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Mississippi Library Commission

Winter 2022

The Front-Line ... Because You Care by Hulen E. Bivins, Executive Director

With the beginning of a new calendar year, public librarians are continuing on their serendipitous journey that has been caused by the COVID virus and the multiple variants associated with the health disease. This unplanned journey has taken some interesting turns as it has not necessarily been an “action equals results” circumstance. Indeed, because of the health concerns of the past months, librarians are now “front-line workers” in the fight being waged against a health concern that does not diminish.

Obviously, health care workers are front-line workers serving in hospitals and clinics across our state and our nation. At the same time, librarians are providing privacy to individuals in public library facilities so they might have medical consultations about serious health concerns with medical professionals. Further, librarians acting as front-line workers have made themselves available as volunteers to help the citizenry to use library computers to master the use of TeleMed services. Beyond these key services, librarians are also helping library users to file medical claims with insurers.

Imperative for some households are the computer services offered at the public library that aid in the virtual learning processes now prevalent in both public and private schools as well as the schools of higher learning. In this work, the local public library provides connectivity to the databases of the MAGNOLIA collection and assistance to the student doing information research. Much of this work is being accomplished in the void created by the lack of in-person schooling and the lack of in-person contact with the school library that has been shuttered in the closed school building.

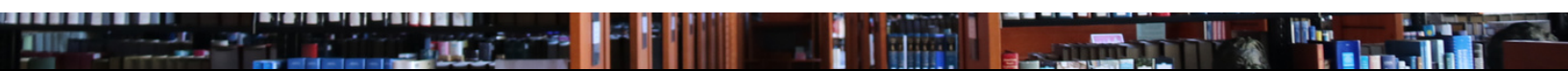
Other taskings wherein public librarians are being called upon as front-line workers is a role aiding the development of small business, especially in legal requirements such as taxation rates and how-to information for appropriate and timely tax filings. Just recently, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) has instituted rules that require certain segments of the population to provide a video selfie to access their IRS accounts. Few places in any community will offer these video recording services.

It will be public librarians, working as front-line workers, that will be there to help in this requirement.

The few tasks enumerated illustrate the importance of public librarians and these actions are all in addition to the services provided for many decades to many segments of the citizenry. Continuing services provided by public libraries include the offering of intellectual, cultural, and educational materials in multiple formats that advances the quality of life in any community.

During your next visit to your local public library, you might want to thank the library staff for what they are doing for the community as front-line workers as their actions maintain a cultural identity amid the socioeconomic complexity of the day.

Dr. Seuss said, "Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better." As front-line workers, public librarians care.



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 are still available.

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

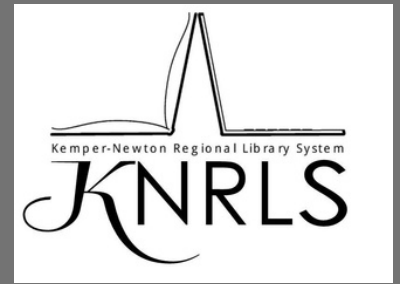


Waynesboro-Wayne County Library Distributes Shoes for the Holidays

With the help of shoes donated by Molina Healthcare, Santa gave out gifts of new shoes to the children of Wayne County. Not only did children receive these gifts from Santa, but they also received Christmas Craft packs donated by Home Depot via the South MS Regional Library.

Kemper County Celebrates 10 Years of the Dolly Parton Imagination Project (DPIP)

The DPIP is a book gifting program that mails free, high-quality books to children from birth to age five, no matter their family's income. Partnering with the Kemper Newton Regional Library System and the Kemper County Foundation and its community, the United Way of East Mississippi provides children in Kemper County from birth to five years of age who are enrolled in the program, a free book monthly in the mail.



"Parents/guardians of children from birth to 5 years of age may enroll their children on the website imaginationlibrary.com and click on the enrollment tab or obtain an enrollment card from several participating locations (DeKalb Public Library, Kemper Academy, Small World, Friends of Children, Kiddie Kollege, Kemper County Lower Elementary School) or contact Loretta Hulin for additional information on 601-416-8279." Full details can be found at <https://kempercountymessenger.com/stories/county-celebrates-imaginational-library-10th-anniversary,10511>

Starkville-Oktibbeha County Public Library Invites you the Grape Gatsby

The Grape Gatsby is a prohibition-speakeasy themed fundraising event to be held at the Starkville Public Library on April 9, 2022 at 6:30 pm. There will be wine, food from local restaurants, and live music. Additionally, there will be a wine pull featuring wine donated from local liquor stores and library patrons! For more information: <https://starkville.lib.ms.us/index.php/the-grape-gatsby/>



Wilkinson County Library System receives National Grant for Small and Rural Libraries

Wilkinson County Library System has been selected as one of 100 libraries to participate in round three of Libraries Transforming Communities: Focus on Small and Rural Libraries, an American Library Association (ALA) initiative that helps library workers better serve their small and rural communities.

The competitive award comes with a \$3,000 grant that will help the library hold "Fireside Chats" to discuss the importance of early literacy and how parents, guardians, teachers and the community can work together to improve our literacy rates.

Wilkinson County suffers from high illiteracy rates, high incarceration rates, and high poverty – all of which are tied to lack of early literacy. Studies show the importance of parents /guardians reading to their children.

If you are interested in getting involved or taking part in the conversation, please contact Monique Joseph at mjoseph@wcls.lib.ms.us , or call 601-888-6712 for more information.



Public Libraries Celebrated the Holiday Season with Help from MLC's Special Collections

MLC holds many special types of special collections. One type is our Holiday Costumes. We have Santa suits, inflatable gingerbread man costume and inflatable Christmas tree costumes that can be checked out by libraries for their special programming needs. Contact Charlie Simpkins at csimpkins@mlc.lib.ms.us to reserve yours!

Mid Mississippi Regional Library System



Story time at the Jackson Hinds Medger Evers Library!



The Gingerbread man makes an appearance the William A. Percy Library (Washington County Library System)



News & Opportunities For Libraries

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](#)

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>.

OUR STORYBRIDGE: CONNECTING THE PAST AND THE PRESENT RESOURCES

OurStoryBridge:Connecting the Past and the Present®, at www.ourstorybridge.org, is a free national resource and tool kit for producing a crowdsourced, community story project designed to help libraries and other organizations create their own local story projects.

Among the goals of OurStoryBridge are to:

- Capture the rich cultural history of communities with a focus on recording older generations before their histories are lost
- Build civic pride and engagement among students to encourage their growth as involved community members.

Check out the free resources on www.ourstorybridge.org and email us at createyourstoryproject@gmail.com with questions.

MAC ANNUAL GRANTS FY2023

Deadline: March 1, 2022

The Mississippi Arts Commission Applications for MAC Annual Grants FY2023 will open Feb. 1, 2022. A few ways recipients will benefit include operating support for museums and community arts centers, arts integration and guest artist presentations in schools and continuing education, and supplies for working artists.

Visit <https://arts.ms.gov/grants/> for more information

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.

FINRA INVESTOR EDUCATION FOUNDATION GRANT: FINANCIAL EDUCATION AND INCLUSION

DEADLINE: March 1, 2022

Maximum Grant Request Amount: \$50,000

This grant's aim is to support public libraries (and academic libraries) in their efforts to meet financial and/or investor education needs in their communities by providing high-quality education, services, and resources. The grant application (<https://www.finrafoundation.org/library-grant-application-form-2022>) is very precise in page length and content requested. The grant application is broken into eight sections: 1. Cover Page 2. Qualification of the Library 3. Detailed Project Description 4. Marketing and Outreach Plan 5. Evaluation Plan 6. Project Partners 7. Timeline 8. Budget & Budget Narrative

The grant project can begin no earlier than July 2022. Project partners are highly encouraged. For Further Details & FAQs: www.finrafoundation.org/people-we-help/library-grants-program Please direct all questions about your application to: Robert Ganem (FINRA Investor Education Foundation) @ Robert.Ganem@finra.org

U.S. CENSUS / IMLS DATA REPORT

The Census has developed, working with the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), a dashboard comparison of each state's FY19 Public Library Annual Report data with the 2015–2019 American Community Survey Data. Interacting with the layers, users can discern the public library building location and statistics at the county level. Scrolling through the panels on the sides allows for a view of statistics for each state. The information provided also allows a view of all the library systems within a state and provides a link to imls.gov to access downloadable PDFs.

See: <https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/8615879a13774badaa6c9f477371205b/>



© CSLP 2021

If 2020 felt like it lasted three years, 2021 has flown by in what has felt like a couple of months, and now the time has come again to start preparing for another year of Summer Library Programming.

Over 100,000 people attended last year's Summer Library Programs across the state of Mississippi, which goes to show that our librarians wasted absolutely no time in adapting and putting on spectacular programs under ever-changing restrictions and guidelines. Usual efforts from libraries to combat the potential loss of up to two months' worth of academic achievement in their communities' children, also known as the summer slide, were put side by side with increasing efforts to keep children and adults alike engaged and entertained despite increasing virtual burnout. Despite the difficulty, Mississippi libraries knocked it out of the park.

So, what can we look forward to in 2022? Though not every library system's program will look the same, most of them will share this year's CSLP theme, "Oceans of Possibilities," and quite a few libraries are hoping to ease back into holding in-person events during the summer. Even so, there will still be tons of fun to be had for those patrons relying on virtual and Grab-and-Go activities, and this summer's overall focus on oceanography has some very intriguing possibilities. Contact Kayla Martin-Gant at kmartin-gant@mlc.lib.ms.us or (601) 432-4057 for more information.



ANNUAL REPORT

FY21 Summary

MISSION

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

CONTACT

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Toll free: 1-800-MISS-LIB
(1-800-647-7542)
Fax: 601-432-4480

LIBRARY SERVICES

INFORMATION REQUESTS

27,294

TALKING BOOK CHECK OUTS

114,136

CONSULTING HOURS PROVIDED

3,968

MONEY SAVED THROUGH ILL

\$251,860

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

TECHNOLOGY SITE VISITS

193

HELPDESK TICKETS RESOLVED

985

WEBSITE VISITS

81,458

GRANTS

HEALTH & LIFE INSURANCE

\$3,440,949.28

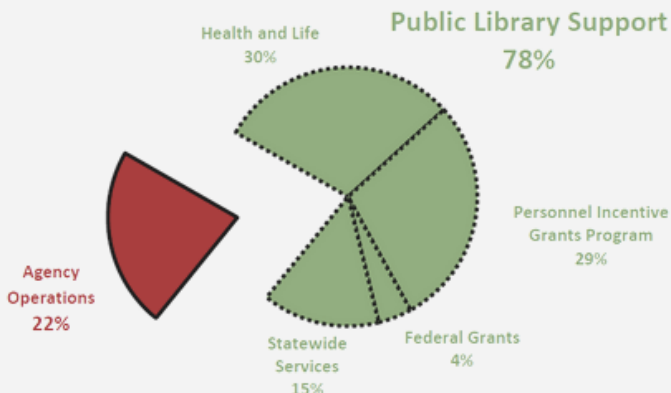
FEDERAL GRANTS

\$481,580.88

PERSONNEL INCENTIVE GRANTS

\$3,292,732.43

FY21 APPROPRIATION



MLC FY2021 BUDGET APPROPRIATED

\$12,172,806

MLC Administers Little Free Libraries Grant 2021

MLC is administering a grant for the Little Free Libraries (LFL) program, a nonprofit organization based in Hudson, Wisconsin. Little Free Libraries are free-standing boxes where people can leave books and take books, allowing access to materials in a non-traditional way.

MLC has awarded 26 Little Free Libraries to 16 library systems. Libraries must complete a short application: <https://bit.ly/3xExfwN>.

For more information about Little Free Libraries in general: <https://littlefreelibrary.org/>.

Here is a list of all the Library Systems that have been granted a LFL:

Sharkey-Issaquena, Washington County, Wilkinson County, Hancock County, Greenwood-Leflore, Lincoln-Lawrence-Franklin, Northeast Regional, Sunflower County, Union County, Waynesboro-Wayne County, Laurel-Jones, Central MS, Jackson-George, Mid-MS, Humphreys County, and Tallahatchie County.



From top: LFLs of Greenwood-Leflore, Sharkey-Issaquena, Sunflower County, and Wilkinson County

Continuing Education Catalog

The Mississippi Library Commission is excited to announce the return of the CE catalog for the second half of FY22! The catalog is grouped by month and includes three types of events: recorded webinars, live Zoom meetings, and in-person meetings (beginning in February). The live Zoom meetings and in-person meetings include dates and times for each event as well as class size limits and available CEUs when applicable. Find it online at <https://mlc.lib.ms.us/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/Jan-June-FY2022-CE-Catalog.pdf>



Inside the Commission

MLC Collects Supplies for Local Women's Shelter

MLC collected donations over the holidays for Matt's House, an emergency shelter for homeless women and children who have no other place to go. Leading up the holidays, staff collected cleaning supplies, sheets, towels, washcloths, games for children, and DVDs.

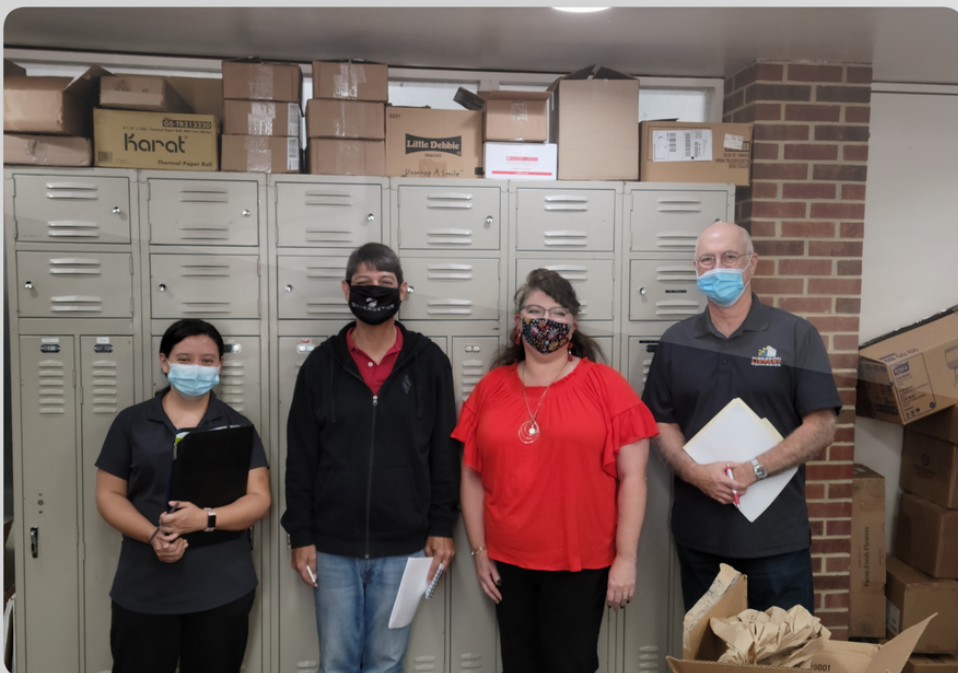
To learn more about Matt's House, please visit:

http://stewpot.org/services_mattshouse.html



MLC staff filled several boxes and carts that were shared with Matt's House residents.

Northeast Regional Library System (Corinth, MS) E-Rate Consulting and Technology Evaluation



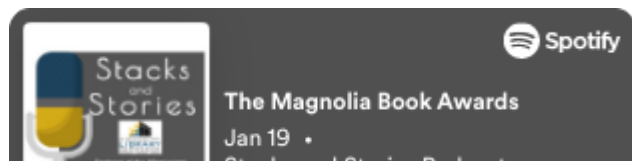
MLC Technology Department is one of our busiest departments.

They recently visited with NERLS to assess their tech needs. If you would like to schedule a technology assessment of your library, contact 601-432-4158 or helpdesk@mlc.lib.ms.us

Pictured left to right:

Jennifer Todd, MLC Technology Director, Shane Castile, NERL Technology Consultant, Dee Hare, NERL director, and James Dunaway, MLC Technology Consultant.

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

February

- 3-4 **Public Library Directors Meeting (virtual)**
- 16 **MLC Day at the Capitol, 1:30-4:30 pm**
- 21 **Holiday - MLC closed**

March

- 29 **Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting**

April

- 18-22 **National Library Week**
- 25 **Holiday - MLC Closed**

About MLC

3881 Eastwood Drive
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Hulen E. Bivins
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Board of Commissioners
Lori Barnes, Hernando
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.

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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