

on the same page



Mississippi Library Commission

Fall 2021

Just the Facts

by Hulen E. Bivins, Executive Director

Beginning as a radio program in 1949 before later becoming a television program, the show “Dragnet” featured police Detective Joe Friday of the Los Angeles police force. Detective Friday is often remembered as encouraging any witness to provide “just the facts and nothing but the facts” in response to any questions.

The task of providing just the facts often becomes challenging, however, when information becomes stretched with added or deleted details. Such has been true for generations and has been recorded in history wrongly. This fact may be observed by looking at a few examples.

There was never a midnight ride by Paul Revere, but it is just a good myth to rally patriotism. George Washington Carver did not invent peanut butter as historical evidence shows that the Incas of South America, in the time of 950 BC, were eating this food product. And Cleopatra was not an Egyptian but was really a part of the Ptolemaic dynasty of the Greeks (the dynasty of Alexander the Great). Also, Elizabeth Taylor might have been Cecil B. DeMille’s choice, but she was not Cleopatra.

The words “let them eat cake” referring to the starving poor of France were not actually said by Marie Antoinette. The quote is really only in the writing of Jean-Jacques Rousseau in the novel *Confessions*. Also, Vincent van Gogh did not cut off his own ear--it was sliced away by symbolist painter Henri Paul Gauguin in a fencing action that did factually end their friendship.

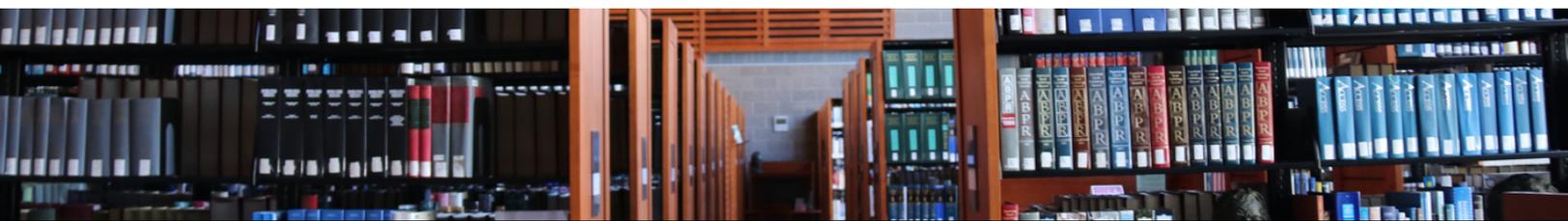
While most know that Christopher Columbus did not discover North America, some may not know that honor goes to the Vikings and their discovery of present-day Newfoundland. Also, do not fall victim to the belief that these Viking Norsemen wore helmets with the horns of animals attached, as that is a visual feature introduced to history only in the work of a Swedish artist named Gustav Malmstrom during the 1800s.

More recent corruptions of the facts would have one believe touching a frog or toad will cause warts (really caused by human papillomavirus); lightning will not strike the same place twice (multiple strikes on the Empire State Building in New York City happen annually); or that the color “red” causes bulls to become aggressive (sorry Mr. Matador, bulls are color-blind).

Another misnomer is that, in our communities and in our country, the digital disparities that affect the flow of knowledge and informational needs is being conquered. In reality, these disparities have been made more evident during the COVID shutdown despite improvements made by libraries, especially public libraries, in actions to provide greater access to computers, more reliable, higher speed, broadband connections, and classes/programs that aid those lacking basic digital literacy skills.

The need now is for an effort to combat the problem with affordable solutions on the technology side as well as work to bring a systemic change to overcome socioeconomic inequalities. Answers must be obtained for the questions of how telemedicine help can be provided if the patient has no residential computer; how students can do distance learning without connectivity between the schoolhouse and the home; and how the shortage of workers for businesses be overcome when only online applications are accepted, and the job applicant does not have the hardware to complete an application. Further, prompt action is needed to create a working broadband system for all areas of every state so there is equity in the availability of resources. Certainly, something must be done by the tech companies to assure that the connections being made are not just in the most profitable areas of any state. Additionally, consideration must be given to immigrant residents as well as our special needs populations. For example, no veteran should be deprived of medical assistance because they reside at the family home in a county or parish without internet connectivity.

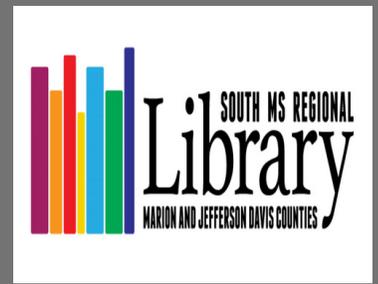
Collaborations are needed to conquer these disparities. The time for action is overdue. As Detective Joe Friday said, “just the facts, and only the facts” is what is mandatory to bring these needed discussions and the actions that must follow.



The Mississippi Library Commission is fully open to the public.
We ask that masks be worn inside the building.
Curbside service and curbside book return is still available.

Contact MLC at (601) 432-4111
or mslib@mlc.lib.ms.us for more information.

South Mississippi Regional Library System receives \$20,000 Save the Children Community Engagement Grant



Founded in 1919, Save the Children works in over 100 countries to give children a healthy start in life, the opportunity to learn, and protection from harm. They currently serve almost 900 children in Marion County. South Mississippi Regional Library (SMRL) received grant funds from Save the Children for community-wide initiatives that support Kindergarten readiness and 3rd grade proficiency in reading and math. “We have been partners with Save the Children for several years now. We were overjoyed to discover this new opportunity to serve our community,” stated Ryda Worthy, SMRL director.

In addition to the \$20,000 grant, SMRL also received a gift-in-kind donation from Save the Children of toys and books, valued at over \$15,000.

Fine Free Map

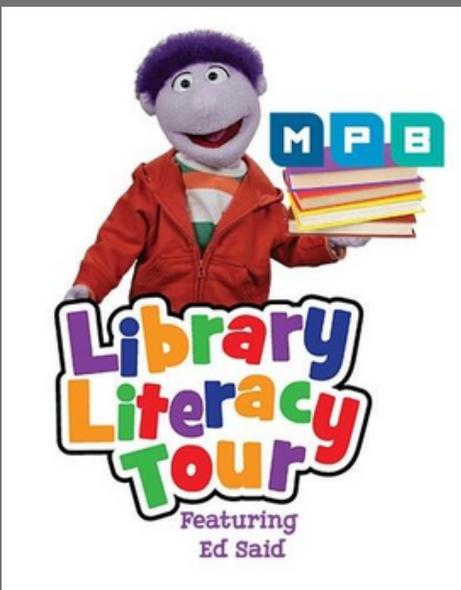
Across North America, many library systems are going "fine free," ceasing or limiting the use of overdue materials fines in order to reduce access barriers. The Urban Library Council (ULC) has created the below interactive map to help you understand and learn from libraries that have gone fine free.

You can find the map at

<https://www.urbanlibraries.org/resources/fine-free-map>



MPB Library Literacy Tour Featuring Ed Said



Mississippi Public Broadcasting announces a new, free education program coming to a library near you called the MPB Library Literacy Tour Featuring Ed Said. The tour's purpose is to promote early childhood literacy and help families become better engaged with PBS KIDS programming.

In partnership with the Mississippi Library Commission and libraries across the state, the MPB Library Literacy Tour Featuring Ed Said will have events virtually or in-person the last Saturday of the month from July to October and January to May.

News & Opportunities For Libraries

DIGITAL LIBRARY FEDERATION FORUM

The Digital Library Federation (DLF) programs stretch year-round, but they are perhaps best known for their signature event, the annual DLF Forum. The DLF Forum welcomes digital library, archives, and museum practitioners from member institutions and beyond-for whom it serves as a meeting place, marketplace, and congress.

Registration is FREE: [Registration - DLF Forum 2021 \(diglib.org\)](#)

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS GRANT-- OF THE PEOPLE: WIDENING THE PATH; CONNECTING COMMUNITIES DIGITAL INITIATIVE

DEADLINE: November 14, 2021

Individuals and educational and cultural institutions who seek to amplify the stories of communities of color are invited to apply to new grant opportunities through the Of the People: Widening the Path Connecting Communities Digital Initiative at the Library of Congress. Of the People is a new, multi-part initiative funded by a \$15 million grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to enable the Library to connect more deeply with Black, Indigenous, and other communities of color. The Connecting Communities Digital Initiative (CCDI) will examine the ways technology can enable storytelling and expose more people to the Library's expansive collections. Find the full list of grants here:

[Library Grants: Library of Congress Grants: Of the People: Widening the Path; Connecting Communities Digital Initiative](#)

WALMART FOUNDATION COMMUNITY GRANT PROGRAM

Application deadline: December 31, 2021

The Community Grant Program awards grants ranging from \$250 to \$2,500 through every local facility (Walmart Stores, Sam's Clubs, and Logistics Facilities). Applications may be received anytime from February 1, 2021 until the deadline of Dec. 31. Eligible nonprofit organizations must directly benefit the service area of the facility from which they are requesting funding.

All grant applications are made subject to review of the organization's reputation and activities and its agreement to comply with applicable terms and conditions. Submission of an application does not guarantee funding. Funding exclusions include: organizations that deny service, membership or other involvement on the basis of race, religion, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, national origin, ancestry, citizenship, veteran, or disability status. <https://walmart.org/how-we-give/local-community-grants>

2022 MARGARET MURRAY GRANT

Deadline: February 28th, 2022

The purpose of the Margaret Murray Grant is to advance library programming and literacy for Mississippi public libraries through activities sponsored by local Friends of Mississippi Libraries chapters.

Application: [Margaret Murray Grant Application 2022](#)

MONEY SMART WEEK 2022

Please mark your calendars for Money Smart Week 2022 (Money Smart Week's 20th anniversary year!): Saturday, April 9, 2022 – Saturday, April 16, 2022.

Since pandemic conditions remain unpredictable, Money Smart Week 2022 will again be fully virtual and focused on supporting the financial literacy needs of low-to-moderate income communities. The content will be selected by the Money Smart Team with input from Chicago Fed economists and researchers.

For inspiration, watch the 2021 program recordings at www.moneysmartweek.org<<http://www.moneysmartweek.org>>.

STORYWALK® PROJECT SUBMISSIONS WANTED

Join the Association of Bookmobile and Outreach Services and Let's Move in Libraries for a week-long event celebrating the inspiring work of libraries who spearhead StoryWalk® programs – promoting literacy, reading, health, exercise, and movement in communities and neighborhoods across the United States and the world.

Submissions are open now and run through November 8, 2021. We invite submissions of all StoryWalk® programs and variations, including Story Strolls, Story Trails, PoetryWalks: Whatever you call it – if it involves reading materials posted along paths – we want to feature it!

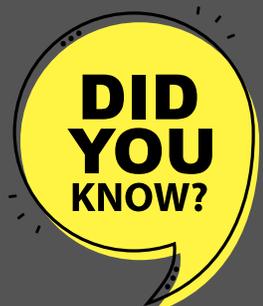
To submit your information: <https://forms.gle/QytE7g4E1UfWPodH6>

PENGUIN RANDOM HOUSE AND THE ASSOCIATION FOR RURAL AND SMALL LIBRARIES LAUNCH NEW GRANT PROGRAM

Penguin Random House and The Association for Rural and Small Libraries (ARSL) have announced a rolling grant program to recognize rural, small and tribal libraries that support underserved communities in the U.S. and U.S. territories. The program will award grants of up to \$2,500 to libraries that demonstrate a true need. Grants are not limited to literacy and may be used for everything from library programming and books to resources like hotspots that help community members access important information. In-kind donations will also be considered. Penguin Random House and ARSL have worked together to ensure the application process is simple and straightforward to remove as many barriers to applying for a grant as possible. For the award application and more information about the program, please visit the info page: <https://www.arsl.org/prh-grant>.

In 1966, the Mississippi Legislature established a depository system for state publications and created the position of Recorder of Public Documents in the office of the Secretary of State. The statutes were amended in 1975 to move the state depository program and the Recorder of Public Documents position to the Mississippi Library Commission.

For more information: » <https://mlc.lib.ms.us/state-depository-program/>



SNAPSHOT DAY JULY 22, 2021



A DAY IN THE LIFE OF MISSISSIPPI LIBRARIES

This year Snapshot day was held on July 22, 2021. There were a total of 21 library systems that participated, with 54 branch libraries collecting information. The photos below are from Central Mississippi Regional Library System, First Regional Library, Bolivar County Library System, and Jackson George Regional Library.

Books Borrowed
10,321



People Visited
8,819



Questions Answered
2,674



Computers Used
1,448



Inside the Commission

News from Talking Book Services

Talking Book Services (TBS) staff members Mary Rodgers Beal and Sebastian Murdoch attended the Senior American Day at the Mississippi State Fair on October 13, 2021. Alongside TBS, there were other exhibits that would benefit senior citizens across the state. Agriculture Commissioner Andy Gibson spoke to the audience as well as musical numbers by local singers.



MLC Participates in the Literary "Log-On" Party

After COVID-19 caused the cancellation of the Mississippi Book Festival's August event, the festival worked to create a virtual experience for readers to connect with the many authors who had planned to be there. You can get started at MLC's virtual booth presented on our YouTube Channel!

Next, head to msbookfestival.com for 31 videos from this year's panelists and moderators, such as *Windows to the Past*, a panel on historical fiction, with moderator Tracy Carr and panelists Ariel Lawhon, Marisol Vera, and Kristin Harmel.



Inside the Commission

High-Speed Internet Now Available at Mississippi Public Libraries

The Mississippi Library Commission and CSpire have completed the upgrade to high-speed internet for Mississippi public libraries as part of Contract 5000.

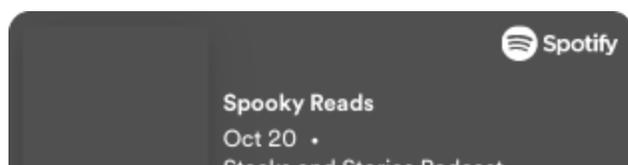
The change offers all public libraries in the state higher internet speeds at lower prices.

- The minimum speed at all public libraries is now 100Mbps
- The upgrade was completed on September 10, 2021
- Planning took place with CSpire, MLC Staff and the public libraries involved for almost a year in advance

Jennifer Todd, Technology Services Director, stated, “Because of this change, 149 public libraries have faster internet speeds with some rural areas going from 1.5 Mbps to 100 Mbps. The faster speeds will also allow libraries the opportunity to provide new innovative programming and services for their communities, which will open a whole new chapter to rural areas of the state.”

The image shows a YouTube video player interface. At the top left is a circular profile picture of a building. The video title is "Updating Internet Speeds with the MLC Technology Departm...". To the right of the title are icons for "Watch later" and "Share". In the center of the video frame is a purple rectangular box with the text "UPDATING INTERNET SPEEDS" in white, and a play button icon. Below the video frame, the text reads "with the MLC Technology Department and Central MS Regional Library System". At the bottom left, it says "Watch on" followed by the YouTube logo. At the bottom right, there is a blue box with the text "Rankin, Scott, Simpson, and Smith County".

Be sure to tune in to MLC's podcast, Stacks and Stories! Pod Squad members interview authors, talk with librarians, and discuss books. Find it on iTunes, [Spotify](#) and Stacks and Stories Podcast ([libsyn.com](#))



MLC Calendar

November

11 MLC Closed
16 Board of Commissioners Meeting
24-26 MLC Closed

December

24-25 MLC Closed

January

17 MLC Closed

About MLC

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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.

The Mississippi Library Commission is committed --- through leadership, advocacy, and service --- to strengthening and enhancing libraries and library services for all Mississippians.

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