services to the homeless and economically disadvantaged so we would like your ideas and comments on this problem.

- x Could use entire course on homelessness in public libraries
- x Need to consider also how to protect patrons from homeless with mental problems
- x Safety should be primary concern; one attendee notes that they welcome homeless but also have had to develop and enforce policies for safety, offensive behavior (violators will be asked to leave and banned for period of time but need security personnel to enforce)
- x Could compile resources and services to help homeless; attendee said they created a one-sheet of services and staff checks accuracy periodically
- x Need for staff training to deal with homeless, those with mental problems

4. What do we need to be teaching students before they do a practicum?
- x Budget and financing (we have had requests for advance management courses; College of Business offers online Graduate Certificate in Business Foundations, which is a great option so we recommend that)
- x Importance of networking, basic writing and grammar
- x Critical thinking skills
- x W Œ • v š š] } v • I] o o • V Z } Á š } } ((š] À ‰ % Life After š š v Œ Death by W W- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MjcO2ExtHso
- x USM attendee recommended using online resources of Speaking Center
- x Students need to practice job interview and presentation skills in front of an audience to become skilled and comfortable in job interviews.

5. Any final comments, suggestions?
- x Need to tech more technology and technical skills (Dr. Welsh requested that attendees send her info about any new technology they think would be useful for students)
- x Need course or course content on incarcerated youth, partnerships with Big House Books t perhaps special topic for LIS 670
- x Need to provide students more info on different areas of librarianship (Dr. Creel noted that our podcasts of various librarians we sped in BB is no longer available and we need to create some new ones; she asked for librarians and archivists to send us podcasts of themselves and what a typical day for them is like).

Southern Miss School of Library & Information Science

- x More grant information
- x Personnel management
- x Conflict resolution
- x Workshop on facility maintenance
- x Planning/library space utilization
- x Safety and security, liability

4. What topic would you like to see less of or deleted from online classes?
    - x No response

5. We are thinking of adding a certificate related to library analytics or library science and technology that could include spatial analysis (GIS), advanced database searching and/or analysis, database development, etc.: a)

x   Yes, definitely would like to see specialist degree and doctoral degree offered.

9.

Southern Miss School of Library & Information Science
Focus Group
Mississippi Library Association Annual Conference

Natchez, Mississippi, October 22, 2015

Greeting and recap of overview of new things (handouts for LIS BS and MLIS)

- x New undergrad course Public Libraries based on feedback from previous focus groups, spring course on Library Planning and Design
- x More flexible admission requirements, GRE or Miller Analogies
- x In process of approval development MLIS/IT quality certs
- x Hiring new faculty, fall 2016
- x New Council on Community Literacy and Reading directed by Dr. Bomhold
- x New endowed LIS scholarship fund to honor Dr. Elizabeth Haynes
- x New recruitment materials, alum listserv

- x School library practicum should replace collection development course t school librarians noted that school libraries are so different from public and academic that 511 was not very useful for them t seemed to be more for public or academic libraries
- x School librarians thought it would be more useful to do a 150 hour school library practicum with some collection development readings and activities for school libraries.
- x

Southern Miss School of Library & Information Science

Focus Group

Mississippi Library Association Annual Conference

Vicksburg, Mississippi, October 15, 2014

Greeting and introduction of SLIS faculty

Questions:

1. What are we doing right? What do you like that you would like to see us do more?
   - x Ethics course should be core/required coverage in 605 and 636 good but full course would be more useful to students
   - x

Additional comment sent via email, October 20, 2013:

--I've been associated with the department in different capacities since the early 1990s. The leadership of the department has always been strong and firm, but also very caring and accessible. I'm glad to see that Dr. Haynes is now director. I know she'll continue the department's well-established commitment to the field, and to students and librarians that are facing new and evolving challenges in a rapidly changing world.

--The previous director, in the tradition set forth by other such notable school heads as the venerable Professor Albus Percival Wulfric Brian Dumbledore, was known to sign student admission letters with green ink (although she insists that it was done only because all other colors of ink were conspicuously missing from the supply closet. I'm not quite sure of that statement's veracity, however). Might I suggest that Dr. Haynes consider continuing this tradition? It may be quite the inspiration to new students who understand its significance.

--It's great to see new faculty, especially someone who specializes in public libraries. Many of the public librarians in our state are often not specifically educated in library and information science, but rather competent workers who have been promoted to managerial positions. Faculty who can focus on teaching skills specific to this area of the field and on recruiting practitioners to the program are a welcome addition.

--Which leads me to a question. Have the Library Commission and SLIS collaborated on any continuing education or recruitment opportunities? Has the faculty/staff of SLIS considered presenting one of the many continuing education day and half-day courses that the library commission offers? Or perhaps accompanying representatives on site visits to better understand the current state of our public libraries, and receive feedback from librarians? Putting a human face to SLIS, especially to areas that rarely attend conferences or only allow system directors to travel, may be beneficial in both understanding practitioners and gaining new students. Realistically, I understand that time and budget limitations may not make any of this feasible.

--One of the big challenges my library system is facing is the cost limitations of downloadable ebooks. They are in high demand by the public, but the current plans available are not library friendly, and for us, still cost prohibitive.

--I've spoken with two SLIS graduate students over the past few months who both took their comprehensive exams. While admittedly nervous about their exams, both students were glad to see a wide variety of questions to choose from, and both felt they were prepared for entering the workplace as library professionals.

--Love the website--simple and easy to navigate.

--Last but not least, your table at MLA, even viewed only through facebook, was very eye catching and professional.