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Finding aid for the Mississippi State Textbook Purchasing Board Minutes Collection

MUM01731

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ACCESS RESTRICTION

Open for research. This collection is stored at an off-site facility. Researchers interested in using this collection must contact Archives and Special Collections at least two business days in advance of their planned visit.

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SUMMARY INFORMATION

Repository

University of Mississippi Libraries

Creator

Mississippi State Textbook Procurement Commission;

Creator

Mississippi State Textbook Purchasing Board

Title

Mississippi State Textbook Purchasing Board Minutes Collection

ID

MUM01731

Date [inclusive]

1940-1987

General Physical Description note

1 box (.417 linear feet)

Location:

Modern Political Archives

Abstract:

Copies of the Mississippi State Textbook Purchasing Board minutes from 1940 to 1987.

Preferred Citation

Mississippi State Textbook Purchasing Board
Minutes Collection, Archives and Special Collections,
J.D. Williams Library, The University of Mississippi

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HISTORICAL NOTE

Over the course of three different political campaigns, Paul B. Johnson Sr. supported free textbooks for school children. After winning the governor's office in 1940, the Mississippi Legislature passed a bill creating the Mississippi State Textbook Rating & Purchasing Board "to select, purchase, and distribute textbooks for the eight elementary grades." Two years later the legislature established a similar textbook program for the high schools. Originally, the governor selected board members, but a 1946 amendment allowed the state superintendent of education to choose "competent professional trained educators in each of the fields." That same year, the name changed to the Mississippi State Textbook Purchasing Board. By 1950, another amendment granted local selection of textbooks. In 1960, the board comprised three educators selected by the state superintendent of education and four individuals appointed by the governor. The last meeting of the Mississippi State Textbook Procurement Commission took place on 10 June 1987, after which the Mississippi State Department of Education assumed the commission's responsibilities.

Although many of the textbook decisions proved mundane, the Board also confronted more controversial issues including matters related to race relations. In 1973, the Supreme Court ruled in *Norwood v. Harrison* that the Board's practice of providing free textbooks to segregated private schools was unconstitutional. When the Board rejected the 1974 history textbook *Mississippi: Conflict and Change* due to its coverage of the civil rights movement, the authors sued and won in federal court.

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SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection consists entirely of copies of the typed minutes of the Mississippi State Textbook Rating and Purchasing Board (1940-46), the Mississippi State Textbook Purchasing Board (1946- 1981), and the

Mississippi State Textbook Procurement Commission (1981-1987). Occasionally, letters and other documents appear in the record (the pagination noted on the documents and in the finding aid originated with the Board; pagination may or may not reflect additional documents incorporated by that agency within the minutes). In addition to details of the meetings, the minutes also include lists of approved textbook titles and publishers for each subject in each grade. Consequently, the minutes offer researchers insights into the textbook decision making process as well as details regarding the instruction material available in the state's classrooms.

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ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Publication Information

University of Mississippi Libraries

Access Restrictions

The Mississippi State Textbook Purchasing Board Minutes Collection is open for research & [digitally available](#).

Copyright Restrictions

The copyright law of the United States (Title 17, United States Code) governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted material. Under certain conditions specified in the law, libraries and archives are authorized to furnish a photocopy or other reproduction. One of these specified conditions is that the photocopy or reproduction is not to be "used for any purpose other than private study, scholarship or research." If a user makes a request for, or later uses, a photocopy or reproduction for purposes in excess of "fair use", that user may be liable for copyright infringement.

Additions

No further additions are expected to this collection.

Acquisition Information

In 2009-2010, William and Rita Bender spent a year-long sabbatical at the University of Mississippi teaching a course at the Law School on the deliberate denial of education for African Americans and the need for restorative justice remedies. Research conducted for the course directed their attention to Mississippi State Textbook Purchasing Board, and after some difficulties, they acquired the minutes from the state. The Benders provided copies to the Archives & Special Collections in

April 2010.

Processing Information

Leigh McWhite processed the collection in September 2010, while Jason Kovari created encoded the finding aid.

Alternative Formats

In addition to the physical copies in Special Collections, the Mississippi State Textbook Purchasing Board Minutes are available as a [digital collection](#).

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RELATED MATERIALS

Resources at the University of Mississippi

To review other collections in the Archives & Special Collections with material related to education, see the [Education Subject Guide](#).

Cecil Milton Bryson. "The Place of the Adopted Natural Science Textbook in the Core Field of the Revised Mississippi Curriculum." M.A. Thesis, University of Mississippi, 1938. Call Number: [LD3411.82 B916 1938](#).

Diploma & Certificates Collection. Includes a certificate of appointment to the 6th Congressional District Textbook Commission dated 1905. Finding aid [available online](#).

James O. Eastland Collection. File Series 1, Subseries 22 of this set of twentieth-century congressional papers includes the files of three individuals seeking appointments to the Mississippi State Textbook Purchasing Board or a Mississippi State Textbook Review Committee: Durward L. Harrison (1973), Walter Redden Jr. (1963-1966), and Austin Shipman (1964). Finding aid [available online](#) (1,800 linear feet).

Annie Ruth Lowery. "An Analysis of the Socio-Cultural Content of First through Third Grades Mathematics Textbook Illustration as Related to Black Representation in Mississippi." Thesis, University of Oregon, 1975. Call Number: [QA107 L69](#).

Mississippi Education Collection. Includes a 1967 "Textbook Form" and a circa 1947 broadside "State Owned High School Textbooks." Finding aid [available online](#) (1 box).

Mississippi. Legislature. PEER Committee. *Exceptions to Purchase Contracts of Textbooks Adopted in 1978 by the Mississippi State Textbook Purchasing Board Including a Review of Book Company Payments for Board Secretary's Expenses*. Jackson, MS: The Committee, 1980. Call Number: [LB3045 M572](#).

Mississippi. Legislature. PEER Committee. *An Investigation of the Sale of Sample Textbooks by Board Members and the Executive Secretary of the Mississippi State Textbook Purchasing Board*. [Jackson, MS: The Committee, 1981]. Call Number: [LB3045 M575](#).

Mississippi. Legislature. PEER Committee. *A Report on the State Textbook Depository: Report to the Mississippi Legislature*. [Jackson, MS]: The Committee, 1973. Call Number: [LB3045 M57](#).

Mississippi State Textbook Procurement Commission. *Annual Report of the Mississippi State Textbook Procurement Commission to the Legislature of Mississippi*. [Jackson, MS: The Commission]. [L166 B6](#).

Mississippi State Textbook Purchasing Board. *Annual Report of the Mississippi State Textbook Purchasing Board to the Legislature of Mississippi*. [Jackson, MS: The Board]. Call Number: [L166 B6](#).

Mississippi State Textbook Purchasing Board and Depository School Book Supply Company. *Textbook Administration Handbook: Rules and Regulations for the Distribution, Care and Use of State-Owned Textbooks in Mississippi*. Jackson, MS: The Board. Call Number: [LB3047.5 M7 T49](#).

Small Manuscripts 2000-1. Includes an unpublished manuscript by Fred Arthur Bailey "The Southern Quest for a Suitable Past: Historiography and Social Control, 1890-2000" which discusses textbook controversies in Mississippi and the rest of the South.

Resources at Other Repositories

The Mississippi Department of Archives & History maintains a "Mississippi Textbook Controversy File" documenting the 1970s legal battle over the adoption of *Mississippi: Conflict and Change*.

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CONTROLLED ACCESS HEADINGS

Format(s)

- minutes

Subject(s)

- Education -- Mississippi
- Mississippi State Textbook Procurement Commission
- Mississippi State Textbook Purchasing Board
- Textbooks -- Mississippi

COLLECTION INVENTORY

Box 1

Folder 1: Minutes 23 May 1940 – 18 September 1952
(300 pages)

Folder 2: Minutes 3 October 1952 – 7 May 1963 (250
pages)

Folder 3: Minutes 12 August 1963 – 9 May 1977 (236
pages)

Folder 4: Minutes 11 July 1977 – 9 June 1982 (110
pages)

Folder 5: Minutes 14 July 1982 – 12 February 1986 (139
pages) with additional documents dated 17 March 1986

Folder 6: Minutes 10 March 1986 – 10 June 1987 (78
pages)
