

on the same page

news from the mississippi library commission

winter 2015

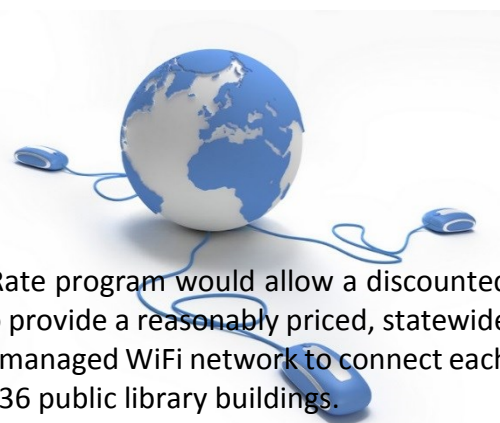
Broadband in Mississippi

By: Susan Cassagne, Executive Director of MLC

Internet use in public libraries across the state is more important now than ever before. There are out of work Mississippians applying for jobs and students of all ages taking online courses and exams. Think of all of the various applications and forms that can only be completed online, like tax forms and other government resources. In 2014, according to estimates by the U.S. Census Bureau, 41% of Mississippians reported that they had no high speed internet at home. Libraries provide access for this percentage of our population.

The reality is that most of Mississippi's public libraries don't have sufficient broadband speed to meet these demands. In the 2016 legislative session, the Mississippi Library Commission will be requesting the budgetary funding to level the playing field for all Mississippi communities by insuring that all public library buildings will be connected to fast access fiber broadband.

The federal Universal Service Fund, or E-Rate, provides discounts to schools and libraries for internet



access. The E-Rate program would allow a discounted rate for MLC to provide a reasonably priced, statewide fiber optic and managed WiFi network to connect each of the state's 236 public library buildings.

This transformative project would be completed within two years and at a 95% discount due to the statewide average as determined by E-Rate eligibility. Imagine the return on investment – a statewide fiber network throughout Mississippi for 5% of the cost!

Increased innovation in rural communities can only serve to build economic growth, assist unemployed citizens in successful job searches, and give our students the tools they need to achieve their fullest potential through grant applications, online classes, and exams.

In the vast rural areas of our state where there is limited or no internet connectivity, where are Mississippi's citizens going to find the broadband they need to build economic development, support job growth, and encourage expansion of education? With your support, they can find it at their local public library.



Mississippi Library Association Conference "Stronger Together"

The 2015 annual MLA conference was a great success and MLC was proud to be a participant. Congratulations to all of the awards winners and to those who went away with a greater understanding of the world of libraries. MLC can't wait until next year in Vicksburg!



FEATURE FROM THE FIELD

State Poet Laureate Visits Lee County

Natasha Trethewey recently spoke at the Lee County Library - this year's Helen Foster Lecturer. Mrs. Helen Foster was instrumental in the establishment of the Lee County Library in 1941 and went on to serve as a member of the inaugural Library Board of Trustees. Mrs. Foster endowed the library with a legacy upon her passing for the purpose of bringing speakers of talent and accomplishment to Lee County. A native of Gulfport, Ms. Trethewey is the Robert W. Woodruff Professor of English and Creative Writing at Emory University. She has served two terms as Poet Laureate of the United States,

from 2012 – 2014. Governor Haley Barbour appointed Ms. Trethewey as Mississippi Poet Laureate for 2012-2016. She is the author of *Thrall* (2012); *Native Guard*, for which she won the 2007 Pulitzer Prize, *Bellocq's Ophelia*, which was named a Notable Book for 2003 by the American Library Association, and *Domestic Work*. In her second term as Poet Laureate, Trethewey's signature project was featured on the PBS NewsHouse Poetry Series known as *Where Poetry Lives*. In this series, Trethewey traveled with Senior Correspondent Jeffrey Brown to various cities across the United States in order to explore

societal issues through a link to poetry, literature, and Trethewey's own personal experiences.



Meet MLC

Lawrence Smith
Patent Librarian

The Mississippi Library Commission was designated as an official Patent & Trademark Resource Center in 1990 by the [U.S. Department of Commerce, Patent and Trademark Office](http://www.uspto.gov). A wide variety of free services are provided from extensive holdings of patent and trademark resources. While the primary users are inventors, attorneys, and researchers, the services are also open to the general public.

Lawrence Smith has been working as Patent Librarian at MLC since 1996. He has enjoyed being able to offer this specialized service to those seeking information on patents and trademarks. Lawrence has had the pleasure of working with Mississippians to make their projects become a reality. "Mississippians are very innovative and creative thinkers," states Smith. "During my time in this position, I have seen some wonderful ideas, and some are now marketed. I'm honored to have been a small part of that."

Lawrence will be more than happy to visit your community and talk with your patrons about how they can patent and trademark their creations! If you have questions regarding patents and trademarks, contact Lawrence at lsmith@mlc.lib.ms.us.

Photo by Veronica Dunning



happy
holidays!

from the staff and
board of the

mississippi
library
commission

"The America I love
still exists at the
front desks of our
public libraries."

~Kurt Vonnegut

MLC Calendar

DECEMBER

Thru Dec 29 – Joe Mac Hudspeth Jr. /
Carolyn Wright Art Exhibit
18 – Building an Autism Resources
Center Workshop
24-25 & 31 - Closed for Holiday

JANUARY

1 – Closed for Holiday
4 – February 28 – Carrie Roebuck Art
Exhibit (public reception on Jan 12 at
5pm)
18 – Closed for Holiday
20-21 – E-Rate Filing Process
Workshop
26 – MLC Board of Commissioners
meeting

Sensory Story Kits Now Available Through Talking Book Services

By Tracy Carr, MLC Library Services Director

The Mississippi Library Commission's Talking Book Services has recently added new materials to their collection. Talking Book Services, which serves Mississippians who are unable to read traditional print books, has added 15 new Sensory Story Kits to their collection of specialized materials. The Sensory Story Kits supplement Talking Book's large collection of Braille and audiobooks. Each story kit contains a book in both print and Braille and is accompanied by items and toys related to the story. The items provide a hands-on way for children to experience books and aid in the comprehension and enjoyment of the story.

The story kits were created with young children with visual impairments in mind, but children of all ages and capabilities can use tactile and sensory exploration to enhance their understanding and enjoyment of books. Erica McCaleb, a Reader's Advisor for Talking Books, said, "Print/Braille books are traditional books with all of the original text and illustrations accompanied with Braille overlays. This allows the books to be read by those with and without visual impairments. They also act as a great starting point for children and parents who are new to Braille."

Sensory Story Kits are available to patrons of Talking Book Services and the Mississippi Library Commission. Story Kits can be sent and returned through the mail. If being used by an individual with a visual impairment, they are shipped through the mail "Free Matter for the Blind and Physically Handicapped." The kits have a loan period of six weeks. To reserve a kit or request a catalog of titles, please contact Erica McCaleb at emccaleb@mlc.lib.ms.us, 1-800-446-0892 or 601-432-4116. This project was made possible in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

ON THE ROAD WITH MLC.....



"Reading from the Road" - Meridian

Mississippi Public Broadcasting recently visited the Meridian-Lauderdale County Library to encourage children to read while traveling during the holidays.



High on the bluffs in Vicksburg

The Warren County-Vicksburg Library not only has a great view of the Mississippi River, but the inside was decked out for fall.



Talking Books visits Jackson Medical Mall

Cindy Nugent, Outreach Coordinator for MLC's Talking Book Program, recently participated in an event held at the Jackson Medical Mall sharing information about what is available through the Talking Book Program.

Every Child Ready to Read

By Ally Watkins, MLC Library Consultant

In the summer of 2015, past participants of the Mississippi Library Leadership Institute were able to compete for project extension funds to complete a project that would positively impact Mississippi Libraries. As part of her project, MLC consultant Ally Watkins obtained several Every Child Ready to Read (ECRR) kits and was trained to provide ECRR training for public librarians.

ECRR is an early literacy initiative provided by the Association for Library Services to Children and the Public Library Association. ECRR focuses on parent and caretaker education. By highlighting five simple practices – talking, playing, singing, reading, writing – librarians can use this program to educate patrons and community members on how best to prepare children under five for school.

As a pilot project for extending ECRR to Mississippi libraries, Watkins brought this training to the youth services librarians at the Madison County Library System (MCLS), who are currently in the process of implementing the skills and practices that they learned in their programming and collection development efforts. Jaclyn Anderson, youth services coordinator of MCLS, said, “Having the ECRR training at

MCLS gave us the tools we needed to further our early literacy initiative. Since the training, we have incorporated the ECRR practices in our story times, included educational toys for use throughout the library, created circulating educational kits, and given away free early literacy resource kits to parents and educators. Additionally, two of our staff are now certified with the state to provide early literacy trainings to daycare employees.”

When equipped with ECRR skills, library staff are ready to help a patron base that is vital to youth services: caregivers. With this program, librarians can provide caregivers with simple tools that will help children’s literacy skills.

MLC has a limited number of the ECRR kits; training and materials will be provided through an application process that opens in the spring of 2016. For more information, contact Ally Watkins at 601-432-4066 or awatkins@mlc.lib.ms.us.

ART AT MLC


For 10 years, MLC has featured the outstanding work of some of Mississippi’s most talented artists.

It is our goal to support the arts community and we believe these shows provide an important opportunity for these creative residents of our state to showcase their creations.

Through December 29, the gallery space is filled with wonderful imagery of Mississippi wildlife through the photography of Joe Mac Hudspeth, Jr. and the feather paintings of Carolyn Wright.

Starting January 5 and running through the end of February, the space will feature the art of Carrie Roebuck, whose pieces range from collage to clay.

We hope you will make a point to stop in to see the work of these talented Mississippians.



Capturing Mississippi's Wildlife on

FEATHERS and FILM


You are cordially invited to attend an art exhibit and reception featuring the artwork of

Joe Mac Hudspeth, Jr. and Carolyn Wright

Tuesday, December 1, 2015 ~ 5:00pm to 7:00pm

Exhibit dates: November 4 – December 29

Mississippi Library Commission — 3881 Eastwood Drive, Jackson — 601-432-4111



Margaret Murray Grants for Friends of the Library

By Lacy Ellinwood, MLC Senior Library
Consultant

This year marks the inaugural year of the Margaret Murray Grant for Friends of the Library. The 2016 grant will award \$300 to three different Mississippi-based Friends of the Library chapters. Funds may go towards

programming, collection development, and literacy activities. Funds are not intended for administrative or operational use. Successful applicants must agree to match grant funds at the minimum of 25% (\$75.00). Applicants are asked to explain their organization's mission, how the funds will be used, and how the need for the project was determined. Applications are currently being accepted and

can be accessed here:
<http://mlc.lib.ms.us/ms-libraries/library-development/friends/>. The deadline for applications is February 26, 2016, and awards will be announced on April 1, 2016. If you have questions, please contact Lacy Ellinwood at 601-432-4154 or lellinwood@mlc.lib.ms.us.

About MLC

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Connect with the Mississippi Library Commission:



Susan Liles Editor ~ *On the Same Page*

The Mississippi Library Commission was established in 1926 to ensure that all Mississippians have access to quality library services in order to achieve their greatest potential, participate in a global society, and enrich their daily lives.

MLC strives to strengthen and enhance library services for all Mississippians, while embracing the technology our users expect.

LIBRARY SERVICES bureau provides direct and indirect services to all of the state's libraries and citizens to improve access to a quality experience for all, including special populations.

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES bureau provides financial management and administrative support for MLC; including fiscal management, budget monitoring and management of agency grant programs.