

Sahara Sista SOLS

Education

- **Master of Science, Information Sciences (MSIS)**
University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN | 2022
Diversity, Inclusion, Equity Badge
 - **BFA, Communication, Theatre Studies, & Art Therapy**
Buena Vista University, Storm Lake, IA | 2015
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Library Experience

Library Resident

Clemson University Libraries, Clemson, SC | 2023–Present

- Engaging with diverse stakeholders, including funders, scholars, and visitors, about Clemson University's collections, research resources, Adobe Studio, & MakerSpace.
- Deliver research and literacy instruction for diverse user groups, including "Writing & Research" sessions for English 1030. Answers reference questions regarding collection access, permissions, and copyright to students, faculty, staff, and community.
- Facilitate oral history projects in Special Collections & Archives, emphasizing underrepresented narratives, process archive collections, and provide research assistance. Edit and publish the "Tigers in the Archives" podcast using Adobe tools.
- Develop and maintain LibGuides and user-centered resources to enhance access and usability for research
- Engage in outreach events to promote library services and foster community connections.
- Participate in collaborative research projects and professional development to refine public service strategies.

Rotations:

- **Teaching, Learning, & Research:** Gained proficiency in scholarly publishing, open scholarship, and user services.
- **Collections & Discovery:** Observed digitization workflows and metadata management with a focus on enhancing user access.
- **Organizational Performance & Inclusion:** Contributed to marketing, communications, and event preparation for diverse audiences.
- **Administration:** Explored historic properties, operational roles, and organizational restructuring to gain insights into leadership and strategic planning.

Reference & Technology Center Library Assistant

Greenville County Library System, Hughes Main Library, Greenville, SC | 2024-Present

- Provides general research assistance & offers personalized consultations through "Book a Librarian" appointments to support diverse research needs.
- To patrons, provide instruction and assistance in using computers, printers, microfilm equipment, and photocopiers.
- Performs searches in online databases.
- Assist in training, development, and managing volunteers.

Publications Manager

Mid-Continent Public Library, Kansas City, MO | 2022-2023

- Handled copyright and intellectual property issues relating to publishing and the special collections.
- Served as Story Center liaison for staff, community, and partners while educating MCPL staff and customers on the printing and publication services.
- Served as a professional representative and spokesperson for the Story Center.
- Represented the Woodneath Press imprint at conferences, community presentations, etc.
- Managed and maintained the Woodneath Press budget and kept records for royalties.
- Operated and maintained the Espresso Book Machine and Archival tools.
- Developed and facilitated "Publishing Options and Opportunities" and additional programs.
- Maintained relationships with Pressbooks, Ingram Sparks, and other publishing vendors.

Teen Librarian

Lawrence Public Library, Lawrence, Kansas | 2021-2022

- Oversaw all aspects of teen services operations, including managing and maintaining program budgets, executing monthly reports for administrative review, and coordinating event promotion and registration through BiblioCommons.
- Supervised teen volunteers and service assistants, organized schedules, provided training and conducted evaluations while managing and maintaining the YA collection through regular weeding and updates to align with community needs.
- Collaborated with the Coordinator and other departments to design, execute, and assess innovative programs and services.
- Developed and delivered STEM and Robotics initiatives and programs; led workshops on video game design using Adobe and Blender.
- Secured grant funding to enhance and expand the resources and programming of the Teen Zone.
- Collaborated with community partners to facilitate events and assisted patrons with understanding library policies, programs, and technology.

Teen Specialist II Supervisor

Saint Louis Public Library (Central), St. Louis, MO | 2019–2021

- Managed the Youth services service points, including Children’s and Teen Lounge operations, remote and in-person reference, and Creative Experience services; scheduled and managed the youth services staff desk schedule.
- Supervisor of teen services and manager of four staff, six teen interns and several volunteers, and two homework helpers.
- Compiled and analyzed statistics to execute monthly reports.
- Led training for teen services staff and volunteers ; assisted in staff evaluations with Youth Services Manager.
- Served four months as interim Central Youth Services Manager.
- Collaborated with other supervisors across branches to contribute to SLPL’s evolving teen services.
- Partnered with Creative Experience lab to lead classes on Video Editing, audio editing, and robotics programming.
- Completed collection development of YA/J collections and suggested acquisition purchases
- Planned and implemented programming for tweens, teens, and families.
- Created, edited, and published web content, videos, and booklist.
- Promoted and implemented programs and resources; facilitated stop-motion camps, SLPL Comic Con, and Hip Hop Appreciation Week.

Young Adult Services Provider

Saint Louis Public Library (Central), St. Louis, MO | 2017–2019

- Assisted in planning and implementing programming for teens, children, and families.
- Served on several committees.
- Scheduled outreach to schools and fostered community partnerships.
- Prepared deposit collections for schools, teachers, and organizations as requested.

NON-PROFIT EXPERIENCE

Poetry Director/Poetry Slam Coordinator

UrbArts (Urbstetiks), St. Louis, MO | 2015–2021

Poetry Director

- Collaborated with Founder to develop and monitor the performing arts budget, ensuring alignment with organizational goals.
- Established, improved and maintained UrbArts business processes and workflows for the performing arts sector.
- Oversaw the development and management of contracts related to UrbArts performing arts, including those for artists, vendors, and service providers.
- Oversaw the Art Center’s website, ensuring that content was accurate, and up-to-date, and effectively promoted UrbArts.

- Supervised, mentored, and managed the performance of the UrbArts performing arts sector operations and administration staff, including gallery front desk associates, teachers, and poetry coaches, ensuring they were well-trained and equipped to perform their roles effectively.
- Scheduled and managed the gallery front desk staff, ensuring appropriate coverage and maintaining a high standard of customer service.
- Fostered a collaborative and supportive work environment, encouraging professional growth and development among artists.
- Ensured that all operational and administrative processes were aligned with the mission, values, and strategic objectives.

Poetry Slam Coordinator

- Managed logistics for travel, poetry slams, performances, and visiting artists, ensuring that all arrangements were made efficiently and met the needs of the programs.
- Actively recruited volunteers, defined roles and responsibilities, and provided orientation and training.
- Tracked/reported program performance within established goals and timelines.
- Execute public programming with founder, artists, and partners, including the youth poet laureate program, annual youth poetry slam competitions, annual adult poetry slam competitions, public performances, workshops, and special events.

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

Archivist Assistant

Black Archives of Mid-America, Kansas City, MO | 2020–2022

- Processed archival collections, applied metadata standards and created inclusive descriptions.
- Developed accessible finding aids and contributed to the preservation of underrepresented histories.

Creative Director

Equation Church, St. Louis, MO | 2018–2020

- Produced and directed a full-length theatrical production, overseeing all aspects of video production, stage design, and multimedia storytelling.
- Created and edited intro videos and promotional content using Adobe Premiere Pro and Audition to enhance audience engagement.
- Developed and wrote scripts for video series and live productions, ensuring cohesive messaging and impactful storytelling.
- Managed video production workflows, coordinating lighting, sound, filming, and editing for a high-quality final product.
- Led a creative team in planning and executing digital content strategies for social media and online engagement.

INSTRUCTION

Courses

- Liberation in Verse: Black Poetic and Social Change, Virtual, Online Black History Courses Program, Marshall University, *Forthcoming* Spring 2026.

Courses in which Library Instructional Presentations Were Provided

- ENGL 1030: Composition and Rhetoric, Clemson University, Clemson, SC, 2024-2025.

Workshops

- Keeping Our Stories: Family & Community Oral History, Clemson University, Clemson, SC, Sept 2024, Oct 2024, Nov 2024.
- Writing a Novel in a Year, Hybrid/Virtual, Mid-Continent Public Library, Feb 2023, May 2023, Aug 2023, Nov 2023.
- Publishing Options & Opportunities, Hybrid, Mid-Continent Public Library, 2022-2023.

TEACHING AND RESEARCH INTEREST

- Africana Studies, African American Diaspora, Storytelling, and BIPOC Librarianship
- Creative Research Across Interdisciplinary Disciplines, Library Literacy
- Oral History, Digital Humanities, and Archival Justice
- Emerging Technologies in Libraries & Archives

SCHOLARSHIP

FELLOWSHIPS

John C. Tyson Quasi-Endowment Diversity Fellowship 2021-2022
The University of Tennessee at Knoxville

Katherine Dunham Fellowship 2017
COCA

PRESENTATIONS

“Peer Mentoring as a Superpower: How Resident Librarians/Archivist Achieve Mastery”, Panel, Rare Book Manuscripts Section Conference, Virtual, *Forthcoming* June 2025.

“Navigating a Library Career as a Black Creative”, Presentation, South Carolina Library Association, Columbia, South Carolina, October 2024.

“Generation 5 & the Chitlin' Circuit”, Performance, Sounds of Call My Name, Clemson University, September 2024.

“Voices Often Unheard: A Research Guide of Black Playwrights & Theatre in the Southeast”, Poster Presentation. Association for Theatre in Higher Education Conference. Atlanta, GA, August 2024.

“That Woman: A Chant and Declaration”, Performance. Faculty Women of Color in the Academy National Conference. Arlington, Virginia, April 2024.

“Affrilachia: Designing an Interactive Bibliography of Black Appalachia”, Poster Presentation. Appalachian Studies Association 47th Annual Conference. Western Carolina University, Cullowhee, North Carolina, March 2024.

VISITING ARTIST LECTURE

“Sharing My Narrative & Tech Tools I Use”, guest lecture in FPA 2000 The Arts and Social Change, Saint Louis University, November 2019.

SERVICE

Clemson University Library

- Member, Undergraduate Research Award Committee. Present
- Chair, Undergraduate Research Award Committee. 2024-2025

Professional & Public Organizations

- Member, Social Media & Web Communication ACRL RIG Team. 2023-Present
- Member, St. Louis Storytelling Festival Advisory Council. 2018-2021
- Member, Artist of Color Council, Great Rivers Greenway, 2018-2020

Public Libraries

- Member, DEI Council, Mid-Continent Public Library. 2022
 - Co-Chair, Black & African American Employee Resource Group, Mid-Continent Public Library. 2022
 - Manager, Social Media Team, Lawrence Public Library. 2021-2022
 - Member, Look, Play, Listen Committee, Lawrence Public Library. 2021-2022
 - Co-Chair, Teen/Tweens Committee Co-chair, St. Louis Public Library. 2021
 - Member, Summer @ SLPL, St. Louis Public Library. 2020
 - Member, Programming Committee, St. Louis Public Library. 2019-2021
 - Member, Hip Hop Appreciation Week Committee, St. Louis Public Library. 2017-2019
 - Member, Early Childhood Committee, St. Louis Public Library. 2017-2018
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Key Skills

- Leadership, Team Management, Project Management
 - Public Service, User Experience Design, Usability Testing, Analytics & Evaluation, Data Management
 - Digital Tools: Alma, Primo, ArchivesSpace, Adobe Creative Cloud, Canva, Dreamweaver, Blender, DaVinci Resolve, iMovie, PowerDirector 365, Pinnacle Studio, Microsoft Suite, WordPress
 - Metadata & Programming: DACS, MARC, Dublin Core, Java, HTML/CSS, Python
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Professional Memberships

- American Library Association (ALA)
- Black Caucus of the American Library Association (BCALA)
- Public Library Association (PLA)