



Knowledge • Community • Imagination

Headquarters:

102 Priestley St.
Canton, MS 39046
Phone: 601-859-7733
FAX: 601-859-0014

Branch Libraries:

Camden Public Library

116 Parkside Avenue
P.O. Box 159
Camden, MS 39045
Phone/FAX: 662-468-0309

Canton Public Library

102 Priestley Street
Canton, MS 39046
Phone: 601-859-3202
FAX: 601-859-2728

Flora Public Library

144 Clark Street
P.O. Box 356
Flora, MS 39071
Phone: 601-879-8835
FAX: 601-879-3934

Madison Public Library

994 Madison Avenue
P.O. Box 1153
Madison, MS 39130
Phone: 601-856-2749
FAX: 601-856-2681

Ridgeland Public Library

397 Highway 51 North
Ridgeland, MS 39157
Phone: 601-856-4536
FAX: 601-856-3748

June 14, 2021

Board of Supervisors:

On behalf of the Madison County Library System, our patrons and communities, I thank you for your unwavering support of our libraries. A little over a year ago, we closed the doors to our libraries for six weeks due to the emerging COVID19 pandemic. What a year it has been since then! Life unfolded in ways none of us could have imagined. But each day I am thankful for the MCLS staff, our patrons and our communities. I have been no less than amazed at my staff's commitment to serve and their generosity of spirit. Immediately, my staff stepped up to meet the needs of our communities as they responded to the impacts of COVID-19. They learned new skills, stepped outside their comfort zones and thought outside the box to continue to provide access to library resources and to uplift and support our communities. From Zoom story times and book clubs to drive-thru parades and book give-a-ways, they stood in the gap to keep us connected while also keeping us safe. From open WiFi and public access computers to free tutoring services and job application/resume help to locations and schedules of vaccination sites, our libraries extended necessary lifelines to community members facing job losses, healthcare crises, and remote work and learning during an unprecedented and uncertain time. If there is anything positive to be said about this last year it would be that we connected with our patrons in ways we never had before. We learned new ways to reach and serve our patrons and we will continue to use many of those lessons well after the pandemic has ended. Certainly top of the list would be virtual programming along with curbside service, increased digital access and less restrictive access in general. Even when our doors were closed, our libraries were always open.

I have been no less amazed by the support our patrons and communities have shown us. Whether it was their patience and understanding during uncertain times, sweet notes and children's drawings left in book drops or the trunk of their car, handmade masks and snacks shared with us or just a simple "thank you", their kindness and encouragement sustained us. Attached is just a small sample of the encouraging words they shared with us. Our patrons stood shoulder to shoulder with us even when we had to be 6 feet apart.

This year, as life returns to some sense of normal, Madison County Library System is once again excited to bring our Summer Reading Program to the youth of Madison County. Each year thousands of youth throughout Madison county attend educational and entertaining programs, while checking out and reading thousands of books. This year's theme "Tails and Tales" combines the joy of reading and storytelling with an appreciation of nature and wildlife. Studies show summer reading programs help to preserve reading skills and prevent the "summer slide". Our goal is to emphasize the importance of reading as an everyday life skill and as a source of information, enjoyment and culture while creating a community of readers. We challenge all of our participants to take the time to read mindfully each day. Have you accepted the challenge?

In addition, with three of our five libraries in communities with a higher than 94% free and reduced lunch rate, we know many of our young patrons suffer food insecurity especially during the summer months when school is not in session. At MCLS, we see our summer reading program as a chance to feed not only their mind, but their body and soul. This year, thanks to generous community sponsors, MCLS will serve over 5000 sack lunches to Madison County youth during the eight weeks of summer reading.

"Serving Madison County"
<http://www.mcls.ms>

Our bookmobile continues to operate, bringing the library to the community and serving those with limited access. In addition to schools, retirement communities, nursing homes, summer programs and community events, the bookmobile currently services 6 Little Free Libraries installed throughout the county with plans to install an additional 9 this year.

In July, MCLS will partner with Canton Tourism to host the annual Canton Young Filmmakers Workshop, now in its 20th year. Talented youth from across the state and beyond will spend two intensive weeks at the library learning the ins and outs of filmmaking from story concept and script writing to acting and filming to final editing. The young filmmakers will then debut their movies for family and friends at our Red Carpet Event.

This fall, MCLS will use LSTA grant money to enhance our digital lab, install teen centers at our Madison and Ridgeland branches, add a third Learning Resource Center and expand our Autism Resource Center. Each of these technology and STEAM oriented projects is responsive to the needs of our communities. From educational tools to job skills, MCLS is bridging the technology gap and reaching underserved populations.

2020 was a year when our libraries answered the call to serve amid multiple emergencies and a year when library staff again proved to be essential “first restorers” or “second responders.” With your continued support, we look forward to continuing our mission to serve our communities and to reflect those communities through programming and services in 2021 and beyond. Attached is the MCLS 2021-2022 fiscal year budget request which represents a less than 1/10 mill increase. The library has not had an increase in millage since it was reduced during the years 2006-2010 from 1.16 to the current level of 1.07. To ensure the sustainability of our projects and to continue to bring innovative services to our patrons, we respectfully ask you to allocate total funding in millage and/or additional dedicated funds at the level requested.

Thank you for your consideration. I am always available to answer any questions you may have about the Madison County Library System.

Tonja Johnson, Director
Madison County Library System

102 Priestley Street
Canton, MS 39046
601-859-7733 ext. 101
tjohnson@mcls.ms

Madison County Library System
2021-2022 Budget Request

2021-2022

SALARIES	\$ 1,310,000.00
SOC. SEC. & RET.	\$ 353,700.00
AUDIT	\$ 8,500.00
AUTOMATION EXPENSE	\$ 32,550.00
AUTOMOBILE EXPENSE	\$ 10,700.00
BUILDING MAINTENANCE	\$ 25,000.00
DUES - PROFESSIONAL	\$ 2,000.00
FURNISHINGS & EQUIPMENT	\$ 25,000.00
INSURANCE	\$ 39,000.00
LIBRARY PROGRAMS/ADULT	\$ 3,000.00
LIBRARY PROGRAMS/SR&YOUTH	\$ 20,000.00
LIBRARY PROGRAMS/SP. NEEDS/OUTREACH	\$ 1,000.00
MATERIALS (BOOKS, DVDS, ETC.)	\$ 280,000.00
OFFICE EQUIP. UPKEEP	\$ 2,000.00
OFFICE SUPPLIES	\$ 22,500.00
OTHER OFFICE EXPENSES	\$ 5,000.00
OUTSIDE SERVICES & FEES	\$ 5,000.00
POSTAGE	\$ 5,000.00
PR/Promotional Items	\$ 1,000.00
SIRSI MAINTENANCE	\$ 31,000.00
STAFF DEVELOPMENT	\$ 2,500.00
SUPPLIES - JANITORIAL	\$ 5,000.00
SUPPLIES - TECH SERVICES	\$ 4,000.00
TELECOMMUNICATION - DATA	\$ 44,000.00
TELEPHONE	\$ 8,000.00
TRAVEL & STAFF TRAINING	\$ 5,000.00
UTILITIES / CAMDEN	\$ 11,000.00
UTILITIES / CANTON	\$ 67,000.00
TOTAL	\$2,328,450.00
OPERATING BUDGET	
AUDITORIUM USE FEES	\$ 500.00
CITY OF CANTON	\$ 100,000.00
CITY OF MADISON	\$ 100,000.00
CITY OF RIDGELAND	\$ 110,000.00
TOWN OF FLORA	\$ 1,200.00
COPY AND FAX REVENUE	\$ 25,000.00
MADISON COUNTY	\$ 1,845,000.00
PERSONNEL GRANT	\$ 108,524.00
ERATE	\$ 38,226.00
TOTAL	\$ 2,328,450.00

\$0.00

March of 2020 saw the entire world come to a halt because of Covid. Used to coming and going at will with confidence in the safety of our health, all of a sudden we were all “grounded” and confined to our houses. One “staple” of our community quickly adjusted to meet and fulfill people’s needs for connection, interaction, entertainment, distraction, education, enlightenment - the Madison County Library System. Curbside delivery of books, increased selection and availability of ebooks, extended time on borrowed items, suspension of late fees - just to name the obvious ones - were instrumental actions in maintaining some normalcy in an abnormal time. You, your staff and employees are to be commended and praised for stepping up to the challenge of how to meet your public’s needs in a situation none of us had ever anticipated. Thank you for a job very well done!

Teresa Gerald, President
Friends of the Ridgeland Library

We had a patron call today just to express his appreciation for all that we have done during the covid pandemic. He said that he had heard some complaining about wearing a mask in the library and he wanted to make sure that that wasn't the only side we heard! This nice patron is Chris Boothe, who I just happened to have had in third grade. ☺ He was so appreciative and continued to say thank you. It was so nice to hear such positive things!

I wanted to share this with everyone.

Beverly, Madison

My family and I are really enjoying the online check out process and outside pickup at the library system currently. We’ve had no problems and we thank you for finding a way to make reading available when social gathering is not right now.

Sincerely-
Olivia McCay

Here is today's day brightener. I am doing a Zoom program tomorrow where kids can sign up for different time slots and play the card game "War" with me. This family in the picture is going to be in a time slot. They don't know how to play and their story is below. The program is tomorrow on Mary's birthday. She wanted to be able to play a game.

The library is fulfilling a birthday wish! I'm going to play the birthday song or something when they come in the Zoom meeting. I can't wait!!

Here are the 3 kiddos who will be learning the game.

All 3 are adopted from China.

Shaun (far left) and Joshua are brothers. They're coming over to celebrate Mary's birthday. I'm mom (older mom - ha) to Mary...and this is part of her birthday "wish" to play a game.

Thank you so much.

"See you" tomorrow.

Vicki

I was so very pleased to find your note in my inbox this morning and cannot wait to tell my friends how wonderful and responsive MCLS is to patrons! Thank you for this service and for providing the ability to make a request. I understand sometimes the answer might be "no", but being able to ask, and especially seeing you took the time to answer, makes me feel more a part of the library.

Thank you again and best wishes to you all during this trying time, and always.

Janet Boswell

Thanks for all the work you are doing to make the summer reading program (and all the children's activities) exciting and fun. The packages each week and all the videos are great! It looks like a lot of work, so I'm sure that it is way more work than I can imagine. Thanks again!

Rachel Bonner

What a cute video! Thanks to you and all the youth specialists that have put together these kits. Picked ours up yesterday. I'm thankful for yall and your creativity because these activities will help keep little minds engaged in a new way this summer. Missing our library!

Christine Clemmer

Our family has been so blessed by the Library staff (especially you) in this season of staying home. Just before the library closed, I suspected that would happen and checked out several books for us to have in this season. And we were all glad to have those books to read, as they were something different from what we already owned. In addition, we listened to and read several digital books.

Our family attends Pinelake Church in Madison, and one of that things that our pastor has been talking with us about (through online services, of course) is the idea of being the church and showing some love and kindness to others, even when churches and many other buildings are closed. As we have been thinking about where we would like to show some kindness, we thought of you and the library staff. From story times to Zoom call writing groups and a library card needing renewal in the middle of this season, we have been so blessed by our library. And we are so thankful for the creativity and new ideas and resources that you all have put together and provided for many families and people in Madison. It has truly been a blessing, and you all have gone above and beyond!

And so, our family would like to do something for our library staff. Certainly, I understand that there are many regulations which much be followed out of safety. And we will completely adhere to those. But I do have a couple of ideas, and I would appreciate your letting me know which of these might be best. I know that the policy at library curbside is that librarians are not to take things from patron's cars, and I understand why. But could we have something delivered to the library? Maybe something like Chick Fill A biscuits at breakfast or some milk shakes for afternoon treats? Or some lunch sandwich trays? I know that many restaurants are doing delivery right now. Or if that is not allowed, could we purchase a few books from the library's wish list off a website and have them delivered directly to the library? I am trying to think of something that will bless our Madison Library Staff, but I also want to be sure that we follow guidelines. So, if there is another suggestion, I am open to that!

We are really beyond grateful. Thank you all for working so hard to serve our community.

Sincerely,
Tricia Bethany

I don't know what I'd do without you! I still prefer print books, but digital has been wonderful during this time. I know you've been so busy but I appreciate you so much. Thanks!

Laurie Abraham

Y'all have spoiled me 😊. I just love our Libraries in Madison County ❤️

Cindy Shackelford

Sosie watched your story time today and wanted to send a birthday greeting to your dad. Wow, 90 is quite a landmark birthday! We hope he has a wonderful day!

I love that you're doing these online story times. It has been such a blessing for us as we've been learning at home during the quarantine. With the recent move to Tuscaloosa, it's also really fun for Sosie to see a familiar face reading to her like old times. She takes my phone and gathers all her stuffed animals together for story time and teaches them right along with you. Thank you for sharing your gifts with us! We miss you and hope that you and your sweet family are doing well.

Warm regards,

Meghan

Just wanted to say thanks for posting the solitaire videos! We have loved and it gave me the nudge and help to teach my kids to play. They are loving it! Y'all have done a great job with all the postings and videos. We sure do miss the library though!! Hope you're doing well and staying healthy.

Thanks!
Gini Maddox

While We Were Closed...

MCLS Libraries quickly responded to the COVID-19 pandemic delivering essential services and connecting our communities during a critical and challenging time. Although some wondered “when will the libraries re-open” many more knew that even when our buildings were closed, the libraries were always open. During the year following the initial outbreak, MCLS libraries were committed to serving our patrons...

MCLS libraries continue to provide critical access to the internet. **Over 50%** of MCLS public computer users report no home internet access and rely on Wi-Fi from the library to keep them connected. MCLS provided **free Wi-Fi access** on our grounds even when our buildings were closed to the public. Over **10,200 Wi-Fi sessions** were logged during this time.

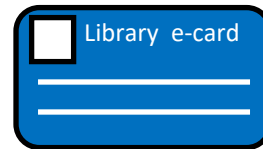


Online resources and public computers were vital lifelines for student success and digital inclusion. During the COVID-19 recovery, MCLS added resources to help students make up for lost ground, aid patrons in application support for government services and employment, and ensure alternative access to the library. MCLS partnered with Tutor.com to provide free tutoring services to students. **Patrons logged 6500 computer sessions, over 9000 online database sessions and attended 171 computer classes .**

As patrons returned to the libraries, over **75,000 patrons** visited the branches, checking out more than **285,000 items** and asking more than **34,000 reference questions.**



MCLS issued over **2100 new digital library cards.**



MCLS added **1855 new digital titles** and saw a **62% increase** in e-book and e-audio book usage.



Staff worked diligently to completely transform the Summer Reading Challenge with online programming and grab and go kits available through curbside pick up for all ages. **12,260 patrons attended 112 programs or picked up kits** and we **gave away 1500 books** at our Summer Reading Challenge drive through book give away.

Our libraries helped **patrons connect with family and friends** while being physically distanced. Patrons attended regular programming through Zoom and Facebook Live and drive through events.



MCLS staff produced **1244 programs** for children, teens and adults with attendance of **over 92,000.** They participated in story times, STEM projects, book clubs, gaming, crafts, cooking, scavenger hunts and more. We also **partnered with PBS and the Mississippi Library Commission** for author visits and arts programming.

Libraries Support Local Small Businesses

Libraries are essential partners in economic recovery, workforce and small business development. During the COVID-19 recovery, **MCLS partnered with Grow with Google to provide additional services to small businesses in Madison County.**

