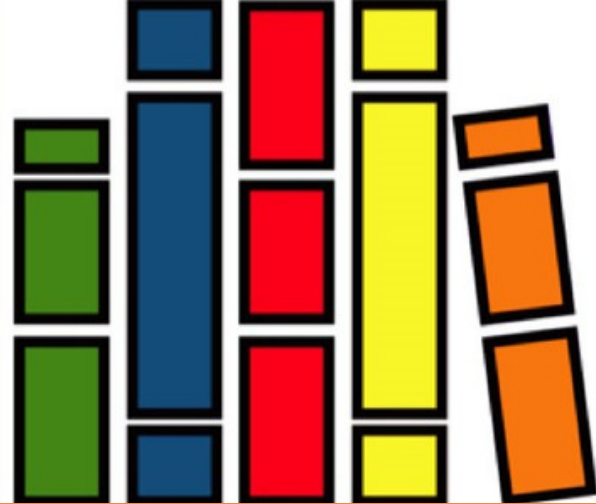


on the same page



news from the mississippi library commission

spring 2017

These Challenging Times

By Susan Cassagne, Executive Director
Mississippi Library Commission

That old saying "kick them while they are down" keeps ringing in my ears these days. It seems that lately libraries keep taking hit after painful hit. Of course, it is not just libraries. Public broadcasting, humanities and the arts are experiencing the same pain. Most state agencies in Mississippi are struggling with recent budget cuts so we are certainly not alone. Of course, that doesn't ease the difficult situation before us. We just learned President Trump's proposed federal budget for FY2018 ELIMINATES the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), along with other cultural agencies.

While we all realize Congress sets the federal budget and rarely follows the recommendation of the president, this creates another level of fear as we move toward the end of our state legislative session this promises a bleak financial outlook.

Representatives from the Mississippi Library Commission and the Mississippi Library Association will be traveling to Washington, DC in early May to attend National Library Legislative Day. Fighting for IMLS will be the major focus

"We are only as strong as we are united, as weak as we are divided."
— J.K. Rowling

of our discussions with our Congressional Delegation. We will be sharing detailed information regarding projects funded with grant funds through IMLS that have made an impact in their communities here in Mississippi.

I encourage all of you to reach out to Mississippi's Congressional delegation and express how these grant funds have been used to create innovative programs in your libraries. It is critical that they hear from their constituents so they realize what the loss of these funds will mean to those they represent.

This year we are fighting battles on both the state and federal level, and many are doing the same with local authorities. It is more important than ever that we stand together and be committed to making our voices heard to lawmakers on all levels about the value of libraries in their communities.

We will continue to update you as we learn more about this ever-changing political climate.

Meet MLC!

Stephon Swilley Systems Administrator

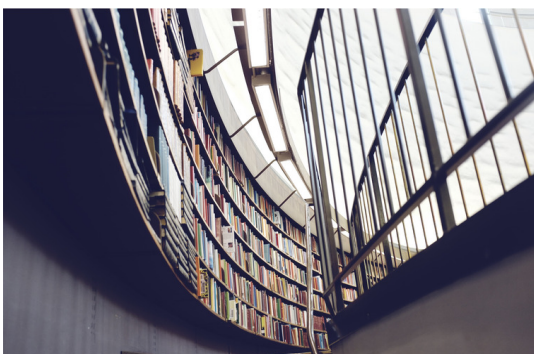


Meet Stephon Swilley, System Administrator I at the Mississippi Library Commission! Stephon troubleshoots problems with desktops, laptops, printers, servers, email, hardware, and software for both MLC and public libraries across the state. He also assists with keeping these up to date. If you've ever called the NSB Help Desk, you may recognize Swilley's friendly voice, as he spends a lot of his time there fielding calls. Although he just started at MLC last September, he has quickly become an integral member of our staff. Swilley holds an Associate of Science in Computer Network Technology from Hinds Community College and a Bachelor of Arts in Communications from Mississippi State University. He attended the Mississippi Library Commission's Tech Academy in January.

When asked what he enjoys about his job at MLC, Swilley says, "I like making sure people are happy. I like being able to solve their problems and make their day better."

It's great that I can take my passion for working with computers and turn a frustrating day for someone into a day where they can be productive and get things done." Stephon says that, "Libraries are a learning place. People go there to read books and relax in the peaceful atmosphere. Plus, they're the best place to get accurate information. You can learn so much!" It's a definite win for libraries in Mississippi having him on our team.

Swilley likes reading and spends a lot of time beefing up his knowledge about computers by reading technology related books and articles. "I like keeping up with what's going on so that I can apply it to my job. It's very important to me to stay current so that I can help keep us up to date," he says. Stephon is a huge sports fan, and loves to root on his favorite teams: the Cleveland Cavaliers, the Minnesota Vikings, and, of course, the Mississippi State Bulldogs. He also spends a lot of his free time fixing--you guessed it--computers!



“Libraries store the energy that fuels the imagination. They open up windows to the world and inspire us to explore and achieve, and contribute to improving our quality of life.

Libraries change lives for the better.”

— Sidney Sheldon

Celebrate Mississippi's Bicentennial

The Mississippi Library Commission has launched Bicentennial Bingo in celebration of Mississippi's 200th year. Funded by the Mississippi Development Authority, the card encourages residents to explore and learn about the state in various fun and interactive ways. The Bicentennial Bingo card itself contains activities to accomplish throughout this bicentennial year on each of the traditional bingo squares--fun Mississippi-based things like "eat a tamale," "visit a public library," "attend a literary event," and much more. The corresponding website, msbingo200.com, has links to make finding resources for all of these activities easier. Additional cards are available through MLC while supplies last!



Tour the Town is an easy, fun, and low-cost project your libraries can do in celebration of Mississippi's Bicentennial Year. Mississippi has a lot of weird and wonderful things and we want you to showcase those! Every town has something worth noting. Expand this to a county-wide guide if you'd like. Below are some ideas for things you can feature with examples. Contact Ally Mellon at amellon@mlc.lib.ms.us for more information.

- Things you can include:
- museums
 - historical markers
 - historical homes/places
 - famous graves

- best/most unique eats
- annual events and festivals
- parks and other natural features
- local art



Big House Books
Protecting the Right to Read



MLC recently partnered with Big House Books to create a short documentary film to bring awareness to the organization and their mission to promote literacy for Mississippi's incarcerated population.

The film screened at the Oxford Film Festival, at the Mississippi Library Commission and at the AND Gallery in Jackson's Midtown Arts District.

We hope you will take a moment to watch this compelling film featuring the stories of two formerly incarcerated Mississippians.

At the MLC screening on March 2nd.



L to R: MLC's Lacy Ellinwood, George Malvaney, Shelby Parsons & Holly Smith

[Click here to watch the film!](#)

Library Day at the Capitol

A special thanks to all of the library supporters who attended "Library Day" on March 14th. It was a great success and we made our presence known. We will continue to raise our voices about the outstanding work libraries are doing in Mississippi's communities.



Fond Farewell

MLC recently bid farewell to Joy Garretson, Library Development Director and State Data Coordinator. We wish Joy and her family the best of luck in their new life in North Carolina! Come back to visit soon!



New State Data Coordinator



Kelly Kitzman is a Reference Librarian at MLC and was recently named the new State Data Coordinator. Kelly was born and raised in Richmond, Virginia and attended college at Mary Baldwin University. She then moved to New Orleans to attend Tulane University School of Law. Kelly practiced law in New Orleans until 2014 when a job opportunity brought her family to Jackson. Kelly took the move as an opportunity to change career paths and enrolled at University of Southern Mississippi in the Masters in Library Science program. She graduated from USM in 2016 and began working at the Mississippi Library Commission the same year. Welcome Kelly!

The Mississippi Library Commission is required by state statute to be the state repository of public records created by government agencies. The state document collection includes annual reports, special reports, pamphlets, studies, maps, and other published information. In an effort to bring awareness to this collection, we're highlighting an interesting item in each issue of *On the Same Page*. This month, we want you to get to know the joint publication of MLC and the Mississippi Library Association. First called *Library News* (1936-1952), then *Mississippi Library News* (1953-1978), then *Mississippi Libraries* (1979-current), this journal is the primary source for statewide library news in Mississippi. MLC often gets calls from public libraries looking for information on the history of their libraries, programs, or former staff members, and this is where we head for those answers. If you have a question about library history, contact our Information Desk at 877-KWIK-REF or mlceref@mlc.lib.ms.us.



CELEBRATE NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK

April 9–15, 2017

#NationalLibraryWeek
#LibrariesTransform



Honorary Chair Julie Foudy

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MLC Calendar

MARCH

28 - Board of Commissioners Meeting

APRIL

10 - Technology Academy Workshop - MLC

9-15 - National Library Week

19 - ADA Compliance & Disability Etiquette Workshop

24 - State Holiday - MLC Closed

MAY

1-2 - National Library Legislative Day - Washington

3 - COSLA Spring Meeting - Washington

8 - Tech Academy "Train the Trainer" Workshop - MLC

11 - LSTA Town Hall Meeting

23 - Board of Commissioners Meeting

29 - State Holiday - MLC Closed

About MLC

3881 Eastwood Drive
Jackson, MS 39211
601-432-4111
www.mlc.lib.ms.us

Susan Cassagne, Executive Director

Board of Commissioners
Janet Armour, Tupelo
Jolee Hussey, Oxford
Ann Marsh, Brandon
Suzanne Poyner, Florence
Pamela Pridgen, Seminary

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 support in financial and property management, human resources, technology services, and federal and state grant programs to effectively and efficiently meet the needs of libraries, government agencies and the citizens of Mississippi.