

on the same page

with the Mississippi Library Commission



December 2025



MLC Kicks off America250 Celebration

The Mississippi Library Commission kicked off its salute to America's semiquincentennial at the Mississippi Book Festival in September. This marked the beginning of MLC's activities that will continue through December 2026 as America celebrates 250 years of independence and MLC commemorates 100 years of service to Mississippi.

Check out our America250 reading list [Come Read with Us](#). This K-12 list aligns with the Mississippi Department of Education's program Strong Readers Strong Leaders and supports the strides MDE is making towards improved literacy. Many of the books are available at public libraries throughout the state.

More information about America250 can be found at <https://america250.org/>.



Mississippi Veterans History Project Underway

The Veterans History Project at the Library of Congress collects, preserves, and makes accessible the firsthand recollections of U.S. military veterans from World War I to present-day conflicts and peacekeeping missions. By recording these stories, the project helps future generations better understand the experiences of those who served. MLC is committed to ensuring that these invaluable stories are preserved for future generations. If you are a veteran or know one who would like to share their story, please email vhp@mlc.lib.ms.us or 601-432-4157.

To learn more about this important initiative, visit [Veterans History Project](#).

Around the State with MS Libraries

Talking Book Services at the MS State Fair

Talking Book Services staff Miranda Loper and Megan Fleming hosted a booth in October at the Mississippi State Fair for both the Disability Friendly Day and Senior American Day.

The Senior American Day provided activities, a concert, and snacks for senior citizens, while the Disability Friendly Day provided an indoor carnival-style resource fair for disabled individuals and caregivers. Miranda and Megan shared giveaways and information about Talking Book Services with more than 700 hundred attendees.

Activities included spelling participant's names with Braille Lego bricks and playing Giant Connect Four from MLC's Special Collections.

If you would like Talking Book Services to host a table with accessible games at your next community event, email talkingbooks@mlc.lib.ms.us with information about the event.

For more information about reserving games or other Special Collections items, contact Charlie Simpkins at csimpkins@mlc.lib.ms.us.



December MLC Continuing Education Trainings for Library Staff

December 9 - MAGNOLIA Hour: Using NoveList for Readers' Advisory, 10 a.m.

December 11- Creating Age Appropriate Storytimes, 10 a.m.

December 12 - Youth Services Happy Hour, 10 a.m.

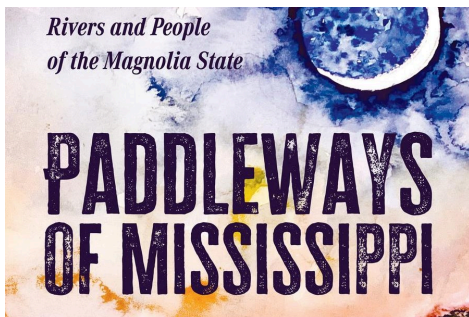
December 16 - Programming Quarterly Training: Passive Program Round-up, 2 p.m.

December 17 - Human Resources Happy Hour, 9 a.m.

December 17 - Virtual Frontline Training: MLC's Information Services, 2 p.m.

December 17 - Virtual Manager Training: Promoting the Library as a Community Space, 3:30 p.m.

December 18 - Technology Quarterly Training: Microsoft Office 365, 2 p.m.



New Title Added to Book Club Kit

MLC's Great Reads from Great Places LibGuide has been updated to include a printable Marshall Ramsey Read poster!

For those using these titles in your programming, keep an eye out for an interview with Ernest Herndon and Patrick Parker, authors of the adult pick *Paddleways of Mississippi: Rivers and People of the Magnolia State* on the MLC YouTube page.

The interview can be screened at your library and paired with the newly added book club kit of the title. The book club kit includes discussion questions created by the authors, and MLC staff are working on designing a Read poster for this book as well.



Federal Depository Library Celebrates 78th Anniversary

In September the Mississippi Library Commission celebrated its 78th year as a part of the Federal Depository Library Program. As a selective depository, MLC can tailor its print offerings to our audience, as long as we make the collection freely available to the public.

We receive updated copies of some documents yearly, like the *Code of Federal Regulations*, and have holdings on a range of Mississippi-related topics, from a report on tornadoes in the Delta from 1971 to a tribute to Representative Jamie L. Whitten from 1995.

Free Large Print Titles

If your library would like a box of large print titles mailed to your library or placed on your distribution shelf, please contact Alex Brower at 601-432-4117 or abrower@mlc.lib.ms.us. We have been weeding our large print collection to make room for newer items and have a variety of large print titles available.

Message from the Executive Director

'Tis the Season

With the conclusion of the calendar or fiscal year, many public libraries have the task and the opportunity to talk with funding bodies about the successes of the past months and how those successes have supported the needs within the communities served. It is also a time when assistance to achieve the needs of future months are requested with an explanation of the improvements in library services to be expected.

For the Director of the public library, the discussions held are often about long-range objectives and how the communication of a vision can be achieved. The vision shared should have a basis in logic, be a goal of well-being, and support both new and sustaining services.

In any year-end review, there is a need for cost analysis to be sure the library has been efficient in their work. Herein, both the library and its funding agent (Mayor, County Commissioner, or Legislative representative) should review their actions of collaboration (what was accomplished together) and their alliances (maintenance of joint actions and goals on multiple projects and actions). If cooperation is present, all parties will be able to assess situations for the ultimate good.

Some say that libraries are not as needed as they were in decades past. This argument ignores the fact that without libraries, many shall be left in the sphere of ignorance with no source of true and accurate information.

Budget requests on behalf of libraries are a major part of this season. Just as it is a season of giving for many entities, it is a season of giving for public libraries where libraries support the needs of the library patron and the random user. All are welcome in this season of giving!

Hulen E. Bivins

Is the content of this email relevant to you?

Yes

No



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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