

CONTINUING EDUCATION CATALOG

**Mississippi Library Commission
January-June 2026**



Registering for Events

- Only in-person events require registration. An email will be sent with a link to a registration form before the event. Once registered, you'll receive an email with the event information.
- For all other events, an email will be sent with the link to the Zoom session prior to the event.

Certificates of Attendance and Continuing Education Units

Certificates of attendance to Mississippi Library Commission events are available for library staff and continuing education units are available for licensed educators for qualifying events. These must be requested when registering for an in-person event or during a live Zoom training provided the attendee's camera remains on during the training.

For more information, contact Sharon Zala at szala@mlc.lib.ms.us or 601.432.4005

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[Magnolia Hour: Britannica for Librarians](#)

When: January 13, 10:00am - 11:00am

Format: Live via Zoom

Intended Audience: Frontline & Reference Staff

Presenter: Billy Don Loper

Description: Learn how to effectively search, navigate, and utilize the wide range of databases available through Magnolia. Each month we'll explore a different set of databases, highlighting their content and special features.

[Virtual Help Desk: Live Q&A](#)

When: January 14, 2:00pm - 3:00pm

Format: Live Discussion via Zoom

Intended Audience: All Staff

Facilitator: Matt Smith

Description: The MLC Technology Team invites all Mississippi library staff to join our Virtual Help Desk Live Q&A session. This is an informal, drop-in session where you can ask questions, troubleshoot issues, and discuss technology topics of any level, from basic "how-to" questions to advanced technical challenges. Our goal is to provide support, share knowledge, and help you feel more confident with the tools and systems you use every day. All library staff are welcome.

[Youth Services Happy Hour](#)

When: January 15, 2:00pm - 3:00pm

Format: Live Discussion via Zoom

Intended Audience: Youth Services Staff

Facilitator: Mary Mackin

Description: MLC's Happy Hours are informal virtual meetings designed to bring librarians together to foster connection and conversation. These forums allow colleagues to share experiences and ideas, and to create and strengthen professional relationships.

[Reference Quarterly Training: The Reference Interview](#)

When: January 20, 2:00pm – 3:00pm

Format: Live via Zoom

Intended Audience: Frontline & Reference Staff

Facilitator: Alex Brower

Description: It's not always easy figuring out exactly what information patrons are looking for. Building a rapport with patrons and asking the right questions is key to making sure we're providing great service. This session will cover ways to conduct a successful reference interview so that patrons leave with the information they need.

[Virtual Frontline Training: Mental Health First Aid](#)

When: January 21, 2:00pm – 3:00pm

Format: Live via Zoom

Intended Audience: Frontline Staff

Facilitator: Shellie Zeigler

Description: Public libraries are more than places for books—they're trusted community hubs where staff often serve as the first point of contact for people in need. This session focuses on how frontline employees can support mental wellness for both patrons and themselves. We'll discuss practical strategies for creating a safe, welcoming environment, recognizing signs of mental health challenges, and connecting individuals to appropriate resources.

January 2026

[Virtual Manager Training: Mental Health First Aid](#)

When: January 28, 3:30pm - 4:30pm

Format: Live via Zoom

Intended Audience: Managers & Supervisors

Facilitator: Shellie Zeigler

Description: Designed for library managers, this session focuses on how leadership can support mental wellness for both patrons and staff. Participants will learn strategies for creating policies and practices that foster a safe, welcoming environment, identifying signs of mental health challenges within their teams and connecting staff and patrons to appropriate resources. We'll also discuss ways to integrate mental health awareness into organizational culture and daily operations.

[Cataloging & Processing Quarterly Training: Cataloging & Processing Tools in OCLC](#)

When: January 29, 10:00am - 11:00am

Format: Live via Zoom

Intended Audience: Technical Processing Staff

Facilitator: Alex Brower & Charlie Simpkins

Description: This session will introduce the tools available through OCLC that can help streamline your workflow. We'll be covering Connexion, Record Manager, Cataloging Partner Collections, and more.

February 2026

[Public Relations Happy Hour](#)

When: February 4, 9:00am - 10:00am

Format: Live Discussion via Zoom

Intended Audience: Public Relations & Marketing Staff

Facilitator: Stephenie Morrissey

Description: MLC's Happy Hours are informal virtual meetings designed to bring librarians together to foster connection and conversation. These forums allow colleagues to share experiences and ideas, and to create and strengthen professional relationships.

[Magnolia Hour: Special Health Resources](#)

When: February 10, 10:00am – 11:00am

Format: Live via Zoom

Intended Audience: Frontline & Reference Staff

Presenter: Billy Don Loper

Description: Learn how to effectively search, navigate, and utilize the wide range of databases available through Magnolia. Each month we'll explore a different set of databases, highlighting their content and special features.

[CSLP Unearth a Story: Early Childhood](#)

When: February 12

Format: Recorded Webinar

Intended Audience: Youth Services Staff

Facilitator: Mary Mackin

Description: Discover engaging book selections and playful programming ideas for early childhood summer reading programs—all centered around this year's theme, "Unearth a Story." Join us as we explore creative ways to spark curiosity, imagination, and a love of reading in young children.

[CSLP Unearth a Story: K-5](#)

When: February 17

Format: Recorded Webinar

Intended Audience: Youth Services Staff

Facilitator: Mary Mackin

Description: Dig into fresh book recommendations and hands-on program ideas perfect for school-aged children. This webinar highlights how to bring the "Unearth a Story" theme to life through stories, activities, and meaningful early literacy experiences.

[Virtual Frontline Training: Everyday Ethics for Frontline Staff](#)

When: February 18, 2:00pm - 3:00 pm

Format: Live via Zoom

Intended Audience: Frontline Staff

Facilitator: Shellie Zeigler

Description: This training provides frontline staff with practical guidance for handling the ethical challenges that arise in day-to-day public service. Through real-world scenarios and discussion, participants will explore core principles such as privacy, intellectual freedom, boundaries, and professional conduct. The session emphasizes how small, everyday decisions can strengthen public trust to create a welcoming and respectful environment for all patrons.

[Special Collections Quarterly: Summer Programming Supplements with MLC's Special Collections](#)

When: February 19, 10:00am - 11:00am

Format: Live via Zoom

Intended Audience: Programming & Youth Services Staff

Description: This session introduces MLC's special collections available for checkout that support this year's summer library theme, "Unearth a Story." We'll explore items that encourage curiosity, creativity, and narrative exploration. Join us and learn how these collections can help young patrons dig deeper into stories, ideas, and new learning experiences all summer long.

[Youth Services Happy Hour](#)

When: February 19, 2:00pm - 3:00pm

Format: Live Discussion via Zoom

Intended Audience: Youth Services Staff

Facilitator: Mary Mackin

Description: MLC's Happy Hours are informal virtual meetings designed to bring librarians together to foster connection and conversation. These forums allow colleagues to share experiences and ideas, and to create and strengthen professional relationships.

CSLP Unearth a Story: Teens

When: February 23

Format: Recorded Webinar

Intended Audience: Youth Services Staff

Facilitator: Mary Mackin

Description: Get ready to “Unearth a Story” with compelling teen reads and creative summer program ideas. Learn how to design experiences that encourage teens to think deeply, express themselves, and expand their world.

Virtual Manager Training: Workplace Communication

When: February 25, 3:30pm - 4:30pm

Format: Live via Zoom

Intended Audience: Managers & Supervisors

Facilitator: Michael Finley

Description: Effective communication is essential for building strong teams and delivering high-quality public service. This training equips library managers and supervisors with practical tools to foster clarity, trust, and collaboration in the workplace. Attendees will gain skills to improve team dynamics, reduce misunderstandings, and cultivate a more positive, productive workplace culture.

Public Library Directors' Meeting

When: February 26-27

Format: In Person at MLC + Hybrid via Zoom

Intended Audience: Directors or their Designees

Description: This PLD, join us in celebrating the retirement of Executive Director Hulen Bivins on Thursday evening from 4:00pm - 6:00pm. PLD meetings offer public library directors valuable opportunities for information sharing, education, and networking. These sessions cover a range of topics and provide updates on the latest developments at MLC.

[Technology Quarterly Training: Mastering OneDrive - Simplifying File Storage and Sharing](#)

When: March 4, 2:00pm - 3:00pm

Format: Live Discussion via Zoom

Intended Audience: All Staff

Facilitator: Matt Smith

Description: Learn the essentials of using OneDrive to organize files, share documents, and collaborate more effectively. This session covers basic tools, settings, and best practices to help library staff streamline workflows and access their work securely from any device.

[Human Resources Happy Hour](#)

When: March 5, 10:00am - 11:00am

Format: Live via Zoom

Intended Audience: Directors & Human Resources Staff

Facilitator: Sharon Zala

Description: Join us for an engaging happy hour focused on human resources essentials. Attendees will have the opportunity to ask questions of other professionals, share experiences, and learn best practices in a supportive, informal setting.

[Magnolia Hour: Business & Professional Resources](#)

When: March 10, 10:00am - 11:00am

Format: Live via Zoom

Intended Audience: Frontline & Reference Staff

Presenter: Billy Don Loper

Description: Learn how to effectively search, navigate, and utilize the wide range of databases available through Magnolia. Each month we'll explore a different set of databases, highlighting their content and special features.

[TBS Ambassadors Happy Hour](#)

When: March 11, 3:00pm - 4:00pm

Format: Live via Zoom

Intended Audience: Frontline & Reference Staff

Presenter: Miranda Loper

Description: Talking Book Services invites all TBS Ambassadors around the state to join TBS staff for updates and to discuss Talking Books in your communities! Share your experiences and ideas to connect with your fellow Ambassadors and colleagues. Not an ambassador but interested in TBS? Join the conversation to learn how other librarians are utilizing Talking Book Services for their patrons.

[CSLP Unearth a Story: Adults](#)

When: March 12

Format: Recorded Webinar

Intended Audience: Programming Staff

Facilitator: Sharon Zala

Description: This training provides creative program ideas to help you design meaningful and memorable summer experiences for adults. Using the summer theme "Unearth a Story," we'll look at ways to connect the theme to genealogy, archaeology, and local history.

[Programming Quarterly: America 250](#)

When: March 17, 2:00pm - 3:00pm

Format: Live Discussion via Zoom

Intended Audience: Programming Staff

Facilitator: Dr. Marvin Jeter

Description: This training will explore ideas for providing communities with history-focused events, community partnerships, intergenerational activities, and displays that highlight and celebrate our country's semiquincentennial - 250 years of independence! We will offer practical guidance on selecting themes, finding materials, and designing programming that encourages reflection, learning, and community connection. Librarians will leave with adaptable program concepts and tools to create engaging experiences for all ages during this year of national commemoration.

[Virtual Frontline Training: Assessing Your Library Through Patrons' Eyes](#)

When: March 18, 2:00pm – 3:00 pm

Format: Live Discussion via Zoom

Intended Audience: Frontline Staff

Facilitator: Shellie Zeigler

Description: This session focuses on approaches frontline staff can use to recognize and improve how patrons experience the library. We'll explore ways to evaluate the physical environment, the effectiveness of signage, patron perceptions of staff interactions, and the overall user experience.

[Youth Services Happy Hour](#)

When: March 19, 2:00pm – 3:00pm

Format: Live Discussion via Zoom

Intended Audience: Youth Services Staff

Facilitator: Mary Mackin

Description: MLC's Happy Hours are informal virtual meetings designed to bring librarians together to foster connection and conversation. These forums allow colleagues to share experiences and ideas, and to create and strengthen professional relationships.

[Hoopla Management](#)

When: March 24, 2:00pm – 3:00pm

Format: Live Discussion via Zoom

Intended Audience: Directors & Hoopla Administrators

Facilitator: Mercedes Lopez

Description: Hoopla representative Mercedes Lopez will review options available for everything from configuring platform settings to financial and spending oversight. Topics will include frequently asked questions such as setting lending limits, tracking expenditures, and reviewing usage analytics.

March 2026

[Virtual Manager Training: The Patron Experience Audit: Evaluating Your Library from a Patron's Perspective](#)

When: March 25, 3:30pm - 4:00pm

Format: Live via Zoom

Intended Audience: Managers & Supervisors

Facilitator: Sharon Zala

Description: Understanding how patrons view and interact with your library is essential to delivering welcoming, user-centered service. This training equips managers with the tools and techniques needed to conduct a comprehensive patron experience audit—from first impressions to final interactions.

April 2026

[Magnolia Hour: NoveList Refresher](#)

When: April 14, 10:00am - 11:00am

Format: Live via Zoom

Intended Audience: Frontline & Reference Staff

Presenter: Billy Don Loper

Description: Learn how to effectively search, navigate, and utilize the wide range of databases available through Magnolia. Each month we'll explore a different set of databases, highlighting their content and special features.

[Youth Services Happy Hour](#)

When: April 16, 2:00pm - 3:00pm

Format: Live Discussion via Zoom

Intended Audience: Youth Services Staff

Facilitator: Mary Mackin

Description: MLC's Happy Hours are informal virtual meetings designed to bring librarians together to foster connection and conversation. These forums allow colleagues to share experiences and ideas, and to create and strengthen professional relationships.

Reference Quarterly: MLC's Mississippiana Collection

When: April 21, 2:00pm - 3:00pm

Format: Live Discussion via Zoom

Intended Audience: Frontline & Reference Staff

Facilitator: Alex Brower

Description: MLC's Mississippiana collection contains a multitude of fiction, nonfiction, and reference titles by Mississippi authors or about Mississippi-related topics. Information Services Director Alex Brower will discuss the types of collections under the Mississippiana umbrella, show some examples of the more niche and useful sources, and talk about how librarians from across the state can make use of the information contained in these volumes.

Virtual Frontline Training: Building Trust & Communication at the Circulation Desk

When: April 22nd, 2:00pm - 3:00 pm

Format: Live Discussion via Zoom

Intended Audience: Frontline Staff

Facilitator: Shellie Zeigler

Description: The circulation desk is often the first and main point of contact for patrons, making it a critical space for creating positive, lasting impressions. This training equips frontline staff with the skills and confidence needed to build trust, foster connection, and deliver exceptional customer service. Topics include clear and professional communication, recognizing and responding to patron needs, and strengthening relationships to positively represent the library as a trusted community resource.

April 2026

[Virtual Manager Training: Team Dynamics](#)

When: April 29, 3:30pm – 4:00pm

Format: Live via Zoom

Intended Audience: Managers & Supervisors

Facilitator: Michael Jordan

Description: Effective library leadership requires more than managing tasks—it requires understanding the people, relationships, and dynamics that drive team performance. This training provides practical strategies for observing, interpreting, and guiding team interactions to foster collaboration, productivity, and a positive workplace culture.

[Cataloging & Processing Quarterly Training: MARC Record Basics](#)

When: April 30, 10:00am – 11:00am

Format: Live via Zoom

Intended Audience: Technical Processing Staff

Facilitator: Alex Brower & Charlie Simpkins

Description: Whether you're new to cataloging or looking for a refresher, this training covers the basics fundamentals of MARC records. Alex & Charlie will explain the structure and components of MARC records, and how they facilitate cataloging, searching, and sharing bibliographic information across library systems.

May 2026

[Public Relations Happy Hour](#)

When: May 6, 9:00am – 10:00am

Format: Live Discussion via Zoom

Intended Audience: Public Relations & Marketing Staff

Facilitator: Stephenie Morrissey

Description: MLC's Happy Hours are informal virtual meetings designed to bring librarians together to foster connection and conversation. These forums allow colleagues to share experiences and ideas, and to create and strengthen professional relationships.

Public Library Directors' Meeting

When: May 7 - 8

Format: In Person at MLC + Hybrid via Zoom

Intended Audience: Directors or their Designees

Description: PLD meetings offer public library directors valuable opportunities for information sharing, education, and networking. These sessions cover a range of topics and provide updates on the latest developments at MLC.

Magnolia Hour: Newspaper Source for Librarians

When: May 12, 10:00am - 11:00am

Format: Live via Zoom

Intended Audience: Frontline & Reference Staff

Presenter: Billy Don Loper

Description: Learn how to effectively search, navigate, and utilize the wide range of databases available through Magnolia. Each month we'll explore a different set of databases, highlighting their content and special features.

Trustee Training

When: May 19, 2:00pm - 4:00pm

Format: Live via Zoom

Intended Audience: Library Board Members

Presenter: Shellie Zeigler

Description: This training provides new and seasoned library board members with an overview of their responsibilities, authority, and role in effective library governance. Participants will learn the essential functions of a public library board--including policy development, strategic planning, fiscal oversight, and the director-board relationship. The session also clarifies common questions about decision-making, requirements, open meetings, and how the board collaborates with library leadership, staff, and community stakeholders.

Virtual Frontline Training: Turning Complaints into Connections - Reframing Patron Problems as Opportunities

When: May 20, 2:00pm – 3:00 pm

Format: Live Discussion via Zoom

Intended Audience: Frontline Staff

Facilitator: Sharon Zala

Description: Every complaint is a chance to strengthen trust and demonstrate the library's value in the community. This training helps staff build confidence and practical skills for handling patron concerns with empathy, professionalism, and a solution-focused mindset. We'll explore how emotions influence interactions, and techniques for de-escalating tense situations. The session emphasizes seeing patron problems as opportunities to improve service, deepen relationships, and reinforce the library as a welcoming, community-centered space.

Youth Services Happy Hour

When: May 21, 2:00pm – 3:00pm

Format: Live Discussion via Zoom

Intended Audience: Youth Services Staff

Facilitator: Mary Mackin

Description: MLC's Happy Hours are informal virtual meetings designed to bring librarians together to foster connection and conversation. These forums allow colleagues to share experiences and ideas, and to create and strengthen professional relationships.

May 2026

[Virtual Manager Training: The Five Whys](#)

When: May 27, 3:30pm – 4:30 pm

Format: Live Discussion via Zoom

Intended Audience: Managers & Supervisors

Facilitator: Mary Ann Griffin

Description: Guest presenter Mary Ann Griffin, director of the Sunflower County Library system, introduces *The Five Whys*, a straightforward method for identifying the root causes of common organizational challenges. Participants will learn the principles behind the technique and how it can be applied to library operations to support better decision-making, improved workflows, and a culture of continuous improvement.

[Special Collections Quarterly: Fall into Programming](#)

When: May 28, 10:00am – 11:00am

Format: Live via Zoom

Intended Audience: Programming & Youth Services Staff

Description: This session introduces MLC's special collections available for checkout that can help enrich your fall program offerings. We'll explore items that encourage curiosity, creativity, and outdoor community adventures. Join us and learn how these collections can help create engaging programming for all ages.

June 2026

[LSTA Grants Workshop](#)

When: June 2, 10:00am – 4:00pm

Format: Live Discussion via Zoom

Intended Audience: Directors or their Designees

Facilitator: Jennifer Lena

Description: This workshop will cover the basics of MLC's federal subgrant program, the subgrant reimbursement process, and updates to the federal regulations.

[Magnolia Hour: Providing Reference Services to Youth Using Magnolia](#)

When: June 9, 10:00am - 11:00am

Format: Live via Zoom

Intended Audience: Youth Services, Frontline, & Reference Staff

Presenter: Billy Don Loper

Description: Learn how to effectively search, navigate, and utilize the wide range of databases available through Magnolia. Each month we'll explore a different set of databases, highlighting their content and special features.

[Technology Quarterly Training: Organize & Collaborate with OneNote](#)

When: June 10, 2:00pm - 3:00pm

Format: Live Discussion via Zoom

Intended Audience: All Staff

Facilitator: Matt Smith

Description: OneNote is a flexible digital notebook for organizing, documenting processes, collaborating on projects, and managing day-to-day tasks. Learn how this feature of Office365 can streamline your personal workflow and strengthen collaboration across your library system.

[Virtual Help Desk: Live Q&A](#)

When: June 11, 2:00pm - 3:00pm

Format: Live Discussion via Zoom

Intended Audience: All Staff

Facilitator: Matt Smith

Description: The MLC Technology Team invites all Mississippi library staff to join our Virtual Help Desk Live Q&A session. This is an informal, drop-in session where you can ask questions, troubleshoot issues, and discuss technology topics of any level, from basic "how-to" questions to advanced technical challenges. Our goal is to provide support, share knowledge, and help you feel more confident with the tools and systems you use every day. All library staff are welcome.

[Programming Quarterly: America 250](#)

When: June 16, 2:00pm - 3:00pm

Format: Live Discussion via Zoom

Intended Audience: Programming Staff

Facilitator: Dr. Marvin Jeter

Description: This training will explore ideas for providing communities with history-focused events, community partnerships, intergenerational activities, and displays that highlight and celebrate our country's semiquincentennial - 250 years of independence! We will offer practical guidance on selecting themes, finding materials, and designing programming that encourages reflection, learning, and community connection. Librarians will leave with adaptable program concepts and tools to create engaging experiences for all ages during this year of national commemoration.

[Virtual Frontline Training: Employing Visual Marketing Techniques to Create Library Displays](#)

When: June 17, 2:00pm - 3:00 pm

Format: Live Discussion via Zoom

Intended Audience: Frontline Staff

Facilitator: Sharon Zala

Description: Engage your community and boost library usage by learning how to design eye-catching, effective library displays. This training equips staff with practical visual marketing techniques to showcase books, programs, and services in a way that draws attention and encourages interaction.

[Youth Services Happy Hour](#)

When: June 18, 2:00pm - 3:00pm

Format: Live Discussion via Zoom

Intended Audience: Youth Services Staff

Facilitator: Mary Mackin

Description: MLC's Happy Hours are informal virtual meetings designed to bring librarians together to foster connection and conversation. These forums allow colleagues to share experiences and ideas, and to create and strengthen professional relationships.

Human Resources Happy Hour

When: June 24, 10:00am - 11:00am

Format: Live via Zoom

Intended Audience: Directors & Human Resources Staff

Facilitator: Sharon Zala

Description: Join us for an engaging happy hour focused on human resources essentials. Attendees will have the opportunity to ask questions of other professionals, share experiences, and learn best practices in a supportive, informal setting.

Virtual Manager Training: Building a Service-Oriented Culture in Your Library

When: June 24, 3:30pm - 4:30 pm

Format: Live Discussion via Zoom

Intended Audience: Managers & Supervisors

Facilitator: Sharon Zala

Description: A strong service-oriented culture is the foundation of exceptional patron service. This training provides managers with practical strategies for fostering a workplace culture centered on excellent customer service. Participants will learn how to model service-focused behaviors, set clear expectations, and empower staff to create positive, consistent experiences for all patrons.

Directors & Administrators

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	6	7	8	9	10
	13	14 Magnolia Hour	15	16 Youth Services Happy Hour	17
	20	21 Reference Quarterly Training: Mississippiana Collection	22 Virtual Frontline Training: Building Trust & Connection	23	24
	27	28	29 Virtual Manager Training: Team Dynamics	30 Cataloging & Processing Quarterly: MARC Records	31

MAY-JUNE 2026 AT A GLANCE

May	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
					1
	4	5	6 Public Relations Happy Hour	7 Public Library Directors' Symposium	8
	11	12 Magnolia Hour	13	14	15
	18	19 Trustee Training	20 Virtual Frontline Training: Complaints into Connections	21 Youth Services Happy Hour	22
	25	26	27 Virtual Manager Training: The Five Whys	28 Special Collections Quarterly: Fall into Programming	29

June	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	1	2 LSTA Workshop	3	4	5
	8	9 Magnolia Hour	10 Tech Quarterly Training: OneNote	11 Virtual Help Desk	12
	15	16 Programming Quarterly Training: America 250	17 Virtual Frontline Training: Creating Displays	18 Youth Services Happy Hour	19
	22	23	24 Human Resources Happy Hour	25	26
	29	30	31 Virtual Manager Training: Service-Oriented Culture		