council via the University of Sheffield (UK). The grant supported the digitization and transcription of Mississippi community cookbooks with the final products added to Southern Miss' Digital Collections.

This grant supported the ongoing work focusing on the Mississippi community cookbook collection at the University of Southern Mississippi, which includes almost 1,000 cookbooks produced by Mississippi churches, woman's clubs, and other organizations as fundraising tools. *The Brookhaven Cook Book*, published in 1904, is the earliest book in the collection to date, but the collection is still growing. The funding also supports Dr. Haley's Mississippi Community Cookbook Project, a digital humanities initiative that looks at cookbooks for the surprising insights into the ways Mississippians ate and how they thought about their hometowns, state, and even the world.

“Participating in the Arts and

Humanities Research Council grant from the University of Sheffield has made it possible for Southern Miss to not only share Mississippi's culinary past with Mississippians, but to make this legacy available to the world. Ultimately, this project will help to demonstrate that the local is global and the global is local,” said Dr. Haley.

To view some of the digitized and transcribed cookbooks, search the Digital Collections at <https://digitalcollections.usm.edu/>. For more information about the Mississippi community cookbook collection and activities, contact Jennifer Brannock at [Jennifer.Brannock@usm.edu](mailto:Jennifer.Brannock@usm.edu) or 601.266.4347.

*Submitted by  
Jennifer Brannock  
Curator of Rare Books & Mississippiana  
The University of Southern Mississippi*



### MGCCC LIBRARY CELEBRATES BLACK HISTORY MONTH WITH STUDENT ART

The fine-art students of Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College (MGCCC) Jefferson Davis campus in Gulfport, Mississippi created works of art in conjunction with the Black History Month celebrations taking place throughout the campus. Student paintings and drawings featuring famous African-Americans throughout history were placed on display in the Jefferson Davis Library throughout the month of February 2020.

Visual Arts faculty member, Cecily Cummings stated, “The students of the classes, Painting II and Drawing II, are studying portraiture this





Painting by Morgan Dingman  
MGCCC student painting featuring Jimi  
Hendrix

semester, and Black History Month has been the perfect opportunity for them to practice drawing the face”.

Cummings added that students were also able to share personal experiences with some of the subjects, stating that “after seeing a classmate’s drawing of Malcolm X, another student revealed that he had known Malcolm when he was a young man. Though he [Malcolm] is best known as a passionate human rights activist, the student remembered him as quiet and reflective.”

Fine Arts student Morgan Dingman of Gulfport chose to portray Jimi Hendrix. “I wanted to have a very colorful experience for the viewer. I approached painting this piece with an extremely delicate hand and an airy layering of colors.

I wanted to capture as much of Jimi’s essence in this watercolor portrait as possible,” Dingman said.

In regards to the partnership between MGCCC’s Fine Arts Department and the Jefferson Davis Library, Cecily Cummings stated “The library has been a great advocate for the arts, displaying works by students year-round.”

Submitted by  
Shake DeLozier  
Librarian  
Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College



### MAKING IT WORK: ACCESSIBILITY IN THE LIBRARY

The Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College (MGCCC) Library, in partnership with the University of Southern Mississippi (USM) Gulf Coast Library hosted a half day mini conference on January 24, 2020 from 8:30 a.m. – 12 p.m. The event, *Making it Work: Accessibility in the Library*, was open to all library staff and faculty and featured three guest presenters: Jamie Stanfield, Science, Nursing and Health Librarian and Assistant Professor at USM Gulf Coast Library; Jamie Olson, Interpreter Training Technology instructor at MGCCC and religious programs director at the de l’Epee Deaf Center; and Aimee McGehee, Student Support Coordinator at MGCCC.

In her session “Graphic Medicine,” Jamie Stanfield spoke of her work in the emerging genre of graphic medicine and health literacy and covered the benefits and potential pitfalls of adding graphic medicine materials to library collections. Jamie Olson presented “American Sign Language for Librarians,” in which participants were instructed in basic signs that are helpful for those working with library patrons. Aimee McGehee guided participants through a dialogue on common accessibility issues and led group activities which sought to simulate the difficulties that special needs populations may experience in library settings.

Conference participants enjoyed breakfast and interactive presentations, which included games, questions, and group activities. Facilitator and host Shake DeLozier, MGCCC Librarian stated, “We really hope to make this an annual event. We want to continue to foster collaboration between all the Gulf Coast libraries.” Regarding the mini-conference attendance, Jamie Stanfield noted, “It was great to see so many staff members attend, and the audience engagement was awesome!”

Submitted by  
Jamie Stanfield  
Science, Nursing and Health Librarian  
The University of Southern Mississippi

## People in the News

### Hali Black

*First Year Experience Librarian  
University of Southern Mississippi*

Hinds Community College Libraries has hired **John Sanders** as the Serials and Reference Librarian at the McClendon Library on the Raymond Campus. Prior to joining the HCC team on December 2, 2019, Sanders spent 3 ½ years working in the Interlibrary Loan and Research & Instruction Departments at the



University of Mississippi Libraries. John also has 12 years of experience with the Lafayette County and Oxford Public Library. He earned his M.L.I.S. from the University of Alabama in August 2018.



The Waynesboro-Wayne County Library staff were recently honored at the Waynesboro Lions Club Annual Banquet in December 2019. Library Director **Patsy Brewer** was presented with the Lions Club's Civil

Servant Award during the banquet. In addition to having served on the Board of the Mississippi Library Association, Brewer has served as the director of the Waynesboro-Wayne County Library facility since 1993, earning the library numerous state and national awards. Brewer was honored not only for her dedication to continuous library improvements, but also her extensive contributions to civic organizations and quality of life programs in Wayne County and the surrounding community.

## Book Reviews

### Michele Frasier-Robinson

*Education and Human Sciences Librarian  
University of Southern Mississippi*

### Floyd, John M.

*The Barrens*

Brandon, MS: Dogwood Press, 2018. 352 pp. \$24.95 (hardcover)

In our increasingly time-strapped society, short stories are so easy to read and recommend to library patrons. Since all of the characters and all the pieces of the plot in a single short story can be discovered in minutes instead of hours, most people will be able to squeeze in at least one in a day. Good short stories can be tricky to pull off without a skilled writer who can set a scene in paragraphs instead of pages, but we have one in John M. Floyd and his compilation of short stories, *The Barrens*.

John M. Floyd is an award-

winning Mississippi author who uses the South as a backdrop for many of his stories, such as the "Pit Stop," which takes place on the way to Starkville.

How short are the stories? Some of them are very brief, such as "Premonition" and "Flu Season," while others, such as "Rooster Creek" are lengthier.

There are thirty stories in *The Barrens*, most of which have been previously published in magazines and books like *Alfred Hitchcock's Mystery Magazine* and *Horror Library, Vol. 6*. The stories are typically suspenseful and usually have a mystery to solve. They also often come with a surprise ending. Although the works are short, Floyd is able to quickly introduce settings and characters, such as the criminal Elton Spivey who is determined to make a clean getaway after breaking out of prison in the story "Crow Mountain" to

the lovelorn Ray Sanders who loves bikes and his coworker in the story "Flag Day." The titular work "The Barrens" is not published elsewhere and is a treat for people who like magical realism and a happy ending.

This book is recommended for libraries that have short story collections, Mississippi author collections, or patrons who like a quirky suspenseful mystery with great characterization, dialogue, and a twist at the end.

*Maya Berry*

*Digital Librarian*

*Northwest Mississippi Community College*



### Lowe, Johnny, ed.

*What Would Elvis Think?*

Clinton, Mississippi: Clinton Ink-Slingers, 2019. 227 pp. \$16.00 (paperback)

Mississippians in Mississippi is the simple compelling connection of all the narratives and characters in the anthology *What Would Elvis Think?* Lowe effectively blends an assortment of writers with solid literary experience mixed in with a dash of serious potential, while cover artist Gary Walter's signature vision of a typical snip of Highway 61 sets the tone for all things Mississippi right off the bat.

The collection roams through a broad range of genres and an impressive number of places in the Magnolia State. Chuck McIntosh's "The Tenant" thrusts accountant Mark Capers into a pulp fiction-like setting in Tupelo. Janet Taylor-Perry's "Your Life Is Not Over" pulls on themes from her Raiford Chronicles series to portray the grief of a struggling teacher desperate to make a difference in an underserved high school in Yazoo City. Wendy Barnwell takes us on a "Roadtrip" to the Delta, where people wear shorts in October while a peacock screams at a poolside funeral party, and Janet Brown's traditionally southern ghost story "Ghosts and Grits" details the struggles of a household who seem to have brought an unwelcome otherworldly guest to their home.

And what story collection about Mississippi would be complete without mention of the sticky southern

heat? Lottie Brent Boggan's "The Crossing" watches the Vaseline in young Frank's hair melting from an especially hot Mississippi sun, while Brent Hearn's "The Stars and the Saints" counts the days to its tragic finale by marking the slow decomposition of a dead dog in the roadside heat.

Several stories touch on the deep bonds formed in the typical Mississippi church. The small church funeral of Kyle Summerall's "What if We Were Strangers" portrays the familial ties that bind church members across generations and congregations. Wendy Harms, in "Home Free," demonstrates the isolation a church congregation can cause in a community, as well as its equally powerful capacity for love and belonging. Judy H. Tucker's "Joy in the Morning" reminds the reader that joy comes from faith and patience.

Some stories are tales of grief. A recently widowed man navigates his first holiday season without his wife of many years. Another story sees a woman throwing the memories of her ex-husband off the side of a cruise ship. One woman loses her husband in Afghanistan, while another man loses himself in Vietnam. One man grieves for a love he never quite had by serenading a young woman's grave with an Elvis song.

And some stories focus on the

new beginnings that often follow grief. A student from Hattiesburg decides to go back to medical school after a tragedy sets him off track. Another woman literally regains her voice with her husband's death. In two other stories, very different married women seem to find personal freedom by the deaths of their abusive husbands.

A few stories especially convey the memories and nostalgia important for any Mississippi tale. One daughter recollects fishing with her father, while another tells about a horrifying drunken drive with her dad in a MGB convertible. A grandfather and his granddaughter remember past experiences as they try to cope with the threat of bad news. John Floyd's light-hearted final story (memory? tall tale? you decide) ends the collection with a wink and a nod.

With authors and characters from just about every part of the state, if you live in Mississippi, you will find one of your neighbors in this book. For this reason, *What Would Elvis Think?* is recommended for all Mississippi libraries, especially any with Mississippi fiction collections.

*Judith Hilkert*  
Technical Services Coordinator  
Hinds Community College