

# Report: “Mississippi Libraries Ordered to Delete Academic Research in Response to State Laws”

April 9, 2025 by [Gary Price](#)

From [Mississippi Today](#):

A state commission scrubbed academic research from a database used by Mississippi libraries and public schools — a move made to comply with recent state laws changing what content can be offered in libraries.

[The Mississippi Library Commission](#) ordered the deletion of two research collections that might violate state law, a March 31 internal memo obtained by Mississippi Today shows. One of the now deleted research collections focused on “race relations” and the other on “gender studies.”

[Clip]

“The memo did not cite the specific state laws that prompted the deletion of research material related to race and gender. But in a phone interview, [Mississippi Library Commission Executive Director Hulen] Bivins cited a 2023 law that regulates digital resources available to minors in public libraries, focusing on “obscene materials.” Bivins said there were other laws that warranted the deletion, but he could not remember all of the specific laws when asked.”

[Clip]

The two research collections state officials ordered for deletion included material from professional journals, conference papers, books, student dissertations, periodicals and newspaper articles.

The [Gender Studies Database](#) included academic content from 377 peer reviewed journals. Subjects include, “Gender inequality, Masculinity, Post-feminism (and) Gender identity.” The other deleted database, titled “[Race Relations Abstracts](#)” focused on a wide range of subjects, including “Ethnic studies, Discrimination, Immigration studies (and) Ideology.”

[Clip]

In his memo, Bivins said individual libraries could potentially maintain two databases at their own cost through EBSCO, the platform that feeds information into MAGNOLIA, the state run database. But library employees were left uncertain about what sort of academic material might violate state law, and what other research could be wiped from the state database without warning.

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## About Gary Price

Gary Price ([gprice@gmail.com](mailto:gprice@gmail.com)) is a librarian, writer, consultant, and frequent conference speaker based in the Washington D.C. metro area. He earned his MLIS degree from Wayne State University in Detroit. Price has won several awards including the SLA Innovations in Technology Award and Alumnus of the Year from the Wayne St. University Library and Information Science Program. From 2006-2009 he was Director of Online Information Services at Ask.com.

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