MSU Libraries MegaResource School Librarian Workshop

Friday, February 7, 2025

8:00 – 9:00 a.m.   Registration and Check-in/Breakfast

Location: Grisham (3rd floor)

9:00 – 9:15 a.m.   Welcome/Announcements

Location: Grisham (3rd floor)

Derek Marshall, Interim Associate Dean for Research, Faculty Engagement & Campus Outreach for MSU Libraries

Melody Dale, MegaResource Chair

9:20 – 10:15 a.m.   Concurrent Session 1 (Choose One)

Navigating the Future: Generative AI for K-12 Library Media Specialists

Location: 1405 Classroom (First Floor)

Deborah Lee

Empower Reading Communities Without Quizzes

Location: Giles Classroom (First Floor)

Doug Blanchard

Telling the Library Story: Effective Advocacy

Location: ELI Classroom (First Floor)

Miriam Garner

10:15 – 10:30 a.m.   Interactive Morning Break

(First Floor)

10:30 – 11:25 a.m.   Concurrent Session 2 (Choose One)

Can the library have coffee? Yesssss!!

Location: 1405 Classroom (First Floor)

Miriam Garner

Elementary Session: MAGNOLIA in the Elementary Classroom and Library

Location: ELI (First Floor)

Mikayla Johnson

School Library Updates: Copyright and Recycling

Location: Giles Classroom (First Floor)

Elizabeth Simmons

11:30 – 12:30 p.m.   Working Lunch

MLA-Mississippi Library Association

Location: Grisham (Third Floor)

Miriam Garner

12:35 – 1:30 p.m.   Concurrent Session 3 (Choose One)

Empower Reading Communities Without Quizzes

Location: Giles Classroom (First Floor)

Doug Blanchard

Unveiling Effective Library Instruction

Location: 1405 (First Floor)

Miriam Garner & Jazmin Poe

Open Discussion about Active-Learning and the Library

Location: ELI (First Floor)

KC New

1:35 – 2:30 p.m.   Concurrent Session 4 (Choose One)

Transforming Your Library

Location: 1405 (First Floor)

Jazmin Poe

From Search to Success: Empower your Students with Research Superpowers

Location: ELI Classroom (First Floor)

Blair Booker

Create a Webpage in Adobe Express

Location: Giles Classroom (First Floor)

Lara Taylor

2:30 – 2:45 p.m.   Interactive Afternoon Break

(Refreshments available, First Floor)

2:45 – 3:40 p.m.   Concurrent Session 5 (Choose 1)

Middle/High Session: MAGNOLIA for Middle and High School Classrooms and Libraries

Location: ELI/Giles (1st Floor)

Mikayla Johnson

GenAI Literacy

*note: Please bring a laptop if you would like to follow along.

Location: 1405 Classroom (First Floor)

Lara Taylor

3:45 – 3:55 p.m.   Closing Remarks & CEU information

Melody Dale, MegaResource Chair

Location: Grisham (Fourth Floor)

Sessions (9:20 – 10:15 a.m.)

Navigating the Future: Generative AI for K-12 Library Media Specialists

This workshop will provide an introduction to generative AI, with a focus on applications and resources for the K-12 classroom.

Location: 1405 Classroom (First Floor)

Deborah Lee

Empower Reading Communities Without Quizzes

Explore how K-12 schools nationwide are inspiring students to read by shifting from quiz-based accountability to digital reading logs, gamification, and engaging reading challenges that promote reading independence. Join us for an inside look at how Beanstack motivates students to read more. In this session, we'll cover the benefits of a non-quiz-based approach, how digital reading logs enhance accountability, and strategies for building an equitable reading culture. Plus, discover how reading challenges, competitions, rewards, and recognition work together to boost student motivation.

Location: Giles Classroom (First Floor)

Doug Blanchard

Telling the Library Story: Effective Advocacy

This presentation focuses on the critical role of school libraries in fostering student success and advancing educational goals. Attendees will learn how to craft persuasive, engaging narratives that demonstrate the unique contributions of school libraries to student achievement, literacy development, and digital literacy. The session will cover strategies for advocating to administrators, teachers, parents, and local communities, showcasing the library's value through data, success stories, and real-life examples. Participants will walk away with the beginnings of how to talk about their libraries in order to build support and ensure that school libraries are recognized as essential components of every student's educational journey.

Location: ELI Classroom (First Floor)

Miriam Garner

Sessions (10:30 – 11:25 a.m.)

Can the library have coffee? Yesssss!!

Do your students own a book of their very own? Shockingly enough I found many of my high schoolers, like the elementary students, like having a book they can hold in their hand and carry around. We tend to assume students would rather use their phones, iPads, or computers to read, but I have found this is not true. "Books and Brews" library session could be a great way to bring your high schoolers into your library. Let's discuss how to get more books in our families' hands and enjoy a cup of coffee at the same time. Please feel free to bring your favorite school time beverage with you.

Location: 1405 Classroom (First Floor)

Miriam Garner

Elementary Session: MAGNOLIA in the Elementary Classroom and Library

MAGNOLIA is a project funded by the Mississippi Legislature. It offers free online databases for all Mississippians. Review the resources available specifically for Pre-K-5th grade students, including:

- Explora

- Britannica Fundamentals

- Britannica School Elementary

Location: ELI (First Floor)

Mikayla Johnson

School Library Updates: Copyright and Recycling

Elizabeth will discuss updates for the 2024-2025 school year. The topics will include recycling library books and copyright and fair use.

Location: Giles Classroom (First Floor)

Elizabeth Simmons

Session (11:30-12:30)

MLA - Mississippi Library Association

This presentation highlights the unique benefits and opportunities available to school librarians who become members of the Mississippi Library Association (MLA). Attendees will learn how MLA provides a powerful network for professional development, advocacy, and collaboration across the state. The session will explore how joining MLA can amplify the voice of school librarians in shaping educational policy, improve access to resources, and offer opportunities for continuing education and career growth. From professional conferences to leadership training and legislative advocacy, this presentation will demonstrate how MLA can support school librarians in strengthening their programs, advocating for their needs, and advancing their careers.

 Location: Grisham Room

Miriam Garner

Sessions (12:35 – 1:30 p.m.)

Empower Reading Communities Without Quizzes

Explore how K-12 schools nationwide are inspiring students to read by shifting from quiz-based accountability to digital reading logs, gamification, and engaging reading challenges that promote reading independence. Join us for an inside look at how Beanstack motivates students to read more. In this session, we'll cover the benefits of a non-quiz-based approach, how digital reading logs enhance accountability, and strategies for building an equitable reading culture. Plus, discover how reading challenges, competitions, rewards, and recognition work together to boost student motivation.

Location: Giles Classroom (First Floor)

Doug Blanchard

Unveiling Effective Library Instruction

Are you tired of the same lessons or wish you had more lessons to pull from? In this session we will learn how to create 1 lesson that can be used across grade levels. We will share successful lessons and discuss how to modify them to fit your needs. Also, bring a successful lesson with you to share and/or one that hasn't quite worked and let us help figure out how to make it more effective.

Location: 1405 (First Floor)

Miriam Garner & Jazmin Poe

Open Discussion about Active-Learning and the Library

This session will focus on the role of libraries and librarians in using active learning in education. Participants will discuss the integration of active learning strategies—such as collaborative projects, problem-solving activities, and interactive resources—into the learning environment.

Location: ELI (First Floor)

KC New

Sessions (1:35 – 2:30 p.m.)

Transforming Your Library

Creating an inviting, engaging library on a tight school budget can be a challenge, especially when you serve a wide range of age groups. Have you ever had to move your library to a new space? I have—and it's still a work in progress. In this session, we'll explore practical strategies for maximizing the space you have, from organizing materials efficiently to creating a dynamic environment that captures students' attention. We'll discuss ways to engage all grade levels, transform a less-than-ideal space, and find creative solutions to common challenges. We'll also share successes and setbacks, collaborating to build a list of actionable ideas you can take back to your own library. Join us for a lively discussion, and let's turn our spaces from drab to fab—on any budget!

Location: 1405 (First Floor)

Jazmin Poe

From Search to Success: Empower your Students with Research Superpowers

This presentation aims to help school librarians develop activities for students that will help them develop essential research skills for academic and real-world success. We'll explore how to break down the research process into manageable steps, from defining topics to evaluating sources. Participants will gain tools to teach information literacy, including distinguishing reliable sources, navigating databases, and identifying bias. Join us on this journey to inspire the next generation of informed and confident researchers!

Location: ELI Classroom (First Floor)

Blair Booker

Create a Webpage in Adobe Express

Learn how to create a webpage using Adobe Express. This could be an online syllabus, a landing page or infographic to explain a concept, or even a project blog that students use to keep track of their coursework. A feature in Adobe Express also allows you to turn the webpage into a presentation.

Location: Giles Classroom (First Floor)

Lara Taylor

Sessions (2:45 – 3:40 p.m.)

Middle/High Session: MAGNOLIA for Middle and High School Classrooms and Libraries

MAGNOLIA is a project funded by the Mississippi Legislature. It offers free online databases for all Mississippians. Explore specialty databases curated just for grades 6-8 and grades 9-12. This includes:

- History Reference Center
- Science Reference Center
- Read It
- LearningExpress Library with a focus on ACT and other test prep

Location: ELI/Giles (1st Floor)

Mikayla Johnson

GenAI Literacy

Learn how to use and teach Generative AI using this GenAI Literacy framework. Feel free to bring a laptop and follow along. All are encouraged to participate!

Location: 1405 (First Floor)

Lara Taylor

Session Speakers

Doug Blanchard, Account Executive, Beanstack. doug@beanstack.com

Blair Booker, Art, Architecture, and Design Librarian, MSU Libraries. bbooker@library.msstate.edu

Dr. Miriam Garner, Library Media Specialist, Houston High School. mgarner@chickasaw.k12.ms.us

Mikayla Johson, MAGNOLIA Outreach Coordinator, Mississippi Library Commission. mjohnson@mlc.lib.ms.us

Dr. Deborah Lee, Director of Research Impact & AI Strategy, MSU Libraries. dlee@library.msstate.edu

KC New, Digital Humanities Librarian, MSU Libraries. knew@library.msstate.edu

Jazmin Poe, Library Media Specialist, Houlka Attendance Center. jpoe@chickasaw.k12.ms.us

Elizabeth Simmons, Instructional Materials and Library Media Director, Mississippi Department of Education. esimmons@mdek12.org

Lara Taylor, Instructional Technology Specialist, Mississippi State University Libraries. ltaylor@library.msstate.edu