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MISSISSIPPI LIBRARIES



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On the cover: *Summer Chicks* by Hali Black of the University of Southern Mississippi. This photo was taken last summer in my backyard. It features one of my backyard chickens, Ruby, enjoying a refreshing slice of watermelon on a hot summer day.

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

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

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President's Page

Mississippi Librarians are some of the most resilient professionals I have ever met but this year even we have had to endure an awful lot. As we reflect on the challenges and triumphs we have encountered over the past year, particularly in the face of book challenges and banning, as well as the recovery efforts from devastating tornadoes in Rolling Fork and Amory I feel it's important to touch on so many of these challenges but also celebrate our libraries.

Libraries have long stood as bastions of intellectual freedom, promoting diverse perspectives, and fostering open dialogue. However, we cannot overlook the fact that book challenges and banning attempts persist in our society. Over the past year, we witnessed an increase in such challenges, as certain individuals sought to restrict access to literature and control the flow of ideas. As library professionals, we stood firm in our commitment to defend the principles of intellectual freedom, ensuring that all individuals have the right to access information and explore different viewpoints. We provided resources, organized educational programs, and engaged in constructive conversations to promote understanding and tolerance.

While addressing book challenges demanded our attention and resolve, we also faced another set of challenges—natural disasters. Rolling Fork and Amory, among other communities, were struck by devastating tornadoes that caused



widespread destruction and upheaval. The Librarians worked tirelessly to restore and rebuild our libraries, ensuring that these important institutions could once again serve as beacons of hope and resources for their respective communities. We witnessed the remarkable resilience and unity of our library community as volunteers from across the state rallied together to assist in the recovery efforts, embodying the spirit of solidarity and service. All of these challenges riding on the coattails of a global pandemic have really tested the perseverance of library professionals across our state and while it's easy to get depressed and feel at our wit's end over the challenges we have had, I feel like it's of the utmost importance that we celebrate and take a moment to truly appreciate the work that is being put in day-in, day-out in every library across our state. I'm continually inspired by my library colleagues.

As we move forward, let us remember the challenges we have overcome and the victories we have achieved. Let us continue to

champion intellectual freedom, encourage open dialogue, and provide unwavering support to our communities in times of crisis. Together, we will navigate the ever-changing landscape of libraries, adapt to emerging

needs, and ensure that our libraries remain vital pillars of knowledge, inclusivity, and resilience.

Thank you for your dedication, commitment, and unwavering passion for libraries. It is an honor to

serve as your President, and I look forward to the continued growth and success of the Mississippi Library Association.



2023 MLA Conference

Supporting Our Communities

VICKSBURG CONVENTION CENTER

VICKSBURG, MS

OCTOBER 10-13, 2023

SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

Click here to download the [Schedule at a Glance](#) or visit <https://mla42.wildapricot.org/conference2023>.

REGISTRATION - NOW OPEN!

[Click here to register](#). For any questions regarding registration, please contact [Selena Swink](#) and [Jennifer Todd](#)

If you need to register 6 or more individuals as a group [please fill out this linked spreadsheet](#) and email to both Selena Swink at sswink@cmrls.lib.ms.us and Jennifer Todd at jtodd@mlc.lib.ms.us. Be sure to include in your email message which registrant should receive the invoice. Registration of 6+ attendees will receive a 10% discount off of the full conference regular rates of \$140. The group discount does not apply for early bird registration.

GENERAL QUESTIONS?

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

EXHIBITOR INFORMATION - COMING SOON!

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

MEETING SPACE REQUEST

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

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

MLA Scholarships

Justin Easterday

*MLA Scholarship Committee Chair
Education, Human Sciences, and Health
Librarian
The University of Southern Mississippi*

The Mississippi Library Association (MLA) will be offering three yearly scholarships at the MLA 2023 Annual Conference this Fall in Vicksburg, MS. All three scholarships will be accepting applications until September 15th and the recipients will be notified at the end of September. If you have any additional questions, please contact the MLA Scholarship Committee Chair: Justin Easterday at justin.easterday@usm.edu.

PEGGY MAY SCHOLARSHIP

The Peggy May Scholarship provides financial assistance for the education of individuals who plan to be professional librarians, information specialists, or media specialists in academic, public, school, or special libraries. For application material and the required criteria visit: <http://misslib.org/peggymayscholarship>

TERRY LAJAUNIE MEMORIAL CONFERENCE SCHOLARSHIP

The Terry Lajaunie Memorial Conference Scholarship provides financial assistance to a member serving in the Public Library Section. This scholarship will go toward the cost of attending the Mississippi Library Association Annual Conference. For application material and the required criteria visit: <http://misslib.org/lajaunie>

VIRGIA BROCKS-SHEDD SCHOLARSHIP

The Virgia Brocks-Shedd Scholarship provides financial assistance for the education of African Americans seeking a career in the library profession: librarians, archivists, media specialists, curators, or conservators. For application material and the required criteria visit: <http://misslib.org/virgiabrocks-shedd>

SCHOLARSHIP RAFFLE

Please consider purchasing a raffle ticket to support MLA scholarships. Tickets are being sold for 1 ticket for \$2 or 3 tickets for \$5.

In addition to buying tickets online, conference attendees also have the opportunity to purchase raffle tickets during the MLA 2023 conference. The raffle drawing will happen Wednesday, October 11th, during the President and Scholarship Bash. Raffle winners will be contacted by text message. To buy raffle tickets or a 2023 MLA Conference shirt before the conference please visit: <http://misslib.org/raffle/>.

For more details about the MLA 2023 Annual Conference visit: <https://mla42.wildapricot.org/conference2023>.

The Best of the Blues

Analyzing Blues Collections in the Mississippi Library Partnership

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Fawn Ussery

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In his song, “Mississippi Blues,” bluesman Willie Brown (2012) wailed, “Don’t this Delta look lonesome, when that evenin’ sun goes down, well, you been lookin’ for your baby, don’t know where she could be found” (lines 7-11). Well, if “your baby” is blues-related literature, then look no further. This paper will reveal the best blues titles housed in the Mississippi Library Partnership (MLP), highlight the value of local library collections, and hopefully drum up interest in one of the state’s top exports. To accomplish these goals, the authors of this study have two primary objectives: comparing titles found in *100 Books Every Blues Fan Should Own* with MLP holdings, and reviewing results of specific subject searches to identify blues-related books published between 2014-2023.

The Mississippi Library Partnership (2023) “is a consortium of libraries that share a library automation system as a means of increasing the sharing of resources, automation costs, and technical expertise” (para. 1). The main mission of the consortium, the only one of its kind in the state, is to “build a central database that provides patrons with easy access to resources from all

of the member libraries” (para. 2). Currently, according to the MLP website (library.msstate.edu/mlp) member libraries across the state provide access to more than 3.1 million titles.

100 BOOKS EVERY BLUES FAN SHOULD OWN

At the foundation of this project, along with those 3.1 million titles, sits *100 Books Every Blues Fan Should Own*, compiled by distinguished academics Edward Komara and Greg Johnson, both with former and current ties, respectively, to the Blues Archives at the University of Mississippi. Published in 2014 by Rowman and Littlefield, *100 Books* is part of the Best Music Books series and seeks to identify the most essential titles for blues enthusiasts. By design, this list is meant to be selective, not exhaustive. The authors’ criteria for inclusion are substance, style, discipline (the quality of the research), influence, coverage, and availability. For each of the one hundred entries, collectively referred to as the Blues 100, Komara and Johnson include publication information and an extensive evaluation of the topic. These evaluations can include basic summaries, comparisons to other titles in and out of the Blues 100, and the historical significance of the subject matter (Komara & Johnson, 2014).

Additionally, the authors include an appendix of 23 invaluable reference resources that receive the same treatment and care as each

of the primary entries. Four of the reference titles found their way into the Blues 100, but one could easily argue that number should be higher. Finally, an extensive playlist inspired by the entries concludes the compilation. Rather than simply being a bibliographic tool, *100 Books* is practically as essential as any of the included titles for its critical analysis and historical coverage of the music and musicians that brought these works to life. Given the grand scope and achievement of *100 Books*, it’s no wonder that it received high praise among reviewers at the time of its release. Not lost on some reviewers was its relevance not only to blues fans and collectors but to librarians. For any library interested in maintaining a professional blues collection, *100 Books* can serve either as an excellent foundation for collections starting at ground zero or as a measuring stick for existing collections. Despite its essential nature, however, *100 Books* is not without one major flaw – its date. Since its publication in 2014, countless new blues books have been published; and since librarians cannot afford to wait for experts to compile a new bibliography, they have relied on solid collection development policies and good decision-making to build and maintain current blues collections. While *100 Books Every Blues Fan Should Own* serves as this project’s foundation and inspiration, the authors will also take a look at new blues books added to library collections since 2014.

ASSUMPTIONS

This study uses data collected from academic universities and government websites. The websites are assumed to be functional and user-friendly. The information found is assumed to be up-to-date and complete. The data collected are assumed to be accurate as of the date of retrieval.

METHODOLOGY

The authors first searched for 120 unique titles within the library holdings of each of the current MLP member libraries. The 120 titles included the Blues 100, the reference resources found in the appendix (except for those titles duplicated in the main list), and *100 Books* itself. The authors limited the results to printed books. All other formats were not considered. Finally, to be more inclusive, the authors decided to consider all editions and printings of a particular title. For example, they included both first and second editions of *Encyclopedia of the Blues* edited by Gérard Herzhaft.

In order to find blues books added to MLP collections since 2014, the authors evaluated the results of subject searches in all member library catalogs for three of the most recurrent LC subject headings used to describe entries from *100 Books: Blues (Music)*, *Blues musicians*, and *Rhythm and blues music*. The authors limited these three subject searches by date range (2014-2023) and format type (book).

FINDINGS

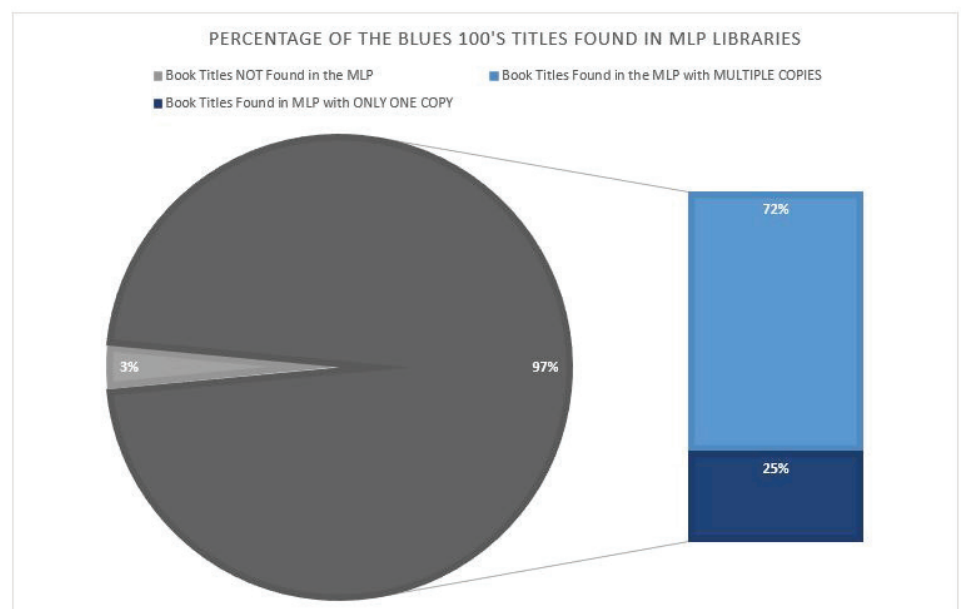
100 BOOKS AND MLP COMPARISON

The top three libraries with the most titles from the Blues 100 were Roberts-LaForge Library (Delta State University) with 93, Mitchell Memorial Library (Mississippi State University) with 58, and Emily Jones Pointer Public Library (First Regional Library System) with 21.

The most popular book in the Blues 100, judging by MLP library holdings, was *Juke Joint: Photographs* by Birney Imes. In a total of 27 libraries, *Juke Joint* explores the colorful world of the Mississippi blues scene through photographs and an introductory essay by Richard Ford. Next, found in 17 libraries each, *Escaping the Delta* by Elijah Wald and *Blues from the Delta* by William Ferris examine one of the state's most fascinating regions and many of its most famous musicians. Biographies of bluesmen proved to

be some of the most popular titles. They included *Can't Be Satisfied: The Life and Times of Muddy Waters* by Robert Gordon (found in 15 libraries), *Mississippi John Hurt: His Life, His Times, His Blues* by Philip Ratcliffe (found in 14 libraries), and *Father of the Blues: An Autobiography* by W.C. Handy (found in 10 libraries). Rounding out the most popular titles was another work on the Mississippi Delta, *Land Where the Blues Began* by Alan Lomax, found in 12 libraries.

Three titles in the Blues 100 were not found in any library: *Paramount's Rise and Fall* by Alex van der Tuuk, *Upside Your Head! Rhythm and Blues on Central Avenue* by Johnny Otis, and *President Johnson's Blues: African American Blues and Gospel Songs on LBJ, Martin Luther King, Robert Kennedy and Vietnam, 1963-1968* by Guido van Rijn. See Graph 1 for the full comparison ratio.



Graph 1

REFERENCE SOURCES (THE APPENDIX) AND MLP COMPARISON

The appendix's reference sources were not as widely available. Of the 20 unique titles (including *100 Books*), Roberts-LaForge Library had 13 titles while Mitchell Memorial Library had seven. No other library had more than two.

In this group, Robert Santelli's *The Big Book of the Blues: A Biographical Encyclopedia* reigned as the most popular title turning up in 12 libraries. Six libraries each held *Encyclopedia of the Blues* by Gérard Herzhaft and the *All Music Guide to the Blues*. Most libraries did not have any of the reference titles which is unfortunate given their immense research value.

DISCUSSION OF 100 BOOKS

In trying to summarize the results or draw any conclusions, it is easy to see that biographies and studies of the Mississippi Delta are the most

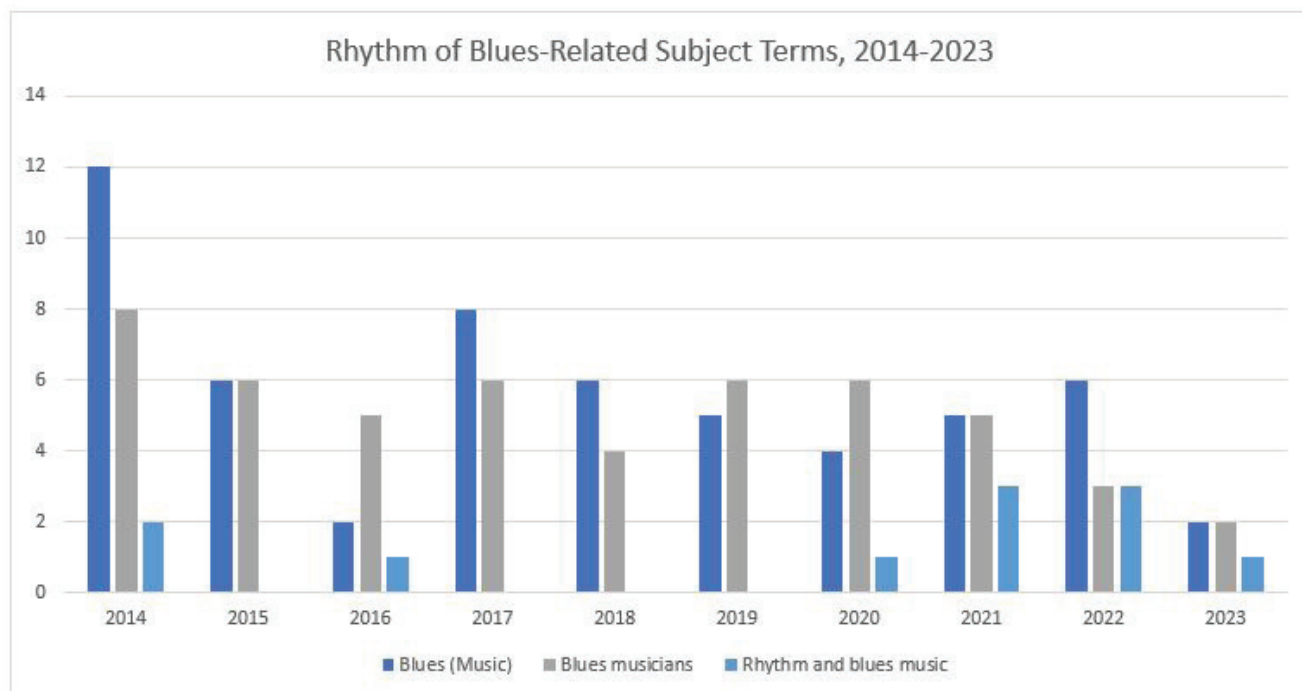
popular titles of *100 Books* found in MLP collections. Fans love reading about these larger-than-life almost mythological figures whose names like Robert Johnson and Muddy Waters can instantly evoke the spirit and meaning of the blues. The results also speak to a fascination with Mississippi and particularly the Delta where inhabitants, despite living in a poor and sometimes oppressive society, succeeded in creating one of the most unique and culturally rich places in America.

SUBJECT SEARCHES AND MLP RESULTS

The authors speculated whether there would be a decrease of interest in blues literature since the publication of *100 Books*. Buddy Guy sang it best in 2010, "I got this funny, funny feeling you don't want me around no more." (lines 5-6) That was not the case here, however, as the blues remains an intense topic of interest in the literary world. With

this in mind, the authors reviewed the MLP collections for titles published since 2014. As mentioned in the Methodology section, the authors selected the subjects based on search results from *100 Books*. See graph 2 to witness the rhythm of the following terms over the past nine years.

A subject search for the heading *Blues (Music)* produced 55 results. Roberts-LaForge Library held the most titles with 25. Mitchell Memorial Library and the Lafayette County & Oxford Public Library came in second with 12 titles each. The top five titles included *Clayton Byrd Goes Underground* by Rita Williams Garcia (found in 14 libraries), *Po' Monkey's: Portrait of a Juke Joint* by Will Jacks (found in 11 libraries), *Live from the Mississippi Delta* by Panny Flautt Mayfield (found in 10 libraries), and *Memphis Rent Party: The Blues, Rock & Soul in Music's Hometown* by Robert



Graph 2

Gordon (found in eight libraries). The top title, *Clayton Byrd Goes Underground*, is a children's book with vivid music scenery as Clayton searches for his grandfather's band of bluesmen. The popularity of a children's book was interesting to find, and even more interesting that there were two other children's books found in this set of results.

The next two most popular titles from that search are similar as they primarily contain photographs and stories of blues music in the Mississippi Delta (*Po' Monkey's* by Jacks and *Live from the Mississippi Delta* by Mayfield). They were even created by two longtime Delta residents/artists/authors. Although all the titles are essentially different, a common thread runs through them all: being visually stimulating while also searching for or holding onto hope despite a simmering aura of despair.

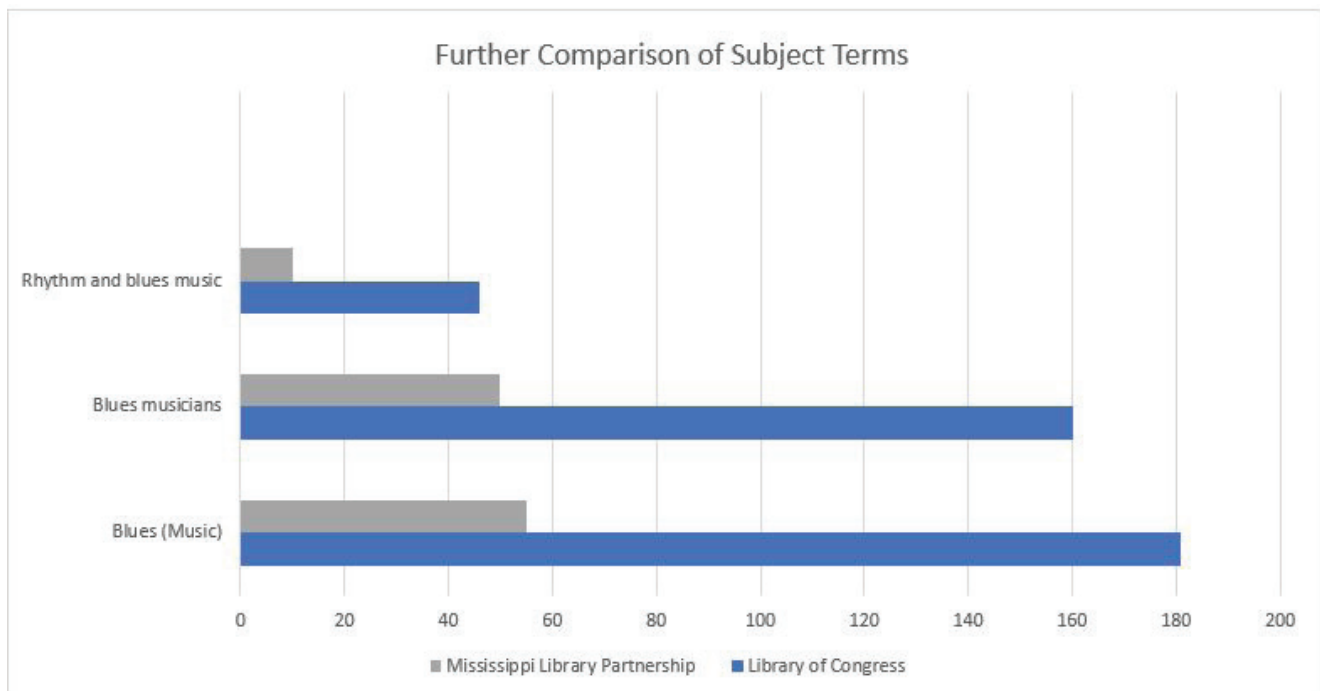
A subject search for the heading *Blues musicians* produced 50 results.

Roberts-LaForge Library held the most titles with 16. The Lee County Library came in second with 13 titles, and the Lafayette County & Oxford Public Library came in a close third with 11 titles. The top five titles included *King of the Blues: The Rise and Reign of B.B. King* by Daniel de Visé (found in 16 libraries), *Grown: A Novel* by Tiffany Jackson (found in 15 libraries), *Muddy: The Story of Blues Legend Muddy Waters* by Michael Mahin (found in 12 libraries), *Every Little Step* by Bobby Brown (found in 10 libraries) and *Who is Stevie Wonder* by Jim Gigliotti (found in 10 libraries). This group of results was unique as it included a mystery fiction book, *Grown: A Novel*, told through the heartbreaking lows of young Black women musicians.

A subject search for the heading *Rhythm and blues music* produced 10 results. Roberts-LaForge Library and the Lafayette County & Oxford

Public Library tied with three titles each. Wren Public Library, Sturgis Public Library, and Winston County Library tied for second with two each. The top three titles included *I Ain't Studdin' Ya* by Bobby Rush (found in five libraries), *The Birth of Rock N' Roll* by Peter Guralnick and Colin Escott (found in four libraries), and *Rock, Rosetta, Rock* by Tonya Bolden (located in three libraries). The top two titles were not a surprise as the first is a memoir of a blues legend and Grammy winner, while the second is a history of Sun Records by two well-known music authors. However, the third book was a surprise as it is a children's book, and the subject is a blueswoman, Sister Rosetta Tharpe.

Note: The preceding searches produced results with the intended subject headings, but naturally also included results with broader subject headings that contained the search phrase. For example, the search of



Graph 3

Blues musicians found many records with that subject, but also produced records with the subject *Rhythm and blues musicians*. As a matter of accuracy, the authors decided to include all results.

FURTHER INTEREST WITH THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

Finally, as a sort of gauge, the authors also wanted to compare the newer holdings from 2014-2023 to a library independent of the MLP and guaranteed to have an extensive blues collection. They eventually settled on the Library of Congress (LC), which, as of 2021, boasted a comprehensive collection of "more than 25.2 million cataloged books in the Library of Congress classification system" (Library of Congress, n.d., Year 2021 at a Glance). Using LC's catalog, the authors performed the same three subject searches as before and set the same limits for

date range and format type. Additionally, they also limited results by language (English).

The searches produced 181 titles for *Blues (Music)*, 160 titles for *Blues musicians*, and 46 titles for *Rhythm and blues music*. The authors estimate that the MLP contains just north of 25% of what's in the much larger LC collection. A visual comparison can be seen in Graph 3. These numbers are a testament to the collaboration of libraries that work together so that readers who find themselves at a crossroads can find the blues.

CONCLUSION

In Mississippi, the blues are "the roots" (Dixon & Snowden, 1990, p. 4) in our muddy soil that have sunk deep through the banks of the Mississippi River and throughout the entire Magnolia State. The authors believe this study illustrates that

the Mississippi Library Partnership is meeting user needs and helping strengthen those roots by growing healthy book collections; provides ideas for further collection development opportunities; and indicates how the abundance of popular and scholarly works on the blues speaks to the unwavering and ever-growing international popularity of the genre. The blues are definitely alive and well in Mississippi.

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To join MLA, or to renew your membership:

<http://misslib.org/membership>

2022 MLA Executive Board Minutes:

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

Climate Change and Severe Weather

Teaching Resources and Reading List for Grades K-12

Joyce Shaw

*Head of Gunter Library/Professor
University of Southern Mississippi*

Oliver S. Kuttner

*Proctor, Testing Center, Academic Success
Center
University of Southern Mississippi*

Megan Le

*Adjunct Librarian, Gulf Coast Library
University of Southern Mississippi*

INTRODUCTION

The Gulf Coast Research Laboratory's (GCRL) Gunter Library created a list of books and other resources about climate and severe weather to augment and support GCRL's Marine Education Center (MEC) camps and classes about community sustainability and resilience. The list is a foundation and introduction to the concept of climate change and its impacts on global weather. Using a grant from NOAA's Bay Watershed Education and Training Program (B-WET) and in partnership with Mississippi Alabama Sea Grant Consortium, the Marine Education Center developed a curriculum called "A Classroom Course in Community Resilience." The book list supports this curriculum. Teachers were encouraged to set up a classroom library or share a copy with their school librarian. When the MEC staffed a booth at the Ocean Springs Environmental Alliance's Earth Day Celebration, the book list was one of several informational handouts available to people attending the event. The theme

for the 2023 Earth Day Celebration was climate change.

MARINE EDUCATION CENTER

Located in an AIA award winning facility at the GCRL Cedar Point campus adjacent to Gulf Islands National Seashore in Ocean Springs, MS, the MEC has developed camps and classes for grades k-12, and professional development opportunities for educators. The Center was built to fit into a natural setting with unique features including a suspension bridge that offers tree-canopy height views of the marsh, a fully accessible nature trail called Osprey Point, and Science on the Sphere. Its conference center has an outside screened meeting area, a catering kitchen, and breakout room and is available for rent for meetings, gatherings, and retreats. The Marine Education Center is one of four University of Southern Mississippi research and academic centers located at GCRL. For more information, please visit <https://www.usm.edu/marine-education-center/index.php>.

THE SELECTION PROCESS

Work on this list builds on the process used in "Deep Water Horizon Oil Spill and Ocean Pollution: Teaching Resources and Reading List for Grades K-12" (Shaw & Le, 2022). Resources used to create this list include Children's Literature Comprehensive Database, Education Resources Information

Center (ERIC), Boggs, et al. (2016), Axelrod, et al. (2020), and Outterson-Murphy (2021), in addition to several web sources.

To be included on the list, the book or its author had to have been nominated for or received an award or special recommendation. Each entry includes a brief description of the work, age appropriateness, and names the award or honor. Books were privately purchased for donation to the GCRL MEC. The primary reviewer was Oliver Kuttner, who holds a Bachelor of Science from The University of Southern Mississippi in geography with an emphasis in weather and climate.

WEB RESOURCES

While working on this project, we collected an assortment of resources about climate literacy suitable for informal education settings and in the classroom. These resources include hands on activities and curriculum boosters.

- EPA (<https://www.epa.gov/climate-change/climate-change-resources-educators-and-students>)
 - A host of links to federal and some non-federal resources specifically for teachers and students divided by grade levels, elementary through high school.
- Mississippi Alabama Sea Grant Consortium (<https://masgc.org/climate-resilience-community-of-practice>)
 - This site has resources for learning more about how your

community can become more resilient in the wake of severe storm events such as sea-level rise, flooding, and land loss.

- National Marine Educators Association (<https://www.marine-ed.org/ocean-literacy/overview>)

- Recommended by NOAA because ocean literacy, sea level rise, and climate change are intrinsically linked, this is the home of the primary group of educators who worked to create the ocean and climate literacy curriculum and standards for k-12. Their journal *Current: The Journal of Marine Education* includes hands on activities, scholarly articles, and book reviews.

- National Geographic (<https://education.nationalgeographic.org/resource/climate-change/>)

- A well respected and always beautiful resource, this site provides a group of videos and articles for grades 2 and up covering climate change for courses in earth science, geology, geography, and physical geography.

- National Geographic Kids (<https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/science/article/climate-change>)

- Information specifically for children with links to games, puzzles, and videos.

- National Wildlife Federation (<https://www.nwf.org/educational-resources/wildlife-guide/threats-to-wildlife/climate-change>)

- Read their 2020 *Confronting the Climate Crisis* report and their look at extreme weather,

habitats at risk, and tackling the problems. Good for students looking for easy to communicate facts and ideas for reports and projects.

- NOAA (<https://oceanservice.noaa.gov/education/literacy.html>)

- Created through a collaboration of scientists and educators, an abundance of resources for students, teachers, and kids are linked here. Also includes links to the *National Marine Educators Association's Ocean Literacy Guide*, *The Handbook for Increasing Ocean Literacy*, *Ocean Literacy Scope and Sequence for Grades K-12*, and *Alignment of Ocean Literacy to the Next Generation Science Standards* (NGSS).

- Smithsonian Institution (<https://ocean.si.edu/conservation/climate-change>)

- Resources for teachers including lesson plans, activities, plus plenty of video and other supplemental materials.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

As we reviewed and collected information, we found these articles to have information about learning objectives, activities, and reaching underserved audiences:

- Ahrabi-Nejad, S., Collini, R.C., Miller-Way, T., Patch, S.M., Rellinger, A., Sempier, T., Seubert, E.A., & Sparks, E. (2022). Fostering science-to-civics literacy through the development and assessment of a sea-level rise curriculum. *Continental Shelf Research*, 24, 10473 <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.csr.2022.104731>
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- Trott, C.D. (2020). Children's constructive climate change engagement: Empowering awareness, agency, and action. *Environmental Educa-*

tion Research 26(4), 532-554.

DOCUMENTARIES

Megan Le provided the following list of documentaries suitable for classroom use or inclusion in school or public library collections. Entries include a brief description and awards.

- Akerman, K. (Director). (2022). *Hollow Tree*. Water Literacy Film.

- *Hollow Tree* follows three teenagers coming of age in their sinking homeland of Louisiana. For the first time, they notice the Mississippi River's engineering, stumps of cypress trees, and billowing smokestacks. Their different perspectives — as Indigenous, white, and Angolan young women — shape their story of the climate crisis. New Orleans Film Fest Audience Award & Jury Award. <https://hollowtreefilm.com/>

- Davies, S. (Director). (2019). *Climate Change: The Facts*. PBS.

- *Climate Change: The Facts* features leading climate scientists who explain what might happen if global warming increases 1.5 degrees. Sir David Attenborough received United Nations' Champions of the Earth Lifetime Achievement Award in 2020. <https://www.pbs.org/show/climate-change-facts/>

- Orłowski, J. (Director). (2016). *Chasing Ice*. Exposure Labs.

- On assignment for *National Geographic* in the polar reaches of the world, James Balog and a band of young adventurers ended up with something

more compelling than photos when they captured the largest calving event that had ever been caught on film. The classroom version comes with educational guides for middle school thru college. Satellite Award for Best Documentary Film. <https://chasingice.com/>

- Stevens, F. (Director). (2016). *Before the Flood*. National Geographic Documentary Films.

- This documentary follows actor Leonardo DiCaprio meeting with scientists, activists, and world leaders to discuss the dangers of climate change and possible solutions. Motion Picture Sound Editors, USA 2017 Nominee Golden Reel Award; Music + Sound Awards, International 2017 Nominee Best Sound Design; Environmental Media Awards, USA 2017 Nominee EMA Award; Cinema for Peace Awards 2017 Nominee Cinema for Peace Award; International Green Film Award; Toronto International Film Festival 2016 Nominee People's Choice Award; Hollywood Music In Media Awards (HMMA) 2016 Winner HMMA Award; Hollywood Film Awards 2016 Winner Hollywood Film Award Documentary of the Year; 2016 Nominee Critics' Choice Documentary Award.

- Testa, M. (Director). (2018). *The Human Element*. Earth Vision Film.

- Photographer James Balog captures the lives of everyday Americans who live on the front lines of climate change

in the elements of earth, air, fire, and water. Their website (<https://thehumanelement-movie.com/#>) includes lesson plans and film clips. AreDay 2018 Impact Film; EarthX Film 2018 Catalyst Award; Colorado Film & Video Association 2019 Best Documentary; Newport Beach Film Festival 2018 Best Environmental Documentary; 2019 Novim Epiphany Award for Science Awareness at Stanford University; Philadelphia Environmental Film Festival 2019 Best Feature Film; SCAD Savannah Film Festival 2018 Best Documentary.

- Winther, S. (Director). (2019). *Lowland Kids*. RYOT FILMS.

- As climate change erases the Louisiana coast, the last two teenagers on Isle de Jean Charles fight to stay on an island that's been their family home for generations. 2020 Nominee Cinema Eye Honors Award Outstanding Achievement in Nonfiction Short Filmmaking; SXSW Film Festival 2019 Nominee SXSW Grand Jury Award; Melbourne International Film Festival 2019 Nominee City of Melbourne Award; Quebec City International Film Festival 2019 Nominee Grand Jury Prize; deadCenter Film Festival 2019 Winner Best Short Documentary; Palm Springs International ShortFest 2019 Winner Audience Award for Best Documentary; Rhode Island International Film Festival 2019 Winner Filmmaker of the Future Award

Grand Prize; Minneapolis St. Paul International Film Festival 2019 Winner Best Documentary Short; Camden International Film Festival 2019 Nominee Camden Cartel Award Best Short Film; Hamptons International Film Festival 2019 Nominee Golden Starfish Award; Downtown Film Festival Los Angeles 2019 Winner Grand Jury Prize Best Documentary Short. <https://www.sandrawinther.com/lowland-kids-full-film>

BOOKS FOR CHILDREN & YOUNG ADULTS

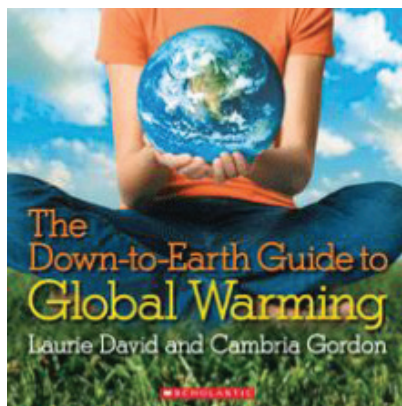
Cherry, L. & Braasch, G. (2008) *How We Know, What We Know About Our Changing Climate: Scientists and Kids Explore Global Warming*. Dawn Publications.

This book describes how scientists look for evidence regarding climate change including alterations in bird migration times and patterns, changes to flower and fruit blossom dates, and tree rings and mud cores. Describes how students and other citizen scientists are helping monitor climate change and recommend mitigating global warming. Excellent science writing and photography. Green Earth Book Award, Honor 2009; SB&F Prize of Excellence in Science, 2009; USA Book News National Best Books Award, 2008 winner for YA Educational. Ages 9-14

Cole, J. & Degen, B. (2010). *The Magic School Bus and the Climate Challenge*. Scholastic Inc. Ms Frizzle takes her kids on a whirlwind tour, from the Arctic to the equator so they can see telltale signs of climate change. 2011 Winner: Children's Science Picture Book; SB&F Prize for Excellence in Science Books, winner 2011, and Green Earth Book Award, Honor 2011. Ages 6-10

Coppens, K. (2021). *Earth Will Survive...But We May Not*. Tumblehome, Inc.

A sobering and up-to-date look at how we have impacted the Earth and the scientists, men, and women, who document the changes. Discusses climate change, extinction, pollution, and what young people can do to make a difference including recycling, energy use, and voting. Benjamin Franklin Award, 2022, Gold Winner, Teen Non-Fiction; Independent Publisher Book Award (IPPY) 2022 Silver, Juvenile-Young Adult Non-Fiction; Maine Literary Award, 2022, Finalist, Young People's Literature; Nautilus Book Award, 2022, Gold Young Adult Non-Fiction. Ages 12-YA



David, L. & Gordon, C. (2007). *The Down-to-Earth Guide to Global Warming*. Scholastic.

You can make a difference! This essential guide explains global warming, wacky weather, and how to change the world following simple steps. Lively and engaging for middle-school and up. Multiple award-winning book. 50 Books about Science and Scientists, 2012 Science All Around; Best Children's Books of the Year, 2008 Special Interests: Science; Booklist Top 10 Books on the Environment for Youth, 2008; Children's Choices, 2008 Grades 5-6 Book of the Year; Choices, 2008 Issues in Today's World; Eco-Reading: Selected Books for Children and Teens about Our Earth and the Environment, 2013; What Happened Here? Environmental Challenges and Change-Non-Fiction; Kirkus Best Children's Books, 2007; Kirkus Book Review Stars, 2007; Middle and Junior High School Library Catalog, Ninth Edition Supplement 2008; Publishers Weekly Book Review Stars, 2007. Ages 9-14

Ferrie, C. & Petrou, K. (2020). *Climate Change for Babies*. Sourcebooks Explore.

With the idea that pre-schoolers and kindergartners can become environmentally literate, this early reader is simple with clear illustrations that explain complex scientific ideas in an accessible way for the little ones. An adult may need to explain some vocabulary words. Green Earth Book Award, 2021, Long List, Children's, and Young Adult Nonfiction; Ages 3-6

Goin, M.B. (2009). *Storms*. National Geographic Kids.

Awarding winning author, Goin gives us an easy first reader with outstanding quality National Geographic photography. Concepts are simple and clearly explained. Some fun riddles accompany the sections. Weather events include monsoons, hurricanes, droughts, sandstorms, tornadoes, blizzards, and more. Ages 5-7

Hall, J. (2007). *A Hot Planet Needs Cool Kids: Understanding Climate Change and What You Can Do About It*. Green Goat Books.

This book sends a message to children around the world with a clear explanation of the issues and how they can get involved in the fight against global warming. Includes fascinating scientific facts, hands-on activities and guides for young readers, families, and schools to get involved in the green or sustainable initiatives within their

communities. It meets national science and social studies curriculum standards. Additional teacher resources are available. Ages 10+

Herman, G. (2018). *What is Climate Change?* Penguin/Random House.

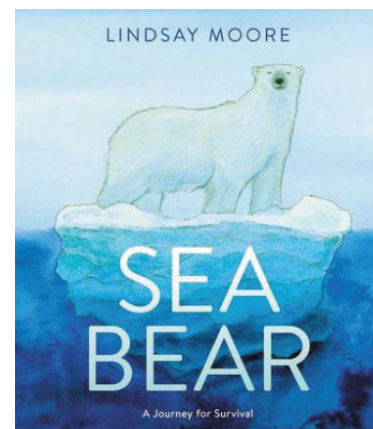
What is Climate Change? Is an easy-to-understand book. The author looks at this topic not just as an environmental issue, but also from a social and political perspective. Herman breaks down what climate change is and shows both sides of the debate allowing children to form a well-rounded idea of the issue. Green Prize for Sustainable Literature, 2019 Winner. Ages 8-12

Heos, B. (2016). *It's Getting Hot in Here: The Past, the Present, and the Future of Global Warming*. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt.

Heos takes a hard look at global warming, the science it is based on, the history of climate change, and human impact on the current crisis. Focuses on the interconnectedness of all planet dwellers past, present, and future. Despite the grim pictures, the author provides ways to affect positive change. Guide Book to Gift Books, 2016 Books for Middle Readers; Cybils Awards, 2016, Nominee, Non-fiction (Middle Grade and Young Adult). Ages 11+

Johnson, R.L. (2009). *Investigating Climate Change: Scientists' Search for Answers in a Warming World*. Twenty-First Century Books.

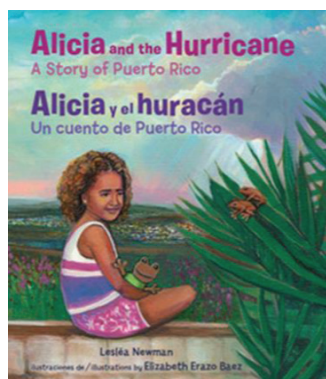
All the basics for understanding climate change are described in five chapters. By using ice cores, scientists reach a sobering conclusion that the climate is warming and the causes are primarily due to humans. Readers follow the discoveries from early studies of the Ice Ages, impacts of industrialization, and the melting glaciers. While the picture is not pretty, there is still time to make changes that avoid catastrophe. Society of School Librarians International Book Awards, 2009, Honor Book, Science Grade (7-12). Ages: 12+



Moore, L. (2022). *Sea Bear: A Story of Survival*. Harper Collins.

The author/illustrator brings her marine biology background into the story of a solitary polar bear who travels across sea ice and then in the arctic waters as she searches for food. After an exhausting trip at sea, she finds shelter on land and gives birth to her cubs while she waits for the water to freeze again. Includes information about

the arctic wildlife, sea ice, and climate change for younger readers. Cyblis Award, 2019 nominee – Elementary and Middle Grades (non-Fiction); Garden State Children's Book award, 2022, Winner, Non-Fiction. Ages 4-12



Newman, L. & Baez, E.E.(2022). *Alicia and the Hurricane: A Story of Puerto Rico/Alicia y el huracán: Un cuento de Puerto Rico*. Children's Press.

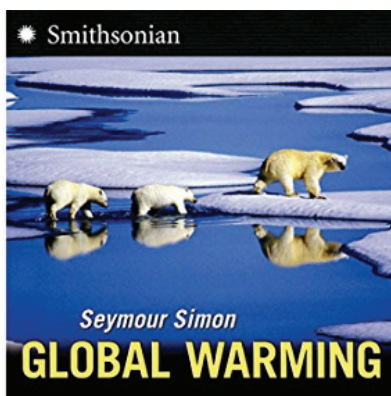
A bilingual English-Spanish story of a young Puerto Rican girl and her family surviving a hurricane. Alicia listens to the chorus of little tree frogs that sing her to sleep every night. Will she hear them again after the big storm passes through her community? Tenderly told with beautiful illustrations that tell the story of resilience and recovery of people and their environment after a hurricane. Junior Library Guild recommended. Ages 4-8.

Redniss, L. (2015). *Thunder & Lightning: Weather Past, Present, Future*. Random House.

This award-winning graphic novel discusses weather and global climate change, what we have seen, and may see in the future. Weather affected humans at every stage of evolution and will continue to do so. Based on extensive research and personal interviews, Redniss infuses drawings and text in a simple, yet effective, way to teach readers about the history, present and future of weather changes. Awarded the 2016 PEN/E.O. Wilson Literary Science Writing Award. Ages: YA+

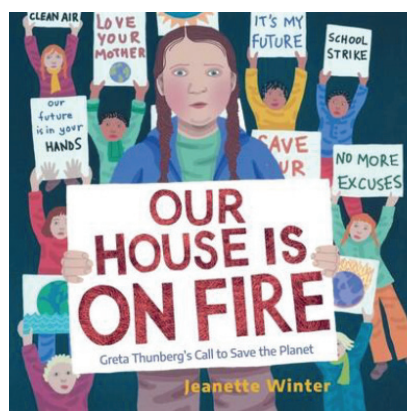
Seuss, Dr. (1999). *The Lorax*. Random House.

"Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not." The classic Dr. Seuss story is a great introduction for children to learn about sustainability and environmental protection. The story takes young readers and listeners through concepts such as greed, deforestation and other unsustainable practices that are currently driving rapid climate change. The Lorax teaches kids to treat our planet with kindness and to stand up for others through climate advocacy. Printed on recycled paper, the book gives parents an opportunity to talk about recycling. 100 Best Books for BC Students, 2016 Elementary; 100 Best Children's Books of All Time, 2015 Children; Growing Good Kids-Excellence in Children's Literature Awards, 2005; 3 Apples Book Award, 2017 - 2018; Children's Choice Arizona Young Reader Awards, 1977; California Young Reader Medal, 1976; Primary Colorado Children's Book Award, 1976 - 1977. Ages 5-10



Simon, S. (2010). *Global Warming*. Collins.

This introduction to climate change by science writer Simon Seymour in collaboration with the Smithsonian Institution, is a serious look at the issues with factors, signs, repercussions, and enough statistics to make this useful for school reports. Outstanding Science Trade Books for Students K-12, 2011 Earth & Space Science, NSTA; Ages: 8-12



Winter, J. (2019). *Our House Is on Fire: Greta Thunberg's Call to Save the Planet*. Simon and Schuster.

A picture book that presents the work of Swedish teenager and environmental activist of Greta Thunberg, who started the student movement to combat climate change and led a worldwide children's march to challenge world leaders to act on the issue. Includes curriculum guide. Best Children's Books of the Year, 2020 Information Books-Biography; NYC Reads 365, 2019 Grades 3-5; NYC Reads 365, 2021 Grades 3-5; Parents' Choice Award, 2019, Recommended, Non-Fiction. Ages 8-10

Woods, M. & Woods, M.B. (2007). *Hurricanes*. Lerner.

Part of the series Disasters Up Close, this title uses photographs from recent and historical hurricanes to show the damage that a hurricane can do. A well-done presentation with photographs and quotes, diagrams, and maps. Supplemental pages include a timeline, a hurricane supply kit list, a glossary, an index, and suggested readings and films, and places to visit. Society of School Librarians International Book Awards, 2006 and 2007 Honor Book, Science Grade (K-6). Ages 6-12

BOOKS FOR YOUNG ADULTS & TEENS

Butler, O.E. (1995). *Parable of the Sower*. Women's Press.

Set in a harsh futurist world of small walled communities protecting inhabitants from hordes of scavengers and other frightening people, an 18-year-old black woman with a special condition called "hyperempathy" sets off on foot along the dangerous coastal highways after her community is over run. Books for You: An Annotated Booklist for Senior High, Thirteenth Edition, 1997; School Library Journal: Best Books for Young Adults, 1994; Senior High Core Collection, Seventeenth Edition, 2007; Senior High School Library Catalog, Sixteenth Edition, 2002; YALSA Best Books for Young Adults, 1995. Ages 16-YA+

Dimaline, C. (2019). *The Marrow Thieves*. Dancing Cat Books.

Set in a future Canada impacted by climate disaster, people have lost the ability to dream which has caused worldwide madness. In post-apocalyptic North America, the Indigenous people, who are the only people who can dream, are hunted for their bone marrow which is thought to hold the cure for dreamlessness. But extracting the "cure" means death for the unwilling donors. 15-year-old Frenchie falls in with a band of survivors on the run. American Indian Youth Literature Award, 2018, Honor, Young Adult; Amy Mathers Teen Book Award, 2018, Winner, Children's Literature; Burt Award for First Nations, Inuit, and Metis Young Adult Literature, 2018, Winner, Young Adult; Cybils Awards, 2017, Nominee, Young Adult (Speculative Fiction); Governor General's Literary Awards, 2017, Winner, Young People's Literature – Text; In the Margins Book Awards, 2019, Nominee, Fiction; International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY) Honor List, 2020, Honour List, Book; Kirkus Prize, 2017, Winner, Young Reader; Ruth and Sylvia Schwartz Children's Book Award, 2018, Short List, Young Adult and Middle Reader; Sunburst Award for Excellence in Canadian Literature of the Fantastic, 2018, Winner, Young Adult. Ages 14-YA+

Gratz, A. (2022). *Two Degrees*. Scholastic.

A forest fire in California, hurricane in Florida, and a polar bear on the tundra, events that will change the lives of four young people as they fight for their survival in a world altered by only two degrees. New York Times Bestseller; ABA Indie Bestseller List; Publisher's Weekly Bestseller List; USA Today Bestseller List; 2023 Green Earth Young Adult Book Award; 2023 National Council for the Social Studies-Children's Book Council Notable Social Studies Trade Books List; Amazon Best Books of the Year 2022; A Junior Library Guild selection; Amazon Best Books of the Month (October 2022); Barnes and Noble Best Young Reader Books of 2022; 2022 Nerdy Book Club Award for Middle Grade Fiction; 2023 Colorado Blue Spruce Young Adult Book Award nominee. Ages 8+

Howarth, L. (1995). *Weather Eye*. Candlewick Press.

A YA novel of 13-year-old Telly, a Welsh girl whose near-death experience gives her the ability to see beyond ordinary dimensions, decides to unite her fellow members in the Weather Eye climate observation club to demonstrate that young people can change the world—in particular the turbulent weather happening in the last years of the 20th century. Howarth's story has environmental and climate change themes joined with hope for the future. Booklist Book Review Stars, 1995; Ages YA+

Smith, S.L. (2013). *Orleans*. Putman.

After a series of high-powered hurricanes devastate the Gulf Coast and the area is ravaged by Delta Fever, the region is quarantined and abandoned by the rest of the country. Now in 2056, the survivors are in tribes based on blood type with O Positive sought by hunters for the healing properties in their blood. Fen de la Guerre, an OP, trying to escape capture encounters Daniel, a young scientist who has illegally entered the zone in search of a Delta fever cure. They become unlikely allies in a fight for survival. Cybils Awards, 2013, Nominee, Young Adult (Speculative Fiction). Ages: 13-YA+

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Mississippi Libraries Celebrate National Library Week 2023

Tori L. Hopper

Children's & Teen Services

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Columbus-Lowndes Public Library System

Libraries in Mississippi have continued to show their value and how their community's return on investment involves much more than a good book to read. This National Library Week, the message was reiterated in the American Library Association's theme, There's More to the Story. The theme aimed to highlight how libraries host a wide range of services from free internet access, support for businesses and job seekers, programming like movie nights and lectures, and more.

Serving as the honorary chair for the 2023 National Library Week was Kelly Yang, children's book author



National Library Week Press Kit, ALA

of *Front Desk*, *New From Here*, and more. Yang explained that as an immigrant child, she understood the value of libraries and librarians who saw her and supported her in her journey to learning English and how to navigate the United States. Much like the librarians Yang encountered, Mississippi librarians inspired their patrons to feel welcome and share their stories at their libraries.

Baldwyn's Anne Spencer Cox Library, a branch of the Northeast Regional Library System, asked patrons to write their favorite stories about the library and hosted "Tell Me More of Your Life Story", a program where patrons could share stories about their life experiences with others. Highlighting the varied programming that libraries offer, the Burnsville Library invited their

area's First American National Bank branch manager to provide financial literacy information to the community. Later that week, Burnsville also hosted an all-day community crafting event held by one of their own Friends of the Library members as they discussed crafts and decluttering practices.

Corinth's Library hosted its book-mark competition, with winners announced at their Friends of the Library Open House event. Iuka welcomed Mississippi Poet Laureate Catherin Pierce to host a poetry workshop as they teamed up with community partners in the Tishomingo County Arts Council and the Crossroads Poetry Project. Other library programs around NERL included library scavenger hunts in Ripley, and a Meet and Greet the Midway Homemakers in Tishomingo.



NLW Program Flyer from Corinth Public Library

In Mississippi's Coastal Region, librarians sought to connect with their communities by providing programs for patrons of all ages

and stages. Gulfport Public Library courses on Microsoft Excel and a slime craft, while Pass Christian Public Library was hosting a Love My Library story time, Community Yoga, and a knitting group. Before Pass Christian wrapped up its week with Pilates and Tai Chi classes, it celebrated National Library Week with Mississippi-based Katy Simpson Smith, author of *The Weeds*.



NLW Program Flyer from Biloxi Public Library

The Biloxi Public Library librarians shared fun facts about themselves to connect with their community members and demonstrated how there is more to their own, personal stories. Included in the display were official job titles; fun titles ranging from "Warrior of Light" to "The Fount of Knowledge"; favorite quotations; favorite books such as *Wuthering Heights* and *The Last Unicorn*. Most importantly, Bebop, the library's service dog was highlighted as "Employee of the Month Every Month" with a favorite book of *Squirrel Recipes*.

Back in north Mississippi, Southaven's M. R. Davis Public Library welcomed Tara Stringfellow, author of *Memphis* to talk and sign novels



Author Tara Stringfellow signs novels, Photo provided by M.R. Davis Public Library

for patrons. In addition to Stringfellow's event, the library also held a children's book publishing workshop where local authors discussed all things children's publishing.



Photo provided by M.R. Davis Public Library

Libraries in Mississippi have consistently met patrons where they are in life, and provided many opportunities for community growth and development, and this year's National Library Week was no different. Whether it was an author visit, exercise class, or financial literacy session, there was always More to the Story for everyone involved, from the patrons to the librarians themselves, demonstrating how libraries continue to bring communities together for better.

SLIS Notes

New Directions in Publishing

Brendan Fay

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As the world emerges from the Covid pandemic, there has been broad recognition that in many industries the pandemic did not so much introduce new challenges as it did hasten transformations already underway (Haas, 2020). While the wisdom (or not) behind this striking claim continues to be tested across different sectors, the world of publishing has undergone dramatic changes in the last several years with important implications for libraries. From the continued migration of print to electronic formats and the broadening embrace of open access resources (OER) to looming developments in artificial intelligence, new trends in publishing have pushed librarians to rethink service and delivery models across academic, public, and school libraries. It is worth examining some of these developments more fully to better understand where libraries are headed and how librarians can position themselves for success going forward.

ACADEMIC LIBRARIES

Amid rising costs in inflation and college tuition, universities have naturally looked for ways to mitigate the expenses students face once they set foot on campus. It has been estimated that the average student spends over \$1,200 per year on textbooks

(Hanson, 2022). OER offers a partial solution to this problem by making resources available to students free of charge. Such initiatives have been around for more than a decade and some forward-thinking university presses—such as the University of Michigan—now offer robust eBook collections with thousands of high-quality titles available across many disciplines. Among the biggest obstacles to even more widespread adoption is many faculty members' perception that "free" equates to "inferior" and some scholars' reticence towards pursuing OER publishing opportunities of their own. To help combat these misperceptions, many publishers have partnered with academic librarians to help highlight some of the advantages OER offers beyond saving students money, such as ease of access, faster path to publication, and increased research visibility and citation counts (Dickson & Holm, 2022).

PUBLIC LIBRARIES

It is hard to think of any industry where Covid had a more immediate and dramatic impact than within digital technology. E-commerce increased some 55% during the pandemic, reaching 1.7 trillion dollars from 2020-2022 as retailers sought to harness algorithms, curbside delivery and other innovations to meet rapid consumer demand (Koetsier, 2022). Similar changes could be observed in libraries as organizations were forced to rethink the nature of programming, physical collections and other services traditionally

delivered in person. With families sheltering in place, initiatives such as the "Emergency Library" that launched in March 2020 provided free access to over 1.4 million books (Jones, 2020).

The catalog itself and platforms such as *LibraryThing* have also undergone significant change as libraries move away from tightly controlled, closed systems to ones that empower users to create new reading communities and redefine genres through public-facing tagging and reviewing (Antoniak et. al., 2021). These algorithmic advances can be observed on Ecommerce leviathans like Amazon where, as Mark McGurl has recently shown, users' behaviors coupled with Amazon's secret algorithm is blurring the boundaries between what constitutes high and lowbrow literature, fiction and non-fiction, and everything in between (McGurl, 2021).

Finally, the phenomenon of self-publishing over the last decade has registered a real impact among many public library users. Although vanity publishing is several decades old, the last ten years have seen an explosion of popular interest in self-publishing, with the overall number of titles more than quadrupling from 526,907 to 2.3 million between 2011 and 2021 (Milliot, 2023). While many writers value the greater control and time to publication that vanity publishing offers, the production of high-quality books requires a range of other services—from copyediting and jacket design to marketing—that vanity

publishers do not typically provide. Many public libraries have taken it upon themselves to fill the gap by offering author services support. Until recently, the Mid-Continent Public Library system's Woodneath Press helped local authors reach their publishing goals by providing bi-weekly workshops and made an Espresso Book Machine available that offered writers a print-on-demand service to produce their books locally (Sandy, 2016). With more books to choose from than ever before and platforms that have newly empowered users, exciting changes are happening in public libraries with important implications for cataloging, collection management and development and marketing.

SCHOOL LIBRARIES

The Covid pandemic impacted the K-12 publishing sector with mixed results. On one hand, school closures greatly disrupted the traditional textbook business, causing companies like McGraw Hill to experience a 21% decline in its total market opportunity during the second quarter of 2020. On the other hand, the shift to distance learning greatly helped those publishers that had maintained heavy investment in virtual tools and technologies. Pearson, for example, registered a 14% year-over-year growth thanks to an astonishing 41% growth in virtual schools for 2020-2021 (Curen, et. al., 2021). However, no sooner have the disruptions caused by the pandemic waned than school librarians found themselves facing a new foe in the form of state efforts to ban books. While librarians in states like Texas and Florida find themselves on the front lines defending intellectual

freedom and other ALA core values, there are hopeful signs that major publishers are joining in this effort. In May 2023, Penguin Random House joined with librarians and the free-speech advocacy group PEN America to file suit against Escambia County School District alleging that the board's actions amounted to violations of free speech and equal protection as enshrined in the 1st and 14th Amendments, respectively (St. Martin, 2023).

CONCLUSION

While these publishing trends across different library settings suggest exciting opportunities ahead, real challenges remain. After the initial promise of initiatives such as the "Emergency Library", traditional publishers pushed back citing copyright concerns and the library was forced to shutter shortly after launch. In the realm of eBooks, tensions persist between libraries and some publishers over intellectual control and librarians' concerns over skyrocketing vendor costs and future guaranteed access to individual works. In school libraries, book challenges and outright bans have posed significant challenges to both school librarians and publishers seeking to uphold their commitments to intellectual freedom. Most recently, the furor surrounding the launch of ChatGPT has introduced real questions about how artificial intelligence might impact the future provision of reference and research services. Whatever the future holds, librarians' commitment to technology and access to information suggests that the profession will be able to rise to the challenge.

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Feedback and suggestions are welcome – send to slis@usm.edu or call 601-266-4228. Visit [https:// www.usm.edu/sl原因](https://www.usm.edu/sl原因) for additional information about the ALA-accredited MLIS degree program, Graduate Certificate in Archives and Special Collections, and Graduate Certificate in Youth Services and Literature. SLIS also offers a Bachelor of Science degree in LIS as well as a LIS minor. All classes are online and typically meet once each week during the evening hours.

People in the News

HINDS COMMUNITY COLLEGE RETIREMENTS

Mary Beth Applin, Dean of Libraries for Hinds Community College, retired on June 30, 2023. She would like to pass on a fond farewell and thank you to all of the wonderful library folks and educators she has worked with throughout the state over the past 25 years. Mary Beth began her professional library career in 1998 at the University of Southern Miss as a Reference Librarian where she initiated the library's Instructional program and became Instructional Coordinator. She was an active faculty member at the university serving on various committees including several terms as officer of Faculty Senate and chair of the library's Tenure Committee. She left USM to accept the position of Library Dean of the six Hinds CC campuses in 2010. At Hinds she served on various SACSCOC Review and Reaffirmation committees, chaired the MS Community College Deans and Directors Committee, was a member of the state MAGNOLIA committee and throughout her career served in various officer positions in the Mississippi Library

Association including the Information Literacy Committee chair, ACRL and SELA rep and in 2019-20 as the association President. Mary Beth moved to Mississippi from Louisiana where she earned her BA in Elementary/Special Education from Southeastern Louisiana University in Hammond and her MLIS from Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge. She plans to return to Louisiana upon her retirement.

Becky Jolly, Library Technical Assistant for Hinds Community College – Vicksburg Campus has retired after 23 years of service to HCC. Becky graduated from University of Southern Mississippi with her BA in Library Science in 1977 and worked for both the Vicksburg-Warren Public Library and All Saints' Episcopal School before settling at Hinds CC. Becky was a compassionate library service worker and ardent Hinds CARES worker and she will be missed by all the students, staff and faculty at Hinds.

NEW LIBRARIANS AT HINDS COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Hinds Community College welcomes two new faces to their

libraries - Hong (Helen) Gao and Daniel Shemwell. **Helen Gao** is a recent MLIS graduate from University of Southern Miss's SLIS program. She will be serving as the new Administrative Librarian at the Nursing and Allied Health Campus. From Chengdu, China, Hong now resides with her husband in Brookhaven, Mississippi. Prior to coming to Hinds, she worked at the Copiah Lincoln Community College's Oswald Library.

Hinds CC also welcomes **Daniel Shemwell** who has joined the Hinds Libraries team as Catalog Librarian. Prior to Hinds, Daniel was the Head Librarian/Library Technologist for Holmes Community College. He earned his BA in History from Delta State University in 2014 and his MLIS from University of Southern Miss in 2019. Originally from Memphis, Tennessee, Daniel now resides in Pearl with his wife and two sons.

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



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Book Reviews

Tori L. Hopper

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

Harkness, A.

Wolfboy Is Scared.

New York: Bloomsbury Children's Books, 2023. 40 pp. \$18.99 (Hardcover).

Andy Harkness's *Wolfboy Is Scared* continues the character of Wolfboy's adventures, and this time, he's trying to return home and must pass through the Grumblemonster's Lair to do so. Accompanied by his rabbit friends, they remind Wolfboy that it's okay to be scared as they travel through jet-black setting accented with a soft, beige clay forest.

Harkness's illustrations maintain the style seen in *Wolfboy*, with clay animation-like renderings created through a virtual reality headset. The illustrations are then combined with Harkness's images of real clay creations, mixed with lighting, and colored in Photoshop to create the final image. What results is a stark scene where Wolfboy's electric blue body and bright orange eyes are quick to spot with emotional expressions that are easy to understand.

As Wolfboy traverses the forest through Grumblemonster's Lair, he continually questions his surroundings and clearly demonstrates his apprehension. However, he declares before setting out: "I'M NOT SCARED!" (5). Yet when the group encounters mossy roots, Wolfboy asks if they're "MOLDY MONSTER TOES?" (7). His active imagination

mistakes tree branches for claws, vines for monster tails, and moonflies for monster eyes.

When Wolfboy finally encounters the dreaded Grumblemonster, the book's perspective provides an extreme close-up of his eyes across an entire spread, followed by second spread vertically illustrating the Grumblemonster and requiring the reader to turn the book to take in the illustration. Once Wolfboy and the Grumblemonster cross paths, the source of the monster's grumbling comes to light, and an unexpected twist provides an example of how preconceived notions can be incorrect.

Wolfboy Is Scared is a picture book that provides multiple opportunities for reader engagement and is ideal for read-aloud settings. Wolfboy's emotional journey is a great depiction of a variety of feelings that could be used to discuss emotional skill-building in a classroom setting. *Wolfboy Is Scared* would be an excellent story for readers in elementary grades and could be used to discuss illustration styles, how to share with others, and why stereotyping can be harmful.

This picture book adventure would be a useful addition to elementary school libraries, public libraries, and academic libraries with a section for picture books to assist students working with young children.

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

Lillard, A.

A Murder Like No Author: A Main Street Book Club Mystery. Naperville, Illinois: Poisoned Pen Press, 2021. 264 pp. \$8.99 (Paperback).

A Murder Like No Author is book three of the Main Street Book Club Mystery series, where Arlo and her book club buddies embark on yet another thrilling murder investigation. Set in the charming small town of Sugar Springs, Mississippi, the story unfolds against the backdrop of a Hollywood-style movie premiere, based on a book with a controversial authorship. Little do the residents of Sugar Springs know, this glamorous event will be marred by a shocking and unexpected murder, plunging the town into chaos. As news of the crime spreads, the ladies of the book club, known for their knack for solving mysteries, spring into action. With a sense of civic duty and a desire to protect their beloved community, they eagerly jump into their roles as amateur sleuths. From the very scene of the crime, they diligently collect clues, follow leads, and occasionally find themselves unintentionally hindering the official investigation conducted by law enforcement.

While the story maintains an air of suspense and mystery, it also offers moments of humor and lightheartedness. The book club ladies, with their unique personalities and quirks, bring a touch of comedy to their investigations, resulting in amusing and unexpected situations. These lighter moments add depth to the narrative and create a delightful

reading experience. Beyond the compelling plot, the heartwarming nature of the friendships among the book club members is a central theme that resonates throughout the novel. As they work together to solve the murder, their unwavering support for one another strengthens their bonds and showcases the power of true friendship. This authentic portrayal of relationships brings an emotional dimension to the story, drawing readers deeper into the lives of the characters.

In addition, the author skillfully captures the essence of small-town southern life and culture, immersing readers in the rich tapestry of Sugar Springs. Through vivid descriptions and attention to detail, the setting becomes a character in itself, evoking a strong sense of place. Readers will be enchanted by the charming locales, southern traditions, and the vibrant community that make Sugar Springs a captivating backdrop for the unfolding mystery. This book is recommended for adult readers and public library collections.

Joi Phillips
Assistant Director of Library Services
Delta State University

Nguyen, J.

Come Clean. Madison, WI: University of Wisconsin Press, 2021. 104 pp. \$16.95 (Paperback).

Come Clean is a collection of poems, concerning the author's sexual and generational abuse. Nguyen references his trauma through the processes of chaos and destruction. In these raw and vulnerable poems, Nguyen finds healing in the order of everyday things. He addresses many poems to Marie Kondo and her love of order, such as the process of folding laundry into neat piles and the process of rinsing rice until the water runs clear. Nguyen explains that these processes are ones that he can control, when other things seem to devolve into chaos.

Nguyen is also influenced by his relationship with his mother, as he refers to her as his source of strength throughout his life. In these poems, readers are able to identify with the loneliness and depression the author struggles with at the beginning of the book. As Nguyen details his mental health experiences and survival of abuse, readers are permitted an intimate journey as he experiences the process of healing.

This book of poetry is the winner of the Felix Pollak Prize in Poetry

and would be a great addition to any public library or academic library. Nguyen's poetry could even benefit high school libraries that may have a strong section of poetry and/or events dealing with the processes of trauma and healing.

Audrey Beach
Library Media Specialist
Moorhead Central School



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