

## **Part 2 Chapter 4: Policy for Certification of Copies**

*(Adopted by the Board of Trustees on October 16, 2009; Amended July 31, 2015)*

### *Rule 4.1.*

- A.** Division staff must produce all copies that are to be certified.
- B.** A fee will be assessed for each page for which a certified copy is made. This fee is in addition to other established reproduction or reformatting charges for providing copies of record material. The Board of Trustees adopts rules and regulations related to certification. The amount of the certification fee is posted on the Mississippi Department of Archives and History (MDAH) website.
- C.** The MDAH Director will sign the certification statement for copies of records transferred to MDAH under the Archives and Records Management Act of 1981. In his absence the Archives and Records Services Division director is authorized to affix the MDAH Director's signature stamp to the certificate and sign his initials and date of action next to the stamped signature.
- D.** For materials not covered by the Archives and Records Management Act, the Archives and Records Services Division director is authorized to sign a certification statement.

Source: *Miss. Code Ann.* § 25-59-9 (1972, as amended).

## **Part 2 Chapter 6: Policy for Reading Room Access and Reference Services**

*(Adopted by Board of Trustees on October 16, 2009; Amended July 31, 2015)*

### *Rule 6.1 Access to Reading Rooms.*

#### **A. Access:**

Researchers requiring special assistance should notify the receptionist at the lobby registration desk. Every effort will be made to accommodate special needs.

Anyone fifteen years of age or older must have a valid Reading Room Identification Card, which is issued upon successful completion of a card application form, and must register to gain access to the MDAH reading rooms. Persons under the age of fifteen must be accompanied at all times by an adult who is responsible for monitoring the behavior of the child.

Application for a Reading Room Identification Card is made in person at the William F. Winter Archives and History Building.

One of the following forms of valid photographic identification must be presented with the completed application: a state driver's license; a state-issued identification card; a school identification card; or a passport. In the absence of these, other valid photographic

identification may be considered; however, issuance of a Reading Room Identification Card is not automatic.

Individuals who cannot present valid photographic identification will not be issued a Reading Room Identification Card, and consequently cannot enter the reading rooms. Application information, reading room registration, and materials requested are confidential in so far as can be supported by state law (§39-3-365, *MCA 1972*).

Reading Room Identification Cards, issued free of charge, are valid for four years from issuance date. There is a small fee to issue a replacement for a lost, stolen, or damaged card.

Persons disruptive to the research of others will be asked to leave.

**B. Research Areas:**

There are three research areas: the Public Reading Room; the Media Reading Room; and the Archival Reading Room.

**C. Hours of Operation:**

Hours of operation are adopted by the MDAH Board of Trustees, posted on the MDAH website, and are subject to change without notice.

MDAH is closed on state holidays. Other holidays may be observed at the discretion of the Governor and/or the MDAH Director.

**D. Limitations:**

Materials allowed in the reading rooms are pencils, note paper, note cards and tablets, index cards, notebooks, portable electronic devices, sweaters, and shawls.

The following items are not allowed in the reading rooms: outer coats, briefcases, purses, waist packs, backpacks, umbrellas, computer cases, and envelopes. Also, personal books, papers, photographs or other media which could be confused with materials in the MDAH holdings may not be brought into the reading rooms. The use of pens and highlighters in the reading rooms is not allowed, nor are pressure notecards, such as “post its.”

Mobile devices such as cell phones, tablets, and other handheld cameras, scanners, or other mechanical duplicating equipment belonging to the public are allowed in the Public Reading Room only. Exceptions may be made by the division director so long as research activity of other patrons is not disturbed.

Lockers are provided for storage of items not allowed in the reading rooms. MDAH has no responsibility for any loss or damage to materials stored in lockers.

No food, drink, or tobacco products are allowed. As a courtesy to our researchers, a vending refreshment area is located off of the lobby.

The use of cell phones for voice communication is restricted to the lobby.

Upon staff request, researchers must allow staff to inspect items upon entering and leaving the reading rooms.

**E. Access to Records:**

Any researcher possessing a valid Reading Room Identification Card has access to materials available to the public.

Bibliographic access is provided through the online public access catalog (OPAC). Physical access to records is provided in one of the three reading rooms, depending upon the record format and the imposition of security measures related to the record.

Material may not be written on, altered, folded, traced, or handled in any way likely to damage it. It is unlawful for any person to willfully mutilate library materials, punishable as a misdemeanor with a fine not to exceed five hundred dollars or by imprisonment in the county jail not to exceed six months, or by both (§39-3-309, *MCA 1972*).

No material may be removed from the room where originally issued. It is unlawful for any person to remove library materials, without authorization, from the premises wherein such materials are maintained or to retain possession of library materials without authorization (§39-3-303, *MCA 1972*) and is punishable as a misdemeanor with a fine not to exceed five hundred dollars or by imprisonment in the county jail not to exceed six months, or by both (§39-3-309, *MCA 1972*).

When finished with material, researchers should not re-shelve or re-file, but return the material to designated areas in the reading rooms.

Retrieval from the closed stacks ends thirty minutes prior to the closing time.

All research materials must be returned no later than fifteen minutes prior to closing time.

**F. The Archival Reading Room:**

Materials made available in the Archival Reading Room are unique archival materials, published Mississippiana and other rare items. As a result, additional security procedures govern access to these materials.

To enter the Archival Reading Room, the researcher must present the Reading Room Identification Card to the staff member on duty at the entrance. To receive the requested materials, the researcher presents the Reading Room Identification Card at the reference desk. The researcher may check out one container and must sign the call slip. When finished, the researcher returns the container to the reference desk

To exit the Archival Reading Room the researcher must present the Reading Room Identification Card to the staff member for confirmation that all materials have been returned and checked in.

**G. Copying:**

The Reading Room Identification Card also serves as a debit card for use in paying for photocopies, public orders and computer printouts.

MDAH is not responsible for any unused money remaining on a Reading Room Identification Card or for a card that is damaged, lost or stolen.

Reading room staff does not make change or give refunds.

Duplication fees and charges are adopted by the MDAH Board of Trustees, posted on the MDAH website, and are subject to change without notice.

United States copyright law governs the duplication of copyrighted material. The user accepts full responsibility for the duplicated materials and agrees to indemnify MDAH, MDAH staff and the State of Mississippi from any damages as a result of said duplicated materials being made available to any persons, organizations or business without appropriate authorization of MDAH and/or copyright holder(s).

Permission to further reproduce any MDAH material outside of the fair use provisions of Title 17, U.S. Code, in accordance with the Bern Convention for the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works, should be requested of the director of the Archives and Records Services Division prior to duplication.

1. The Public Reading Room:

For material housed in, or delivered to, the Public Reading Room: researchers may use personal mobile devices such as cell phones and tablets to copy said material; or researchers may produce self-service photocopies. The researcher is responsible for the operation of the machine and the resulting quality of the copies. Other reproductions must be requested using an MDAH order form.

2. The Media Reading Room:

Researchers may not use cameras or personal mobile devices such as cell phones and tablets to copy material in the Media Reading Room. Researchers may produce self-service microform prints in the Media Reading Room. The researcher is responsible for the operation of the machine and the resulting quality of the copies. Photographic, electronic or other reproduction formats must be requested using an MDAH order form.

3. The Archival Reading Room:

- a. All photo-duplication of material used in the Archival Reading Room is done by the reference staff, subject to preservation and copyright/donor restrictions.
- b. Researchers may not use cameras or personal mobile devices such as cell phones and tablets to copy material in, or delivered to, the Archival Reading Room.
- c. Requests for some photocopies may be placed on an MDAH copy request form. Electronic scans or other copies must be requested using an MDAH order form.
- d. United States copyright law governs the duplication of copyrighted material. If, in the judgment of MDAH, fulfillment of a duplication request would involve a violation of copyright law, MDAH will not accept the request.
- e. Pre-payment of the cost of copying is required (§25-61-7(1), *MCA 1972*).
- f. Same day completion of a request for plain paper copies submitted on a copy request form is dependent upon the size of the order, the fragility of the archival item(s), and/or the time of day the order is submitted. Copy requests held over may be picked up at the reference desk at a later date or may be mailed at the expense of the researcher. No completion date can be guaranteed.

Source: *Miss. Code Ann.* §§ 29-59-1, 39-3-365, 39-3-303, 39-3-309, 25-61-7(1) (1972, as amended).

*Rule 6.2 Reference Assistance.*

**A. Assistance in the Reading Rooms:**

Reference staff will be available at the main reference desk, located in the center of the Public Reading Room. Satellite reference desks, in the Public Reading Room bibliographic area and the Media Reading Room to provide assistance in locating materials and in operating machinery are maintained as staffing allows. Reference assistance in the Archival Reading Room is available from staff at the main reference desk.

**B. Telephone/Email Reference Service:**

MDAH maintains a reference desk to respond to inquiries submitted by telephone and email. Hours of operation for this desk correspond to that of the Public Reading Room weekday hours. Inquiries that can be answered during the course of a short conversation or email will be answered. All other requests must be submitted in writing.

**C. Written Reference Service:**

All reference requests not answered by telephone must be submitted in writing. Each written request will be allotted up to one hour of staff research time, for which there is a charge.

1. Reference Fees:

Research for written requests will be assessed at an hourly rate. Reference fees must be paid before research begins. The reference fee will provide for the copying and delivery of pages not to exceed a quantity set forth in the current schedule of charges. Reference fees will not be prorated or refunds given for staff research resulting in the production of fewer than the set number of copies provided for in the reference fee. *(BOT 05/15/1992; Amended 10/16/2009; Amended 7/31/2015)* The MDAH Board of Trustees adopts rules and regulations related to reference fees and the quantity of copies included in the reference fees. These fees and quantities are posted on the MDAH website and are subject to change without notice.

If the request is answered by the division staff, and a charge for additional copies in excess of the set number of copies provided for in the reference fee is indicated, the requestor will be notified of the results of the search and the cost for the additional copies, which cost must be prepaid before the additional copies are provided. *(BOT 05/15/1992; Amended 10/16/2009; Amended 7/31/2015)*

If research conducted by division staff yields no results upon the expiration of one hour, a written response indicating what was searched will be sent to the requestor. The requestor may resubmit the request to MDAH. *(BOT 05/15/1992; Amended 10/16/2009)*

2. Reference Response Time:

When response time for written requests is excessive, delay notifications will be mailed upon receipt of all requests subject to said delay, advising the requestor of the approximate time in which a response can be expected. *(BOT 05/15/1992; Amended 10/16/2009)*

Source: *Miss. Code Ann.* §§ 29-59-1, 39-3-1 (1972, as amended).

**Part 2 Chapter 4: Policy for Certification of Copies**

*(Adopted by the Board of Trustees on October 16, 2009; Amended July 31, 2015)*

*Rule 4.1.*

- A. Division staff must produce all copies that are to be certified.
- B. A fee will be assessed for each page for which a certified copy is made. This fee is in addition to other established reproduction or reformatting charges for providing copies of record material. ~~The amount of the certification fee is recommended by the Archives and Records Services Division, approved by T~~ the Board of Trustees; adopts rules and regulations related to certification. The amount of the certification fee is and posted on the Mississippi Department of Archives and History (MDAH) Department Web site website.
- C. The ~~MDAH Department~~ Director will sign the certification statement for copies of records transferred to ~~MDAH the Department~~ under the Archives and Records Management Act of 1981. In his absence the Archives and Records Services Division director is authorized to affix the ~~MDAH Department~~ Director's signature stamp to the certificate and sign his initials and date of action next to the stamped signature.
- D. For materials not covered by the Archives and Records Management Act, the Archives and Records Services Division director is authorized to sign a certification statement.

Source: *Miss. Code Ann.* § 25-59-9 (1972, as amended).

**Part 2 Chapter 6: Policy for Reading Room Access and Reference Services**  
*(Adopted by Board of Trustees on October 16, 2009; Amended July 31, 2015)*

*Rule 6.1 ~~Reading Room Access.~~ Access to Reading Rooms.*

- A. **Access:**  
 Researchers requiring special assistance should notify the receptionist at the lobby registration desk. Every effort will be made to accommodate special needs.

Anyone fifteen years of age or older ~~entering the reading rooms of the Department~~ must have a valid Reading Room Identification Card, which is issued upon successful completion of a card application form, and must register to gain access to the MDAH reading rooms. Persons under the age of fifteen must be accompanied at all times by an adult who is responsible for monitoring the behavior of the child.

Application for a Reading Room Identification Card is made in person at the William F. Winter Archives and History Building.

One of the following forms of valid photographic identification must be presented with the completed application: a state driver's license; a state-issued identification card; a school identification card; or a passport. In the absence of these, other valid photographic identification may be considered; however, issuance of a Reading Room Identification Card is not automatic.

Individuals who cannot present valid photographic identification will not be issued a Reading Room Identification Card, and consequently cannot enter the reading rooms. Application information, reading room registration, and materials requested are confidential in so far as can be supported by state law (§39-3-365, MCA 1972).

Reading Room Identification Cards, issued free of charge, are valid for ~~one~~ four years from issuance date. There is a small fee to issue a replacement ~~card prior to the expiration date~~ for a lost, stolen, or damaged card.

Persons disruptive to the research of others will be asked to leave.

**B. Access by Persons Under the Age of Fifteen:**

~~While the Department encourages the study of history by researchers of all ages, persons under the age of fifteen must be accompanied at all times by an adult who is responsible for monitoring the behavior of the child. Persons disruptive to the research of others will be asked to leave. No strollers or baby carriers are allowed in the reading rooms.~~

**B. Research Areas:**

There are three research areas: the Public Reading Room; the Media Reading Room; and the Archival Reading Room.

**C. Hours of Operation:**

Hours of operation are ~~approved~~ adopted by the MDAH Board of Trustees, posted on the MDAH Department Web site website, and are subject to change without notice.

~~MDAH The Department of Archives and History is closed for the following ten holidays:~~ on state holidays.

- ~~1. New Year's Day~~
- ~~2. Birthdays of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Robert E. Lee~~
- ~~3. Birthday of George Washington~~
- ~~4. Confederate Memorial Day~~
- ~~5. National Memorial Day~~
- ~~6. Independence Day~~
- ~~7. Labor Day~~
- ~~8. Veterans Day~~
- ~~9. Thanksgiving Day, and~~

## ~~10. Christmas Day~~

[Move this sentence to paragraph above.] Other holidays may be observed at the discretion of the Governor and/or the MDAH ~~Department~~ Director.

### **D. Registration:**

~~The researcher must register electronically to gain access to the reading rooms. Registration is accomplished by swiping the Reading Room Identification Card through the turnstile entrance.~~

### **D. Limitations:**

Materials allowed in the reading rooms are pencils, ~~unbound~~ note paper, note cards and tablets, index cards, ~~spiral notebooks without materials in pockets (limit 2), ring binder without materials in pockets (limit 1), small computers (cases must be left in the patron's locker);~~ portable electronic devices, and light wraps such as sweaters, and shawls.

The following items are not allowed in the reading rooms: outer coats, briefcases, purses, waist packs, backpacks, umbrellas, computer cases, and envelopes. Also, personal books, papers, photographs or other media which could be confused with materials in the MDAH Department's holdings may not be brought into the reading rooms. The use of pens and highlighters in the reading rooms is not allowed, nor are pressure notecards, such as "post its."

~~Cameras scanners or other mechanical duplicating equipment belonging to the public are not allowed in the reading rooms. Exceptions for public relations purposes may be made by the Division director so long as research activity of other patrons is not disturbed.~~

Mobile devices such as cell phones, tablets, and other handheld cameras, scanners, or other mechanical duplicating equipment belonging to the public are allowed in the Public Reading Room only. Exceptions may be made by the division director so long as research activity of other patrons is not disturbed.

Lockers are provided for storage of items not allowed in the reading rooms. MDAH ~~The Department~~ has no responsibility for any loss or damage to materials stored in lockers.

No food, drink, or tobacco products are allowed. As a courtesy to our researchers, a vending refreshment area is located off of the lobby.

The use of cell phones for voice communication is restricted to the lobby.

Upon staff request, researchers must allow staff to inspect items upon entering and leaving the reading rooms.

### **E. Access to Records:**

Any researcher possessing a valid Reading Room Identification Card has access to materials available to the public.

Bibliographic access is provided through the online public access catalog (OPAC). ~~Printouts of bibliographic research may be made at certain of these catalogs at a per page charge.~~

[Move this sentence to paragraph above.] Physical access to records is provided in one of the three reading rooms, depending upon the record format and the imposition of security measures related to of the record. ~~The bibliographic record will indicate the specific room. The Public Reading Room contains open shelf browsing for published materials; the Media Reading Room provides self retrieval for microform materials and access to audio visual and electronic material. The Archival Reading Room provides access to archival material, Mississippiana, and rare books. Additional security regulations govern the use of the Archival Reading Room.~~

Material may not be written on, altered, folded, traced, or handled in any way likely to damage it. It is unlawful for any person to willfully mutilate library materials, punishable as a misdemeanor with a fine not to exceed five hundred dollars or by imprisonment in the county jail not to exceed six months, or by both (§39-3-309, *MCA 1972*).

No material may be removed from the room where originally issued. It is unlawful for any person to remove library materials, without authorization, from the premises wherein such materials are maintained or to retain possession of library materials without authorization (§39-3-303, *MCA 1972*) and is punishable as a misdemeanor with a fine not to exceed five hundred dollars or by imprisonment in the county jail not to exceed six months, or by both (§39-3-309, *MCA 1972*).

When finished with material, researchers should not re-shelve or re-file, but return the material to designated areas in the reading rooms.

Retrieval from the closed stacks ends thirty minutes prior to the closing time.

All research materials must be returned no later than fifteen minutes prior to closing time.

#### **F. The Archival Reading Room:**

Materials made available in the Archival Reading Room are unique archival materials, published Mississippiana and other rare items. ~~In most instances, these materials are not available elsewhere.~~ As a result, additional security procedures govern access to these materials.

To enter the Archival Reading Room, the researcher must present the Reading Room Identification Card to the staff member on duty at the entrance. ~~The staff member will confirm that the researcher has requested materials to be delivered to the Archival Reading Room. No one can be admitted to this research area without a valid Reading Room Identification Card.~~ To receive the requested materials, the researcher presents the

Reading Room Identification Card at the reference desk. ~~The staff member on duty uses the card to check out one container of materials at a time to the researcher. The researcher may check out one container and~~ Upon receipt of the container, the researcher must sign the call slip. When finished, the researcher returns the container to the reference desk ~~with the Reading Room Identification Card, which the staff member uses to check in the material.~~

To exit the Archival Reading Room the researcher must present the Reading Room Identification Card to the staff member for confirmation that all materials have been returned and checked in.

#### **G. Copying:**

The Reading Room Identification Card also serves as a debit card for use in paying for photocopies, public orders and computer printouts. ~~A self-service card recharger for placing cash value on the card is available in the bibliographic area of the Public Reading Room.~~

MDAH ~~The Department~~ is not responsible for any unused money remaining on a Reading Room Identification Card or for a card that is damaged, lost or stolen.

Reading room staff does not make change or give refunds.

Duplication fees and charges are ~~approved~~ adopted by the MDAH Board of Trustees, posted on the MDAH Department Web site website, and are subject to change without notice.

United States copyright law governs the duplication of copyrighted material. The user accepts full responsibility for the duplicated materials and agrees to indemnify ~~the MDAH Department of Archives and History, MDAH Department~~ staff and the State of Mississippi from any damages as a result of said duplicated materials being made available to any persons, organizations or business without appropriate authorization of MDAH ~~the Department~~ and/or copyright holder(s).

Permission to further reproduce any MDAH Department material outside of the fair use provisions of Title 17, U.S. Code, in accordance with the Bern Convention for the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works, should be requested of the director of the Archives and Records Services Division prior to duplication.

#### 1. The Public Reading Room:

For material housed in, or delivered to, the Public Reading Room: researchers may use personal mobile devices such as cell phones and tablets to copy said material; or researchers may produce self-service photocopies. Debit card and coin-operated self-service photocopiers are available in the Public Reading Room. The researcher is responsible for the operation of the machine and the resulting quality of the copies. ~~Printouts of bibliographic research may be made at certain~~

~~of these catalogs at a per page charge. These self-service prints can be obtained by using the debit card. Photographic, electronic or other reproduction formats Other reproductions must be requested using an MDAH Department order form.~~

2. The Media Reading Room:

~~Researchers may not use cameras or personal mobile devices such as cell phones and tablets to copy material in the Media Reading Room. Researchers may produce Debit card and coin-operated self-service microform printers are available in the Media Reading Room. The researcher is responsible for the operation of the machine and the resulting quality of the copies. Photographic, electronic or other reproduction formats must be requested using an MDAH Department order form.~~

3. The Archival Reading Room:

- a. All photo-duplication of material used in the Archival Reading Room is done by the reference staff, subject to preservation and copyright/donor restrictions.
- b. Researchers may not use cameras or personal mobile devices such as cell phones and tablets to copy material in, or delivered to, the Archival Reading Room.
- c. Requests for some photocopies ~~are~~ may be placed on an MDAH Department order copy request form ~~available at the reference desk~~. Photographic, Electronic scans or other copies must be requested using an MDAH Department order form.
- d. United States copyright law governs the duplication of copyrighted material. If, in the judgment of MDAH the Department of Archives and History, fulfillment of a duplication request would involve a violation of copyright law, MDAH the Department will not accept the request.
- e. Pre-payment of the cost of copying is required (§25-61-7(1), *MCA 1972*). ~~The researcher must make payment using his research debit card, personal check, or exact change.~~
- f. Same day completion of a request for plain paper copies submitted on a copy request form is dependent upon the size of an the order, the fragility of the archival item(s), and/or the time of day the order is submitted, it is possible that the photo-duplication request may not be completed the same day requested. Duplication Copy requests held over may be picked up at the reference desk at a later date or may be mailed, at the expense of the researcher postage cost. No completion date can be guaranteed.

4. ~~Certified Copies:~~

[See the Policy for Certification of Copies, Part 2, Chapter 4, Rule 4.1.]

- a. ~~Division staff must produce all copies that are to be certified.~~
- b. ~~There will be a charge for each certified item. This fee must be paid before the certification process begins. The certification fee is approved by the MDAH Board of Trustees, posted on the MDAH Department Web site, and is subject to change without notice.~~
- c. ~~The MDAH Department Director will sign the certification statement for copies of records transferred to MDAH the Department under the Archives and Records Management Act of 1981. In his/her absence the Archives and Records Services Division director is authorized to affix the MDAH Department director's signature stamp to the certificate and sign his initials and date of action next to the stamped signature.~~
- d. ~~For materials not covered by the Archives and Records Management Act, the Archives and Records Services Division director is authorized to sign a certification statement.~~
- e. ~~The MDAH Department seal shall be imprinted upon each signature.~~

Source: *Miss. Code Ann.* §§ 29-59-1, 39-3-365, 39-3-303, 39-3-309, 25-61-7(1) (1972, as amended).

*Rule 6.2 Reference Assistance.*

**A. ~~The Public Reading Room Assistance in the Reading Rooms:~~**

Reference staff will be available at the main reference desk, located in the center of the Public Reading Room, ~~must remain at the reference desk.~~ ~~A Satellite reference desks, in the Public Reading Room bibliographic area and the Media Reading Room to provide assistance in locating materials and in operating machinery are is maintained as staffing allows. Reference assistance in the Archival Reading Room is available from staff at the main reference desk.~~

**B. ~~The Media Reading Room:~~**

~~One reference station is in this room. The primary function of this station is to provide assistance in locating materials in the Media Reading Room and to provide assistance in operating the machinery.~~

**C. ~~The Archival Reading Room:~~**

~~Reference assistance is available from staff at the main reference desk.~~

**B. Telephone/Email Reference Service:**

~~MDAH The Department~~ maintains a reference desk to respond to inquiries submitted by telephone, ~~e-mail and email~~, and ~~telefacsimile~~. Hours of operation for this desk correspond to that of the Public Reading Room weekday hours. ~~Limited reference materials are maintained at the telephone reference desk. Telephone~~ Inquiries that can be answered during the course of a short ~~telephone~~ conversation or email will be answered. All other requests must be submitted in writing. ~~Return telephone calls cannot be made.~~

### C. Written Reference Service:

All reference requests not answered by telephone must be submitted in writing. Each written request will be allotted up to one hour of staff research time, ~~for answering the request for which there is a charge.~~

~~If the request is answered by the Division, and a charge for copies is indicated, the requestor will be notified by a letter of the results of the search and the cost for copies, which cost must be prepaid before the copies are provided. (BOT 05/15/1992; Amended 10/16/2009)~~

~~If the request is not answered at the expiration of one hour, the original letter along with an explanatory letter indicating what was searched will be sent the requestor. A list of freelance researchers will be enclosed so that the requestor has the option to contract with them or resubmit the request to the Department, where it will be placed in the requests queue. (BOT 05/15/1992; Amended 10/16/2009)~~

#### 3. Reference Fees:

~~There will be no charge for the hour of research provided to citizens of Mississippi. Out of state requests will be assessed an hourly charge, which must be paid before research begins. (BOT 05/15/1992; Amended 10/16/2009)~~  
~~Reference fees are approved by the MDAH Board of Trustees, posted on the Department Web site, and are subject to change without notice.~~

Research for written requests will be assessed at an hourly rate. Reference fees must be paid before research begins. The reference fee will provide for the copying and delivery of pages not to exceed a quantity set forth in the current schedule of charges. Reference fees will not be prorated or refunds given for staff research resulting in the production of fewer than the set number of copies provided for in the reference fee. (BOT 05/15/1992; Amended 10/16/2009; Amended 7/31/2015) The MDAH Board of Trustees adopts rules and regulations related to reference fees and the quantity of copies included in the reference fees. These fees and quantities are posted on the MDAH website and are subject to change without notice.

If the request is answered by the division staff, and a charge for additional copies in excess of the set number of copies provided for in the reference fee is indicated, the requestor will be notified of the results of the search and the cost for the additional copies, which cost must be prepaid before the additional copies are provided. (BOT 05/15/1992; Amended 10/16/2009; Amended 7/31/2015)

If research conducted by division staff yields no results upon the expiration of one hour, a written response indicating what was searched will be sent to the requestor. The requestor may resubmit the request to MDAH. (BOT 05/15/1992; Amended 10/16/2009)

4. Reference Response Time:

When response time for ~~mail reference~~ written requests ~~exceeds six weeks~~ is excessive, delay notifications will be mailed upon receipt of all requests subject to said delay, advising the requestor of the approximate time in which a response can be expected. (BOT 05/15/1992; Amended 10/16/2009)

5. ~~The priority of responses to reference requests will be as follows:~~

- ~~a. Requests for vital records information~~
- ~~b. Official requests from state government agencies~~
- ~~c. Other requests (BOT 05/15/1992)~~

Source: *Miss. Code Ann.* §§ 29-59-1, 39-3-1 (1972, as amended).