

# The Southeastern Librarian

---

Volume 71 | Issue 3

Article 13

---

Fall 11-10-2023

## Southeastern Librarian 71(3) Fall 2023 (Full Issue)

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.kennesaw.edu/seln>



Part of the [Information Literacy Commons](#), [Scholarly Communication Commons](#), and the [Scholarly Publishing Commons](#)

---

### Recommended Citation

(2023) "Southeastern Librarian 71(3) Fall 2023 (Full Issue)," *The Southeastern Librarian*: Vol. 71: Iss. 3, Article 13.

Available at: <https://digitalcommons.kennesaw.edu/seln/vol71/iss3/13>

This Complete Issue is brought to you for free and open access by the Active Journals at DigitalCommons@Kennesaw State University. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Southeastern Librarian by an authorized editor of DigitalCommons@Kennesaw State University. For more information, please contact [digitalcommons@kennesaw.edu](mailto:digitalcommons@kennesaw.edu).

# The Southeastern Librarian

VOLUME 71, NUMBER 3  
FALL 2023



AN OPEN ACCESS JOURNAL

# The Southeastern Librarian

VOLUME 71, NUMBER 3  
FALL 2023

The President's Column ..... 2

Academic Librarianship Reflection: Promoting Intellectual Freedom  
*Rebecca Rose* ..... 3

Government Documents for All  
*Tim Dodge* ..... 4

## GENERAL INTEREST ARTICLE

Cataloging Electronic Theses and Dissertations: Updates and Perspectives from  
the Mississippi State University Libraries  
*Meg C. Wang* ..... 5

## REVIEWS

Carnival in Alabama: Marked Bodies and Invented Traditions in Mobile ..... 11

Deep South: A Social Anthropological Study of Caste and Class ..... 12

Grain and Fire: A History of Baking in the American South ..... 13

Freedom's Dominion: A Saga of White Resistance to Federal Power ..... 14

The Preventorium: A Memoir ..... 16

Speaking Volumes: Books with Histories ..... 17

## NEWS

SELA News ..... 19

News from the States ..... 20

SELA Officers and State Representatives ..... 23

## EDITORIAL BOARD

### EDITOR

Ashley S. Dees  
*University of Mississippi*  
[aesorey@olemiss.edu](mailto:aesorey@olemiss.edu)

### BOOK REVIEW EDITOR

Melissa Lockaby  
*University of North Georgia*  
[melissa.lockaby@ung.edu](mailto:melissa.lockaby@ung.edu)

Teresa Nesbitt  
*University of North Georgia*  
[teresa.nesbitt@ung.edu](mailto:teresa.nesbitt@ung.edu)

### NEWS EDITOR

A. Blake Denton  
*University of Southern  
Mississippi*  
[blake.denton@usm.edu](mailto:blake.denton@usm.edu)

Tyler Goldberg  
*University of Louisville*  
[stgoldo1@louisville.edu](mailto:stgoldo1@louisville.edu)

Camille McCutcheon  
*University of South  
Carolina Upstate*  
[rcmccutc@uscupstate.edu](mailto:rcmccutc@uscupstate.edu)

Nancy Richey  
*Western Kentucky  
University*  
[nancy.richey@wku.edu](mailto:nancy.richey@wku.edu)

Annabel Stephens  
*University of Alabama*  
[astephens47@gmail.com](mailto:astephens47@gmail.com)

*The Southeastern Librarian* is a  
quarterly, open access, peer  
reviewed journal published by  
the Southeastern Library  
Association.

ISSN: 0038-3686

On the cover:  
SELA logo with member states

## The President's Column

Ahh...the chill is in the air; but we all know that this is false fall; we still have a warm spell to come before fall truly arrives. No matter – football is on, libraries are celebrating all sorts of holidays and special events, conference for 2023 is in the books, and we are busy planning our 2024 calendar. Are you the fiend who is already listening to holiday music? Join me as we buck tradition and turn on those lovely tunes while you cuddle with some warm tea, a cozy blanket, and your latest must-have book.

As I reflect on our busy 2023, I am once again thrilled to be part of SELA. We have hosted and partnered on so many events across library types. As we look to 2024, what are we thinking? How do we focus on the important things and not get overwhelmed by the bad news all around? Having that mentor in place helps keep me grounded, both in reality and in hope. I encourage you to find a mentor if you do not already have one. Even for those of us who are mentors ourselves, there comes a time when we still need to be the mentee and draw on the wisdom of those who came before us. If you do not have one or one in mind to call upon, please feel free to drop me a note and let's set up a time to chat. I do not promise to have the answers, but I can promise to be a listening ear.

For 2024, SELA leaders are considering a throwback and tradition-breaking event: a late summer conference where we will meet to celebrate each other and our services to our profession and communities while learning from professionals around our great region. For those who have been around a few years, you may remember our summer leadership conferences with fondness – I certainly do. You may also note that 2024 is our big award year! Go ahead and get ready to nominate deserving colleagues, libraries, and more. This summer event will be an opportunity to come together at a reasonable cost and bring a colleague along to discover the joys and benefits to being involved in SELA. I recommend you stay tuned to the listserv for details coming soon to an inbox near you.

As we close out a year and ready ourselves for a new year, we tend to reflect. Personally, I like to start each year with a word. Something I can hold on to during the dark nights and something to inspire when looking to make a difference in the world around me. Do you follow a similar practice? I've found that resolutions are easy promises to make and break, while a word can have so many meanings that it sticks around all year long. It is a word that can be your guiding north star when you might otherwise falter or even fall. I've found my word as early as October or as late as February. This time, I connected with my new word quickly. As members of our association, feel free to hold me accountable so that we grow SELA and remind each other of the benefits of membership. 2024 word: DARE. How many ways this can make an impact...Dare to dream, Dare to be different, Dare to lead, Dare to be a risk-taker, Dare to stand up for others, Dare to stand up for myself, Dare to share, Dare to reach, Dare to step back, Dare to step forward, Dare to serve. Dare.



“Power is given to those who dare to lower themselves and pick it up. Only one thing matters, one thing; to be able to dare!” - Fyodor Dostoevsky

Interested in joining SELA or need to renew your membership?

SELA has special new member and student rates.



## Academic Librarianship Reflection: Promoting Intellectual Freedom

by *Rebecca Rose*, Professor/Assistant Dean of Libraries, University of North Georgia  
Chair, University & Colleges Libraries Section

Academic libraries support their institution's mission of educating and supporting research efforts of students and faculty. The library's role includes teaching critical thinking as it relates to developing their skills of inquiry, while providing access to diverse viewpoints and experiences that are found within quality resources. Within this environment, academic libraries can foster awareness of intellectual freedom issues that can threaten the free exchange of ideas, an essential component of a healthy democracy.

The American Library Association (2023) reports that book challenges rose 38% last year, impacting classrooms, public libraries, and school libraries. Additionally, state legislations ramped up bill proposals and passed laws that criminalize school and public libraries who offer books that are often targeted by groups who disagree with the ideas represented within their pages. As a result of the passage of these laws, libraries are vulnerable to civil suits for circulating banned books to children. Other bills are being enacted that restrict classroom lessons and conversations- under the guise of transparency of classroom curriculum (Stroshane, 2022).

Given the mounting of organized censorship efforts, libraries in Higher Education Institutions should consider expanding their programming related to intellectual freedom beyond annual Banned Books Week events. Ideas facilitating this expanded role could include: suggesting the banned book issue as a classroom instruction session theme; working with faculty on creating course assignments on the topic; creating and promoting research guides and making them available; hosting speakers that discuss intellectual freedom issues and the impact on an informed constituency; designing and publishing research projects related to censorship; hosting faculty and staff workshops that provide resources and activities; sponsoring a trivia night featuring banned books.

By promoting events that encourage open dialogue and diversity of thought, academic libraries can contribute to discussions and raise awareness on the dangers of instituting censorship on our plural society, helping to uphold and promulgate intellectual freedom ideals.

Gomez, B. (2023, April 24). *Banned books week: ALA releases top 10 most challenged books of 2022 list*. American Library Association. <https://bannedbooksweek.org/ala-releases-top-10-most-challenged-books-of-2022-list/>

Stroshane, E. (2022). For the record. *Journal of Intellectual Freedom and Privacy*, 7(1), 26-36. <https://doi.org/10.5860/jifp.v7i1.7887>

## Government Documents for All

By *Tim Dodge*, History & Political Science Librarians, Professor, Auburn University  
Chair, Government Documents Roundtable (GODORT)

Whether one is a lawyer, a concerned citizen, or simply a curious member of the general public, there are times when one wants a quick and easy way to see the text of a U.S. Supreme Court opinion. Throughout American history the Supreme Court has issued many important opinions and many of them have been controversial and consequential, for example, *Plessy v. Ferguson* (1896) that declared “separate but equal” racial segregation in public facilities was legal; *Brown v. Board of Education* (1954) that declared racial segregation of public education was not legal; or *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission* (2010) that, essentially, equated money with free speech thus allowing corporations (but also associations like labor unions) to contribute to political campaigns without any financial limitations.

I would like to draw your attention to an authoritative freely available online source for locating the full text of U.S. Supreme Court opinions covering the period 1991 to the present. This would be the “Opinions” link found on the U.S. Supreme Court’s official website at <https://www.supremecourt.gov/>.

The first type of documents that show up are known as slip opinions. This is a reference to the physical format, literally, a slip of paper (if a brief opinion) or a document consisting of several or many slips (pages) if a longer opinion. These are usually brief summaries that provide the Court majority opinion plus concurring or dissenting opinions of individual justices. The Supreme Court runs on a term lasting from October through October of the following year. Thus, as of this writing, the Court is still in the October 2022 Term. These slip opinions appear in reverse chronological order. To see the text, simply click on the party names (for example, 303 Creative LLC v. Elenis) decided on June 30, 2023, a controversial case concerning the conflict between a state, Colorado in this case, having anti-discrimination laws requiring that designer businesses create designs that might conflict with the business owner’s personal viewpoints concerning same-sex marriage. The case was decided in favor of the business (a website designer). This slip opinion is a bit longer than is typical with 26 pages for the opinion plus an additional 38 pages providing the dissent of Justice Sonia Sotomayor. You will find slip opinions and Preliminary Prints (described below) here dating back through the 2016 Term.

You will find the final form of opinions in what are known as Bound Volumes which are available here for the terms covering 1991 through 2016 (yes, the site for now is making the 2016 Term available as Slip Opinions, Bound Volumes, and some Preliminary Prints).

A quick note about the publication of U.S. Supreme Court opinions. They appear as temporary printed publications starting with Bench Opinions, usually printed on the day of the ruling by the Court. These are followed by the Slip Opinions, described above. In turn, Slip Opinions are followed by Preliminary Prints. These are soft-cover volumes that contain the opinions plus announcements, indexes, tables, and other associated materials to provide a more complete record. Finally, these are followed by the Bound Volumes which are a more formal compilation of the material found in the Preliminary Prints and are intended as a permanent, official record. The U.S. Supreme Court web site described here provides access to primarily the Slip Opinions and the Bound Volumes, but there are some Preliminary Prints available for the years 2016-2023 as well.

This website is an excellent and convenient access point to the full text of U.S. Supreme Court opinions of nearly the past thirty years. The website has many other features and additional important legal information as well. Perhaps I will cover some of these in a future Government Documents for All column.

## Cataloging Electronic Theses and Dissertations: Updates and Perspectives from the Mississippi State University Libraries

Meg C. Wang<sup>a</sup> ([mwang@library.msstate.edu](mailto:mwang@library.msstate.edu))

<sup>a</sup>Mississippi State University, Starkville, Mississippi, USA

### ABSTRACT

Over the last two decades, electronic submission of theses and dissertations has become more common, and cataloging processes have evolved as well. At the same time, the Resource Description and Access (RDA) cataloging guidelines, which are better designed to describe digital resources, were widely implemented in 2013 in order to replace the Anglo-American Cataloging Rules (AACR2), which emphasize the description of a physical item. These changes have brought unceasing challenges into cataloging workflows. Especially with the development of linked data and the semantic web, catalogers consistently need to adapt measures to local conditions. This paper describes the recent issues that have occurred at the Mississippi State University Libraries and how local practices addressed these concerns to enhance bibliographic data and authority data for better discovery of Electronic Theses and Dissertations (ETDs).

### KEYWORDS

Cataloging, ETDs, ORCID

### OVERVIEW

More and more universities have turned their theses and dissertations into digital formats often accompanied with electronic submission systems to which students can upload files and provide their own bibliographic data. According to an online shared list accessed in February 2023, there are at least 123 academic institutions in North America that require Electronic Theses and Dissertations (ETDs) submissions (Texas ETD Association, n.d.). A survey of Texas colleges and universities showed progressive growth of ETDs between 2009 and 2020, with the percentage of institutions not considering/accepting ETDs dropping significantly from 20% to zero (Texas ETD Association, 2021).

Theses and dissertations are research outcomes for graduate students as well as important assets for universities. These works often represent cutting-edge or pioneering research in the academic disciplines. To achieve wider dissemination and discovery of such valuable scholarship, the notion of ETDs was discussed in 1987 in a meeting with participants from the University of Michigan, Virginia Tech, and two software companies, SoftQuad and Arbor Text. By 1996, Virginia Tech, with the support of the Southeastern Universities Research Association (SURA), developed the software ETD-db as a complete ETD submission package (Networked Digital Library of Theses and Dissertations, 2022). ETD-db is a MySQL open-source database system programmed by a series of Perl scripts that uses the Common Gateway Interface to deliver an ETD, serving as both a submission portal and a repository (Atkins, 2004). Through this electronic submission software, authors and librarians can easily create and manage an ETD using any computer with an internet connection and a web browser.

Mississippi State University (MSU) started using the ETD-db system in 2007. However, ETD-db did not have a feature for communication between students and librarians or the capability for batch processing or pulling cataloging information. With support from the Graduate School and campus administration, the Office of Thesis and Dissertation Format Review at the University Libraries began to look for a new ETD submission process in 2019. The online learning management system, Canvas, which is equipped with email and notification functions, stood out in comparison to other document management systems, such as Vireo and eForms or in-house software. Accordingly, a new course (LIB9010) offered by the Office of Thesis and Dissertation Format Review is integrated into the University's Canvas

courses system. All graduates completing a thesis or dissertation must enroll in this free online course through the University's Office of the Registrar and complete it before receiving their degrees.

Before RDA was implemented, Hoover and Wolverton gave an overview of thesis cataloging using AACR2 based on a survey of 171 institutions of higher education in the United States (Hoover & Wolverton, 2003). As the cataloging rules gradually shifted from AACR2 to RDA, the adoption of RDA into thesis cataloging and ETDs submission have been concurrent challenges for catalogers. Ashman (2013) gave a detailed discussion on MARC fields for cataloging ETDs using RDA. In terms of time- and labor-saving, two main ways of creating bibliographic records for ETDs are harvesting author-supplied metadata automatically and using OCLC constant data records (McCutcheon, 2011; Robinson et al., 2016).

At MSU, the OCLC constant data record method is employed for cataloging theses and dissertations. Catalogers created a template for cataloging ETDs using RDA and saved it as a constant data record in the online cataloging tool, OCLC Connexion. Separated from ETDs, printed theses and dissertations and architecture bachelor's theses have their own templates for cataloging. Constant data auto-fills certain fixed information from the designated template when creating a new bibliographic record, without entering repeatedly the same information in each new ETD record, such as 33x fields, the university name in the 264 and 710 fields, or academic theses as genre/form in the 655 field. This function helps to reduce typos and reduces processing time. The master template needs to be evaluated on a regular basis to verify that the constant data is still accurate. For instance, dates in fixed field and 090, 264, 502 fields will vary when working on ETDs published in different years, and the prefix URL in the 856 field would vary according to the type of permanent link used.

## RECENT CHALLENGES IN CATALOGING ETDs

### URL Changes for Better User Experience

During 2021 and 2022, data migration at MSU Libraires caused several ETD access issues, which are discussed in the following four phases.

#### ***Phase 1: The Combination of Redirect URLs and New URLs, December 2021***

Prior to 2020, the storage of MSU ETDs moved from the ETD-db system to the Handle server, becoming part of the MSU institutional repository via DSpace. However, the MSU Libraries experienced several unexpected Handle server crashes, leading to the decision in December 2020 to migrate data from Handle to a more robust and reliable system. Digital Commons, by bepress, was chosen, and both the current institutional repository and the ETD collection were migrated to this new cloud-hosted platform. The new repository was renamed Scholars Junction. During this data migration, the Library Web Services staff assisted with redirecting URLs for the existing 5,006 ETDs bibliographic records. URL redirects can forward searching traffic from one URL to another automatically when the old URL no longer functions. This kept catalogers from having to revise the URLs manually in each record, which totaled over 10,000 records between the Library Catalog and WorldCat.

Before the old Handle server was officially phased out in December 2021, there were 38 ETDs remaining in the to-be-cataloged list. Processing this group of ETDs required not only putting new Scholars Junction URL links (<https://scholarsjunction.msstate.edu/td/example>) in both backend cataloging systems, OCLC Connexion and Sirsi Workflow, but also retrieving author-supplied metadata and full-text PDFs from the old Handle server. This metadata information was used to create bibliographic and name authority files for the ETDs. This process was difficult as the Handle server went down continually.

#### ***Phase 2: DOIs Instead of URLs, May 2022***

Broken links are a common issue in the digital landscape, and these can impair the discovery of ETDs. DOIs were suggested as a solution to this issue. Unlike URLs, DOIs are static. Once they are assigned, they will not change, which means it is very easy to locate the document at any future time, even



after it has been moved. Beginning with the next group of ETDs to be cataloged, catalogers were able to retrieve author-supplied metadata and full-text PDFs from bepress. ETD URLs were replaced with DOIs assigned by the Scholarly Communication Librarian. Unlike some OCLC online bibliographic records showing DOIs in the 024 field as identifiers, cataloging librarians at MSU entered DOIs in the 856 field as electronic location and access.

### ***Phase 3: DOIs Go Optional, June-July 2022***

After the process of replacing URLs with DOIs in the ETDs' bibliographic records was in place, a large backlog of verifying DOIs of cited journal articles in the ETDs came up. As the position of Scholarly Communication Librarian was vacant at that time, this issue required the attention of the librarian at the Office of Thesis and Dissertation Format Review. The time it was taking to assign DOIs for ETDs became a concern and brought a halt to the use of DOIs as part of the cataloging workflow. This eventually led to the decision to have DOI creation as optional, only at the request of the authors of theses or dissertations.

Afterwards, cataloging librarians went back to using Scholars Junction URL links in the 856 field for ETDs that had not yet been cataloged, instead of waiting for DOIs to be assigned.

### ***Phase 4: URL forwarding failed, July-August 2022***

Once the URL redirection was implemented in phase one, the ETD records containing the old Handle URLs should have automatically forwarded the user to the new Scholars Junction links. However, when processing ETD bibliographic records with either Scholars Junction URLs or DOIs during the period of Phase 2 and Phase 3, the cataloger noticed there were some random dead links on the old Handle URLs which would lead the user to the 'record not found' webpage, a typical 404 error response from the server. To resolve the dead link issue, the cataloger manually deleted the old Handle URL and inserted a valid Scholars Junction URL on each broken link record in both cataloging systems: OCLC Connexion and Sirsi Workflow. In July 2022, the cataloger discovered that all of the old Handle URLs became dead links, resulting in poor user experience.

Replacement of the broken Handle URLs to the valid ones was considered for solving the issue, but this would involve going into over 10,000 records to manually remove broken Handle URLs and add valid Scholars Junction URLs. It might be a safe choice to update the URLs to fix the 404 errors, but that can be very time-consuming. While solidifying alternative solutions with the Web Services unit, the Systems staff managed to figure out the root cause for the broken link issue. The forwarding fails occurred when the Handle server had a bad shutdown because of a lightning strike which caused a power outage over the July 4<sup>th</sup> weekend. As this scenario is extremely rare, when Systems does a power recovery in the future, they will test the Handle server to prevent unnoticeable server issues from occurring. The broken link issue was resolved by simply restarting the Handle server.

### **Using ORCID for Better Author Identity Management**

Name authority control is another challenge for cataloging ETDs. After graduation, ETD authors often continue pursuing their careers in the same academic disciplines and continue to publish in scholarly resources in the future. Creating their name authority files is a way to provide an access point among various bibliographic resources published at different times. Since ETD authors are mostly in their early stage of academic life, it is relatively easy to evaluate whether any NACO authority file has been already established for a different entity.

In a name authority file, typically information about date/month/year of birth is provided in the 040 field, and the title of ETDs is provided in the 670 field. Along with the name of the author, this information is usually sufficient to distinguish between authors with the same names. Recently, the concept of identity management, such as adding an Open Researcher and Contributor ID (ORCID) identifier or a Wikidata identifier in the 024 field, has been discussed by Stalberg et. al. (2020) and the PCC URIs in the MARC Pilot NACO Subgroup (2022). ORCID is a unique identifier for academic authors. The ORCID platform is an easy way to document an author's research activities and makes a connection between

authors, publishers, employers, and funders. The downside is that authors may not maintain their own ORCID profile or may create more than one profile. ORCID's purpose of linking data for identifying authors does not always function correctly. In that case, using ORCID as an author identifier becomes meaningless and creates more confusion.

The MSU Libraries was hesitant about adding ORCID into bibliographic descriptions since ORCID is not required when students submit their ETDs. Students may be resistant to providing this additional information. The Office of Thesis and Dissertation Format Review has already received complaints about too many fields to fill in the ETD submission form. However, more and more academic journals are now requiring it when manuscripts are submitted. Through an outreach program in library instruction, such as a research guide (*ORCID Identifiers*, 2022, August 15), ORCID registration among faculty and students has been gradually accepted. After the MSU institutional repository switched to Scholars Junction, ORCID has become one of the optional fields for students to enter in the bepress platform. As a result, author-supplied metadata for cataloging ETDs started to show ORCID even though it is not mandatory.

Following the PCC URIs in the MARC Pilot NACO Subgroup release of the revised *NACO 024 Best Practices Guidelines* in May 2022, our local practice is to add ORCID identifiers in the 024 field (first indicator =8) with no subfield \$2 in the name authority file, not in the bibliographic record. The clickable link in subfield \$1 helps the cataloger to check the validity of the author's ORCID link. Causes for broken ORCID links vary: the name of ORCID is misspelled as "orchid", the first part of URL is duplicated (<https://orcid.org/orcid.org/example>), the identifier contains more than 16 characters, or it does not have dashes to delimit the identifier into 4-digit groups.

### **Interconnection Between Author-Supplied Metadata and Cataloger-Created Metadata**

Author-supplied metadata for cataloging ETDs comes from two sources: one is ETDs in full-text PDF files and the other is the University's ETDs submission form. Because the Office of Thesis and Dissertation Format Review helps our graduate students with getting their theses and dissertations formatted correctly, bibliographic information included in the resulting PDF document is the most accurate source of information for cataloging. However, information inserted in the electronic submission form by students occasionally contains errors that might lead to inaccurate cataloger-created metadata. Two of the most common errors submitted are the student's department and document type. It is surprising that this information would be incorrect as one would assume that students would correctly indicate what department they are part of and if their submission is a thesis or dissertation.

One reason for students confusing the document type is that in other countries a "thesis" is a product of a PhD degree, and a "dissertation" is a product of a master's degree, which is the opposite of the usage of the terms at MSU, as well as generally in US universities. If a student were to select the wrong document type, then this would affect the accuracy of the cataloger-added data in the 655 field (second indicator =7) in local practice and the item level details in Sirsi.

When filling out the submission form, students are asked to choose their college and their department in two separate fields. There are times when catalogers see the name of the same college in both fields without the name of department selected, or the name of two different colleges might be shown without the name of department selected. Other times, the correct name of the college is chosen but the incorrect name of the department is provided. These types of errors can cause the catalogers to assign an inaccurate call number, as they are assigned based on the student's department. An incorrect call number can cause the cataloger to inaccurately assign the 5-character cutter number and add unneeded extra letters to the cutter to distinguish between authors with the same last name.

### **DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION**

A broken link in the 856 field can cause a serious access issue for born-digital materials, such as ETDs, which lead to poor user experience. URL forwarding and manual updates to valid URL links are both implemented to resolve broken link issues at the MSU Libraries. Furthermore, reaching out and

communicating with different library departments, such as Web Services and Systems, can often tackle the root causes in a more efficient way.

While a URL identifies the web address or location of a unique source, ORCID is another type of uniform resource identifier (URI). ORCID is a string of characters that generally identifies any web resource by using a name. A Wikidata identifier is also a type of URI frequently used for cataloging. Implementing ORCID for academic authors and URIs for catalog librarians are new trends that are being explored. ORCID identifiers can link a person's research, and URIs in NACO enhance discovery and identification for all users. Since most ETD authors are young and junior researchers, their ORCID profiles may be blank, but at times the profiles contain information that connects all of the author's research activities. For both authors and catalogers, adding the ORCID in the 024 field helps to incorporate a name authority file into the identity management environment.

Author-supplied metadata is important for cataloging ETDs. Once students submit their ETDs, they prefer to have their ETDs published in the MSU institutional repository as soon as possible so they can have a link to their ETDs on CVs for job applications. To-be-cataloged ETDs are given to catalogers 3 times a year and tend to already have been published for access. If author-supplied metadata appears to be incorrect, the catalogers have been given administrative permission to make the necessary corrections. While catalogers are correcting information, the incorrect data has been accessible for potentially 4 months. Inaccurate bibliographic data associated with academic research outputs and publications may have a negative effect on both the author and university. To avert this, a better checking mechanism needs to be in place during the ETD submission process that does not rely on corrections during the cataloging process. Using OCLC constant data records to catalog ETDs at the MSU Libraries has been an effective working model despite all the above-mentioned challenges.

OAI-PMH, a working model of harvesting metadata descriptions of records, is under investigation even though there is no concern of backlog cataloging for ETDs. Catalogers are facing more and more tasks of working on non-MARC metadata nowadays. Apart from harvesting ETD metadata, based on the Dublin-Core scheme in the bepress system, the OAI-PMH method can also be utilized to harvest finding aids metadata, based on the Encoded Archival Description (EAD) scheme in the ArchiveSpace platform. Once the programming tasks in the MarcEdit software are established, the OAI-PMH working model can be applied to batch process ETDs and finding aids cataloging in a more efficient way than the constant data method.

MSU Libraries is exploring retrospectively digitizing printed theses and dissertations. If pursued, all related departments will need to collaborate to establish a workflow and lifecycle of the newly scanned ETDs. In the MSU Libraries, the hard copies and digital copies are cataloged on separate bibliographic records. The tangible theses and dissertations, often considered as manuscripts, live in Archives and Special Collections or in Circulating Collections while ETDs, special kinds of e-books, live virtually in Scholars Junction. Even without the standard publishing process, ETDs from state universities in the United States are considered state government publications (McCutcheon, 2015). Once our Archives and Special Collections digitization team starts scanning printed theses and dissertations, the workflow for submission and cataloging the newly scanned documents needs to be updated. Open communication between cataloging and Special Collections is a big part of this process of becoming successful.

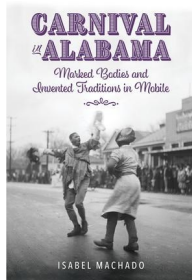
## REFERENCES

- Ashman, A.B. (2013). A brief look at how RDA is being used to catalog electronic theses and dissertations. *Kentucky Libraries*, 77 (3), 16-23.
- Atkins, A. (2004). ETD-db. In E. A. Fox, S. Feizabadi, J. M. Moxley & C. R. Weisser (Eds.), *Electronic theses and dissertations: A sourcebook for educators, students, and librarians* (pp. 163-167). CRC Press. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9780203021279>
- Hoover, L., & Wolverton, R.E. (2003). Cataloging and treatment of theses, dissertations, and ETDs. *Technical Services Quarterly*, 20, 3-57. [https://doi.org/10.1300/J124v20n04\\_02](https://doi.org/10.1300/J124v20n04_02)
- McCutcheon, S. (2011). Basic, fuller, fullest: Treatment options for electronic theses and dissertations. *Library Collections, Acquisitions, & Technical Services*, 35, 64-68. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.lcats.2011.03.019>

- McCutcheon, S. (2015, November 2). *Cataloging ETDs in RDA*. [Video]. Youtube. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i4d-Aq3saRg>
- Networked Digital Library of Theses and Dissertations. (2022). *Mission, goals, and history*. <https://ndltd.org/mission-goals-and-history/>
- ORCID Identifiers. (2022, August 15). Mississippi State University Libraries. Retrieved February 9, 2023, from <https://guides.library.msstate.edu/orcid>
- PCC URIs in MARC Pilot NACO subgroup. (2022, May 5). *NACO 024 best practices guidelines*. <https://www.loc.gov/aba/pcc/naco/documents/NACO-024-Best-Practices.pdf>
- Robinson, K., Edmunds, J. & Mattes, S.C. (2016). Leveraging author-supplied metadata, OAI-PMH, and XSLT to catalog ETDs. *Library Resources & Technical Services*, 60 (3), 191-203. <https://doi.org/10.5860/lrts.60n3.191>
- Stalberg, E., Riemer, J., MacEwan, A., Liss, J.A., Ilik, V., Hearn, S., Godby, J., Frank, P., Durocher, M. & Billey, A. (2020). Exploring models for shared identity management at a global scale: The work of the PCC task group on identity management in NACO. *Cataloging & Classification Quarterly*, 58 (3-4), 428-437. <http://doi.org/10.1080/01639374.2019.1699880>
- Texas ETD Association. (n.d.). *Add your institution and maintain your ETD information on the shared List of Institutions Requiring Electronic Thesis/Dissertation Submissions*. <http://txetda.org/index.php/outreach-and-communication/>
- Texas ETD Association. (2021, January 13). *Results from 2020 TxETDA Survey - Growth of ETDs in Texas Colleges and Universities*. [Video]. Youtube. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=87vYvZBsFCQ>

## REVIEWS

### *Carnival in Alabama: Marked Bodies and Invented Traditions in Mobile*



Isabel Machado  
Jackson: University Press  
of Mississippi, 2023  
ISBN: 9781496842596  
262 p. \$30.00 (Pbk)

This sometimes dense and scholarly book is a fascinating analysis and history of Mardi Gras, or Carnival, in Mobile, Alabama with an emphasis on the sometimes quite recent *invention* of traditions associated with this annual cultural celebration. What began as a “tool for white supremacy” (xviii) created by wealthy white heterosexual males has become “an important mechanism of identity building, social ascension, and acceptance for African Americans and LGBTQIA+ people in Mobile” (xviii).

Machado, a cultural historian specializing in gender and sexuality studies, as well as celebration studies, is from Brazil which is relevant given that Carnival is a major cultural phenomenon within the country. Machado does not directly make any comparisons between Brazil and Mobile, but the author’s immersion in Brazilian Carnival certainly impacts her approach and coverage.

While the book’s primary focus is on recent decades of Mardi Gras in Mobile, historians will find the early history to also be of great interest. Yes, Mobile held its first Mardi Gras in 1703, but Machado traces the true beginnings of Mardi Gras in Mobile to the 1830’s when several mystic societies were established for the purposes of controlling Mardi Gras as a celebration by and for the white elite (p. 18). She notes, “this fear and necessity of containing marked bodies [African Americans and other non-whites] and the working class is crucial to understanding the process of tradition invention that took place in Mobile” (p. 22). Machado traces later developments such as the use of Confederate Army symbols and the likely fictional account of Joe Cain, a Confederate veteran, in

1866 defying the occupying Union Army troops on Mardi Gras dressed as an undefeated Indian chief.

The economic and social history of Mobile starts with the town being a WWII boomtown but experienced several decades of urban decay which produced a deserted and deteriorating downtown. Ultimately, this area became the locus of Mardi Gras celebration and, importantly, the one location where White Mardi Gras and African American Mardi Gras temporarily converged. The decaying downtown area also became an area where the presence of LGBTQIA+ or queer people was tolerated fairly well to the extent of being known as the Fruit Loop section of Mobile which plays into Machado’s analysis of how Mardi Gras traditions in recent decades have been invented or re-invented.

Machado’s description of the development of the African American celebration of Mardi Gras in Mobile is truly interesting. The main parade route was along Davis Avenue (now Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Avenue). Parallel to the White elite mystic societies, African Americans created their own mystic societies that held balls and arranged Mardi Gras parades. Machado describes how African Americans adapted White elite strictures, i.e., reinvented such traditions to fit their own celebrations and culture.

Although documentation before the 1970’s is sparse, queer participation in both White and African American Mardi Gras became more visible starting in 1981 with the establishment of the Order of Osiris Ball, Mobile’s first openly gay Mardi Gras organization. Similar to what African Americans of Mobile had been doing, queer people in the city also reinvented traditions (organizing balls and parades, etc.). The concept of intersectionality, discussed in academic literature in recent years, is addressed in *Carnival in Alabama* where Machado analyzes the growing participation of LGBTQIA+ African Americans made visible via the Prancing Elites (pp. 166-167).

In conclusion, while Mardi Gras, or Carnival, in Mobile still exhibits some of its historically segregated character, it is much more inclusive than ever. Machado cites 2020 census statistics that document an increasingly diverse city that is majority African American (51.3%), 40.8% white, with a growing population described as Pacific

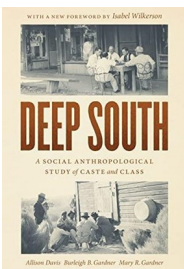
Islanders, “other,” mixed-race, and Hispanic or Latino (pp. 173-175). Connecting the differences in population makeup to changes in Mardi Gras, Machado concludes “traditions don’t just happen. They are invented...As Mobilians reinvent themselves and their Carnival, they once again have a chance to define what and who they *wanna* be” (p. 175).

*Carnival in Alabama* is a work of solid scholarship. Isabel Machado uses a good variety of primary sources ranging from newspapers to various archival collections, and an assortment of published reports such as city ordinances. Especially interesting are interviews with Mobilians who provide first-hand accounts covering the second half of the twentieth century. Machado also includes a substantial bibliography of secondary sources that contribute to her scholarship.

The main audience for *Carnival in Alabama* is academic. More casual or recreational readers might find the book to be, at times, a bit dense and, perhaps, too scholarly, which is unfortunate. Those willing to engage the text with attention will be rewarded by a fascinating cultural history. *Carnival in Alabama* is recommended for academic and large public libraries collecting in the areas of the history of Alabama, Southern history, Black Studies, gender and sexuality studies, and folklore.

Tim Dodge, Auburn University

### ***Deep South: A Social Anthropological Study of Caste and Class***



Allison Davis, Burleigh B. Gardner,  
& Mary R. Gardner  
Chicago: The University of Chicago  
Press, 2022  
ISBN: 9780226817989  
328 p. \$20.00 (Pbk)

*Deep South: A Social Anthropological Study of Caste and Class* was originally published in 1941. The work was based on an undercover investigation by Black scholars Allison and Elizabeth Stubbs Davis and their White co-authors, Burleigh and Mary Gardner. They explored the everyday racism in the Deep South, concentrating on Mississippi. An abridged edition of the study was published in 1965, and in 2022, a

re-issue of the 1965 abridged version was released with a new foreword by Pulitzer Prize winner Isabel Wilkerson (author of *Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents*). Wilkerson’s foreword makes a case not only for the relevance of the study today but also its academic and historical importance.

The original authors of *Deep South* spent 18 months living and doing research in Natchez, Mississippi, which was, at the time, a closed and isolated Southern town. The two Ivy League couples were trained in anthropology, and along with St. Clair Drake, a Black man, they undertook the mission to study the social order of the American South. From 1933 to 1935 (and living off funding from the Rockefeller Foundation and Harvard University), the researchers immersed themselves in the culture and society of the Jim Crow South and lived among the people while hiding their true identities.

The researchers applied a caste-and-class framework to their findings, which expanded earlier studies by introducing the concept of caste, i.e., social ranks assigned at birth and usually unalterable throughout life. Their study was noteworthy in part because at the time of publication, caste and class were viewed as two separate constructs in opposition to one another. The Davises and Gardners also held that while economic class mattered, so did the class-coded attitudes, dispositions, and behaviors of Whites and Blacks. Complicating matters further was the issue of race. Racism limited the ability of African Americans to rise out of their existing caste and class. Rooted in social anthropology, this framework was controversial precisely because of the ways economic class and social status were conflated. Other critics held on to the notion that class did not exist in the United States because of the opportunities for upward mobility and thus rejected the authors’ framework.

It took the researchers years to publish their findings, and while they were editing their research, they began to face competition. Two Yale anthropologists, both White and working in the same area, spent several months in Mississippi. With shorter timelines and narrower parameters, they were able to publish their research before the authors of *Deep South*. The White researchers were more readily embraced by the mainstream and were given more authority than the Black researchers: “Decades later, the journal *American*

*Anthropologist*, in 2004, described the two earlier books as ‘canonical’ and ‘landmark studies,’ consigning the Davis and Gardner book to the footnotes” (p. xviii).

The *Deep South* study covered a longer period of time and was more detailed. The researchers sought to document the social structure that showed the “systematic subordination of Negroes to the whites and the exclusion of Negroes from any participation with whites that implied equality” (p. 271). Because of these unwritten rules, it was essential that the authors had both Blacks and Whites doing the research. Blacks would not be able to interview the Whites who ran the city, and the Blacks would not be comfortable being interviewed by Whites about their dissatisfaction with their subordinate status.

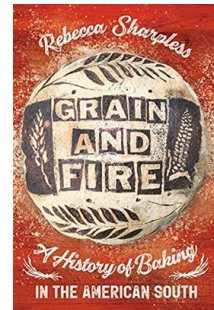
It seems as if the authors suffered from the same prejudices as those they were researching. Was it because the lead researchers were Black that their work did not receive lasting prominence? Lewis W. Jones, a reviewer of the original publication of *Deep South*, pointed out in his review that the research team consisted of two Whites and three Blacks, emphasizing division of race versus the importance of the study. *Deep South* is currently being reassessed, and many scholars today believe it is a seminal study that details the deeply embedded racism that was part of everyday life in the Jim Crow era.

One of the more remarkable facts about *Deep South* is the degree of danger in which the Black researchers put themselves. Allison and Elizabeth Davis “chose to make the personal sacrifice and to risk their lives for the greater good of documenting the structure of human division, a mission that would practically render them double agents” (p. xiv). *Deep South* still has important things to say about the role of race and racism in the United States—for those who are willing to listen. This new edition of *Deep South* is recommended for all academic libraries.

Chris Andrews, University of North Georgia

### ***Grain and Fire: A History of Baking in the American South***

Rebecca Sharpless  
Chapel Hill: The University of  
North Carolina Press, 2022  
ISBN: 9781469668369  
344 p. \$30.00 (Hbk)



In this superlative work of food history, Rebecca Sharpless recounts the American South’s rich baking heritage from the nut and root breads of the region’s early indigenous peoples to contemporary creations of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. This book does not simply chronicle the emergence and evolution of popular breads, cakes, pies, and other southern baked goods but ultimately provides a social history of the region through the lens of its distinctive baking traditions. As Sharpless notes, “By way of grain and fire, this history of southern baking kindles the broader history of the South and its people” (p. 2).

The book is organized chronologically into eight chapters and a brief afterword, each representing different eras that examine the social and culinary developments that have shaped and defined southern baking over time. Far from linear, *Grain and Fire* is a layered study that examines how the South’s baking history was influenced by major events (such as European colonization and the Civil War), demographics (namely, race, gender, social class, national origin, and urban/rural environments), and transformations in technology, transportation, and commercialization. Furthermore, readers learn the origins of iconic southern baking brands like Martha White and Little Debbie, examine the role of baked goods in local food festivals and contests, and gain a limited appreciation for how southern baking has influenced popular culture, particularly as a source of inspiration for country music lyrics and the Montgomery Biscuits baseball team name.

One of the many challenges historians face when reconstructing any regional or national history is delineating discernible, overarching patterns without overgeneralizing or neglecting unique developments within minoritized communities that do not reinforce the general narrative. Sharpless skillfully balances these considerations by noting nuances and exceptions whenever nec-

essary without losing sight of the broader trajectory of her study. Significantly, she also avoids the common pitfall of treating the South like a peculiar place that exists in a vacuum impervious to outside forces. Throughout the book, readers learn how diverse immigrant groups have contributed to the region's culinary history with traditional baked goods from their homelands. Arguably the most surprising revelation of *Grain and Fire* is that some dishes southerners cherish, such as pumpkin pie, originated in the North before they were adopted by southern bakers as their own.

This previous point underscores the paramount question Sharpless raises in the introduction: "Is there really such a thing as southern baking?" (p. 2). As the result of numerous social changes that transformed society between the Civil War and the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century, the South's distinctive baking culture gradually assimilated into the nation's increasingly homogenized and commercialized lifestyle. Though some features like cornbread persist, *Grain and Fire's* sweeping narrative demonstrates that the South's baking culture has never been static. Rather, it has drastically evolved over the past 500 years and will continue to do so. Sharpless ultimately concludes that southern bakers, both past and present, determine through their own agency which breads and desserts belong to this culture.

The greatest attribute of *Grain and Fire* is the sheer breadth and depth of the research that informs it. Collectively, the notes and bibliography sections comprise a quarter of the volume. In addition to consulting numerous traditional resources (newspapers, published primary sources, theses and dissertations, government documents, and secondary sources, for example), Sharpless also availed herself of various unconventional, but relevant resources such as patents, websites, scores of cookbooks, and *Southern Living* magazine. The finished product is a consummate history far more enriched by this diverse range of sources.

There is, however, one minor criticism of *Grain and Fire*. Sharpless regrettably does not define the geographic scope of "the South" for her readers beyond vaguely distinguishing the region from the rest of the continent as the historic hotbed of conflict between Native American, European, and African peoples. As thought-provoking as this interpretation is, it does not address the pub-

lic's varying perceptions of the region's reach. Though no one questions that Deep South states like Alabama and Mississippi are a part of the region, opinions differ regarding borderline states such as Maryland or Oklahoma. While references to developments in St. Joseph, MO, the Chesapeake Bay region, Miami, and Texas ultimately reveal the author's expansive scope, clearly defining her interpretation of "the South" in geographic terms at the beginning would have preempted this ambiguity for readers from the start.

This concern, however, does not detract from the quality of this book. Rebecca Sharpless has not only written a masterful history of southern baking but has arguably published the definitive work on the subject. *Grain and Fire: A History of Baking in the American South* will serve as the crucial starting point for researchers investigating any aspect of this rich heritage. Sharpless' study is not only a worthy addition to the growing field of food history scholarship, but a testament to the exciting potential foodways research offers in reshaping our understanding of the past.

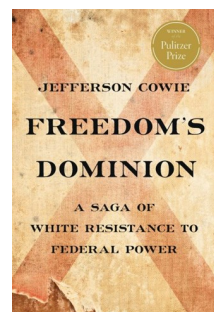
This engaging monograph is highly recommended for all readers. Academic libraries, particularly those with southern history or foodways collections, should consider adding this title to their stacks. Southern reviewers especially, both scholars and general readers alike, will have a newfound appreciation for cornbread, biscuits, layer cakes, and other staples they have long enjoyed but taken for granted without knowing the story behind the cherished foods that have nourished the region's inhabitants for generations.

A. Blake Denton, University of Southern Mississippi

### ***Freedom's Dominion: A Saga of White Resistance to Federal Power***

Jefferson Cowie  
New York: Basic Books, 2023  
ISBN: 9781541672802  
512 p. \$35.00 (Hbk)

If one wants to understand the antipathy held by generations of White Southerners toward the federal government, Jefferson Cowie's *Freedom's Dominion: A Saga of*





*White Resistance to Federal Power* is the place to start. Cowie, a history professor at Vanderbilt University, explores the ideas of freedom from domination and especially the freedom to dominate others by focusing on the lived experience of people over time and in one location. Cowie writes that he toyed around with the notion of “resistance to federal power in one place,” but that Barbour County, Alabama, found him (p. 417). Cowie was not consciously aware that Barbour County was home to segregationist George Wallace and five other Alabama governors; however, Barbour County was the perfect location for Cowie to explore the local dramas that “illustrate how racialized anti-statism became a core aspect of American freedom” (p. 5).

The contest between Whites in Barbour County and agents of the federal government began in the 1830s, when White settlers started stealing land belonging to the Creek people by deception, intimidation, and acts of barbarism. Charged with enforcing the treaty between the United States government and the Creek Nation, U.S. Marshal Robert L. Crawford warned the Whites to evacuate the stolen lands in what is now Barbour County. In the summer of 1832, when the Whites refused, federal troops set fire to the town of Eufaula. The White settlers, land speculators, local authorities, and state courts were united in their opposition to federal intervention and used every tool at their disposal to stymie the will of the government. Ironically, in this instance, President Andrew Jackson was loathed by White Southerners for favoring the Creeks and insisting that the treaty’s terms must be honored. The meager presence of federal troops was insufficient to stop land-hungry Whites yearning to raise cotton in Barbour County’s fertile soil. The Whites resented the government’s impediment to exercising domination over the Creeks’ land. The half-hearted response by the federal government stoked the anger and enmity of the Creeks and drove them to launch a hopeless war against the interlopers.

The next section of *Freedom’s Dominion* addresses slavery in Barbour County. Legalized slavery as it was exercised in the United States was the ultimate form of freedom for some Southern Whites, as it gave them nearly complete freedom to dominate enslaved persons. The defeat of the Confederacy, the end of slavery, the enactment of the Civil War Amendments, and the election of

biracial governments did not quell White Southerners’ desire for the freedom to oppress others. In Barbour County, Whites restricted Black men’s access to the voting booth through legal means as well as intimidation and outright violence. The federal government was to be the enforcer of the Civil Rights Amendments and the protector of freed people. The story of Reconstruction was a familiar one: the initial intervention of the federal government, backed by federal troops, was successful in reintegrating Southern states back into the Union. But its commitment to protecting freed people diminished quickly. Once again, the federal government abandoned those it promised to protect, and, once in retreat, the door was open for Southerners and Northerners to “rebuild a shared platform of white supremacy or, at least, a willingness to ignore it and the violence it entailed” (p. 181).

Now free from the yoke of the federal government, White Southerners seized the opportunity to solidify their power by enacting laws to restrict the freedom of Blacks in a system that also ensnared poor Whites. The absence of the federal government opened the door to Jim Crow and the right to dominate without restraint in the form of lynchings. This also gave rise to the convict leasing system. Blacks, lacking capital and land, entered sharecropping contracts that through poor harvests, exploitation, and deception left them economically dependent, often to their former enslavers. Far worse was the convict lease system. Following Reconstruction, Southerners enacted state and local laws that criminalized petty offenses. Those convicted, often on trumped-up charges, served long prison sentences, with poor sanitation, terrible food, and packed quarters where the prisoners went months on end without taking a shower. They were forced to perform backbreaking labor in mines and in the fields. The state profited from leasing convicts to private individuals like Barbour County’s J. W. Comer, which kept state taxes low. The convict lease system also made men like Comer rich.

*Freedom’s Dominion* begins and ends with George Wallace. Born in Barbour County, Wallace rose through the ranks of local and state politics to the governorship with his strident support of racial segregation and opposition to the civil rights movement. Along the way, Wallace changed his message “to dodge specific attacks on

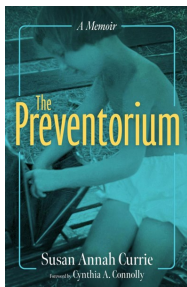
integration with arguments about the overreach of the federal government” (p. 333). When Wallace ran for president in the 1960s, his opposition to federal “tyranny” and his brand of right-wing populism found an audience with Northern Whites. They resented changes such as school integration and other forms of federal overreach.

Cowie’s thesis that racialized anti-statism is a critical component of American freedom is compelling. But that freedom rested on the federal government’s failure to follow through with its promises to enforce laws and protect those on the receiving end of freedom’s dominion. The absence of the federal government in places like Barbour County meant that Blacks in Alabama never had a chance for real representation in the 1960s—although they certainly tried. Unequal access to the polls, inaccurate vote counts, racialized gerrymandering, and outright corruption were, in part, the result of the federal government’s half-hearted attempts to ensure all citizens’ civil rights.

As a microhistory, *Freedom’s Dominion* is somewhat surprising in that, unlike many microhistories, it is not an exception to broader historical events, but rather a brutal reflection of them. Jefferson Cowie’s *Freedom’s Dominion* was awarded the 2023 Pulitzer Prize in history because of the way the author so powerfully explores the meaning of freedom and how that understanding of freedom was shaped by White supremacy. *Freedom’s Dominion* is highly recommended for academic and public libraries.

Kristine Stilwell, University of North Georgia

### ***The Preventorium: A Memoir***



Susan Annah Currie  
 Jackson: University Press of  
 Mississippi, 2022  
 ISBN: 9781496842763  
 232 p. \$25.00 (Hbk)

*The Preventorium* chronicles how a now-defunct Magee, Mississippi-based children’s hospital (located between Jackson and Hattiesburg on U.S. Highway 49) shielded thousands of sickly children from tuberculosis at a time when the disease was killing millions of people worldwide. Now known as Boswell Regional

Center and devoted to the care of individuals with developmental disabilities, the original Mississippi Preventorium operated from February 1929 until 1976 and sought to “suppress [TB] by providing a relaxing green space with healthy foods” (Nabavi, 2018).

Author Susan Annah Currie’s 63-year-old secret is now the subject of her memoir, in which she refers to the preventoriums as “forgotten” institutions. Currie, who is a retired academic librarian, has spent years trying to learn more about the institution that was established during a time when Mississippi endured a much higher prevalence of tuberculosis than the rest of the United States. Preventoriums were prevalent nationally and internationally, according to the author, with the Mississippi Preventorium implementing the fresh-air method where the children, ages four to 11, would walk around as lightly clothed as possible in the theory that the health of the child would be “built up” to resist tuberculosis or other illnesses (p. 7).

It was 1959 and Susan Annah Currie was six years old when a doctor told her mother, Nell Currie, that she would die if she didn’t go to the preventorium. At the time, Susan was considered at risk of contracting tuberculosis—“sick all the time with bronchitis, asthma, allergies, and respiratory problems in general” and “not responding to medication” (p. 3). According to Cynthia A. Connolly, a historian and pediatric nurse practitioner who wrote the foreword for *The Preventorium*, tuberculosis in the early 20th century was “highly fatal” and those who died were usually “very young adults” (xii).

Currie notes that, as a resident of the preventorium, she lived a very regimented life. Every time a child went to the bathroom, the trip was documented by staff. Just walking down the hall required the girls to have their hands always on their hips to avoid them getting into trouble. “I know that consistency can lead to establishing bad habits too...it was a strange, cold and disorienting experience being forced into sameness,” she recalled (p. 42). Though during that time it housed 3,000 children, Currie said her stay at the preventorium was quite isolating. “We were all strangers to each other, taken from home for reasons we did not understand with few opportunities to truly make friends. Simply our being roughly the same

age and in the same situation does not automatically make for friendship” (pp. 38-39).

Currie’s research for her memoir included many visits to the Mississippi Department of Archives, and for more than 60 years, she searched for information on the facility to “make sense of the preventorium and my experiences there” (p. 197). Yet even as an adult librarian, her search for health records of herself from the preventorium was lacking, with paperwork and files permanently lost. Unfortunately, when she requested her own records from the Mississippi Health Department, the information was mostly blank. Instead, Currie turned to social media in an effort to reconnect with fellow patients and track down the stories of other residents.

Currie found only so many conclusions about her past. “Yes, [the preventorium] did improve my physical health and the physical health of so many other children. But I was also emotionally traumatized and haunted by the experience” (p. 197). Acknowledging that some people who lived in the preventorium had different experiences than she did, she concludes the experience “shaped me. It seeped into my bones, my spirit, and my thoughts” (p. 202). The institutionalized behaviors she learned in the 15 months she was at the Preventorium are habits she cannot break even to this day.

A haunting and well-researched book, this is a one-of-a-kind memoir. It documents a very personal time in Currie’s life as it also brings to light a very important time in Mississippi’s history—a shared history for more people than many would imagine. This book is recommended for both academic and public libraries.

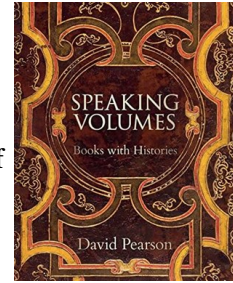
#### REFERENCE

Nabavi, M. (2018, May 16). *Coughing up a cure: Boswell Regional Center then and now*. sites.uab.edu. <https://sites.uab.edu/exploringpopulationhealth/2018/05/16/coughing-up-a-cure-boswell-regional-center-then-and-now/>

Peter R. Dean, Delta State University

### ***Speaking Volumes: Books with Histories***

David Pearson  
Bodleian Library: University of  
Oxford, 2022  
ISBN: 9781851245628  
240 p. \$65.00 (Hbk)



*Speaking Volumes: Books with Histories* by David Pearson is a fascinating book that tells the stories of individual books and their owners. Pearson, a noted librarian and book historian, is the former director of culture, heritage, and libraries at the City of London Corporation and is now a research fellow at the Institute of English Studies at the University of London as well as a member of the teaching staff of the London Rare Books School.

Pearson has published extensively on many aspects covering the history of the book, with a particular interest in aspects of the book as an owned and designed object. His previous works include *Provenance Research in Book History*, *For the Love of the Binding*, and *Books as History: The Importance of Books Beyond their Texts*, to name a few. In *Speaking Volumes*, the author continues chronicling the importance of books and book ownership. For this work, Pearson selected a wide range of books from different periods and cultures and brings them to life with his engaging writing and insightful commentary on the book as realia.

One of the most exciting things about *Speaking Volumes* is the way it shows how books have been used and valued throughout history. For example, Pearson tells the story of a ninth-century schoolboy who wrote his name and the date in his Latin grammar book. This simple act of ownership offers a glimpse into the importance of books in medieval education. Pearson also shows how books have been used to record important events and ideas as evidenced in the story of a copy of the Magna Carta owned by King John. Pearson explains that this particular copy of the Magna Carta is a valuable historical document because it contains John's signature which provides confirmation of his consent to the principles in the document. Another case in point is the story of a copy of the Gutenberg Bible owned by a Ger-

man printer named Johann Fust who was one of the first people to print books using movable type. Fust's copy of the Gutenberg Bible has value beyond its content because it provided evidence of the early development of printing.

One of the strengths of *Speaking Volumes* is its range of subject matter. From the Bible to *The Communist Manifesto*, *Uncle Tom's Cabin* to *Harry Potter*, the book covers various works from different genres and periods. Each chapter delves into the history of a particular book, exploring the context in which it was written, its impact on society, and the controversies surrounding it. Another strength of *Speaking Volumes* is how it connects the selected books' history to more significant social, political, and cultural issues. The author explores how books have been used to promote social justice, challenge the status quo, and shape public opinion. He also examines how books have been censored, banned, and burned throughout history. Pearson's writing is clear and easy to follow, and he does a great job of bringing the stories of the books to life.

Another factor that sets this book apart is the author's engaging writing style. The book is well organized and easy to read. Pearson has divided the book into chapters that focus on different aspects of the history of books, such as the development of writing, the invention of printing, and the rise of the book trade. Pearson writes with clarity and enthusiasm, making even the most complex historical events and ideas accessible to a general audience. The author has a talent for storytelling, weaving historical facts, anecdotes, and personal insights into a compelling narrative that keeps the reader engaged from beginning to end.

Also distinctive is *Speaking Volumes'* inclusion of several illustrations in the book, including photographs of books, drawings of book bindings, and maps of book trade routes. These illustrations give images to the books' stories and provide a critical visual representation complementing the text.

*Speaking Volumes* is a comprehensive and informative title that provides a wealth of information about the history of books. It is a valuable resource for anyone interested in learning more about books, book history, or culture. Overall, *Speaking Volumes* is an engaging, informative, and enjoyable read. It is a must-read for any-

one who loves books and history and would be a welcome addition to public and academic library collections.

*Timothy Daniels*, University of North Georgia

**If you are interested in becoming a book reviewer for the *SELn* email Teresa Nesbitt, [teresa.nesbitt@ung.edu](mailto:teresa.nesbitt@ung.edu), for more information.**



### Changing of the Guard

Effective October 1<sup>st</sup>, Melissa Lockaby (University of North Georgia) stepped down from her role as *SELn* Book Review Editor to assume a new position as the Reviews Editor for *College & Research Libraries*. Melissa served the journal's readership well for the past two years, diligently arranging copies for reviewers while offering exceptional guidance and kind words of encouragement. We wish her all the best as she represents the southeastern region for one of the library profession's leading national publications.

Please welcome Teresa Nesbitt, the new *SELn* Book Review Editor. Teresa is a Reference Services Librarian at the University of North Georgia Cumming Campus. She has served as book review editor with the *Georgia Library Quarterly* and is looking forward to stepping into this role at *SELn*. Her research interests include library marketing and examining the role of regional campus libraries as community centers. In her free time, Teresa enjoys watercolors and bothering her two cats—and her current (very) guilty pleasure is exploring the world of AI-generated visual art.



Teresa Nesbitt

## NEWS FROM THE STATES



### AUBURN UNIVERSITY

#### Voter Registration at Auburn University

Auburn University Libraries, in partnership with the League of Women Voters of East Alabama, hosted a voter registration day on September 19<sup>th</sup> in the Ralph Brown Draughton Library. A table staffed by League of Women Voters and AU Libraries volunteers provided information about voter registration and voting by absentee ballot.

### UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA IN HUNTSVILLE

#### UAH's New MultiMaker Lab

On September 21<sup>st</sup>, the University of Alabama in Huntsville's M. Louis Salmon Library held a grand opening for its new MultiMaker Lab. The lab merged the library's former multimedia and makerspace labs into a single, centralized unit on the facility's first floor. The MultiMaker Lab is a place for patrons to collaborate, create, learn, and explore with tools and equipment to complete physical projects. Close to 50 students and faculty attended the grand opening.



### UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

#### UGA Special Collections Hosts Interstate Exhibit

This fall, the UGA Special Collections has a new exhibit on display. *Paving the Road to Progress: Georgia Interstate Highways* traverses the rocky path of the interstate system's development. Artifacts on display include historic maps, reports, correspondence, and legislation that trace the tension between politicians, landowners, and motorists as the interstate highway system took shape in the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. In addition, political cartoons, pamphlets, and posters reveal the cultural impact of interstate travel. *Paving the Road to Progress* will remain on display through April 24<sup>th</sup>.



### UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI

#### New Appointment at Southern Miss

In September, Karlie Herndon was appointed the new curator of the de Grummond Children's Literature Collection. Prior to assuming this role, she served as the assistant curator and the interim curator for the collection. Herndon holds a B.A. in English (Creative Writing) and a B.S. in Psychology from Virginia Tech, an M.A. in English from the University of North Carolina Wilmington, an MLIS from the University of

Southern Mississippi, and is currently completing her PhD from USM in English (Literature) with a specialization in children’s literature.



Karlie Herndon

**Southern Miss Hosts Open Access Month**

In honor of Open Access Month, University Libraries’ is offering a series of presentations during the month of October in person at Cook Library and via Zoom. Topics include finding and using open access resources for learning, research, and teaching.



**NORTH CAROLINA STATE UNIVERSITY**

**North Carolina State Pilots Textbook Scholarship Program**

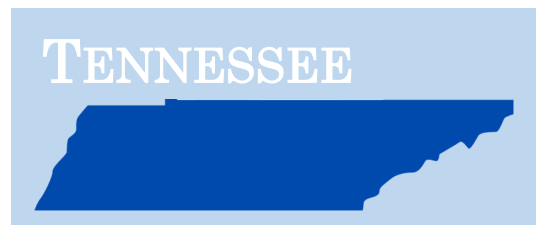
University Libraries has partnered with the Office of Scholarship & Financial Aid (OSFA) to launch a new pilot program offering textbook scholarships worth \$869 apiece to twenty students this academic year. Students have the flexibility to decide where and when they purchase their course materials, potentially allowing them to make the award go even further. David Tully, Librarian for Student Success and Affordability noted that “This collaboration will ensure that 20 of our students now have the funds to purchase their textbooks without having to take out loans or try to persevere without them.”



**CLEMSON UNIVERSITY**

**Clemson’s New Library Celebrates Opening**

Clemson Libraries celebrated the grand opening of its new branch library in the automotive engineering department at the Clemson University International Center for Automotive Research (CU-ICAR) in Greenville with a ribbon cutting on August 30<sup>th</sup>. The new library, located on the fourth floor of the Campbell Graduate Engineering Center, provides a collection of books specifically for students, faculty, and staff from the automotive engineering program, as well as technical and recreational equipment, and delivery services for materials to and from the main campus libraries. The new library also provides research support services, space for individual and collaborative study, and will host events and workshops.



**VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY**

**Vanderbilt’s New Digital Lab**

The Jean and Alexander Heard Libraries have strengthened their resources for teaching and learning with the recent launch of the Digital Lab, an initiative that equips Vanderbilt University faculty, students, and staff to create, develop, and sustain digital projects. Led by Senior Director Andrew Wesolek, the Digital Lab supports several existing digital projects, but also works to identify and cultivate emergent projects and partners. In addition to supporting digital projects, the Digital Lab offers technology-rich discovery spaces for experiential learning.



## **VIRGINIA TECH**

### **Virginia Tech Now a Patent and Trademark Resource Center**

Virginia Tech's University Libraries recently became the state's sole Patent and Trademark Resource Center. With this designation from the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, the Libraries can provide the public with trademark and patent services and resources. Sarah Over, Engineering Collections & Research Analyst, led the application process. In describing the significance of this new development, Over explains that "Anyone can take advantage of the center. Someone with a big idea may feel excluded because they live in a rural area and don't know where to start. Now a local entrepreneur or manufacturer who invented something and would like to patent it can come to our center in Newman Library to help find the resources they need to start the process."





**SELA OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**SELA President**

Crystal Gates  
[crystal.gates@lamanlibrary.org](mailto:crystal.gates@lamanlibrary.org)

**President-Elect**

Laura C. Slavin  
[laura.slavin@uah.edu](mailto:laura.slavin@uah.edu)

**Immediate Past President**

Melissa Dennis  
[mdennis@olemiss.edu](mailto:mdennis@olemiss.edu)

**Treasurer**

Becky Bickford  
[rebecca.bickford@lmunet.edu](mailto:rebecca.bickford@lmunet.edu)

**Secretary**

Bernadette Johnson  
[bjjohnson@fmarion.edu](mailto:bjjohnson@fmarion.edu)

**Archivist**

Camille McCutcheon  
[rcmccutc@uscupstate.edu](mailto:rcmccutc@uscupstate.edu)

**Administrative Services**

Gordon Baker  
[gordonbaker@clayton.edu](mailto:gordonbaker@clayton.edu)

**SELA STATE REPRESENTATIVES**

**ALABAMA**

Chris Shaffer  
[shafferc@troy.edu](mailto:shafferc@troy.edu)

**ARKANSAS**

J.P. Myrick  
[jpaul@ecarls.org](mailto:jpaul@ecarls.org)

**FLORIDA**

Mohamad Berray  
[mberray@fsu.edu](mailto:mberray@fsu.edu)

**GEORGIA**

Austina Jordan  
[austina.jordan@ung.edu](mailto:austina.jordan@ung.edu)

**KENTUCKY**

Sara McCaslin  
[sara.mccaslin@wku.edu](mailto:sara.mccaslin@wku.edu)

**LOUISIANA**

Deidre M. Douglas  
[ddouglas@slol.lib.la.us](mailto:ddouglas@slol.lib.la.us)

**MISSISSIPPI**

Sarah Mangrum  
[sarah.rials@usm.edu](mailto:sarah.rials@usm.edu)

**NORTH CAROLINA**

Lorrie Russell  
[SELA@nclaonline.org](mailto:SELA@nclaonline.org)

**SOUTH CAROLINA**

Doris Johnson-Felder  
[lb\\_djohnson@scsu.edu](mailto:lb_djohnson@scsu.edu)

**TENNESSEE**

Michael Hale  
[assistant@wtclibrary.org](mailto:assistant@wtclibrary.org)

**VIRGINIA**

Vacant

**WEST VIRGINIA**

David Owens  
[david.ownes@cabellcountylib.org](mailto:david.ownes@cabellcountylib.org)

## COMMITTEES

### Awards Committee

Gordon Baker  
[gordonbaker@clayton.edu](mailto:gordonbaker@clayton.edu)

### Charles Beard Award

Lorene Flanders  
[lflanders@southalabama.edu](mailto:lflanders@southalabama.edu)

### Ginny Frankenthaler Scholarship

Muriel D. Nero  
[mnero@southalabama.edu](mailto:mnero@southalabama.edu)

### Hal Mendelsohn Award

Gordon Baker

### Honorary Membership

Camille McCutcheon  
[rcmccutc@uscupstate.edu](mailto:rcmccutc@uscupstate.edu)

### Mary Utopia Rothrock Award

Linda Golian-Lui  
[lgolian@fau.edu](mailto:lgolian@fau.edu)

### Outstanding Author Award

Nacole Adams  
[nadams@holmescc.edu](mailto:nadams@holmescc.edu)

### Outstanding Library Program

Bill McRee  
[bmcree@florencelibrary.org](mailto:bmcree@florencelibrary.org)

### Resolutions

Bill McRee  
[bmcree@florencelibrary.org](mailto:bmcree@florencelibrary.org)

### Southern Books Competition

Peggy Kain  
[pkain@uab.edu](mailto:pkain@uab.edu)

### Budget

Becky Bickford  
[bbickford@library.msstate.edu](mailto:bbickford@library.msstate.edu)

### Conference

Laura C. Slavin  
[laura.slavin@uah.edu](mailto:laura.slavin@uah.edu)

### Constitution & Handbook

Gordon Baker  
[gordonbaker@clayton.edu](mailto:gordonbaker@clayton.edu)

## Continuing Education & Staff Development

Muriel Nero  
[mnero@southalabama.edu](mailto:mnero@southalabama.edu)

## Intellectual Freedom

Susan Echols  
[sechols@troy.edu](mailto:sechols@troy.edu)

Wendy Stephens  
[wstephens@jsu.edu](mailto:wstephens@jsu.edu)

## Legislative

Tim Dodge  
[dodgeti@auburn.edu](mailto:dodgeti@auburn.edu)

Adam Webb  
[a webb@gclibrary.com](mailto:a webb@gclibrary.com)

## Listserv

Adam Branscum  
[adam.branscum@lamanlibrary.org](mailto:adam.branscum@lamanlibrary.org)

## Membership

Blair Jones  
[joneseb1@etsu.edu](mailto:joneseb1@etsu.edu)

## Mentoring

David L. McMillan  
[dmcmillan@bluefieldstate.edu](mailto:dmcmillan@bluefieldstate.edu)

Tabitha Samuel  
[samuel@musc.edu](mailto:samuel@musc.edu)

## Nominating

Melissa Dennis  
[mdennis@olemiss.edu](mailto:mdennis@olemiss.edu)

## Planning & Development

Melissa Dennis  
[mdennis@olemiss.edu](mailto:mdennis@olemiss.edu)

## Public Relations & Marketing

Robin Campbell  
[robin.campbell@lamanlibrary.org](mailto:robin.campbell@lamanlibrary.org)

## The Southeastern Librarian

Ashley S. Dees  
[aesorey@olemiss.edu](mailto:aesorey@olemiss.edu)

## Website

Adam Branscum  
[adam.branscum@lamanlibrary.org](mailto:adam.branscum@lamanlibrary.org)

## SECTIONS

### **Library Education**

Kiersty Cox  
[cox@usf.edu](mailto:cox@usf.edu)

### **Public Libraries**

Alana Maghan  
[amaghan@greenvillelibrary.org](mailto:amaghan@greenvillelibrary.org)

### **Reference & Public Services**

Ruth Slagle  
[rslagle@jscc.edu](mailto:rslagle@jscc.edu)

### **Resources & Technical Services**

Cathy Austin  
[caustin@library.msstate.edu](mailto:caustin@library.msstate.edu)

Melissa Brooks  
[melissa.m.brooks.usm.edu](mailto:melissa.m.brooks.usm.edu)

### **School & Children's Librarian**

Shannan Hicks  
[shannan.hicks@lamanlibrary.org](mailto:shannan.hicks@lamanlibrary.org)

Miciah Bennett  
[miciahbennett@gmail.com](mailto:miciahbennett@gmail.com)

### **Special Libraries**

Will Olmstadt  
[will.olmstadt@lsuhs.edu](mailto:will.olmstadt@lsuhs.edu)

### **Trustees & Friends of Libraries**

Lorrie Russell  
[lorrie.russell@highpointnc.gov](mailto:lorrie.russell@highpointnc.gov)

### **University & College Libraries**

Rebecca Rose  
[rebecca.rose@ung.edu](mailto:rebecca.rose@ung.edu)

## ROUND TABLES

### **African-American Issues**

Wanda Brown  
[brownwa@wssu.edu](mailto:brownwa@wssu.edu)

### **Circulation & Reserves**

Fawn Ussery  
[fussery@deltastate.edu](mailto:fussery@deltastate.edu)

### **Electronic Resources**

Stephanie Adams  
[sjadams@tntech.edu](mailto:sjadams@tntech.edu)

Kristin Rogers  
[kerogers@olemiss.edu](mailto:kerogers@olemiss.edu)

### **Government Documents**

Tim Dodge  
[dodgeti@auburn.edu](mailto:dodgeti@auburn.edu)

### **Library Instruction**

Sarah Simms  
[sarahlynnsimms@lsu.edu](mailto:sarahlynnsimms@lsu.edu)

John Siegel  
[jsiegel2@uscupstate.edu](mailto:jsiegel2@uscupstate.edu)

### **New Members**

Lauren Geiger  
[lgeiger@library.msstate.edu](mailto:lgeiger@library.msstate.edu)

