Elizabeth M. "Beth" Downey

Popular Culture Librarian, Professor
Mississippi State University Libraries
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Education:

M.L.I.S., Library and Information Studies, University of Alabama, 2006

M.S., Mass Communication, University of Southern Mississippi, 2002

B.A., Journalism, University of Mississippi, 1995 (Minor in English)

B.A. program, Washington & Lee University, enrolled 1991-1993

Academic Experience:

Mississippi State University, University Libraries, Professor, Popular Culture Librarian, October 2023-present.

Coordinates, schedules, and assigns library instruction, including information literacy workshops, professor-booked sessions, and full library tours.

Teaches library instruction sessions on how to use library and online resources.

Teaches the Academic Integrity Seminar as part of the Academic Integrity Intervention Program, administered through the Student Honor Code Office.

Creates and maintains subject, departmental, and database research guides, video tutorials, and assessment modules.

Assists library patrons through in-person and virtual reference and other forms of outreach.

Serves as primary subject support to the following departments: Communication, Media & Theater; Sociology (including Social Work and Criminology); Psychology; the School of Human Sciences; and the Film Studies concentration. Supports undergraduate students in the Department of Political Science and Public Administration. Served as co-liaison to the Department of History from 2006-2014.

Coordinated and taught lab for "Critical Writing and Research in Literary Studies" (EN 3414), a required course for English majors.

Manages the Wayne and Jo Durst Script Collection.

Past titles and ranks:

Professor, Teaching & Learning Librarian, July 2023-October 2023

Associate Professor, Communication Librarian, May 2022-June 2023

Associate Professor, Instruction Librarian, July 2013 to May 2022 (Tenure granted 2013)

Assistant Professor, Instructional Services Librarian, September 2006 to June 2013

Network of Alabama Academic Libraries, Intern, June 2006 to August 2006.

Performed cost-benefit analysis on contractual agreement with large academic publisher.

University of Alabama, School of Library and Information Studies, Graduate Research Assistant, August 2005 to May 2006.

Collected data for study on the small literary press in library collections.

Copyedited notes section of *Bohemian New Orleans: The Story of the Outsider and Loujon Press* by Jeff Weddle, University Press of Mississippi, 2007.

University of Southern Mississippi, School of Journalism and Mass Communication, Graduate Teaching Assistant, August 2001 to August 2002.

Taught laboratory component of undergraduate-level radio production and broadcast reporting class.

Other Work Experience:

Amtemps Inc., Nashville, TN, Administrative/Clerical Support, 2003-2005.

Bullseye Marketing Research Inc., Nashville, TN, Callout Research Associate, 2003.

I Heart Radio/Clear Channel Communications, Hattiesburg and Tupelo, MS, Disc Jockey, Producer, Music Director and Public Service Director, 1997-2000.

Mississippi Radio Group (WZLQ-FM, WELO-AM), Tupelo, MS, Disc Jockey and Producer, 1996-1997.

Telesouth Communications (WQLJ-FM), Oxford, MS, Disc Jockey and Producer, 1995-1996.

Publications

Book Chapters:

"Fact-Checking Viral Trends for News Writers." In *Teaching About Fake News: Lesson Plans for Different Disciplines and Audiences*, edited by Candice Benjes-Small, Carol Wittig, and Mary K. Oberlies, 147-162. Chicago, IL: Association of College and Research Libraries, 2021.

Peer-Reviewed Articles:

"*Glee*, Flash Mobs, and the Creation of Heightened Realities." *Journal of Popular Film & Television* 44, no. 3 (September 2016): 128-38. https://doi.org/10.1080/01956051.2016.1142419

(With Karen Davidson) "Graphic Novels in Graduate-Level Library and Information Studies Literature and Materials Courses." *New Review of Children's Literature and Librarianship* 18, no. 1 (April 2012): 67-83. https://doi.org/10.1080/13614541.2012.664427

"Graphic Novels in Curriculum and Instruction Collections." *Reference & User Services Quarterly* 49, no. 2 (Winter 2009): 181-88. https://doi.org/10.5860/rusq.49n2.181

Non Peer-Reviewed Articles:

(With Sheryl Lyn Bundy, Connie K. Shih, and Emily Hamilton-Honey) "A *Glee*-ful Collaboration: Academic Networking in the Tumblr World." In "Tumblr and Fandom," edited by Lori Morimoto and Louisa Ellen Stein, special issue, *Transformative Works and Cultures*, no. 27 (2018). https://doi.org/10.3983/twc.2018.1243

(With Stephen Abram) "Our User Experience: Puzzle Pieces Falling into Place--Workshop Report." *Serials Librarian* 55, no. 3 (October 2008): 461-68.

Presentations and Poster Sessions

National:

"Let's Get This Show on the Shelf! Staging a Script Collection at an Academic Library." Presentation at the Joint Conference of the National Popular Culture & American Culture Associations, New Orleans, LA, April 18, 2025.

"The Greatest Misinformation Meme Ever Made: What *Goncharov* Can Teach Us About Media Literacy." Presentation at the Joint Conference of the National Popular Culture & American Culture Associations, Chicago, IL, March 30, 2024.

"DIY Disinformation: Using Fake Crafting Videos to Combat Fake News." Presentation at the Joint Conference of the National Popular Culture & American Culture Associations, Virtual, April 15, 2022.

"Here Comes the Ratio: Evaluating Twitter to Avoid Reporting Fake News." Presentation at the Joint Conference of the National Popular Culture & American Culture Associations, Virtual, June 3, 2021.

"What Would Barbara Gordon Do? Teaching the Language of Comics to Education Majors." Presentation at the Joint Conference of the National Popular Culture & American Culture Associations, Washington, DC, April 18, 2019, https://scholarsjunction.msstate.edu/ul-publications/41/.

(Invited Participant) "What Did I Get Myself Into: Lessons Learned from Academic Writing and Publishing in Popular Culture 2.0." Roundtable at the Joint Conference of the National Popular Culture & American Culture Associations, Washington, DC, April 18, 2019.

"Teaching the Teachers: Introducing Comics with Library Instruction." Poster Session at the American Library Association Annual Conference, New Orleans, LA, June 23, 2018, https://scholarsjunction.msstate.edu/ul-publications/2/.

"Using Popular Culture to Teach Academic Integrity." Presentation at the Joint Conference of the National Popular Culture & American Culture Associations, San Diego, CA, April 13, 2017, https://scholarsjunction.msstate.edu/ul-publications/40/.

"Incorporating Graphic Novels and Comics into Library Instruction." Presentation at the Joint Conference of the National Popular Culture & American Culture Associations, Washington, DC, March 28, 2013, https://scholarsjunction.msstate.edu/ul-publications/42/.

"So You Think You Can Dance: The Phenomenon of Library Flash Raves." Presentation at the Joint Conference of the National Popular Culture & American Culture Associations, Boston, MA, April 13, 2012, https://scholarsjunction.msstate.edu/ul-publications/43/.

(With Karen Davidson) "Graphic Novels on Campus: Academic Collaboration and Outreach with the K-12 Community." Poster session at the American Library Association Annual Conference, Washington, DC, June 26, 2010.

Regional:

"It's Not Unusual: Glee and the Mainstream Acceptance of Spontaneous Public Performance." In the panel *The Show Must Go All Over the Place: Glee and Off-Screen Cultural Transformations*. Presentation at the Mid-Atlantic Popular American Culture Association Conference, Baltimore, MD, November 7, 2014.

State:

(With Blair Booker) "Composition and Collaboration Amid COVID." Presentation at Mississippi Library Association Virtual Annual Conference, 2020.

"Lessons Learned: Bringing Insights from Immersion to Mississippi State University Libraries." Poster session presented at Mississippi Library Association Annual Convention, Jackson, MS, 2011.

(With Karen Davidson) “Graphic Novels on Campus: Collaboration and Outreach with the K-12 Community.” Poster session presented at Mississippi Library Association Annual Convention, Hattiesburg, MS, 2009.

“Incorporating Information Literacy into the Workforce.” Workshop presented at the Mississippi Association of Career and Technical Education Conference, Raymond, MS, 2009.

(With Deborah Lee) “MegaResource School Librarian Workshops: Forging Strategic Alliances.” Poster session presented at Mississippi Library Association Annual Convention, Vicksburg, MS, 2007.

Local:

(Moderator) “Plagiarism & Research Ethics: A Faculty Roundtable,” Mississippi State University, April 4, 2024.

“Comics In the Classroom: Engage Visual Learners!” Session presented at the MegaResource School Librarian Workshop #22, Mississippi State University, 2024.

(Panelist) “BANNED: Graphic Novels Panel Talk.” Mississippi State University, October 3, 2023.

“Fake or Fact? Tools for Combatting Online Disinformation.” Session presented at the MegaResource School Librarian Workshop #20, Mississippi State University, 2020.

“Coming of Age in a Social Media Environment.” Session presented at the MegaResource School Librarian Workshop #19, Mississippi State University, 2019.

“Teaching Students How to Manage Their Online Presence.” Session presented at the MegaResource School Librarian Workshop #19, Mississippi State University, 2019.

“Graphic Novels & Comics in K-12 Libraries.” Session presented at the MegaResource School Librarian Workshop #17, Mississippi State University, 2017.

“MAGNOLIA for Elementary Schools.” Session presented at the MegaResource School Librarian Workshop #17, Mississippi State University, 2017.

“Using MAGNOLIA Databases for the Elementary Classroom.” Session presented at the MegaResource School Librarian Workshop #16, Mississippi State University, 2016.

“Citation 101: Teaching Students How to Avoid Plagiarism.” Session presented at the MegaResource School Librarian Workshop #16, Mississippi State University, 2016.

“Using MAGNOLIA Databases for the Elementary Classroom.” Session presented at the MegaResource School Librarian Workshop #15, Mississippi State University, 2015.

"Citation 101: Teaching Students How to Avoid Plagiarism." Session presented at the MegaResource School Librarian Workshop #15, Mississippi State University, 2015.

"Using MAGNOLIA Databases." Session presented at the MegaResource School Librarian Workshop #14, Mississippi State University, 2014.

"Plagiarism 101: Teaching Students How to Avoid Plagiarism." Session presented at the MegaResource School Librarian Workshop #14, Mississippi State University, 2014.

"Using MAGNOLIA Databases." Session presented at the MegaResource School Librarian Workshop #13, Mississippi State University, 2013.

"College Prep: Helping Students Avoid Plagiarism." Session presented at the MegaResource School Librarian Workshop #12, Mississippi State University, 2012.

"Using MAGNOLIA Databases." Session presented at the MegaResource School Librarian Workshop #12, Mississippi State University, 2012.

"An Introduction to Graphic Novels." Session presented at the MegaResource School Librarian Workshop #11, Mississippi State University, 2011.

"MAGNOLIA Reference Resources." Session presented at the MegaResource School Librarian Workshop #11, Mississippi State University, 2011.

(With Devon Brenner) "Graphic Novels in the K-12 Classroom." Session presented at the MegaResource School Librarian Workshop #10, Mississippi State University, 2010.

"MAGNOLIA Database Training." Session presented at the MegaResource School Librarian Workshop #10, Mississippi State University, 2010.

(With Karen Davidson) "Introducing Graphic Novels to a K-12 Curriculum: Selection Tools and Resources." Display presented at the MegaResource School Librarian Workshop #9, Mississippi State University, 2009.

"MAGNOLIA: An Overview." Session presented at the MegaResource School Librarian Workshop #9, Mississippi State University, 2009.

"Genealogy 2.0: Using Famiva for Family Tree Collaboration." Workshop presented at 10th Annual Regional Genealogical Fair, Mississippi State University, 2008.

"Using Web 2.0 to Build Your Family Tree from The Roots Up." Workshop presented at Mississippi Library 2.0 Summit, Mississippi State University, 2008.

"MAGNOLIA Databases: A Refresher." Session presented at the MegaResource School Librarian Workshop #8, Mississippi State University, 2008.

"Google 101: An Introduction." Session presented at the MegaResource School Librarian Workshop #7, Mississippi State University, 2007.

Professional Service Activities

National:

Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association

Area Chair, Libraries, Archives, Museums and Popular Culture Subject Area, 2023-present.

Member, VP Committee for Area Chairs, 2022-present.

Member, VP Committee for Awards, 2021-present.

Governing Board Member/Trustee, elected to three-year term 2018-2021, reelected 2021-2024. Secretary, 2022-2024.

Chair, Strategic Planning Journal Subcommittee, 2024.

Member, Elections Committee, 2022-2024.

Member, Branding, Recruitment and Publicity Committee, 2022-2024.

Member, General Conference Committee, 2022-2024.

Member, President's Committee for VP Duties, 2019.

Member, VP Committee for Curriculum and Instruction, 2019-2020.

Member, Graduate Student Committee, 2019-2024.

Member, Strategic Planning Subcommittees (3) for Diversity and Inclusion, Public Engagement, and Digital/Virtual Presence, 2019-2022.

Member, PCA Fiftieth Anniversary Committee, 2021-2024.

Member, judges' panel, Allen Ellis Digital Research Award (previously PCA/ACA Award for Best Electronic Reference Site), 2015-present.

American Library Association

Member, Will Eisner Graphic Novel Innovation Grant jury, 2017-2018.

Virtual Member, Library Instruction Round Table, LIRT Liaison Committee, 2015-2017.

Member, Graphic Novel & Comics in Libraries Member Initiative Group, 2011-2018; Graphic Novels & Comics Round Table, 2018-2019.

Member, Association of College & Research Libraries-Instruction Section, Information Literacy in the Disciplines Committee, 2011-2013.

Member**,** New Members Round Table, Marshall Cavendish Award Committee, 2010-2011.

Member, New Members Round Table, President's Program and Membership Meeting Committee, 2008-2009, 2010-2011.

Chair, New Members Round Table, Student Chapter of the Year Award Committee, 2009-2010; Member, 2007-2009.

Member, New Members Round Table, Nominating Committee, 2009-2010.

Member, New Members Round Table, Liaison Coordination and Support Committee, 2007-2008.

State:

Mississippi Library Association

Member, Scholarship Committee, 2016.

Member, Awards Committee, 2015.

Secretary/Treasurer, MLA-Association of College and Research Libraries Section, January 2008-January 2009.

Member, Internal Audit Committee, 2007-2009.

Member, Archives and History Committee, 2007-2008.

University:

Steering Committee, Global Tourism & Hospitality Degree Program, August 2024-present.

Elected to MSU Faculty Grievance Panel, 2016-2018.

Member, Honor Code Program Coordinator Search Committee, September 2012.

Volunteer, "Moving You to MSU" (MVNU2MSU) freshman move-in day, August 2011.

Library-Current:

Member, MSU Libraries Promotion and Tenure Committee, July 2013-present (***Chair,*** July 2018-June 2019; July 2023-June 2025).

Member, Research Committee, September 2021-present.

Library-Past:

Representative, Dean's Advisory Council, July 2023-June 2024.

Member, Student Advisory Committee, June 2023-June 2024.

Member, Assessment Committee, September 2017-June 2024.

Co-Chair, Subject Support Program Committee, July 2022-May 2023.

Member, Collection Development Committee, September 2006-2021.

Member, Honors and Undergraduate Student Committee, September 2019-September 2021.

Member, Electronic Resources Evaluation Committee (EREC), November 2016-September 2019.

Member, Distance Education Committee, July 2015-August 2016; January 2017-September 2019.

Member, Graduate Student Services Committee, July 2015-August 2017.

Member, Information and Digital Literacy Committee, July 2014-August 2017.

Member, LibGuides Development and Standards Committee, July 2014-August 2017.

Member, MegaResource Planning Committee, September 2006-August 2017.

Member, Tutorial Committee, June 2014-June 2015.

Member, Public Relations & Marketing Committee (formerly Publicity & Community Outreach Committee), August 2007-August 2009; October 2010-July 2014.

Member, LEETS (Library E-resource and Emerging Technologies Summit) Planning Committee, November 2012-June 2014.

Member, OPAC Subcommittee, August 2007-August 2012.

Member, National Library Week Committee, August 2007-April 2008.

Member, Mississippi Library 2.0 Summit Planning Committee, March-June 2008.

Member, CONTENTdm User Group Planning Committee, April –July 2008.

Member, Digital Preservation & Access Unit Advisory Committee, February 2008-August 2009.

Referee/Peer Reviewer:

SAGEOpen

Transformative Works and Cultures

Refractory: Journal of Entertainment and Media

Professional Memberships

National:

Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association, 2011-present.

American Library Association (ALA), 2005-2013; 2015-2019.

Graphic Novels and Comics Round Table, 2018-2019.

Library Instruction Round Table, 2015-2018.

ALA New Members Round Table, 2006-2011.

Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL), 2007-2013.

Education and Behavioral Sciences Section, 2011-2013.

Instruction Section, 2007-2013.

Regional:

Mid-Atlantic Popular-American Culture Association, 2014-2015.

State:

Mississippi Library Association, 2007-2020.

ACRL- Mississippi Chapter, 2007-2013.

Professional Development and Continuing Education

National:

55th Annual Conference of the Popular Culture Association & American Culture Association, New Orleans, LA, April 2025 (presenter).

54th Conference of the Popular Culture Association & American Culture Association, Chicago, IL, March 2024 (presenter).

53rd Conference of the Popular Culture Association & American Culture Association, San Antonio, TX, April 2023.

52nd Conference of the Popular Culture Association & American Culture Association, Virtual, April 2022 (presenter).

51st Conference of the Popular Culture Association & American Culture Association, Virtual, June 2021 (presenter).

49th Conference of the Popular Culture Association & American Culture Association, Washington, DC, April 2019 (presenter and roundtable participant).

American Library Association Annual Convention, New Orleans, LA, June 2018 (presenter).

47th Conference of the Popular Culture Association & American Culture Association, San Diego, CA, April 2017 (presenter).

American Library Association Annual Convention, Orlando, FL, June 2016.

43rd Conference of the Popular Culture Association & American Culture Association, Washington, DC, March 2013 (presenter).

42nd Conference of the Popular Culture Association & American Culture Association, Boston, MA, April 2012 (presenter).

ACRL Institute for Information Literacy Immersion Program - Teacher Track, Seattle University, Seattle, WA, July 2011.

American Library Association Annual Convention, New Orleans, LA, June 2011.

American Library Association Annual Convention, Washington, DC, June 2010 (presenter).

ACRL Conference, Association of College and Research Libraries, Seattle, WA, March 2009.

American Library Association Annual Convention, Anaheim, CA, June 2008.

American Library Association Annual Convention, Washington, DC, June 2007.

American Library Association Annual Convention, New Orleans, LA, June 2006 (as student).

Regional:

Midwest Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association 2018 Conference, Indianapolis, IN, October 2018.

Mid-Atlantic Popular & American Culture Association 25th Annual Conference, Baltimore, MD, November 2014 (presenter).

State:

Mississippi Library Association Annual Convention, Virtual, October 2020 (presenter).

Mississippi Library Association Annual Convention, Jackson, MS, October 2011 (presenter).

Mississippi Library Association Annual Convention, University of Southern Mississippi, Hattiesburg, MS, October 2009 (presenter).

Mississippi Library Association Annual Convention, Natchez, MS, October 2008.

Mississippi Library Association Annual Convention, Vicksburg, MS, October 2007 (presenter).

SOLINET Course, "Information Literacy: The Shape of Future Instruction," Mississippi State University, September 2006.

Honors and Awards

Mississippi Office of the Governor and U.S. Department of Education, Governor's Emergency Education Response (GEER) Fund, "Using MAGNOLIA Resources to Enhance Remote Learning" (co-instructor), awarded December 2020.

Mississippi Public Service Commission, Certificate of Recognition, Oktibbeha County Citizen Task Force on High-Speed Internet and Cellular Telephone Service, 2019.

Association of College & Research Libraries Institute for Information Literacy Immersion Program (Teacher Track), 2011.

Beta Phi Mu, Beta Kappa Chapter (University of Alabama), inducted 2007.

Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society, University of Southern Mississippi, inducted 2002.

Gamma Beta Phi Society, University of Southern Mississippi, inducted 2002.

Media Appearances

Glickman, Willa. “Here’s Why You’re Seeing Gross Viral Recipes on Your Subway Commute.” *Hellgate NYC,* 11 April 2023, https://hellgatenyc.com/heres-why-youre-seeing-gross-viral-recipes-on-your-subway-commute/.

Drysdale, Kirsten. “REVIEWED: “How to Cook That” with Ann Reardon - YouTube's Baking Queen turned TRUTH Warrior!” *YouTube*, uploaded by The Internet, Reviewed, 16 June 2025, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=69QwfCYJ8u4&t.

Other Certifications

Institutional Review Board Human Subject Training valid through May 2028.

MSU LGBTQ Safe Zone Training Program and Ally Certification, 2014.