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Cover: Brian Holland, Sue Keller, Jim Hession, and Frederick Hodges were the featured performers for Mississippi State University Libraries’ 5th Annual Charles Templeton Ragtime Jazz Festival, held March 25-26, 2011, at Mitchell Memorial Library and MSU’s Lee Hall Auditorium. The Festival serves as an outreach for the Charles H. Templeton, Sr. Music Museum at MSU Libraries and sees visitors from all across the United States and Canada each year. For more information on MSU Libraries and the Templeton Festival, please visit http://library.msstate.edu/.
From the Editor

Fall is generally noted as the season of “change”. There have been many behind the scenes changes affecting *The Southeastern Librarian* (SELn) which I would like to note here. First, we have changed printers in order to save costs. The printer used to develop this issue used a more advanced process than our previous printer. The Association had considered publication in an online format only, but felt that the treasury was healthy enough to sustain the print publication with the aforementioned cost savings. Thanks to those of you who have also helped by requesting the online format only. SELn is also in the process of providing access to previous issues via the Kennesaw State University repository (http://digitalcommons.kennesaw.edu/). The Editorial Board changed this year also. We hope that these changes will improve the publication. Let me know if you have other suggestions and/or comments.

This month’s issue contains an article by Christopher Shaffer entitled “Best Practices for Hiring Academic Librarians with Faculty Status and Rank”. During these tough economic times, positions are scarce and applicants are plentiful. It is important that libraries fill these positions with the best qualified applicants available. Filling positions for academic librarians with faculty rank and status creates challenges which need to be carefully considered. This article addresses issues both in the hiring and retention of the best candidates.

Stephen Parks describes his library’s success in meeting user needs through his article entitled “One Mississippi Library’s Experience in Opening up the State Judiciary to Greater Access by the Library Patron”. The process of providing detailed access to information embedded in legal documents is outlined showing benefits for the library staff and patrons. This information helps for preparation in future court cases.

You will also find an ever-expanding book review section. These book reviews cover titles which have subject matter pertaining to the south or are by southern authors. If you would like to be a reviewer, contact me.

Perry Bratcher
Editor
Best Practices for Hiring Academic Librarians with Faculty Status and Rank

Christopher Shaffer

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The Nature of Academic Librarianship

Librarians are an anomaly within the academic community. Neither pure research faculty nor professional staff, they form a hybrid model that incorporates aspects of both roles. An academic librarian ideally holds two master’s degrees, one in a content area (for example, History, Education, or Biology) and another in library science. Consequently, the individual is certainly adept in both library science and another field, but he or she does not have the research expertise of someone with a doctorate and cannot be expected to perform doctoral level research.

Academic librarians must perform a variety of tasks in order to achieve tenure and promotion, including work in reference, collection development, acquisitions, and technical services. Foremost is their job performance: providing proper service at the reference desk, interacting with faculty to ascertain materials that need to be ordered to supplement classes and improve the learning environment, proper cataloging of materials, and, finally, providing bibliographic instruction, as needed, to ensure that faculty and students have an adequate understanding of how to use the library, especially in terms of conducting research in specific content areas (for librarians with a second content related master’s degree). Academic librarians must perform a research role as well, which includes writing scholarly works that detail innovations within the field, insights into proper collection development, and best practices within the field of library science. Included within the realm of scholarly activities for academic librarians are poster session presentations, roundtable discussions, and other professional conference-related activities. Rounding out the demands of an academic librarian is the service component of the tenure and promotion model. Service includes activities relating to the university, activities within professional organizations at the national and state level, and service within the surrounding community that relates to library science.

For the dean or director hiring new librarians, the conundrum is selecting a candidate who is capable of performing these various tasks collectively. When library school students graduate, their primary goal frequently is to find a job; they may have a preference for a position as a public librarian, academic librarian, or school media specialist, but most important is finding gainful employment in order to put food on the table. The person responsible for hiring academic librarians must attempt to discern, based on a résumé and a relatively brief personal interview whether a candidate is capable of performing the basic tasks of being a librarian, interacting with faculty, guiding
students, and performing their duties as a member of the academy. To make the process more difficult, it is remarkably common for nascent librarians to be good at one or two of these attributes. Far less common is to find an individual who is prepared to take on all of the aforementioned tasks. In the following literature review, best practices for recruiting, hiring, and retaining academic librarians will be thoroughly examined.

Development of the Modern Librarian

The modern librarian’s role was created to a large extent in 1951, when the American Library Association (ALA) adopted new standards for accrediting library schools. The master’s degree in library science became the professional credential, as opposed to a bachelor’s degree. Swigger (2010) wrote a remarkable history of library science since the adoption of this new standard, titled The MLS Project. A combination of low salaries, limited training, and the unique nature of librarianship led to the development of the master’s of library science (MLS), later changed to master’s in library and information science (MLIS) requirement (Swigger, p. 12). The need was further caused by the unique nature of librarians’ work, which had routine mechanical components to it, but also required advanced knowledge when tackling the challenges faced at the reference desk. In particular, developing the MLS degree was intended to make it clear that “librarianship comprised mastery of intellectual concepts which professionals applied to intellectual problems, and to dispel notions that librarianship was merely a set of operational routines that were mostly clerical” (Swigger, p. 15). While the MLS over a period of 60 years has led to increases in pay and prestige, librarians continue to lag behind their professional counterparts in terms of both public perception and salary (Swigger). Swigger further asserted that since 1969, library science schools have typically enrolled middle-aged women seeking a second career. He expressed his belief that a revised approach is needed for library education.

Librarians and Faculty Status

With the background of the history of the educational standard for library science in mind, it is now possible to delve into the issue of desired qualities for academic librarians, which is more of a grey area. While an MLS is generally considered an essential qualification, depending on the type of position, a second master’s degree in a content field may also be highly desirable. The concept of faculty status for academic librarians developed as a natural outgrowth of the development of the MLS. Sherby pointed out that persons chosen to fill the role of an academic librarian be outgoing and not isolate themselves; “they must become active and visible members of the community in which they work if they are to continue to demand faculty status” (Sherby, 1978, p. 379). While faculty status is important in terms of creating parity among salaries with the rest of the professoriate at an institution, it also allows academic librarians to be eligible for tenure and to play a greater role within the institution. With such benefits also come the responsibilities of being a faculty member, including scholarly research and writing and being active in local, state, and national professional organizations. Only when librarians engage in these activities will the teaching faculty view academic librarians as true faculty members (Sherby, p. 380).

The automation of libraries did a great deal to assist academic librarians in becoming
more highly integrated into the university faculty. Modern technology freed librarians of many of the mundane rigors of the job and enabled them to focus on pursuits of a more instructional and scholarly nature. A further effect of automation was the culling of library staff. A 1997 study indicated that 80% of academic libraries slowed their pace of hiring following becoming automated (Kenerson, pp. 62-67). This statistic can be viewed as a positive reinforcement of the concept that academic librarians are now performing much more than clerical tasks and also that librarians no longer have the daily drudgery of routine tasks to fall back on as an excuse to not engage in their roles as full-fledged faculty members.

The academic librarian’s role as a faculty member is also stressed at the community college level as indicated in a report to the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges. The report indicated that the MLIS is required in order to hire librarians and that librarians are essential to the mission of the university because of their instruction and knowledge in the areas of research and technology (The Counseling and Library Faculty Issues Committee, p.6, 1995).

**Current Realities in Academic Librarianship**

Although the MLS degree (later changed to MLIS) has been stressed since 1951 as being a crucial element of any librarian’s résumé, a study by the Association of Research Libraries discovered that of 111 academic libraries surveyed in 1999, only 66% of them required the degree for employment as a librarian. The study further found that only 53% of librarians at these institutions had faculty status (Blixrud, 2000, p. 7). This would seem to indicate a continued lack of unanimity concerning the ALA’s perceived significance of the MLS/MLIS degree and also calls into question whether librarians are perceived as genuine faculty members by the professoriate and university administration. However, in terms of the desirability of the MLIS, it is important to remember that the survey results only indicate that the universities would consider an individual without that degree, not that they actually were seeking someone without that credential, or with different credentials.

In a regional study on the educational background of academic librarians in the southeast, Palmer found that 92% of 111 universities studied had librarians with an MLIS degree. It further found that 34% of those same individuals had a second master’s degree. Library deans and directors were more likely to have a second master’s or a doctorate (Palmer, 1985, p. 70). Over 90% of the universities in place offered some form of encouragement for librarians with only an MLIS to return to the classroom in order to receive a second master’s in a content area. Administrators also indicated they preferred to hire academic librarians with a second master’s degree. Although the additional degree was preferred by administrators hiring new academic librarians, very few of the institutions required the additional degree in order to receive tenure and promotion (Palmer, pp. 83-88).

**Hiring Practices for Academic Librarians**

Upon recognition of what qualities are desired in an academic librarian, one can then endeavor to discover how to find someone with those qualities. Birdsall (2010) asserted that a national search by a committee is essential and that even if an internal candidate is selected, that individual will receive increased respect from colleagues for having to go through a
legitimate search (p. 276). Members of the search committee should be able to work together cooperatively, be representative of the library in terms of departments and classifications (faculty and staff), and be individuals who will operate in a manner of fairness. The committee should include a member of the teaching faculty.

Salary is a crucial point for any individual searching for a job. It must be remembered that a low advertised salary will shrink the applicant pool. Birdsall also suggested avoiding the statement “salary commensurate with experience,” because a minimum salary range always exists, and failure to advertise a salary could reduce the applicant pool (pp. 277-278). Advertisements should be placed not only in the *Chronicle of Higher Education* but also in sources used by library professionals. Once applications are received, a weighted instrument should be used to screen applicants. The form should include a category for subjective impressions, such as the quality of the application letter and the impressiveness (or not) of references. From this point, the field of applicants may be reduced to those who are to be brought to the campus for an in-person interview. In this interview, it is important to remember to focus questions in such a way as to evaluate candidates’ potential for adapting to their new environment, and not focus questions exclusively on their current job, since the goal of the interview is to learn how the individual being interviewed will fit in a new environment, rather than the old one (Birdsall, pp. 278-282). Birdsall laid out an exemplary step-by-step model that, if followed, will enable academic libraries to recruit excellent new faculty members.

### Retention of Academic Librarians

Once a position has been filled, and assuming the person is a good fit for the organization, the issue of employee retention arises. Turnover can be damaging to both the productivity and morale of an organization. Employees begin to make decisions about whether they want to remain in a position as early as the orientation period of their tenure (Chapman, 2009, p. 124). Chapman stressed Kawasaki’s (2006) recommendations for how to structure the orientation process. Those recommendations include providing meaningful work and appropriate tools to perform the work, and creating an environment that allows for connections to be made and questions to be asked. As a result of the high number of retirements on the horizon in the library science field, retention of faculty will become increasingly important. Baby Boomer age retirements by librarians will peak during the 2010 to 2015 period. It is crucial that academic libraries not create additional staffing problems by failing to retain the employees that remain within their organization as older ones depart (Chapman, 2009; Strothman and Ohler, 2011).

In order to retain librarians, it is important to learn why they want to leave an organization. There are a variety of reasons that individuals leave one position for a new one, including work environment, compensation, and duties and responsibilities of the position. Strothman and Ohler point out that leaders sometimes fail to realize the true reason for an academic librarian departing from a position. Although supervisors tend to believe salary is the essential motivator, employees tended to rank “interesting work” as the most important motivating factor in their job. Other factors that academic librarians view as important are maintaining
faculty status, funding for continuing education, schedule flexibility, and support for professional service (Strothman & Ohler, 2011).

The Academic Librarian Today

The progression of the academic librarian over the past 60 years has led to a change in terms of how a library is to be managed. No longer is a librarian a staff member with a bachelor’s degree or less, as was the case before the advent of the MLS. In Strothman and Ohler’s 2011 survey, 97.9% of academic librarians had an MLIS, while another 36.4% held a second master’s degree. This has led to the development of academic library leaders as managers who empower their faculty through long range strategies, proper training, and a vision for the future of the organization. Through this empowerment, it will be possible for all academic librarians to be leaders (Roberts, 1985, p. 18).

Academic librarianship has changed considerably in the past 60 years and continues to do so. An analysis of job descriptions in the library and information science field allows the academic library leader to see how the profession is continuing to develop, what will be required of future employees, and how current faculty and staff will need to be trained to continue to be successful in their current roles. A review of current literature makes it clear that the “I” in MLIS is becoming increasingly crucial in terms of professional skills (Boyd, 2008; Kennan, Cole, Willard, & Wilson, 2006, and Swigger, 2010). Skills that did not exist when Sherby was contemplating the role of an academic librarian in 1978 are now becoming increasingly crucial. Included among these skills are knowledge of web design and maintenance, e-resources, computer programming languages, and generic IT skills (Kennan, Cole, Willard, & Marion, 2006, p. 192).

Library users who are driving the demand for academic librarians to develop these skill sets have led to a new “library” of sorts, the Information Commons. The Information Commons is not intended to supplant the academic library, but rather to be an additional resource for meeting the needs of modern students. A typical Information Commons includes a technical help desk, a reference desk, ADA-compliant adaptive technology, reference materials, printers, scanners, laptops available for loan, workstations, and group study space (Boyd, 2008, p. 234). Appropriate skills for an academic librarian working in an Information Commons include a solid grasp of current technology within a library setting, an understanding of how to retrieve information, and an ability to quickly grasp new concepts in the constantly changing environment caused by technology (Boyd, pp. 237-238).

The Future of Academic Libraries

The ever-changing environment of library science has led to a discussion of what changes need to be made to the current 60-year-old model of educating librarians. The MLS morphed into the MLIS decades ago in response to the ever-increasing importance of technology within the field. Swigger suggests taking this concept a step further and developing separate degrees: Information Science (IS) and Library Science (LS). These fields would have separate accreditations, because they are distinct academic pursuits (Swigger, 2010, p. 139).

A further consideration for those responsible for educating future librarians, as well as
those who will be hiring them, is effectively “Whither the MLIS?” There is considerable debate as to whether librarians could be effectively trained at the undergraduate level, which is what Swigger (2010) proposes at the end of his study of the 60-year history of the MLS/MLIS degree: “Why do we believe that entry-level librarianship is so complicated that a college graduate can’t do it, but we do believe that college graduates can be software engineers, highway designers, editors, teachers, and accountants?” (Swigger, 2010, p. 141).

After 60 years there still seems to be considerable disagreement over what the true role of a librarian within the university ranks should be, and for what prospective employers should be searching. The ALA has consistently made clear that to be a librarian, one must have the master’s degree in the field. Those in charge of academic libraries consistently hire librarians who do have the MLIS, but are often willing to consider an individual who has a content area master’s relevant to the field in which the librarian would be working. Finally, Blixrud (2000, p. 7) found that only 53% of the universities studied had bestowed faculty status upon the academic librarians at their university, bringing into strong relief the dichotomy between the opinions of the American Library Association and the actual reality of universities in the United States.

In order for a librarian to be a true member of the academy it is essential that further strides be made to encourage more universities and colleges to provide academic librarians faculty status. In situations where librarians are responsible for a specific content area, they should have a second master’s degree in that specific field. These high standards will not only elevate the library science profession, but also the individuals working in the field who will perform on a higher level because of increased expectations.

References


One Mississippi Library’s Experience in Opening up the State Judiciary to Greater Access by the Library Patron

Stephen Parks

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Introduction

Legal materials such as case reporters and case digests can be quite expensive and burdensome for libraries to acquire, due to little use for such materials. Online legal sources such as Westlaw and LexisNexis are rarely an option for these libraries because of their tremendous costs. However, most libraries face legal-related questions from patrons, and librarians lack easily accessible materials to provide the patron an answer.

The staff at Mississippi College School of Law Library decided to do something about this problem by creating a program to provide complete access to the appellate courts of the state of Mississippi freely available online to legal practitioners as well as the general public. The end result was the launch of the Mississippi College School of Law Judicial Data Project (“JDP”) in 2010. Located at http://judicial.mc.edu, the JDP includes court opinions, appellate briefs related to the opinions, video of oral arguments, and case summaries of all cases that have been handed down by either the Mississippi Supreme Court or the Mississippi Court of Appeals within a certain time frame. Admittedly, the JDP is not as grand in scope as some other online sources; however, we at the Mississippi College School of Law Library are excited about this project and its ability to put the necessary components of the appellate judicial process in the state of Mississippi at the people’s fingertips. It is our hope that this article might inspire others in the library community to consider establishing a similar product in states across the region.
History of the JDP

In 2007, the staff at the Mississippi College School of Law Library began what was then named the Mississippi Appellate Court Video Archive. Prior to this, Mississippi Supreme Court and Court of Appeals oral arguments were not being archived and made available to the public. In an effort to archive these videos for public access, the Library sought and received permission to archive the videos on a website hosted by the Library from the Mississippi Supreme Court. Collecting and presenting online video files of oral arguments before both courts, the Video Archive served as a useful tool to those in the Mississippi legal community. Having access to such videos, legal practitioners were able to gain insight into the manner in which these oral arguments are held before the courts as they prepared for their own appellate arguments.

Separately from the Video Archive, Mississippi College School of Law was also providing the Mississippi Law Institute Bulletin which began in 2000. The Bulletin is a weekly summary of all published Mississippi Supreme Court and Court of Appeals opinions. Mary Miller, Assistant Dean for Information, Technology and Legal Research for the Mississippi College Law Library, compiles the summaries and emails them to subscribers typically the day after the decisions have been handed down. The facts and legal analysis provided by the summaries allow an attorney to quickly determine if the case is one which is pertinent to his or her practice.

With the success of the Video Archive and MLI Bulletin, the Library began to think of ways to improve. A decision was made to seek permission from the Mississippi Supreme Court to create an appellate brief archive that would be used in conjunction with the Video Archive. The Library would incur all expenses involved in obtaining the briefs each week from the Clerk’s office. Permission was granted, and the Library began uploading briefs to the site in 2007. In the interest of privacy, it was decided that attorney bar numbers would be redacted from all briefs as well as any name of a
minor or sexual abuse victim that might be in an appellate brief. Along with each case brief, the Library included the MLI Bulletin case summary and a link to the opinion once it had been handed down.

The final addition to this exciting project was the introduction of the statistical data component. The Library created a database that permits the extraction of statistics for legal practitioners, researchers, and the general public. When each decision is handed down, we glean information, such as the opinion author and vote total, and key it in to various fields which allow all data sets to be cross-referenced. The Library went live with this feature in 2010 with the newly titled Judicial Data Project which brought together the video and brief archives, case summaries, and statistical data into one complete product.

Combining the Video Archive, Brief Archive, MLI Bulletin case summaries, and statistical data, the JDP is currently the only comprehensive online source to view Mississippi cases from beginning to end. It is still a work in progress as we add new cases and information weekly. Also, improved features of the JDP are imported on a regular basis, including the addition of trial court information and judicial biographies.

Components of the JDP

Librarians stand in a position to serve the greater community by being an intermediary between the patron, whether that patron is a legal practitioner or a member of the general public, and the information he or she seeks. As a result, the Law Library made the decision to develop a new and improved way to gather and present the many components of the appellate process. Our desire and commitment to provide the best product ultimately led to the creation of the JDP which, as described above, launched in 2010. To better understand the various components of the JDP, a brief summary along with a few screen shots is provided below.

The JDP’s Brief Archive

The Brief Archive is constantly expanding. The brief collection dates from 2007 to the present day. The Archive currently has over 4,500 briefs. Per its agreement with the Administrative Office of Courts, the Library is able to upload briefs onto the JDP within two weeks of a final ruling by the courts. The Archive is easily accessed as users can simply access it from the JDP’s homepage by selecting “Videos and Briefs,” imputting the necessary information to find a specific case, and clicking on the link to the various briefs associated with that case in PDF format.
Users are able to input information they may already have such as the Docket Number in order to access the desired brief.

Once a user selects the desired case, he is provided with a synopsis of the case and all briefs associated with it. To access any brief, he or she can simply click on the brief link.
If a specific brief is not desired or the user simply does not know where to start, a more generalized search is available through the use of a Google-powered search box that searches all the briefs in the database. This is an excellent tool that utilizes top-notch search technology to comb through approximately twenty million words from all of the briefs to assist the user in finding briefs that contain certain specific words. As an example, if a user is looking for briefs that involve the issue of capital murder, he or she can simply type in the term “capital murder” in the search box and be provided all court briefs since 2007 that contain that term. This option provides the user the capability to find a case that fits his or her needs and allows him or her to take the next step in the research process by taking note of the authorities cited in those briefs.
The Google-powered text search boxes are located at the bottom of the Videos and Briefs search page. Users are given the option to search in both briefs and opinions for certain key words which fit the user’s research needs. Here, the term “capital murder” is entered into both search boxes.

Upon running a search for the term “capital murder,” users are provided a listing of all briefs that contain “capital murder.” Users can then click on the links to the briefs to access a PDF version.
The JDP’s Video Archive

The Video Archive of the JDP currently contains over 670 videos of oral arguments before both the Mississippi Supreme Court and Court of Appeals. Utilizing the technological benefits of Windows Movie Maker, we at the Library are able to edit each video by including a title screen shot detailing the case name, the case docket number, and the date of oral argument. We also cut out any portion at the beginning of the video wherein nothing pertaining to the argument is occurring. By editing the videos in this fashion, we are able to present the best product to legal practitioners and the public by making accessible the portions of the argument that truly matter, information on the case and the oral argument itself.

This provides an excellent benefit to all. Legal practitioners are able to view videos of oral arguments as they perhaps prepare for their own oral argument. Taking note of the types of questions the judges have asked in previous cases, a practitioner can adequately prepare for his or her own day before the court. The general public also receives a benefit from these videos being made public as they are able to access the videos and see the legal system at its finest as aggrieved parties are able to present their case before the court.

The Video Archive begins in 2004 and is current through the last complete sitting of both the Mississippi Supreme Court and Court of Appeals. Similar to searching for briefs, videos may be searched for by numerous means including by case docket number and case party name, among many other options. Once the specific video is found, users can click on the video link and watch the video in its entirety in most internet browsers.
Once the case is found with the desired video, the user is provided with the case summary and the briefs associated with the case. If a video file is available, the video icon will appear with the case summary. To view the video, the user can simply click on the video icon and view the video in its entirety.
The MLI Case Summaries

Each week as the Supreme Court and Court of Appeals hand down their opinions, MLI case summaries are prepared and distributed to subscribers. The summaries are also added to the JDP each week. Each summary provides topic words, summary of the facts, and summary of the court’s opinion analysis for each case. Currently, the JDP contains case summaries back to 2006, and the plan is to add case summaries back to 2000 when the MLI Case Summaries subscription service first began.

The JDP’s Statistical Research

The newest and perhaps most useful resource of the JDP is the database that permits the extraction of statistics for legal practitioners, researchers, and the general public. The database currently provides over thirty searchable fields that allow for referencing and cross-referencing any number of possible data sets involving Mississippi appellate cases. Data for the purposes of the statistical analysis aspect of the JDP is available for Supreme Court and Court of Appeals cases for the years 2006-2010. We continue to input and make available data from cases handed down by both courts in 2011. Our goal for the JDP is to work back to the year 2000 in order to provide an even greater benefit to the community and provide a more complete view of how the state law has evolved over the past decade as defined by the state judiciary.

The flexibility of searches using the JDP can be illustrated by some examples:
Example #1 Searching for all case opinions authored by Chief Justice Waller of the Mississippi Supreme Court and concurred with by Justice Kitchens for the timeframe of 2009-2010 yields twenty-four cases which are listed for the user. This search result is obtained simply by filling out the necessary information in the search fields. “Waller” is typed into the “Opinion Author” field. “Kitchens” is typed into the “Justices Concuring” field, and the date range for Supreme Court cases is set to include cases from 2009-2010. Before the JDP was available, gathering information on this search was very difficult. Those interested in the answer would have had to go back and look at each case in the desired time frame and look at the voting statistics of each individual case. The JDP, on the other hand, can do the counting for you. Additionally, the JDP can tell you if any briefs and oral argument videos for those specific cases are available.
Example #2: If a user of the JDP wishes to see how many cases were appealed from the Circuit Court of Hinds County, Mississippi, only to be reversed and remanded by the Mississippi Supreme Court in the years 2008-2010, all he or she would need to do is enter the required information into the database’s search fields. In this instance, the user can set the date range to find cases handed down between 2008 and 2010. In the data box labeled “Supreme Court Holding,” the user can type in “reversed and remanded.” The Database list provides the Docket Number, Date of Judgment, and Case Title of all twenty-four cases. The user can then peruse the case list and select any case he or she might wish to view.
For this example, the Date Range is set to find Supreme Court cases handed down from 2008 to 2010. “Reversed and Remanded” is typed into the “Supreme Court Holding” field, and “Hinds County Circuit Court” is typed into the “Trial Court Appealed From” field.

Running this statistical search yields twenty-three cases that fit with the chosen search queries. The Database list provides the Docket Number, Date of Judgment, and Case Title of all twenty-three cases. The user can then peruse the case list and select any case he or she might wish to view in order that he or she can access the case summary, briefs, and video that might be associated with that case.
Conclusion

The Law Library is proud of the JDP, which provides the bench, bar, media, and the general public with a freely available resource that allows for broad access to the appellate process of the state of Mississippi. The JDP opens the state judiciary to greater transparency by putting all components, from court briefs to videos, out in the open. In today’s fast paced environment, a quick and easy-to-use tool such as the JDP is highly beneficial. By giving users numerous options such as the full text Google-powered search of briefs and case opinions, the JDP grants everyone the opportunity to apply pre-determined keywords to search the database and its many documents to satisfy their individual research needs.

The creation of the JDP reflects the spirit of librarianship. It allows law librarians to serve as the intermediary between the patrons and the information they seek by utilizing the latest innovations in technology. We can provide the necessary components of the appellate judicial process in the state of Mississippi to legal practitioners and the general public at the touch of their fingertips.
**BOOK REVIEWS**


Mary Schaller uses her grandmother’s large collection of papers, the book *The Sailing of a Refuge Ship* by Arno Behnke, and numerous other sources to relate the story of her grandmother, Nancy Johnson Crawford’s journey to Europe and her escape at the beginning of World War I. Intertwined with the description of Nancy Johnson’s Grand Tour is an overview of the historical events leading up to World War I. Nancy, the daughter of Ben Johnson, a senator from Kentucky, seems blissfully unaware of all the political and military maneuverings going on in Europe as she enjoys her first trip abroad. Although it is not emphasized, we get a peek at the personality and strong character of this Southern belle. It is also an interesting picture of the societal limits and the rules of etiquette placed on young ladies during the early nineteen hundreds. Nancy traveled with a companion, twenty-six pieces of luggage, as well as an older couple as chaperones.

When the war officially started on August 1, 1914, Nancy and thousands of other Americans were stranded with little money, making travel extremely difficult. If some wealthy and influential American travelers, including Frederick Vanderbilt, had not stepped up, many Americans would not have been able to find ships to take them home. Nancy and her companions were lucky to be among the four hundred passengers on the *Principe di Udine*, the first of the ships to leave Genoa. Although the voyage was tense, they returned home safely. Although Nancy’s story was interesting, the descriptions of the people who had a role in the events leading up to the war make the book worth reading. Since many of us have studied only the very basic elements of World War I in school, it is very interesting to get a more in-depth look at what led to the war.

Mrs. Schaller, an award-winning author/editor of numerous books and plays, includes several letters and photographs from her grandmother’s collection to give a personal touch to the story. There are also copious notes and an extensive bibliography for this relatively short work.

This book gives the reader a very concise and insightful look at the time period and is highly recommended for all public, academic, and high school libraries.

*Sue Alexander*  
Walker Library, Middle Tennessee State University
Captured at Kings Mountain: The Journal of Uzal Johnson, A Loyalist Surgeon

Volunteering to provide a book review of Kolb and Weir’s book, Captured at Kings Mountain: The Journal of Uzal Johnson: A Loyalist Surgeon, I imagined I might learn some fascinating facts about my hometown, Kings Mountain, North Carolina. I expected I might reflect upon the many summers of my childhood spent visiting, picnicking, and hiking in the woods on the sides of Kings Mountain where the famous battle took place. However, my reading experience was far from a reflection on the memories I held. This highly complex and beautifully compiled book is a complexity of research and artful crafting of factors that surround authenticating journal writing. From the authors, I learned that two individuals were well recognized by historians as having similar journals that at times complimented each other and at times completely conflicted with each other in describing the events, the leading characters, the battle scenes, the points of view and clear mindedness of days and nights on the fields of the battle and the journeys following. The treks that were a part of the narrative of the diaries lead the reader to follow in the footsteps of Dr. Johnson as he was moved along by his captors. From March 5, 1780 to March 6 of 1781, Johnson describes in somewhat painful and harrowing details the days and nights of his captivity. There are some descriptions that evoke a smile or a moment of beauty from the scenery and personalities of those who marched with him.

For me, who felt a joy and anticipation each time I entered the Kings Mountain State Park and who each year passed by the grassy area where the drama, “The Battle of Kings Mountain” was performed, the diary of Dr. Uzal Johnson lends another dimension to the romantic and colorful patriotic memories of my childhood. To any historian and revolutionary war scholar, I recommend this book, with its maps, drawings, intricate end notes and comparative views.

Once you read it, please visit the Kings Mountain State Park and absorb the beautiful woods and hills that surround you while imagining some of the very vivid scenes described in Dr. Johnson’s journal.

Carol Walker Jordan, Ph.D.
Queens University of Charlotte

The author, an assistant professor of history at Morehead State University, describes the various ways white southern parents taught their children to maintain the system of racial segregation during the years from 1890 to 1939, the classic period of the “Jim Crow” South. The book is divided into four sections: lessons at home; lessons at school; the impact of consumer culture and community groups; and violence, especially lynching. It is the subject of lynching which is particularly disturbing in its portrayal of children’s attendance and participation in lynching.

Drawing on the autobiographical writings of such authors as Katherine Dupre Lumpkin and H. L. Mitchell, Durocher describes how white children were taught to think of themselves as superior to African Americans. Parents stressed that children should treat African Americans in a kindly way but should never become too close to them. Forms of etiquette emphasizing rank and separation were to be followed.

In school children received books which emphasized these same values and portrayed the slavery system as benign. African Americans were presented as docile, simple-minded, and lazy. Books which portrayed blacks outside the South, such as Little Black Sambo, presented much the same picture.

Consumer culture became a pervasive part of the Southern way of life and with it came advertising that depicted African Americans in negative ways. Illustrations and slogans portrayed them in comic ways. The “Mammy” figure became a standard character of advertising. Southerners also wrote plays and games which reinforced their conceptions of white and black roles. The Ku Klux Klan developed youth groups for males and females.

The most disturbing part of the book deals with the attendance and participation of children in lynching. Parents felt that children needed to be present so that they would perpetuate the system of segregation when they became adults. Post card photographs of lynchings which were sold as souvenirs sometimes showed children near the corpses of the victims. Young females sometimes served as accusers of those who were charged with rape.

This was not an easy book to read because of the disturbing nature of its subject matter, but it tells a story which needs to be remembered. This reviewer, having grown up in the 1950s and 1960s, remembers times when his parents made statements which reinforced traditional southern white views on race. For many younger people, this account may come as a surprise. It is for these readers that this book is most important.

Roger Hux
Francis Marion University

Judith Schafer’s Brothels, Depravity, and Abandoned Women is a comprehensive sourcebook of news and public records related to prostitution in Antebellum New Orleans. In the past decade there have been many books published regarding the history of New Orleans. Though none of these books could possibly fail to mention prostitution, few books deal solely with this topic. Those that do are often focused on the late nineteenth century on; for example, Alecia P Long’s 2004 work The Great Southern Babylon: Sex, Race, and Respectability in New Orleans, 1865-1920. Schafer’s book is therefore a unique resource for studying prostitutes in New Orleans in the early nineteenth century. Schafer is capable of filling this literary niche, being a published author and specialist in American legal history, history of the American south, and the legal history of slavery.

The introduction to Brothels, Depravity, and Abandoned Women consists mostly of slightly adapted segments of the later chapters. Schafer clearly lays out the limitations of this book, noting that there are undoubtedly numerous cases of which she is not aware, and entire subjects (such as male prostitution) for which there are absolutely no public record. Chapter One (“Selling Sex and the Law”) is a sweeping overview of how existing laws effected prostitution in New Orleans. Schafer argues that though prostitution was legal, prostitutes were harassed and taxed by enforcing a variety of charges such as vagrancy. As with the following chapters, this chapter describes and comments on individual cases. The cases are arranged by theme, and chronologically within each theme. Chapter Two is entitled “Disgusting Depravity’ Sex across the color line.” Unlike prostitution, inter-racial sexual relations were strongly restricted by both the law and social pressure. Yet it still occurred with regularity. In Chapter Three, “Sexual Exploitation of Children,” Schafer provides heartbreaking examples of children forced or manipulated into the sex trade, their lack of legal protection, and the media’s willingness to publicize this abuse.

The book next presents stories of violence and abuse. Chapter Four, “Infamous Public Women” focuses on select prostitutes who had particularly colorful reputations. Many of these women and some of the stories also appear elsewhere in the book. Schafer uses these stories to illustrate the brutality of these women’s lives and the falsehood of the Scarlet Sisterhood myth. “Larceny and Robbery Among Prostitutes” is the topic of fifth chapter. Prostitutes are shown to be opportunists who used every opportunity to steal and improve their lot. There were usually little few repercussions for robbing customers. In Chapter Six, “Violent Lives,” Schafer collects stories of brutality by and towards public women in New Orleans, who faced personal injury and even death on a
daily basis. Continuing this theme, Chapter Seven ("The Murder of a ‘Lewd and Abandoned Woman’") outlines a singular case from 1851 where a man was prosecuted for the murder of a prostitute. This case is of interest not only for its shocking details, but also for its revelations about the larger legal system at the time. Chapter Eight explains the process of “Keeping a Brothel in Antebellum New Orleans.” Schafer recaps many of the points raised in earlier chapters and introduces new examples to describe the legal and social challenges facing a brothel at this time. The book’s final chapter describes “A Ordinance Concerning Lewd and Abandoned Women” as it outlines the various attempts by the New Orleans City Council and others to regulate, tax, or otherwise directly control prostitution in the city. This is followed by Schafer’s moving Conclusion that summarizes the hardships and injustices faced by public women in Antebellum New Orleans. In addition to references and notes, back of the book has a detailed index that includes names, case names, and subjects.

While the book includes commentary throughout, it is essentially a sourcebook of case studies. Yet Schafer recounts the stories one after the other in a narrative fashion as if she intends the book to be read recreationally. To be fair, the cases are fascinating, and Schafer inserts just enough snark and commentary that the book often feels like a scandalous gossip column. However because this book includes every incident she uncovered in New Orleans newspapers and public records, many cases are very similar to each other. Therefore this book is unavoidably tedious at times to the recreational reader. Not only does Schafer include a huge number of individual cases, but she must also juggle the complexity of prostitution in New Orleans: any attempt to describe the lives of public women also includes other topics such as rights of women and slaves. Schafer does not oversimplify the situation, but her inclusion of such tangential topics might prove frustrating to some readers. Each individual case is also complex, encapsulating a variety of themes such as violence, race, age, and the law. Therefore Schafer’s attempt to categorize them into chapters occasionally fails. Finally, though the reader might expect to read about the same incident in multiple chapters, there are several times where entire paragraphs are merely copied and pasted into multiple parts of the book. This repetition of exact phrasing and sentences is very disconcerting when the book is read straight through.

Though not successful as a recreational read, Brothels, Depravity, and Abandoned Women is a fantastic sourcebook for cases related to women’s rights, slavery, and prostitution in antebellum New Orleans. In an academic library, it would be very useful for sociology, anthropology, women’s studies, and history collections. Public libraries with southern history collections will also find it to be a valuable addition. Brothels, Depravity, and Abandoned Women is available in both hardcover and softcover, as well as Kindle, Nook, and Google ebook formats.

Tammy Ivins
Francis Marion University
In the preface to the immense and richly detailed *A History of Education in Kentucky*, William Ellis suggests that “The Struggle for Equity and Equality” might have been a proper subtitle for his book (p. ix). Indeed, “struggle” is the central theme of this survey, which frames Kentucky educational history from the late eighteenth century to the present within larger social and political conflicts. Providing comprehensive coverage of both public and private schooling at the primary, secondary, and postsecondary levels, Ellis emphasizes the frustrating cycle of “reform followed by regression” that has defined education in Kentucky from the very beginning (p. 271). Whether clashing over the desegregation of schools, debating the merits of teaching evolution, or bickering about proper methods of funding, Kentuckians always seem to find themselves mired in controversy, unable to keep pace with national standards. While Ellis discusses a number of efforts that have gradually expanded and improved educational opportunities in the state over time, including the development of the Minimum Foundation Program in the 1950s, his narrative primarily highlights the barriers to progress that inevitably arise in a culture that does not consistently value or prioritize education for all citizens.

Perhaps the greatest strength of the book is the manner in which Ellis directly addresses Kentucky’s pernicious legacy of elitism and racism, which has often hindered attempts to make quality education more accessible to African Americans and other marginalized groups throughout the state. Ellis clearly demonstrates the negative impact of segregation and other problematic policies, offering precise descriptions of legislative battles and explaining the consequences for Kentucky students and teachers. At the same time, the personal is never far from the political in Ellis’s narrative; the author draws on numerous first-person accounts that reveal the harsh realities of legal and cultural inequality in the educational system, such as Lyman Johnson’s disturbing memory of seeing burning crosses in Lexington during the summer of 1949, when he became one of the first African Americans to attend the University of Kentucky. In the later chapters, Ellis also incorporates his own experiences as a Kentucky resident and educator, including a powerful story about his players facing discrimination during his stint as the white coach of Harrodsburg High School’s integrated football team in the early 1960s.

This is not to say, however, that Ellis only focuses on race relations. Simply put, the scope of this ambitious work, which includes more than sixty pages of endnotes, is vast. Ellis covers almost every conceivable topic related to teaching and learning in Kentucky classrooms, from issues of class and gender to concerns over religious education and student conduct to difficulties associated with the Civil War and other national conflicts. Ellis also finds
time to profile prominent figures in Kentucky educational history, including reformers such as Horace Holley and Robert Breckinridge. Moreover, noting their “vital function in educating Kentuckians,” the author even spotlights the significant achievements of libraries, particularly the Carnegie libraries constructed at the University of Kentucky, Centre College, and other institutions in the early twentieth century (p. 223). Ellis concludes the book by outlining current educational challenges in the state, many of which pertain to assessment and accountability in the era of No Child Left Behind, as well as the seemingly endless struggle for adequate funding at all levels of the system. In pinpointing these problems, *A History of Education in Kentucky* functions not only as history but also as advocacy, with Ellis rightly indicating that persistent educational disparities cannot be corrected without ongoing support in time, attention, and dollars.

Despite its regional emphasis, this book is an essential purchase for any library supporting an education program. In addition to an abundance of important dates, facts, and statistics, Ellis provides crucial insight into the relationship between education and society, a relationship often fraught with tensions and contradictions. The only quibble that some readers might have with *A History of Education in Kentucky* is that, at times, the amount of detail can be exhausting, threatening to overwhelm the text with information and making it difficult to read the book for an extended period. At the very least, Ellis should have included section divisions within the lengthy chapters (some lasting more than fifty pages) to help the reader navigate the content and avoid information overload. Nevertheless, for scholars, students, and other readers interested in educational history, this book serves as a major contribution to the field and a welcome voice for progress. As Ellis’s book confirms, our ability to improve education surely depends on our willingness to struggle, to continue the fight for positive change.

Robert Detmering
Ekstrom Library, University of Louisville
In Voices From the Peace Corps Fifty Years of Kentucky Volunteers, the authors have written a literary celebration of sorts of the all-volunteer organization that was established by President Kennedy in 1961.

The husband-and-wife team of Peace Corps alumni Angene Wilson and Jack Wilson wrote the book as a self-described “retirement project,” focusing on the experiences of returned Kentucky volunteers—interviewing people from each decade the Peace Corps has been in existence.

The Wilsons initially conducted oral histories with 86 interviewees for the book, and used 12 others to present the memories of Kentuckians whose Peace Corps experiences became an important part of their lives.

And though it’s about a good cause written by former Corps volunteers, it leaves the reader wanting to know more about the volunteers the Wilsons write about.

The Peace Corps Act, passed by Congress in 1961, outlined the Corps goals as the following: to help the people of interested countries in meeting its needs for a trained workforce; to help promote a better understanding of the American people on the part of the people served; and to help promote a better understanding of other people on the part of the American people.

Peace Corps volunteers provide technical assistance in 1 of six fields: education; youth and community development; health; business and information and communications technology; agriculture; and environment.

The authors asked each interviewee why they joined Peace Corps; the process of applying; their living situations in their “host” countries; and the impact on the volunteers’ host country and on their lives since returning from service.

Each chapter focuses on 1 of the major questions listed above—and each question is “answered” repeatedly, but by different volunteers. Each volunteer’s answer lasts about a page or so.

The Wilsons interview only Kentucky residents who served in the Peace Corps, using a list of previous Kentucky volunteers maintained by Peace Corps veteran Jules Delambre, who was the “dedicated keeper and updater of postal and email addresses and a Listserv,” according to the Wilsons. The Wilsons state that Kentucky is the “common thread” that connects the volunteers’ stories and the book itself.

The Wilsons—who got married weeks before they both went to Liberia for a 2-year-stint as Peace Corps volunteers—didn’t end their involvement with the Corps when their tour ended in 1964. Jack also went on
to various administrative positions, eventually becoming Peace Corps director in Fiji in 1970.

The authors state that this book isn’t meant to be a history of the Peace Corps as an organization nor is it an analysis of it policies. Rather, it is a collection of anecdotes of former volunteers’ service.

The strength of this book lies in examining the volunteers’ effect on their temporary neighbors/families. The honesty in which the volunteers recount their experiences is a tribute to the volunteers themselves. It is a very appropriate book for someone considering joining the Peace Corps who wants to know about first-hand accounts working in the Corps.

But the authors would have written a more compelling text if they had focused on one or two Peace Corps volunteers throughout the entire book—rather than jumping back and forth from one particular volunteer’s experience to another one, leaving the reader wanting to know more about the last volunteer written about, just as the Wilsons begin writing about someone else.

Peter Dean
University of Southern Mississippi
“Police brutality has been a source of frustration, anger, and rage for African Americans throughout the postwar period.” Leonard Moore’s first sentence is also his thesis statement, and over the next 250 pages, he explains in excruciating detail the birth of African American distrust of law enforcement and how that snowballed into an atmosphere of hostility cutting across race, class, and inspired all levels of neighborhood activism. It’s very easy to assume that the Postwar culture of a town like New Orleans would be strictly limited to racial strife, but Moore dissects this question and his research indicates that on top of dealing with the issue of race, there were real concerns regarding class, especially within the black community, making the whole topic of crime and protection in New Orleans a field of political landmines.

The challenge in taking on a subject like this one is that there are many gray areas in the nature of evidence. “While white supremacist organizations such as the Ku Klux Klan and White Citizens’ Council were quite visible in the postwar South, they did not engage in lynchings and other forms of racial violence that were typical of the plantation South because of the urban setting,” Moore writes in his introduction (p. 2). Moore’s point in this statement is that the racism remained but the methods of discrimination had changed. As other cities started to do the same, what you get is the birth of “institutional racism.” These civil rights violations were harder to prove because there was a convenient lack of evidence that made prosecutions difficult, especially in the area of police department corruption. “Instead, the local police department, with the support of politicians, segregationists, district attorneys, and judges, carried out extralegal violence against African Americans, realizing that black southerners had no visible means of redress” (p. 2).

Another challenge in documenting police brutality and the community’s response is finding the fine line between meticulous research and tedious detail. In Moore’s case, it’s both a blessing and a curse. There are times when poring over every detail of a contentious meeting between the New Orleans City Council can seem to deflect from the bigger point, but how else do you prove that the city council has continuously ignored the community’s concerns about the protection to which they are entitled? This is an area where Moore doesn’t have much of a choice and he has to include all of it for the reader to make that decision.

The subject of class really becomes more of an issue during the mayoral election of Ernest Morial in 1977. He was the first black mayor of New Orleans and won his initial election with a broad coalition of supporters. Moore reports that Morial still
faced many credibility problems immediately, including that he was “fair-skinned and could pass for white if he chose to”; others felt that he “had not paid enough dues” as a black politician despite the numerous racial barriers he had already broken (p. 141). These criticisms were an indicator of how things would go during his tenure as mayor. In the city of New Orleans, any discussion regarding police protection, voting behavior or political leadership would always include an analysis of race or class (or both). Moore seems to think that all of these subjects are inevitably linked whether we like it or not, and all of this contributes to cases of political and police corruption in urban areas, both inside and outside New Orleans. Moore concludes that this environment contributed to the ambiguous lawlessness we saw in the days immediately after Hurricane Katrina.

Recommended for academic libraries that offer materials in African American history, sociology and criminal justice/legal studies.

Charles Sicignano
Ingram Library, University of West Georgia
The Southeastern Librarian (SELn) is the official publication of the Southeastern Library Association (SELA). The quarterly publication seeks to publish articles, announcements, and news of professional interest to the library community in the southeast. The publication also represents a significant means for addressing the Association's research objective. Two newsletter-style issues serve as a vehicle for conducting Association business, and two issues include juried articles.

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