



There is treasure to be found ...

by Hulen E. Bivins, Executive Director

Ten years ago, an antiques dealer named Forrest Fenn filled a treasure chest with gold, rubies, emeralds, and diamonds. He took the treasure chest and hid it somewhere in the Rocky Mountains. The challenge to everyone was to find the treasure. He hid the clues to its location in a poem which was included in his 2010 self-published memoir. During the last ten years, it is estimated that more than 350,000 people have tried and failed to find the treasure. Alas, the hunt has now ended as one person, in mid-June of this year, has claimed victory in the treasure hunt. He found the chest which, according to Forrest Fenn, is worth over \$1 million. Confirmation of the successful “find” has been affirmed.

There is another treasure that has been recently discovered, not for the first time, but rather, once again. This treasure compares well with that of Forrest Fenn, though many might think this treasure is greater than that found in the Rocky Mountains.

The value of this rediscovered treasure has a “life and death” factor because it is a treasure that can “make you or break you.” It is a treasure that has reminded everyone that “it stands the test of time.” This treasure appears before everyone all the time but sometimes “some have difficulty seeing” this treasure in all its wonder. Many hold the belief that this treasure is most often “found in a quiet place” but the reality is that it is more often found in a “space not too quiet.” And, while this treasure is certainly not a “normal” thing, it is definitely the “norm” and more so now than last year or the year before. Like any treasure of gold, rubies, emeralds, and diamonds, this treasure can lead to life changes that help bring success, financial improvement, mental and physical health, and enhanced cognitive skills. These “to be treasured” factors open the window of infinite possibilities.

This treasure is your public library.

During this pandemic time, public libraries across our nation have provided a treasure of resources, not just for one discoverer, but for everyone. Just as a century ago, the public library has recrafted itself, taking on new tasks to fulfill both old and new needs. Among the services that have been provided are: making reading materials accessible in multiple formats and providing scholarly databases with 24/7 WiFi capabilities; helping many employees stay connected with their jobs, thus not only saving one's sanity but, for some, maintaining the individual's financial life; offering STEM programs; making available curbside checkout of hardcopy materials; creating virtual children's programming and virtual book clubs; maintaining "Ask the Librarian" services; providing electronic magazine downloads; making healthcare information available and maintaining directories of where health services are available; serving as food access points for citizens with needs; and using 3-D printers to make PPEs. Additional accommodations were made by public libraries with the suspension of due dates and the expansion of renewal policies for library materials; and the accepting of online library card applications from citizens discovering the treasure that the public library truly is for the first time. Further, in many areas and most especially in our state, the public library has facilitated distance learning for school students working with their teachers during school closures via 24-hour connectivity at the public library building.

So, after you spend a few minutes thinking what you would do if you had found the treasure of Forrest Fenn, spend just a little time in appreciation of the treasure located in your community --- your public library!





The Heritage Emergency National Task Force, a public-private partnership between FEMA and the Smithsonian Institution, requests that you maintain and share the following preparedness tips with your colleagues, constituents, and members.



- Track the storm via the National Hurricane Center, at <http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/>.
- Monitor information via the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency, at <https://www.msema.org>.
- Make sure staff, volunteer, and board contact lists are up to date. Determine how you will communicate with one another before, during, and after the storm.
- For tips on what to do before, during, and after a hurricane, go to <https://www.ready.gov/hurricanes>.
- Keep this 24/7 hotline number handy: 202.661.8068. The National Heritage Responders, a team of trained conservators and collections care professionals, are available 24/7 to provide advice.
- Download FEMA fact sheets “After the Flood: Advice for Salvaging Damaged Family Treasures” and “Salvaging Water-Damaged Family Valuables and Heirlooms,” available at <https://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/113297>.

A link to the full list of preparedness tips can be found on HENTF's website.



We are all adapting to a new way of conducting business and training for the safety of our Staff and patrons.

Library Development meets virtually.



COVID-19 and MLC Continuing Education Offerings

Our Facebook Group, Mississippi Library Support & Resources (MSLSR), is live! Please join and share/discuss with your fellow librarians! Make sure you answer the questions in order to be admitted AND if you invite someone, make sure you tell them to answer both questions so that we can admit them.

If you have any questions or research requests, feel free to email or call Kayla Martin-Gant at 601.432.4057 or kmartin-gant@mlc.lib.ms.us.

Some of the Activities and Links On Our FB Group

For Librarians & Educators:

- Create a Custom Jigsaw Puzzle
- Virtual Programs for Preschoolers: How to Encourage Wellness, Movement & Creativity A webinar from the National Network of Libraries of Medicine
- Building Resilient Communities Online and In Person A webinar from the National Network of Libraries of Medicine

To Share with Patrons:

- Craft With Me: Learn How to Finger Weave from Nifty
- Trivia Games on Kahoot! The Richmond Hill Public Library has put together a list of digital escape rooms (which are on the master list I've provided previously) and trivia games to be played and shared! Just be sure to credit them.
- 10 TED Talks by Brilliant Kids



Margaret Murray Grant Recipients

Each year the Margaret Murray Grant is awarded to local Friends of the Library groups for the purpose of advancing library programming and literacy for Mississippi public libraries through activities sponsored by local Friends chapters. These projects are done in partnership with the local public library system. The following projects were awarded a \$500 Margaret Murray Grant for 2020. The next grant cycle will open in October 2020. Please join us in congratulating these Friends groups!

- **Friends of Neshoba County Public Library, Neshoba County Library System**
 - Funds will be used for instructional materials to continue the Neshoba Library Reading Academy, a program aimed at boosting the reading skills of K-6th graders during the summer.
- **Friends of the R. T. Prince Memorial Library, Central MS Regional Library System**
 - Funds will be used for remodeling a donated Trustmark Bank to the town of Mize for the purpose of a larger library.
- **Friends of Franklin County Public Library, Lincoln Lawrence Franklin Regional Library System**
 - Funds will develop a teen summer reading program. Included in the program is enlisting participants in volunteer reading to children, nursing home residents, etc. From this program they hope to launch a teen book club.
- **Friends of the Morton Public Library, Central MS Regional Library System**
 - Morton has seen growth within the Hispanic community. Funds will go to purchasing bilingual read-along books with CDs to meet the evolving needs of the community.

Libraries are a cornerstone of democracy
where information is free and equally
available to everyone.

-Carla Hayden, Librarian of Congress

News & Opportunities For Libraries

MLC WEBINARS AND OPPORTUNITIES

There are a wealth of training opportunities available on MLC's YouTube channel! Broken up into categories, these short sessions can help you in the areas of administration and management, summer reading programs, and collection development.

AND THE COUNTING CONTINUES...

While many librarians are working on the task of re-opening our library buildings, you are reminded that the 2020 Census count continues. This counting is important to each individual library and to each local community as the numbers result in dollars every time the federal government funds any program on a per capita basis.



Due to COVID-19, the self-response phase is now extended through October 31, 2020. The in-person follow up, where enumerators visit unreported houses, has been rescheduled to August 11-October 31. Please encourage your citizens to respond to the 2020 Census questionnaire.

2020 ARSL CONFERENCE

The ARSL Board has announced that the 2020 Conference, originally scheduled for Wichita, Kansas, will be held virtually. The format and timing of the Conference is still being discussed among the Board members with Committee Chairpersons in an effort to still provide a full schedule of professional development, networking, and socializing activities. More details are to be announced in the coming weeks.

A CHANGE AT MACMILLAN

Macmillan Publishers this Spring have reversed a previously stated position regarding their imposed ebook embargo. Previously, Macmillan had instituted a pricing model that allowed for only one copy per library for the first eight weeks life of a new "to the collection" publication.

News & Opportunities For Libraries, cont.

LAWSUIT AGAINST INTERNET ARCHIVE FOR SCANNING OF LITERARY WORKS

Hachette, Penguin Random House, Wiley, and HarperCollins book publishers have brought a legal action against the Internet Archive citing violations relating to the “Open Book Project,” thereby jeopardizing one of the internet’s longest-running ebook archives. Since 2006, the Internet Archive’s Open Library has allowed users to borrow ebooks scanned from physical copies, according to a theory called “controlled digital lending.” Under this program there were limits on how many times a single scan could be borrowed at once. In March of this year, with the launch of the National Emergency Library, waitlists were suspended in order to help provide, during the global pandemic, scanned books made immediately accessible to anyone with an account. The publishers believe the National Emergency Library circumvents the typical licensing restrictions.

The four publishers view the entire project as a wholesale copyright violation scheme with no payment to publishers or authors. Late in the month of April, the Authors Guild raised similar concerns saying that the Open Book Project is giving away what is not within their right to give and that this action is “simply stealing.” The Internet Archive responded that like a library they acquire books and lend them, as libraries have always done, and that this supports publishing and authors and readers.

TEEN VIDEO CHALLENGE

The Teen Video Challenge is an annual video contest that is open to all teens, encouraging them to create a public services announcement-type video showing their unique interpretation of the 2020 Collaborative Summer Library Program (CSLP) slogan “Imagine Your Story.”



Videos must be less than 60 seconds and should promote libraries and reading. Five national winners will be chosen and each will receive a \$200 cash prize and \$50 worth of summer reading materials for their local public library. More information, contest rules, submission form, and the winning videos from past years can be found at: <https://www.csllpreads.org/programs/teen-program/2020-teen-video-challenge/> and readers.

“If you have a garden and a library, you have everything you need.” – Marcus Tullius Cicero

Inside the Commission

News from Library Services

MLC's longtime ILL Coordinator, Curtis Sene Chatman, retired at the end of May. Curtis Sene was a member of agency staff for a combined total of 37 years (she was here for 12 years, took a four-year break, and then came back for 25 years). No one knew the collection more thoroughly than Curtis Sene, and no one cared more about tidy shelves filled exactly 75% of the way than she did, either. Curtis Sene had a magical ability to find misshelved books (she claimed you just Google the book to see what color the cover is, and then walk up and down the aisles, but we're pretty sure magic was involved), was known for casually mentioning ways to save thousands of dollars through simple workflow tweaks, and was the master of shifting collections. We are already missing Curtis Sene and wish her much luck and happiness in her retirement!



News from Talking Book Services

Talking Book Services Celebrates Milestone

**Celebrating Fifty
Years of Service**



Talking Book Services
of the mississippi library commission

On July 15, 2020, the Mississippi Talking Book Services will be celebrating our 50th anniversary of serving books to residents of Mississippi who are blind or print disabled. Be on the lookout for our special virtual events July 13 – July 17 celebrating these services. We're grateful for the last 50 years of rewarding service and look forward to many, many more to come!

Inside the Commission

News from Library Services



Meet Kayla Martin-Gant!

Kayla is the Continuing Education Coordinator at MLC. Kayla, who began working here at the beginning of March, develops, schedules and presents programs, and coordinates training and workshops for MLC. Since the arrival of the COVID-19 pandemic in Mississippi, she has worked to develop, locate, and distribute resources to librarians across the state, both for their own professional development and for sharing with patrons. She has even created a Facebook group specifically for Mississippi librarians and staff to share ideas and resources among themselves.

Meet Jayson Bounds!

Jayson is the Circulation Services Librarian in Talking Book Services for MLC. Jayson started at MLC at the end of May, so his introduction to library life has been unusual, to say the least. No matter! He is quickly learning the basics of his job: keeping digital audiobooks stocked on our shelves and sending them out to patrons. He also checks that the digital cartridges aren't defective when they're returned through the mail.



Meet Abbe Macoy!

Abbe is a Reference Librarian at MLC. Abbe started working at MLC in late May and has been busy learning the ropes. Even under social distancing restrictions, Abbe has quickly picked up some of her new job duties: answering reference questions and shelving books.

News from Administrative Services

Grants Programming with Natalie Dunaway

It is no secret that Mississippi's public libraries provide quality library service to their patrons. Over the past year, many libraries have launched exciting grant projects to create new programming, update library services and improve operations.

Utilizing the funds granted from the Institute of Museum and Library Services under the Library Services and Technology Act, many libraries have grant projects including Wi-Fi and computer system upgrades, large print expansion, and STEM/STEAM programming.



Other projects from this past year include the formation of LEGO building stations, literacy stations to enhance reading and writing skills, historical photo preservation, and robotics programming. However, projects don't always stop at the library. Whether it's local universities or government agencies, many libraries also partner with other community organizations and institutes to grow their projects as much as possible. Undeniably, Mississippi's public libraries innovate and create to continually meet the needs of their communities.

In response to COVID-19, the Mississippi Library Commission continues to be closed to the public. Staff will still be working to assist patrons and libraries by phone and email. Please watch the agency's social media accounts, or give us a call for updates regarding MLC reopening. Thank you for your support and stay well. Contact MLC at (601) 432-4111 or mslib@mlc.lib.ms.us for more information.

Be sure and check out our podcast, Stacks and Stories! Pod Squad members interview authors, talk with librarians, discuss books, and lots of other fun topics. Find it on iTunes, Google Podcasts and at stacksandstories.libsyn.com



MLC Calendar

July

- 3 Independence Day –State Holiday-
MLC CLOSED
- 28 Board of Commissioners Meeting

August

September

- 1 Collection/Other Grant Reimbursement Due
- 7 Labor Day – State Holiday – MLC CLOSED
- 22 Board of Commissioners Meeting

About MLC

3881 Eastwood Drive
Jackson, Mississippi 39211
601.432.4111
www.mlc.lib.ms.us

Hulen E. Bivins
Executive Director

Board of Commissioners
Lori Barnes, Ocean Springs
Stephen Cunetto, Starkville
Jolee Hussey, Oxford
Ann Marsh, Brandon
Becky Wright, Banner

Connect with the Mississippi Library Commission



Kristina Kelly, 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.

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