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GEORGIA LIBRARY QUARTERLY



VOLUME 53 NUMBER 4 FALL 2016

GLA SPOTLIGHT

Augusta-Richmond County Public Library System

The Augusta-Richmond County Public Library System (ARCPLS) is comprised of the Headquarters Library and five branches scattered throughout the greater Augusta, Georgia, area. The Headquarters Library was opened in 2010 across the street from the previous main location, transporting services and collections from a 3,500 square foot building to a 95,000 square foot, three floor facility equipped with computers on each level, dedicated children's and YA areas, study rooms, and an auditorium with a collapsible wall, affording versatile uses of the building's largest meeting space.

The remaining five locations include the Diamond Lakes Branch, which shares building space with a recreation/community center known as the hub of a very active sports program serving athletes of all ages. The Freidman and Maxwell Branch libraries are each slated for extensive renovations within the next few years due to a community-backed SPLOST initiative. Upon completion, these branches, having been in existence over a combined seventy years, will be able to continue to serve

their communities within familiar walls using state-of-the-art library fixtures and resources.

Undoubtedly, the hidden jewels of the system are housed in its oldest buildings. The Wallace Branch is one of the most popular meeting room destinations of all of the facilities. Its location, less than five blocks away from the Augusta University Medical Campus (formerly the Medical College of Georgia), next door and



Aerial view of ARCPLS old and new headquarters (old library is top left)

across the street from two high schools, and across the street from a respected preschool, makes it a convenient destination for students of all ages. Its historic significance to the city is

invaluable as it was originally built in the 1950s as the first public library location to specifically serve African-American patrons. Finally, the beautiful Appleby Library occupies a stately, antebellum home that was willed to the system many years ago and is located in one of the oldest neighborhoods in Georgia. Parents regularly remark that their children are the third generation in their family to attend the branch's very popular story times.

A strengthened emphasis on programming is the latest effort by ARCPLS to transform the system into one that leans out into the community to bring patrons into the fold, while not necessarily into the doors. Annual signature programs such as the Augusta Literary Festival,

Star Wars Reads Day, and the Evenings in Appleby Gardens Concert Series regularly draw thousands of attendees. However, lessons on how to become a “virtual patron” teach those unable or unwilling to travel to a branch how to best maximize online resources, such as Georgia Download Destination for book downloads, Zinio for periodical downloads, and Pronunciator and Tumblebooks for distance literacy learning in over eighty languages. GLASS Augusta rounds out the system’s offerings,

providing Talking Books outreach to twenty-one surrounding counties.

Under the leadership of Library Director Mashell Fashion, who has spent the bulk of her thirty-year career with the system, ARCPLS looks forward to honoring its past while simultaneously exceeding goals and is poised to become a model public library system of the future.

GLA SPOTLIGHT

Cobb County Public Library System's Falls Prevention Awareness Initiative

Cobb County Public Library System's Sherry Blomeley and Susan Irvin are engaged in a unique public health initiative.

Blomeley, a Cobb library regional manager, and Irvin, an adult services librarian, are "coaches," leading an evidence-based class designed to assist seniors in reducing the risks of serious falls. The eight week class, "A Matter of Balance: Managing Concerns about Falls," or AMOB, guides participants through strategies for managing falls, avoiding falls, and increasing physical activities. Cobb Senior Services provided their coach training and administers the class.

Blomeley and Irvin first led the class last summer at a Cobb Senior Center. Their second class ran through May at the East Cobb Library. Each class was limited to fifteen people—and both reached capacity before opening. The class was for seniors age fifty-five and up, and the \$30 fee was used largely for class materials.

Blomeley said that AMOB shows how libraries are effective in intervening to address significant community issues. A theme of the class is the ironic reality that seniors who limit activities to avoid falls are more likely to suffer

a serious injury and become socially isolated due to fear of falling. "It's a different format," she said of the librarians-as-coaches approach. "It's about increasing knowledge, increasing confidence, about improving the quality of life overall."

The class is part of the library system's Falls Prevention Awareness Initiative. Launched in 2015, the initiative is centered around the



Cobb County librarians Susan Irvin, left, and Sherry Blomeley

annual Falls Prevention Awareness Day observed nationally in September on the first day of the fall season. Cobb libraries presented nine events, including health screenings, safety checks, and the capstone Falls Prevention Awareness Open House at East Cobb. Participating

organizations included Cobb Senior Services, UGA Cobb Extension, WellStar Health System, Kaiser Permanente Educational Theatre, Georgia Department of Public Health, Shepherd Center, and Emory University Center for Health in Aging.

Injuries due to falls are costly. According to the CDC, national direct medical costs due to falls are \$34 billion annually. In Cobb, public health data shows about one emergency department visit per hour is due to a fall.

Cobb Library Director Helen Poyer said that the partnership with Cobb Senior Services is about enhancing quality of life. "This alignment

demonstrates how public libraries can effectively keep pace with the needs of our older adults by providing meaningful programs and services,” she said.

Irvin said that her experience with the seniors reaffirms the value of libraries to support

community goals like improving public health. “We are very open to community needs,” Irvin said. “The library is a gateway place.”

To learn more about the Falls Prevention Awareness Initiative, please visit:
www.cobbcat.org/falls-prevention.

GLA SPOTLIGHT

Georgia Archives

Thanks to the support of friends, colleagues, and users, the Georgia Archives is once again open five days a week to researchers. Since joining the Board of Regents in July 2013, the number of staff has increased to twenty-five. The archives is also completing postponed projects, including major improvements to the building's systems to increase efficiency and reduce operating costs.



As the state archives of Georgia, the primary focus is on documenting the activities of government. Since the early 1970s, the Georgia Archives has operated a records management program to advise state and local government offices and to promote good recordkeeping practices. In addition to holding the permanent records of the state government, the Georgia Archives operates the State Records Center, where agencies store their temporary records.

As the state archives of one of the original thirteen colonies, the Georgia Archives holds a rich collection of colonial and state records covering nearly three centuries. Holdings include local government records, maps,

photographs, and private collections that complement the official records. Of the 85,000 cubic feet of records in the Georgia Archives, approximately 70,000 are official state records, 6,000 are local government records, and 9,000 are non-governmental materials that supplement the official records.

A special library is part of the main reading room at the Georgia Archives. The library consists of books and periodicals that complement the original records in the archives

and help provide context for the original materials. The collection contains over 23,000 volumes of local, state, and family histories; published law books and codes; transcriptions; and compilations of local records. These library materials must be used onsite and are not available for interlibrary loan.

Archives staff are taking advantage of the University System connections to work more closely with faculty and students to encourage greater use of original records. Public programs are expanding as well. Special history programs have included topics such as the War of 1812 and transportation. Day-long genealogy programs held twice a year are very popular. For several years, the archives has hosted a well-attended Black History Month program, and this year's program was co-sponsored with the Afro-American Genealogy and History Society and the Auburn Avenue Research Library. Lunch and Learn programs on a variety of topics are held the second Friday of every month at noon. The archives has an exhibit

room with climate controlled cases that allows display of original records. Staff develop exhibits to showcase records related to

program topics or to highlight archives collections of interest.



From the PRESIDENT

Every GLA president breathes a sigh of relief when the annual conference concludes without any major problems. For those of you who were able to attend, I hope that you found the conference to be worthwhile.

In this issue of GLQ you will find articles in which others will share information about their experiences at the conference. As this was the last conference under the COMO brand, many joined Gordon Baker and me as we wished a fond farewell to COMO and all that it has meant to us over the years.

I hope that you will mark your calendars for next October 4–6, 2017 and plan to attend the first Georgia Libraries Conference as we all begin a brand-new chapter.

This will be my last letter from the president in GLQ. I want you all to know how much I have enjoyed my year as the president of the Georgia Library Association. It has been a very rewarding experience. It is my hope that many of you will become more involved in GLA with similar results. There are any number of ways to do that. The obvious ones are to serve as an officer of the association, a division, an interest group, or a committee.

But you do not have to hold office in order to participate in GLA. You can contact the chair of one of these groups and ask about ways to get more involved. Maybe you have an idea for a program or an event that would be meaningful to the members that you would be willing to facilitate. Perhaps you have an idea to share with the Membership Committee or would be willing to host a membership “meet-up.” You might want to volunteer to help the Publicity

Committee with social media posts. The Scholarship Committee is always in need of help gathering donations for the annual raffle. Or maybe you have an idea that no one else has ever considered. My advice is to reach out to the 2017 leadership and volunteer. Our association needs you.

Having mentioned the need for volunteers, I would like to close by thanking everyone who volunteered to serve GLA in 2016. I want to call special attention to the entire 2016 leadership team including members of the Executive Board, the chairs of the divisions, interest groups and committees, and the members of the Conference Committee. I believe that we accomplished a lot this year and it took a lot of people to do that. It is dangerous to try to list everyone who has served in a leadership position in GLA this year because I will inevitably leave someone out but I do want to give you an idea of how many people it takes to run the association. So, with apologies to anyone that I omit, I want to thank everyone on the GLA Leadership Team for a great year including:

Kelly Ansley, Eli Arnold, Gordon Baker, Tamika Barnes, Kimberly Boyd, Amy Burger, Sarah Causey, Li Chen, Jean Cook, Wendy Cornelisen, Debra Davis, Ashley Dupuy, Amy Eklund, Virginia Feher, Mack Freeman, Oscar Gittemeier, Sarah Gourley, Kat Greer, Pamela S. Grigg, Ana Guimaraes, Paolo P. Gujilde, Cristina Hernández Trotter, Laura Herndon, Ashley Hoffman, Christina Holm, Julia Huprich, Stephanie Irvin, Stephanie Jones, Lace Keaton, Alan Lebish, Jessica Lee, Casey Long, Sarah Mauldin, Beth McIntyre, Tangela McKibbens, Elizabeth McKinney, Angela Megaw, Kara

Mullen, Geri Mullis, Alice Murphy, Miriam Nauenburg, Jill Prouty, Emily Rogers, Amanda Roper, Rebecca Rose, Katie Shepard, Janice Shipp, Sofia Slutskaya, Rita Spisak, Angela Stanley, Carol Stanley, Blair Stapleton, John Stephens, Ru Story Huffman, Kathryn

Thompson, Emily Thornton, Ariel Turner, Linh Uong, and Micki Waldrop.

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My Own PRIVATE LIBRARY

By Tim Wojcik

I hadn't planned on a move. Still, there I was, looking at a pile of boxes as I began to sort out just where exactly was my personal library. I had labeled the boxes: fiction, biography, coffee table and picture books, kids' books, etc. But in the move, well, you know how it is when you are moving someone else. You just try to pick it up and put it down without breaking anything. Books, usually, are hard to break and so often are found at the bottom of a stack (Exhibit A pictured below).

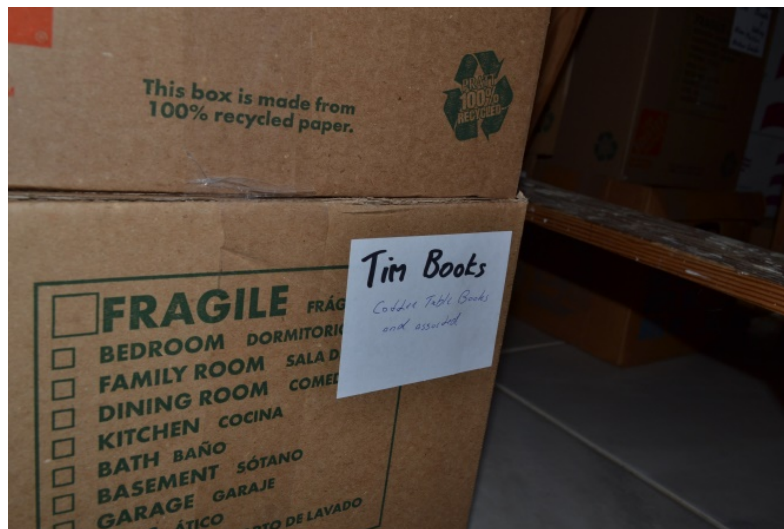
I did take several pictures of the books on their shelves—well, their shelves at the old house.

There is likely to be some new mix n' match. Which of my personal favorites can I prevail upon my wife to place in the one bookcase in the living room? *The Corrections*—probably not. *A Man in Full*—arguably. *Howl!*—no.

The living room will allow me about twelve to fifteen feet of bookshelves. The real personal collection will be in my room—call it the den. So going from these photos and memory, what is this collection? Allow me another few words to explain.

Before working as a librarian, before working in corporate America, I was a bookseller. It was the 1970s, the golden age of the paperback. I

hauled many a paperback from this era: from North to South to Georgia. Eventually, they suffered the fate of too many books—the garage. And after so many years in the garage, a book fails the “smell” test. So paperback titles such as Paul Theroux's splashy yellow covered *The Mosquito Coast*, Aldous Huxley's desperate soul *Brave New World*, Agatha Christie's knife in his back *The Murder of Roger Ackroyd*, and my Hermann Hesse novels all went the way of the recycle. However, I did strip the covers of many of these nuggets and laminated them (garage smell entrapped!).



So what paperbacks survived from the bookstore days? David Halberstam's *The Best and the Brightest*, Tom Wolfe's *The Electric Kool Aid Acid Test*, and (oddly) *Health Secrets of the Orient*. And going back even further, I still

have my *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* from high school. It's a Dell version that is slightly shorter than the standard seven inch tall mass market paperback.

My corporate life coincided with the raising-of-the-kids years. I wasn't buying books for myself, or reading for myself nearly as much as in the bookstore days. One volume in particular survives: Scott Peck's *The Road Less Traveled*. Another title that I read during that time that

will be re-purchased for my collection (the paperback didn't escape the garage) is Annie Dillard's *Pilgrim at Tinker Creek*.

So what of fiction? A double book volume of John Updike's *Rabbit Run* and *Rabbit Redux*, Tolstoy's *War and Peace* (took a summer for that one), two by Tom Wolfe, the aforementioned *Man in Full* and *I Am Charlotte Simmons*, Charles Frazier's *Thirteen Moons*, Jonathan Franzen's *Freedom*, Annie Proulx's *Accordion Crimes*, and Don DeLillo's *Underworld*. All but the Updike and DeLillo are hardcovers.

In various sizes of paperback are: Issac Asimov's *I, Robot* (the movie version with a scowling Will Smith on the spine), *Downtown* by Anne Rivers Siddons, Tom Wolfe's *The Bonfire of the Vanities* (I'm a Wolfe fan), Doug Adams' *Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*, Tom Robbins *Skinny Legs and All*, and Annie Proulx's *The Shipping News*. There is the purchased copy of a title that I had previously borrowed and read—*V* by Thomas Pynchon. And a title from recent history—Francios Lelord's *Hector and the Search for Happiness*.

Non-fiction falls into several categories: biography and history, a mythology to psychology grouping, nature and the natural world, and poetry/everything else. Histories include two more by Halberstam—*The Powers That Be* and *The Fifties*, two by William Manchester—*Goodbye, Darkness* and *The Glory and the Dream*, Frank Snepp's *Decent Interval*, Theodore White's *In Search of History*, and Seymour Hersh's *The Dark Side of Camelot*. Oh, and Eric Idle's *The Greedy Bastard Diary*.

From the natural world, Paul Horgan's *Great River*, Aldo Leopold's *A Sand County Almanac*, Paul Schneider's *The Enduring Shore*, Bill Bryson's *A Walk in the Woods*, and several nature guides: birds, trees, flowers. A dear volume of mine is *Hiking Trails of the Smokies*, which includes my scribbles and dates for each of the trails that I attempted.



Myth to psyche includes Kent Keith's *Anyway*, Grimm's *Fairy Tales*, Harold Courlander's *Fourth World of the Hopi*, Susan Cain's *Quiet*, Gordon MacDonald's *The Effective Father*, and a title by Tim and Joy Downs named *Fight Fair!*

The poetry includes the slim title used as a text for an intro to poetry class I took as a college freshman: *Passionate Attention* by Richard L. McGuire. There's a Sierra Club title called *On the Loose*, a late 1960s picture anthology of snips of poetry on getting out, wandering, the open road, and

more (with evidence of garage time). And, my replacement copy of the City Lights paperback *Howl!*—my first copy was borrowed and never returned.

Other volumes include *The Reader's Digest Complete Do-It-Yourself Manual* (mostly theoretical), a found drafting textbook from my father's era, and Dave Marsh's biography of The Who titled *Before I Get Old*. And I hung onto a used grammar text from high school called *Effective Writing*—to which some wag before me added the letter D in front of the word effective (my mother disapproved).

This book deserves its own paragraph. The dense, audacious, and still relevant *Understanding Media: The Extensions of Man* by Marshall McLuhan. Haven't quite finished it.

I continue to haul around two specialty dictionaries. There is the full-sized thumb indexed *American Heritage Dictionary, Third Edition*—well suited to the physical act of looking up an evergreen word and then browsing around the definition found—with photos rather than line drawings. And I keep the compact two volume (with rectangular magnifying glass) version of the motherfucking *Oxford Unabridged Dictionary*. And while my compact *OED* shows some signs of detention in the garage, the volumes are usable. It stays!

And my kids' books: I found the Arthur Rackham illustrated *Alice in Wonderland*. A repurchase of a lost original Christmas gift from my uncle—*The Day the Cow Sneezed* by James Flora—this kid loved the wild pictures and language, such as Bing! Bang! Crash! Tinkle! And a classic in my own mind, *The Great Escape* by Peter Lippman, which tells the story of Silas, a determined

alligator who was imported to New York and how he made his way back to the Everglades (hint: plumbing's involved).

And that's about it?—not so fast! How about all the books that kept me company on my drive times home via Audible.com. *Teacher Man* by Frank McCourt, Jon Stewart's *America* (wickedly funny), and one big mother of a novel—David Foster Wallace's *Infinite Jest*. An aside: what is the word for absorbing an audio book? You don't really read it. You do more than listen to it. What's the word for it? My nomination >> aud— (verb) to absorb the contents of a book via hearing; analogous to reading a printed book. Audding, audded, audookphile. Anyway, happy reading!

*Tim Wojcik is Research Services Librarian at
Mercer University, Douglas Center*

History of the Georgia Council of Media Organizations (COMO) Conference

By Gordon Baker

Delivered by Gordon Baker on the occasion of the 28th Georgia COMO Conference, Athens, Georgia, October 6, 2016



Hello, my name is Gordon Baker, and I am Dean of Libraries at Clayton State University and the 2016 President of the Georgia Association for Instructional Technology (GAIT). I want to talk to you for a few minutes about my very good friend Georgia COMO.

The idea of COMO began on a day in the middle of May 1985 when the leaders of the three library organizations, GAIT, the Georgia Library Association (GLA), and the Georgia Library Media Association (GLMA) received a letter inviting them to participate in an open forum in Macon to discuss the state of professionalism.

The letter came from Grace Burke (Savannah-Chatham Schools), Dorothea Goodloe (Clarke County Schools), and Frank Winstead (DeKalb County Schools).

So on May 25, 1985 the library leaders met with more than sixty other library folks.

They were told: our associations are not doing what they should be doing.

The librarians in the state needed more professional development, more networking (of course that was not the word used at that time), and a venue to see the latest and greatest.

We needed a good library conference not three little piddly conferences!

So following this forum, the library presidents of these three groups, Jane Morgan, Robert Harrell, and Mary Jean Sloan met in June 1985.

They discussed the situation and rallied to the cry—give us lemons, and we'll make lemonade! On October 25, 1985 during the biennial conference of the Georgia Library Association in 1985, COMO was born, well not the name, but the concept.

At the third meeting of this group, Sunday, January 12, 1986 at Clayton State College, it was decided to form an inter-organizational council and cooperative working relationship and that this relationship be called the Georgia Council of Media Organizations (COMO).

So the group decided to try holding one conference to see if the three groups could work together as one.

The first Georgia COMO steering committee included Charles Beard of West Georgia College, Paula Galland of Glynn County Schools, Mary Jean Sloan of Cobb County Schools, Bill Early, publishers' representative with Bound to Stay Bound Books, and me, Gordon Baker, of the Clayton County Schools System.

Somehow, I was appointed the job of serving as the first conference chair and treasurer.

This group worked and worked...and had many sleepless nights, but finally on May 17–19, 1988

the first Georgia COMO Joint Conference—Cooperative Ventures was held at Jekyll Island.

Great speakers, great concurrent sessions, great networking! A tremendous success from all of the evaluations. In 1989 each of the groups returned to their individual meetings, but something was missing...COMO...so in 1990, COMO became an annual event.

Over the past twenty-eight years COMO has met at Jekyll Island ten times, Athens seven times, both Columbus and Macon have hosted three times, and finally both Savannah and Augusta have hosted two times.

The one thing that has remained steady during these last twenty-eight years has been to put on an affordable quality conference with lots of vendors...and we've done that for all this time.

We can be proud of our keynotes, including two State of Georgia superintendents: Dr. Werner Rogers and Dr. John Barge; technology experts: Dr. David Thornburg, Keith Kyker, Christopher Curchy, Dr. Thomas Reeves, Larry Johnson, and Annette Lamb; authors: Terry Kay, John Berendt, Dr. Ferroll Sams, Gail Haley, Tina McElroy Ansa, Carmen Agra Deedy, Sharon McCrumb, Bill Diehl, Newbery winner E.L. Konigsburg, Steve Berry, Annette Laing, Carolyn Haines, Eric Litwin, and James Dean of Pete the Cat Fame; American Library Association (ALA) presidents and Association for Educational Communications and Technology (AECT) presidents too many to mention; humorists Ann White, Will Manley, Roy Blount, Jr., Dr. Elliott Engle, and Fanny Flagg, oops, that's a slip.

Let me tell you about the author of *Fried Green Tomatoes at the Whistle Stop Café*. Who better to speak at a southern librarians' conference than a funny southern author! Fannie had been a contestant in the Miss Alabama beauty

contest seven times, never winning. We contacted her agent and in a brief time, we had signed Fannie Flagg as our speaker! There was one caveat: there was a possibility she might have a publicity tour for the movie *Fried Green Tomatoes at the Whistle Stop Café*, but they would give us plenty of notice. And as luck would have it...they gave us a month's notice to find another keynoter. Thank goodness we did!

I like to look at Georgia COMO as a friend. My gosh, Georgia COMO is my longest relationship! I have had the privilege of serving as chair of this great group twice and co-chair once and have served on the steering committee twenty-four times!

So Georgia COMO is an old friend. And when I am with this old friend, I see other old friends who are no longer with us, like Charles Beard, Mary Jean Sloan, Jane Morgan, Harriett Brown, and Ona Blankenship.

Now, do me a favor. Close your eyes. Visualize Georgia COMO as a person or an object.

Look...why is Georgia COMO stepping into that phone booth? OMG there's an explosion, look up in the air, it's a bird, it's a plane, it's the Georgia Libraries Conference!

I can't tell you anything about our new friend the Georgia Libraries Conference.

You'll have to meet it next year, at this time, in historic Columbus.

Goodbye old friend, goodbye Georgia COMO, hello Georgia Libraries Conference.

Thank You!

*Gordon Baker is Dean of Libraries
at Clayton State University*

The Georgia Public Library Service and Georgia's Public Libraries: A Timeline of Important Events in Georgia Public Library History

By J. Elaine Hardy and Peggy Chambliss

"IT IS DECLARED TO BE THE POLICY OF THE STATE, AS A PART OF THE PROVISIONS FOR PUBLIC EDUCATION, TO PROMOTE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF PUBLIC LIBRARY SERVICE THROUGHOUT THE STATE." (O.C.G.A. §20-5-1)

In 2008, we first compiled the timeline of Georgia library history for a policy analyst with the House of Representatives Research Office and published it in the *Georgia Library Quarterly* the same year. This year, we have updated the timeline with activities since 2008 and added more historical activities to expand the history and chronology of major events for public library development in Georgia. This stands as a chronicle of the diligent work that Georgia's libraries and librarians do to improve the lives of all Georgians. It is a compilation of historical data on Georgia's public libraries and a history of the Georgia Public Library Service from its inception in 1897. It begins with the first known subscription library created in Savannah, includes the first free public library in the state, the Mary Willis Free Library in Washington, and ends with our current status of 403 service outlets for public library service in the state.

Along with the development of public library service in Georgia was the development of the State Library, which was proposed by the General Assembly in 1831. The first State Librarian was hired in 1847. The State Library was initially a department within the executive branch until it was made a division of the Department of Law in 1972. A specialized library, it collected material on law and Georgia history for the benefit of her citizens and to support government officials and members of the bench and bar. It was a depository of official publications of the state and state agencies and departments and also was required to

distribute copies of some of those publications to counties and other states. Starting in 1914, the State Library operated a legislative research service. In 1989, the collection held by the Division of Public Library Service (DPLS), Board of Education, was named the State Library, and the former State Library became the State Law Library. At this same time, the State Librarian became the State Law Librarian. No State Librarian was named until 2001. The State Law Library was abolished by legislative action in 2005.

Georgia's public libraries have a rich history that demonstrates the evolving commitment of Georgia's leaders and citizenry to free access to information across the state. Georgia libraries have developed from small collections, sometimes in people's homes, to the diverse collections of media, including the virtual library GALILEO, we have access to today. One strong theme throughout the history of public libraries in Georgia is that they have accomplished much with little funding. While the Georgia State Library Commission was established in 1897, monies for expenses and services were not allocated until 1919. The annual budget was \$6,000 until 1926, when it was increased to \$10,000. The next budget increase by the Georgia Legislature was not until 1944. The support of the Carnegie Library of Atlanta was instrumental to improving and creating library service throughout the state during this period. Georgia now ranks forty-seventh per capita and twenty-second overall in the nation for library funding with over \$194 million in local, state, and federal funds supporting the mission of service to the citizens of Georgia. Currently, Georgia has 63 library systems with 403 service outlets, including bookmobiles, serving all of her 159 counties. Fifty-three library systems with 283 service outlets and the State Library

collection at the Georgia Public Library Service (GPLS) are part of the PINES network, a free, borderless library providing access to materials across the network. In addition to books and other traditional library materials, Georgia libraries provide electronic books and videos, public-access computers, high speed Internet connections, meeting spaces, and events for adults, youth, and children.

In 1897, the General Assembly created the State Library Commission by an act “to promote the establishment and efficiency of libraries in the State of Georgia.” The Commission was charged to “give advice and counsel to all libraries in the State . . . as to the best means of establishing and administering such libraries, the selection of books, cataloguing and other details of library management. The commission may also send members to aid in organizing new libraries or improving those already established” (Acts of the Georgia Legislature 1799-1999). One hundred and nineteen years

later, the Georgia Public Library Service (GPLS), the legislative descendent of the Commission, empowers libraries to improve the lives of Georgians through the provision of key library support services and programs. GPLS administers state and federal library grants, coordinates youth services and literacy activities such as the statewide Summer Reading Program, and provides consultants for resource sharing, training, facilities planning, network and IT support, library advocacy, and much more. GPLS also administers GLASS, the statewide network providing library services for the blind and others who need Braille or digital audio formats for reading materials; GALILEO, the state’s virtual library; and PINES, the statewide borderless library.

J. Elaine Hardy is PINES & Collaborative Projects Manager at Georgia Public Library Service

Peggy Chambliss is Library Services Manager at Georgia Public Library Service

Timeline

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| 1809 | Savannah Library Society opens a subscription library where members of the society pay a fee for use of the library. The fees collected go toward the operation and maintenance of the library. |
| 1831 | Resolution passes the Legislature agreeing to the proposal of a state library, so that “the Legislators and the Governors should always be in possession of the means which can carry into operation most beneficially those principles of human action which foster and protect the common weal.” Bill to establish state library passes the same year (Acts of the Georgia Legislature 1799–1999). |
| 1847 | Savannah Library Society merges with the Georgia Historical Society (Carnegie Library of Atlanta 1907).
General Assembly authorizes the governor to appoint a State Librarian who would serve at his pleasure with an annual salary of \$100. Clerk of Supreme Court of Georgia had maintained the State Library collection for the years 1846-1847 (Acts of the Georgia Legislature 1799–1999).
Robert E. Martin is appointed first State Librarian (Georgia Department of Archives and History 2007). |
| 1848 | Young Men’s Library Association of Augusta opens a subscription library (Carnegie Library of Atlanta 1907). |
| 1850 | Robert Micklejohn is appointed State Librarian (Georgia Department of Archives and History 2007). |

- 1852** Duties of the State Librarian are outlined in legislation. These include keeping the books of the library in “good order” and receiving the “Laws and Journals of each session of the Legislature” and distributing them to Georgia counties (Acts of the Georgia Legislature 1799–1999).
- 1854** Dr. William Carr is appointed State Librarian.
- 1856** J. F. Condon is appointed State Librarian.
- 1858** C. J. Wellborn is appointed State Librarian.
- 1862** E. D. Brown is appointed State Librarian.
- 1867** Young Men’s Library Association of Atlanta opens a subscription library (Carnegie Library of Atlanta 1907).
- 1868** John L. Conley is appointed State Librarian.
- 1872** A. A. Beall is appointed State Librarian.
Dr. Joel Branham is appointed State Librarian.
- 1874** Macon Public Library opens a subscription library.
- 1875** James Banks is appointed State Librarian.
- 1876** Valdosta Library Association opens a subscription library.
- 1877** Frank L. Haralson is appointed State Librarian.
- 1878** Americus Library Association opens a subscription library.
- 1880** Legislation stipulating the State Librarian to be appointed by the governor and confirmed by the Senate for four-year term is passed.
- 1882** Brooks (County) Library Association opens a subscription library.
- 1888** John Milledge is appointed State Librarian.
- 1889** The first free public library in Georgia, the Mary Willis Free Library in Washington, opens. It is endowed by Dr. Francis T. Willis and named for his only daughter (Carnegie Library of Atlanta 1907).
- 1893–1917** Andrew Carnegie, through his library program, donates funds to build free public library buildings across the United States. Georgia cities are also recipients of these grants. Carnegie libraries are built in many Georgia cities during this time, including Atlanta, Albany, Columbus, Dublin, Montezuma, Moultrie, Newnan, Pelham, Savannah, Cordele, Americus, Dawson, and Fitzgerald (Walker 1983).
- 1893** Andrew Carnegie offers \$100,000 for the construction of a public library building in Atlanta, contingent on the city providing a location and annual support money. Clarke Library Association, Marietta, opens a subscription library.
- 1897–1919** The General Assembly establishes the Georgia Library Commission in 1897. Georgia becomes the first Southern state to act on her citizens’ need for free public library service. The first five-member board is appointed by Governor William Y. Atkinson on July 27, 1897. The commission is charged by the General Assembly to “give advice and counsel to all libraries in the State and to all communities which may propose to establish them, as to the best means of establishing and administering such libraries, the selection of books, cataloguing and other details of library management. The commission may also send members to aid in organizing new libraries or improving those already established” (Carnegie Library of Atlanta 1907, 16). Although Georgia was forward-thinking in establishing the Library Commission, they lagged behind other states by not appropriating monies for the commission services or any member expenses until 1919. Even without state funding, the commission fulfills its charge and provides “aid to practically every Georgia library” (Wootten 1914, 162). Work is carried on through the sponsorship of the Carnegie Library of Atlanta, and the commission maintains offices in the library until 1920.

- 1897** Georgia Library Club (later the Georgia Library Association) forms. Their objectives are to start a school to train professional librarians, state funding of public libraries, and a special commission to “oversee the library interests of the state” (Georgia Library Association 2003, 3).
James E. Brown is appointed State Librarian.
- 1899** City council of Atlanta appropriates \$5,000 for the maintenance of the Carnegie Library. The Young Men’s Library Association agrees to merge with the library and donate their book collection to it.
- 1899** Seaboard Air Line Railroad traveling library program is established under the organization of Mrs. Eugene Head.
Brunswick Library opens as a subscription library.
- 1900** Price Free Library, Macon, opens. The first free library in Macon, the Price Library is established expressly for the poor by S.B. Price and Bridges Smith, both mayors of the city.
- 1901** Municipal Library Law is enacted. Any city can appropriate money to establish and sustain free public libraries. The law also provides for the establishment of municipal library boards to govern the city library (O.C.G.A. §20-5-20).
C. J. Wellborn is appointed State Librarian.
- 1902** Carnegie Library of Atlanta opens, providing free public library service to the citizens of the city of Atlanta. First Carnegie library built in the state.
- 1903** Savannah Public Library opens with the collection of the Georgia Historical Society as its nucleus.
Mary Munford Memorial Library, Cartersville, opens a free public library. Founded and endowed by Mrs. L.S. Munford in memory of her daughter, it is an outgrowth of the Cherokee Club and uses no publicly appropriated monies (Carnegie Library of Atlanta 1907).
- 1905** Southern Library School, Carnegie Library of Atlanta, opens with a grant from the Carnegie Library Program.
- 1906** Carnegie Library Program donates funds to Atlanta for branch library buildings.
Free Public Library for Negroes, Savannah, opens with a combination of city monies and subscription fees.
- 1907** Nine free public libraries are operating in Georgia: Price Free Library of Macon, Savannah Public Library, Mary Willis Library of Washington, Mary Munford Memorial Library of Cartersville, and Carnegie libraries in Albany, Atlanta, Cordele, Dublin, and Newnan. A number of free traveling libraries also operate in the state. They include the Seaboard Air Line Railroad Library, mobile libraries operated by the Atlanta Woman’s Club, and traveling libraries operated by the Newton County Board of Education for their school libraries.
- 1907** Darien Free Reading Room opens.
- 1908** Maud Baker Cobb is appointed State Librarian.
- 1914** Legislative Reference Department within the State library is created. Notary publics are appointed by the State Librarian.
- 1919** General Assembly appropriates first annual funds for the Georgia Library Commission (\$6,000), including for the maintenance of traveling libraries (Georgia State Library Commission 1920). The State Librarian is made an ex-officio member of the Commission. The executive secretary of the Commission is given a salary and directed to be full-time. Charlotte H. Templeton is selected as Executive Secretary, Georgia Library Commission.

- 1920** The Georgia Library Commission moves to offices in the Capitol, hires a professional librarian, purchases books, and begins lending to all libraries in Georgia.
- 1922** Southeastern Library Association forms. The Association's goals are to adopt standards of and objectives for library service tailored to the needs of the region. Formation of regional libraries is identified as the means to provide library service to the poor, rural areas of the South.
- 1923** Frances Beverly Wheatcroft is selected as Executive Secretary, Georgia Library Commission (State of Georgia Department of Archives and History 1923).
- 1924–1925** The State Library Commission conducts a Vacation Reading Club for rural children from the first grade through high school (Georgia State Library Commission 1925–26).
- 1924** Carnegie Library of Atlanta is accredited by American Library Association (ALA). State Library expense budget increased to \$10,000, effective 1926 (Georgia State Library Commission 1924).
- 1925** Southern Library School, Carnegie Library of Atlanta, is transferred to Emory University (Brown and Rawles 1975a).
The Library Commission becomes the circulation center for supplying the blind readers of the state with reading matter. Books are furnished by the Georgia Association for Workers for the Blind, as the Commission has no funds for books of this kind (Georgia State Library Commission 1925–26).
- 1926** Ella May Thornton is appointed State Librarian.
- 1930s** Georgia Citizen's Library Committee forms to advance state aid for public libraries, certification of librarians, and the development of regional library systems to better serve the rural, poor areas of the state.
- 1930** The University of Wisconsin holds a Rural Library Extension Institute. Georgia's field librarians attend.
- 1931–1935** Recognizing the need for trained librarians, Carnegie, working through the American Library Association, funds professional librarians to work as field agents. Miss Tommie Dora Barker was the first Southern regional field agent.
- 1933–1934** The first relief agency to provide employment during the Great Depression, the Civil Works Administration (along with the Georgia Emergency Relief Administration) creates jobs in public and school libraries in Georgia. Library programs are strengthened as a result (Georgia State Library Commission 1942).
- 1935** County Library Law enacted. County governments are permitted to appropriate funds to establish and sustain free county public libraries. The legislation also allows counties to contract for library service between existing libraries and unserved areas within the county or with adjoining counties. The push for the bill is organized by the Parent Teacher Organization. It passes both houses of the General Assembly unanimously. Fulton County is the first in the state to act under the law, the county commissioners making an initial appropriation of \$5,000 to the Carnegie Library of Atlanta beginning July 1, 1935. Free library service is available to residents of Fulton County from the headquarters building in Atlanta and all branches (Georgia State Library Commission 1942).
Georgia Library Association, following recommendations from ALA, establishes objectives for library development in the state.
Fifty-three free public libraries are operating in 44 counties throughout Georgia.
- 1936–1943** The Works Progress Administration (later the Works Projects Administration), or WPA, begins library demonstration projects as part of its relief efforts. The projects' goals are to organize and run free public libraries in communities with little or no library service. During the program years, WPA funds establish bookmobile service, builds library

- buildings, buys books, and pays librarian and staff salaries across Georgia. The WPA also assists in the formation of the first regional library systems in Georgia. The Athens Regional and Cherokee Regional libraries are created under the demonstration library program (Georgia State Library Commission 1942). The WPA expends \$1.3 million to libraries in Georgia before it ends in 1943. Free public library service begins in 107 Georgia counties. Population without free library service drops from 71 percent to 36 percent. The Library Commission works closely with the WPA to facilitate and maintain their demonstration projects across the state.
- 1937** State law creating the certification board for librarians is enacted. The certification of librarians in public libraries serving more than 5,000 and state-operated libraries (except school and law libraries) is required (Acts of the Georgia Legislature 1799–1999).
- 1938** First bookmobile service is inaugurated in Thomas County as a WPA demonstration project.
- 1940** Athens Regional Library, the first WPA demonstration regional library in Georgia, is organized.
- 1941** School of Library Service at Atlanta University opens.
- 1943** WPA ends. WPA support of libraries in rural areas across the South creates a citizenry unwilling to give up even the limited library service they received through the demonstration projects. With the ending of the program, people turn to local authorities to provide monies to continue support of public libraries in Georgia. Local funding, while increased, is not enough for all public libraries to function. Fifty-two libraries in twenty-one counties close. Other libraries curtail hours and services. Statesboro Regional Library becomes the third regional library system in Georgia. Acting under calls from the Georgia Library Association and the Citizen's Library Committee (an informal organization made up of trustees and friends of libraries across Georgia), the General Assembly eliminates the Library Commission, transferring its services and functions to the state Department of Education's Division of Textbooks and Libraries. It is renamed the Library Extension Service and is tasked with "promoting the establishment and development of Public Library Service throughout the State" (Acts of the Georgia Legislature 1799–1999). School of Library Service at Atlanta University becomes first library school for African-Americans accredited by ALA.
- 1944** General Assembly appropriates \$100,000 for library service as part of the Department of Education's budget as the first grant of special funds for state aid for the development of rural public library service in Georgia. Acquiring state aid for public libraries was a primary objective of the State Library Commission/Library Extension Service for twenty years. Several libraries closed following the loss of WPA support are able to reopen with state funding.
- 1945** State of Georgia Constitution is revised. Provision is made for taxation by counties for public libraries (1945 Georgia Constitution). Six regional libraries serve fourteen counties, and forty-one additional counties give countywide library service.
- 1944–1946** Eight additional regional libraries form. Ten regional libraries now provide service to twenty-three counties.
- 1945–1946** General Assembly appropriates additional monies for library service. With this funding, local allotments are encouraged to increase. Matching local funds are not required to receive county allotments (which are based on the number of teachers in a county). An additional allotment of \$2,000 is given to regional libraries of two or more counties with a

regional governing board and a professional librarian as director. Requirements for state aid include an effective program of library service to rural areas, libraries under the control of a legally-constituted board, and library directors certified by the State Board. Also, local funds have to provide sufficient support, and state funds are not made available if the local budget decreases.

- 1947** Georgia Citizen's Library Committee adopts the slogan "Books in Reach of Every Georgian."
Southeastern States Cooperative Library Survey is conducted by the Southeastern Library Association.
- 1948** State aid to libraries equals \$0.30 per capita (National standard is \$1.00 per capita).
Report of the Georgia Library Survey Committee.
Twenty-eight bookmobiles are in operation, providing service in twenty-five counties (Georgia Library Survey Committee 1948).
- 1949** Minimum Foundation Program for Education (MFPE) is enacted by the General Assembly and includes provisions for funds for public libraries and payment of state salary for one public librarian per county.
- 1951** MFPE funding appropriates \$500,000 for public library materials, salaries, and travel (Brown and Rawles 1975b).
- 1954** Jane Oliver Green is named State Librarian.
- 1956** Library Services Act (LSA) is passed. First federal funding for libraries is signed into law by President Dwight D. Eisenhower. Appropriation is for five years and is limited to library service to rural areas. LSA provides monetary aid to the Library Extension Service's objectives and plans. Staff, materials, and bookmobiles are added.
- 1957** Survey of Georgia Public Library Service to Negroes (Brown and Rawles 1975b).
- 1958** Through either a county or regional library, 158 counties have free public library service.
- 1959** John Dalton Murphy Folger is named State Librarian.
- 1961** Library Services Act is renewed for another five years.
- 1964** LSA is amended to Library Services and Construction Act (LSCA). LSCA includes two titles: Title I provides money for both rural and metropolitan areas, and Title II provides funds for construction. LSCA provides funds to build forty-nine public libraries.
- 1965** The Georgia Citizen's Library Committee officially becomes the Georgia Library Trustees Association and a section of the Georgia Library Association.
- 1966** Two additional titles added to LSCA: Title III, Interlibrary Cooperation, Title IV-A State Institutional Library Service, and Title IV-B State Library Service to the Physically Handicapped.
- 1967** Thirty-five regional libraries serve 129 counties with countywide library service in all of Georgia's 159 counties.
- 1969** Georgia Library Information Network (GLIN) is founded. Located at the Library Extension Service offices, GLIN coordinates interlibrary loans between public, academic, and special libraries.
- 1970-1971** Library Extension Service is expanded within the state Department of Education to the Division of Public Library Services (DPLS) (Brown and Rawles 1975b). The division continues its original directive from 1897 to give counsel, advice, and aid on establishing and administration of libraries, both to existing libraries and to those communities wishing to establish them. Additional functions added over the years include: supervising all public libraries; encouraging and assisting cooperative library service inside and outside Georgia; gathering and compiling public library statistics; developing statewide plans concerning libraries of all kinds; supervising state and federally funded programs;

facilitating programs for continuing education for librarians and staff; supplying expertise in the form of consultants to public libraries; supplementing regional and county library service by providing reference, bibliographic, and interlibrary loan services; and encouraging the network model to facilitate the provision of library service and resources to all citizens.

- 1971** *Handbook on Constitutions, By-Laws, and Contracts for Georgia Public Libraries* is published.
- 1972** Executive Re-organization Act relocates State Library from a department under the Office of the Governor to a division within the Department of Law. Attorney-General now appoints State Librarian, who must be a certified librarian or an attorney at law. Wiley Howard Davis named State Librarian. General Assembly passes into law the Interstate Library Compact Act, which permits state, local, and private libraries to enter into interstate agreements for provision of services and utilization of facilities. The Public Library Service Unit of the Georgia Department of Education is designated the state library agency as part of the compact (Acts of the Georgia Legislature 1799-1999).
- 1973** Georgia Library for the Blind is established. Cessation of federal construction funds under LSCA. The General Assembly provides funding for library construction in the state. Carlton J. Thaxton is named director of the Division of Public Library Services, Georgia Department of Education. Donn C. Odum is named State Librarian.
- 1974** Adequate Program for Education in Georgia (APEG) is passed by the General Assembly, replacing the Minimum Foundation Program for Education Act (Brown and Rawles 1975b).
- 1975** General Assembly appropriates funds to implement APEG. Georgia has 36 regional library systems providing library service to 147 counties and 11 single-county public libraries. Southeastern States Cooperative Library Survey, released by Southeastern Library Association, provides an assessment of libraries in the Southeast in the 1970s. Georgia Library Survey is completed, delineating library resources, services, and funding. The General Assembly provides funds for Talking Book Centers, sub-regional libraries for the blind and physically handicapped. The Georgia Council of Public Libraries is organized. DPLS becomes a member of Solinet (Southeastern Library Network) and OCLC (Online Computer Library Center) (Brown and Rawles 1975b).
- 1976** Materials grants for public libraries increase from \$0.16 per capita to not less than \$0.35 per capita under APEG.
- 1977** Governor's Conference on Georgia Library and Information Services, a state preconference for the White House Conference on Library and Information Services, is held.
- 1979** White House Conference on Library and Information Services is held.
- 1980** Standardized statistical measures and definitions for collection of library statistics are adopted in Georgia. Joe B. Forsee is named director of the Division of Public Library Services, Georgia Department of Education.
- 1981** First Library Legislative Day is held under Georgia Council of Public Libraries sponsorship to facilitate contact between library supporters and their legislative representatives.

- Georgia Intellectual Freedom Manual is first drafted at the Georgia Library Association Biennial Preconference (Georgia Library Association, Intellectual Freedom Interest Group 1985).
- 1982** The General Assembly revises state formulas for aid to public libraries and Talking Book Centers. The revision of the formulas is the result of consultation between DPLS, public library directors, and the State Board of Education.
Librarians employed by libraries of the University System of Georgia are exempt from certification (O.C.G.A. § 43-24-4).
- 1984** Revision of library law accomplished. Article 2 of Chapter 5 of Title 20 of the OCGA is clarified on questions of creation of trustee boards, whether library boards could hold property, how a county system moves from one regional library system to another, and on whether an individual is required to return books borrowed. The revisions also allow for the establishment of a public library as a tax-exempt entity.
- 1985** Federal LSCA Title II funds for library construction are reauthorized.
- 1986** LSCA funds and local matching funds are used to open a portable library kiosk in a MARTA station. This kiosk is the first of its kind in a rapid transit station in the United States.
- 1988** Georgia OnLine Database (GOLD) is developed to facilitate the interlibrary loan process in Georgia among member libraries. GOLD goes online with a database of over six million holdings. First GOLD membership conference is held.
Emory University Division of Library and Information Science issues its final Master of Library Science degree.
- 1989** The State Library becomes the State Law Library, with some of its duties, powers, and books transferred to the Department of Archives and History, the Board of Education, and the Board of Regents of the University System. The collection of books held by the Division of Public Library Service is designated the State Library. The State Librarian becomes the State Law Librarian, with some powers and duties transferred to the Secretary of State and the Board of Education (Acts of the Georgia Legislature 1799-1999).
GLIN membership is closed to new members on July 1, 1989.
- 1995** GeorgiA Library LEarning Online (GALILEO), a virtual library of electronic information resources for the citizens of Georgia, goes online.
DPLS is downsized as part of the Department of Education's reorganization. Approximately half of all the positions in the division are eliminated.
- ca. 1995–**
1996 Tom Ploeg becomes acting director of the Division of Public Library Service.
- 1996** Amendments to the state education laws by the General Assembly transfer the Division of Public Library Services to the Department of Technical and Adult Education, designating it the Office of Public Library Service (OPLS) (Georgia Department of Technical and Adult Education, Office of Public Library Service 2000). Responsibilities of OPLS include administering federal and state grant funds, coordinating cooperative library activities, providing training, coordinating children's summer programs, promoting family literacy, supporting technology, and coordinating and promoting resource sharing among all types of libraries.
Division of Public Library Service, Department of Technical and Adult Education becomes the state library agency under the Interstate Library Compact.
Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA), part of the Museum and Library Services Act, replaces LSCA. LSTA funding emphasizes technology and infrastructure while retaining focus on underserved areas for library service. Funding under LSTA is extended to all

- types of libraries. The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), which oversees LSTA funding, is created by the act.
- The Telecommunications Act of 1996 expands Universal Service to the Internet and provides discounts to public libraries and public and private schools for telecommunications and Internet-related technology.
- 1997** Gates Library Foundation is created to “bring computers and Internet access to public libraries in low-income communities in the United States and Canada” (Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation 2015).
- GOLD Advisory Committee and GALILEO Users Group join to become GOLD/GALILEO Users Group Advisory Committee (Georgia Department of Technical and Adult Education, Office of Public Library Service 2000).
- 1998** A telecommunication network for high-speed access for all public libraries is established. The required annual statistical report for libraries is automated.
- First Children’s Services Annual Conference is held.
- ca. 1998** David Singleton becomes acting director of the Office of Public Library Service.
- 1999** GPLS, in consultation with libraries across the state, creates PINES (Public Information Network for Electronic Services), a library automation and lending network for public libraries in Georgia. The first phase consists of ninety-six service outlets across twenty-six systems.
- Access to GALILEO becomes available on all public library computers.
- Gates Library Foundation awards Georgia’s public libraries \$7 million in equipment, software, and training.
- Glascoc County opens a public library facility for the first time. All 159 counties in the state now have a building housing a public library.
- 2000** The A Plus Education Reform Act makes OPLS a unit of the Board of Regents and names it the state library agency under the Interstate Library Compact. The collection held by OPLS becomes the State Library (O.C.G.A. § 20-5-2).
- Georgia libraries begin purchasing and installing equipment and software purchased with Gates Foundation monies.
- Standards for Georgia Public Libraries are adopted (Georgia Department of Technical and Adult Education, Office of Public Library Service 2000).
- 2001** Lamar Veatch is named State Librarian, the first since 1989, and Director of the Office of Public Library Service.
- State Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped is renamed Georgia Library for Accessible Services (GLASS).
- PINES phase II inaugurates service in 110 additional facilities across 11 systems.
- Valdosta State University Master of Library and Information Science program admits first students.
- 2003** Office of Public Library Service is renamed the Georgia Public Library Service (GPLS).
- GPLS closes its Trinity Avenue facility. The Georgia history collection of books and materials is moved to the Middle Georgia Regional Library in Macon. The staff and professional collection are moved to the main offices on Clairmont Avenue.
- Friends of Georgia Libraries (FOGL) is established.
- The board of Clark Atlanta University decides to close its School of Library and Information Studies, the only ALA-accredited library school in Georgia at the time.
- 2004** PINES Evergreen Project begins. GPLS initiates developing open-source software for an integrated library computer system for its PINES network libraries.
- 2005** Clark Atlanta University School of Library and Information Studies graduates final class.

- GPLS's first partnership program, the Check-It-Out Reading Challenge, begins. Co-sponsored by GPLS and the Atlanta Hawks, the challenge is designed to enhance summer reading programs, with young readers earning basketball-related rewards by reading and participating in other literacy activities.
- 2006** PINES libraries debut the Evergreen software, revolutionizing library automation by using open-source software to run circulation, cataloging, and the public library catalog in an integrated library system designed expressly for PINES policies and needs. Prior to this debut, PINES contracted with vendor-developed software (Georgia Public Library Service 2009).
- Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation's Public Access Computing Hardware Upgrade Grant (PACHUG) program awards Georgia public libraries \$1.499 million (Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation 2016).
- Regents Public Library Advisory Committee is formed.
- Georgia Library for Accessible Services (GLASS) receives a 2006 White Cane Award from The National Federation of the Blind (NFB) for assisting in the mission of achieving equality, opportunity, and security for the blind.
- 2007** GPLS wins Mellon Award for Technology Collaboration for the development and release of the Evergreen open-source library automation system.
- GPLS inaugurates PINNACLE, the Public Library Institute for New and Creative Leadership Education, to ensure the future of high-quality library leadership across the state.
- Valdosta State University Master of Library and Information Science program is accredited by ALA.
- 2008** Georgia has 61 library systems serving all 159 counties with 387 service outlets and 20 bookmobiles. There are 33 regional library systems providing library service to 133 counties. There are 26 single-county library systems. Forty-eight library systems with 275 service outlets are part of the PINES network, providing a borderless library for Georgians with a free PINES library card.
- Georgia Download Destination begins, offering anytime, anywhere access to digital books and audiobooks. Twenty Georgia library systems serving fifty-three counties participate.
- GPLS Strategic Planning Committee finalizes a long-range strategic plan and a new mission statement. The plan establishes an overall vision for the agency: "Achieving excellence in library service for all Georgians." The mission statement is "The Georgia Public Library Service: Empowering libraries to improve the lives of Georgians" (Georgia Public Library Service News February 2008, 4).
- The Georgia State Park ParkPasses and Historic Site passes program, a joint initiative of GPLS and the Parks, Recreation, and Historic Sites Division of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, begins. With a valid library card, patrons can check out passes good for free parking and admission at more than sixty parks and historic sites statewide.
- PRIME TIME Family Reading Time, a program developed by the Louisiana Endowment of the Humanities, expands to Georgia, with seven public library systems chosen to participate. Based on illustrated children's books, PRIME TIME is designed to help low-income, low-literate families bond around the act of reading and discussing books.
- GPLS holds its first Facilities Summit to help educate the Georgia library community about best practices in construction and maintenance of library buildings.
- 2009** GPLS sponsors the inaugural Evergreen International Conference in May in Athens, Georgia.
- IMLS awards GPLS a Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Program grant, used to fund "Librarians Build Communities," a GPLS program that provides forty-five scholarships for

- students preparing to be public librarians (Georgia Public Library Service News October 2009).
- 2010** GPLS holds its first Technology Boot Camp. Forty-five library systems send representatives to discuss and learn new ideas regarding current library technology issues. State Librarian Lamar Veatch is elected to serve a two-year term as president of the Chief Officers of State Library Associations.
- 2011** Atlanta Metro Library for Accessible Services (AMLAS) relocates to the Atlanta-Fulton Public Library System's Central Library from their shared warehouse space with the GLASS Distribution Center (GDC) at an industrial area in southwest Atlanta. GLASS Distribution Center moves to the Georgia Archives building in Morrow. GPLS holds its first Business Training for Business Managers and Directors Conference. GPLS holds its first Public Library Cataloger's Conference. GPLS is awarded a National Leadership Grant from IMLS to plan the development of an open-source library management system (named Loblolly) for libraries that serve users with visual and other impairments (Georgia Public Library Service News October 2011).
- 2012** GPLS begins organizing and cataloging the Governor's Mansion collection in order to create an online catalog using the Evergreen library management system. Volunteer catalogers from metro Atlanta area libraries participate in the project (Georgia Public Library Service News August 2012). Open Education Database ranks GPLS's roster of strategic partnership programs as number one on its top ten list of national public library trends and innovations for 2012.
- 2013** Greater Clarks Hill Library System, a new regional library system, is formed. Marshes of Glynn Libraries begins as an independent system for Glynn County.
- 2014** Julie Walker is named State Librarian. Finalization of statewide network upgrade, resulting in broadband speeds in every public library in Georgia. IMLS awards GPLS a National Leadership Grant to develop a customized early literacy program within libraries to reach parents of young children (Georgia Public Library Service News August 2014). GLASS (Georgia Libraries for Accessible Statewide Services) consolidates some of its services. East Central Georgia Regional Library System disbands. Augusta-Richmond County Library System is formed.
- 2015** GPLS awards public libraries LSTA STEM grants to be used for programming and materials related to science, technology, engineering, and math. GPLS holds its first Georgia Accessibility Conference. GPLS holds its second PINNACLE (Public Library Institute for New and Creative Leadership Education), in collaboration with Carl Vinson Institute of Government, for 2015–2016. More than half of the inaugural institute's graduates have gone on to serve as library system directors (Georgia Public Library Service News October 2015).
- 2016** Inaugural Georgia Public Library Awards honoring the outstanding service and achievements of Georgia's public libraries, librarians, and library champions are awarded. 2015 Public Library of the Year—Lee County Library. 2015 Public Librarian of the Year—Steve W. Schaefer, retired director of the Uncle Remus Regional Library System. 2015 Public Library Champion of the Year—Kathryn Ash, president of the Friends of Georgia Libraries and a trustee of the Piedmont Regional Library System.

Georgia currently has 63 library systems, regional and single county, serving all 159 counties with 403 service outlets, including bookmobiles. Fifty-four library systems with 283 service outlets are part of the PINES network, providing a borderless library for Georgians with a free PINES library card (Georgia Public Library Service 2016a).

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*People, Libraries
and Agencies* **IN THE NEWS**

**Georgia Library Association
2017 GLA Election Results**

First Vice-President/President-Elect:
Fred Smith, Georgia Southern University

Vice-President for Membership:
Mack Freeman, West Georgia Regional Library

Vice President for Marketing & Branding:
Ashley Dupuy, Kennesaw State University

Secretary:
Geri Mullis, Marshes of Glynn Libraries

Treasurer:
Eli Arnold, Oglethorpe University

***President:**
Elizabeth McKinney, Georgia Public Library
Service (Currently serving as First Vice-
President/President-Elect)



Elizabeth McKinney, Fred Smith, Ashley Dupuy, Mack Freeman, and Eli Arnold at the GLA Elected Officers Ceremony

*People, Libraries
and Agencies* **IN THE NEWS**

Georgia Library Association 2016 GLA Awards

The Georgia Library Association (GLA) announced award winners at the Georgia Council of Media Organizations (COMO) 2016 annual conference, held in Athens in early October. Miriam Nauenburg, GLA Awards Committee Chair, announced the GLA Award recipients.

Bob Richardson Memorial Award

Evelyn Merk, retired from the Houston County Public Library System, was the recipient of the Bob Richardson Memorial Award, which is given each year in recognition of those who have given outstanding service to GLA. Through her leadership on the Constitution and Bylaws



Committee, Evelyn has provided GLA with valuable input based on her years of involvement with the organization, its individual members, presidencies, and her extensive knowledge of GLA's bylaws and handbook. She

also provided valued service as GLA's Parliamentarian in 2014. Evelyn served as secretary of the Interest Group Council from 1987 to 1989 and chair of the Reference Services Interest Group (formerly the Reference Services Division) from 1987 to 1991. She continues to serve with the interest group and is also a member of the Scholarship Committee. Evelyn has been active with GLA's Library

Trustees, Friends, and Advocates Association Division and has worked to involve Friends of Georgia Libraries with the division.

McJenkin-Rheay Award

Jean Cook, instruction librarian at the University of West Georgia, was the recipient of the McJenkin-Rheay Award, which recognizes a librarian early in their career who has outstanding contributions to GLA. Jean has been an active



member of GLA from the very beginning of her involvement with GLA in 2007. From 2008 to 2009, Jean served on the committee to judge research papers submitted to GLA's Academic Library Division, and in 2012 she was appointed to serve as co-chair of the Awards Committee. From 2013 to 2015 Jean served as chair of the Awards Committee. Currently Jean is serving her second year as a member of the Georgia COMO Conference Planning Committee and is also a member and past chair of GLA's Reference Service Interest Group.

Nix-Jones Award

Dr. Linda Golian-Lui, associate dean and director of library services at Kennesaw State University (KSU), was the recipient of the Nix-Jones Award, which is given to a librarian for their service and contributions to Georgia librarianship. Linda has established professional development programming, a library-wide



mentoring program, and succession planning to develop new leaders for the growing KSU library system. Linda has mentored numerous librarians both informally and for organizations such as the

Library Leadership and Management Association (LLAMA), the Georgia Association of Women in Higher Education, the GLA New Members Round Table, and the Association of College and Research Libraries.

GLA Team Award

The GLA Team Award is given to honor a team of librarians that have collaborated in the past year to produce an excellent program, service, or support of Georgia libraries. This year's award was presented to several long-serving members of the Georgia Student Media Festival Committee: Gordon Baker, dean of libraries at Clayton State University in Morrow, Georgia; Heidi Benford, administrative assistant to the dean of libraries at Clayton State University; Barbara Dantzler, circulation supervisor at Clayton State University; Amy Eklund, collection development librarian at Gwinnett County



Michelle Lenderman, Barbara Dantzler, Linda Johnson, Amy Eklund, and Gordon Baker

Public Library in Lawrenceville, Georgia; Linda Johnson, media specialist at Riverdale High School in Riverdale, Georgia; Michelle Lenderman, director of media services for the Bibb County Schools in Macon, Georgia; and Rebecca Rose, head librarian at the University of North Georgia's campus in Cumming, Georgia. These long-serving team members have carried on a tradition of ensuring that the annual festival is done well with the highest standards to support the creative efforts of the students in Georgia. The team has assisted in the preparation of the annual event, which includes coordinating volunteers, sorting projects, serving as trainers and mentors, maintaining the website, and representing GLA to others throughout the state.

Congratulations to this year's award winners!

*People, Libraries
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Georgia Library Association Academic Library Division

Academic Paper Competition

Every year the Georgia Library Association's (GLA) Academic Library Division (ALD) sponsors an academic papers competition to encourage scholarly research and writing by academic librarians and library school students on topics about libraries and librarianship. All papers submitted to this competition are evaluated via a double blind review by a panel of academic librarians from different institutions across the state. A detailed scoring rubric focuses the review on the following criteria: purpose, content, organization, scholarship, and references. Using the rubric ensures impartiality and provides a basis for valuable feedback to the competition participants. Traditionally, the ALD research paper competition culminates with paper presentations at the COMO conference.

This year's three top scoring papers from the competition were presented at COMO:



Mandy Mastrovita, Andrea Stanfield, Mary Ann Cullen,
Donnie Summerlin, Amy Stalker, and Karen Viars

"Utilizing Student Workers at the Digital Library of Georgia," by Mandy Mastrovita and Donnie Summerlin (winning paper); "A Mobile Solution to Information Literacy Assessment," by Karen Viars, Mary Ann Cullen, and Amy Stalker; and "Defining Ourselves: What Makes a Librarian Professional?," by Andrea Stanfield.



Mandy Mastrovita and Donnie Summerlin
ALD Paper Competition Winners

Academic Library Division at COMO 2016

In addition to the paper presentation, ALD sponsored two other COMO sessions that continued the theme to encourage academic librarians to research and write. One session was a pre-conference workshop and the other was a panel by a group of librarians involved in publishing.

The workshop "Librarians in Print: A Scholarly Approach to Library Research, Writing, and Publishing" was led by Sarah Steiner, a 2011 *Library Journal* Mover and Shaker. The workshop encouraged participants to bring an idea for a scholarly publication and then covered topics such as getting started, selecting

a research methodology, finding a publisher, and handling rejection from editors.

In a panel moderated by outgoing ALD chair Rebecca Rose, Camille McCutcheon, Cheryl Stiles, and Virginia Feher fielded questions about different aspects of scholarly writing and publishing. All panelists have extensive experience working and writing for academic journals on state and national level. Camille McCutcheon is a member of the editorial boards of *The Southeastern Librarian*, *The Journal of Popular Culture*, and *The Journal of American Culture* and is book review editor for the *Journal of American Culture*; Virginia Feher is the current editor of *Georgia Library Quarterly* and reviewer for *College and Undergraduate Libraries*; Cheryl Stiles is piloting a one-year professional writing group for Kennesaw State University librarians. The panel discussed helpful strategies to get published, writing software and tools, communication with journal editors, and navigation of the peer review process.



Camille McCutcheon, Cheryl Stiles, Virginia Feher, and Rebecca Rose

2016 ALD Election Results

Incoming ALD Chair: Sofia Slutskey, Metadata Strategist, Georgia Institute of Technology

Vice-Chair/Chair Elect: Jennifer Townes, Scholarly Communication Librarian, Georgia College

Secretary: Angela Dixon, Reference Services Librarian, University of North Georgia

ACRL Chapters Council Representative*: Kimberly Boyd, Research and Instruction Librarian, Brenau University (* three year term)

*People, Libraries
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Georgia Library Association Paraprofessional Division Grants

The Paraprofessional Division of the Georgia Library Association (GLA) provides grants to full-time library paraprofessionals to facilitate their attendance at the COMO conference. Each winner also receives an awards plaque and a free one-year paraprofessional membership in the Georgia Library Association. This year, five paraprofessionals were chosen for the grants, including Moira Blackflower, Amy Hicks, Jo Fortner, Ashawna Green, and Virginia Van Orsdale.

Moira Blackflower is a library assistant at the Newton Campus Library of Georgia State University's Perimeter College. In addition to



circulation duties, Moira also provides reference assistance. Coming from a public library background, she had to learn Library of Congress call numbers and make the transition to working in an academic setting with a

different ILS System and new procedures. That was not a problem for Moira. She quickly and efficiently grasps new concepts. She even enjoys shelf reading and shelving books in order to learn more about the collection and takes the initiative to find additional ways to enhance library services. She enjoys helping people and

interacts well with students, faculty, and staff. Her innate sense of curiosity, love of learning, empathy, sense of humor, enthusiasm, and passion for libraries and librarianship are impressive.

Amy Hicks is the branch manager for the Walnut Grove Library. Her philosophy is a library is so much more than a job or a room full of books, it is her home. The library allows her and countless others to



delve into the world of fiction and travels and to lands and worlds unknown without leaving the comfort of our living rooms. With passions that range from summer reading to crafting, Amy is invaluable to the success of the Walnut Grove Library. Her library has, despite many economic disadvantages, continued to serve as a cornerstone institution for the community. She has steered her staff in the direction of assisting patrons to meet their needs as well as making their visit to the library a pleasant experience. Her dedication, passion, accomplishments, and willingness to learn and take on the challenges of managing and growing the library make her a great leader.

Jo Fortner is a library assistant at Savannah State University's Asa H. Gordon Library. She has long loved libraries and works hard to help

provide excellent service and resources to the students, faculty, and staff her library serves. In



her assigned role, Jo supports several facets of the library's operations. She assists in the acquisitions process, participates in catalog enhancement projects, and works at the circulation desk when coverage is needed. The attention to detail with

which she completes tasks in the Technical Services Department shows the strength of her work ethic. She is a diligent worker and displays her passion for librarianship in her daily work. The proficiency she brings to the varied responsibilities of her job leaves no doubt that she will make a great librarian in the future.

Ashawna Green is the youth services specialist for the Clarkesville-Habersham Library. She loves seeing the kids light up and go crazy picking out their first set of ten, twenty, or fifty books. She promotes



using, growing, and loving the library. She enjoys helping people of all ages and has an energy and passion for helping others learn new things. She has consistently shown a positive attitude and enthusiasm for library work. She cares deeply about the library and strives for excellence. She works diligently to provide a high quality children's program and summer reading program. Her work and creativity are impressive. It is clear that she genuinely cares about the library's young patrons and their families and enjoys sharing her love of libraries with them.

Virginia (Ginny) Van Orsdale was the assistant branch manager for the Morrow Branch of the Clayton County Library System. She encouraged and promoted team input in her branch. She liked to work with her team members to find solutions and new ways of doing things so that everyone has the opportunity to be proud of



what was accomplished. She was a model for excellence in customer services. She is an attentive listener and creates a sense of partnership with her patrons to find the needed answers or solve problems. As a result, patrons leave the library not only with an appreciation of her skill but also with a positive appreciation of the library as a whole. Ginny has extensive expertise in the areas of management, computer resources, and technical knowledge. With so many outstanding qualities, the Porter Memorial Branch Library of the Newton County Library System is now lucky enough to have her as their branch manager.

*People, Libraries
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Georgia Library Association 2016 GLA Scholarship Winners

The Georgia Library Association (GLA) scholarship committee is pleased to announce the 2016 recipients of the Beard and Hubbard scholarships. These two awards are given annually by GLA to provide financial assistance for students pursuing a master's degree in library and information science.

Hubbard Scholarship

This year's C. S. Hubbard scholarship winner is Katie Mitchell. Katie is from Carrollton, Georgia, and is a graduate of the University of Georgia (BS, Psychology) and the University of West Georgia (MEd, School Library Media). She began working in circulation at the Ingram Library at the University of West Georgia in 2008 and discovered the incredibly rewarding career of assisting patrons with finding and using resources to meet their educational, instructional, and personal information needs. She has since worked in various library environments, including academic, public, and private libraries. She now serves as the branch manager at the Neva Lomason Memorial Library, part of the West Georgia Regional Library system, and is currently pursuing a master's degree in library and information science at Valdosta State University. She is very passionate about

learning and using emerging technology for programs and instruction, and one of her main goals is to broaden her skills in this area in order to focus on using the power of technology to enhance various services within the field of librarianship.

"With the transformation in information-seeking trends and resources that are continuously influenced by advances in technology, the role of the librarian seems to be

ever expanding and evolving. I cannot think of a more rewarding career than one which allows me to serve my community by meeting individuals' information-seeking needs in a climate of growth and innovation. It's never been a more exciting time to be a library professional."

Beard Scholarship

Anne Marie McLean is this year's Charles Beard Scholarship winner. She graduated from Emory & Henry College (Virginia) with a BA in Political Science and Religion and went on to receive her masters of theological studies at Emory University's Candler School of Theology. Anne Marie stumbled upon a career in

theological librarianship while working part-time at Emory University's libraries during the completion of her master's degree. She was employed at the Robert W. Woodruff library as a part-time technology and learning commons



Hubbard Scholarship Winner Katie Mitchell

student assistant and was then promoted to circulation desk supervisor a semester later. After completing an internship with the reference staff of Pitts Theology Library, she was hired as a graduate assistant in the cataloging, archives, and special collections departments and worked there in addition to her circulation work at Woodruff. After a staff position became available in public services, she was interviewed and selected to be the new interlibrary loan and document delivery specialist at Pitts in September 2015. Presently Anne Marie performs ILL/EDD duties and supervises the circulation desk at the theology library. As she completes her MLIS via distance learning through the University of Alabama, Anne Marie is anxious to put her practical experience into perspective against the backdrop of the entire discipline.

“My long term objective is to find a niche in our theology library through a specialization in

Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies in order to accommodate the increased interest in the subject, using my own background in academia

to further the scholarship of students, staff, and faculty in the university setting. Without the financial assistance of Beard Scholarship provided by the Georgia Library Association, the resources for expanding my expertise and continuing my education would not be possible, and I cannot express my gratitude enough. I find it not only an opportunity, but a responsibility to become the best librarian I can be in order to give back to the scholarly community that both fueled and enabled my passion for the discipline.”



Beard Scholarship Winner Anne Marie McLean

Complete information about the scholarships offered by GLA, including application information, is available on the GLA website at: <http://gla.georgialibraries.org/scholarship.htm>.

Congratulations to our 2016 scholarship winners!

*People, Libraries
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Georgia Library Association COMO Scholarship Raffle

The annual Georgia Library Association (GLA) Scholarship Raffle, held at the 28th annual GaCOMO Conference in Athens, Georgia, was another huge success!

Thanks to the generosity and diligent efforts of donors, volunteers, and COMO attendees, a total of \$4,711.21 was raised for the C. S. Hubbard and Charles E. Beard Scholarship awards.

The scholarship committee is especially grateful to Elizabeth McKinney and those who participated in the T-Shirt Booster Campaign for the 6th Annual Pat Carterette Memorial 5k Run/Walk. Funds from this event were added to the total amount raised in the scholarship raffle.

Not included in the COMO total is over \$1,000 raised by Oscar Gittemeier from calendar sales that was donated to the scholarship fund.

Thank you GLA members for assisting future Georgia librarians in reaching their educational goals!



*People, Libraries
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Georgia Library Association Research and Assessment Interest Group

The Research and Assessment Interest Group (RAIG) is celebrating its inaugural year of activities. Thanks to Georgia Library Association (GLA) funding, RAIG successfully recorded the COMO session "Removing Barriers to One-Shot Assessment" by Amy Fynn of Coastal Carolina University. The recording will be available online via GLA's Vimeo page. In addition, RAIG members (Michael Holt, Louise Lowe, Emily Thornton, and Cristina Hernandez Trotter) presented preliminary data from their national survey "Assessing the State of Library Assessment." The survey is the first—of hopefully many—collaborative projects to come from RAIG membership.

RAIG formed in late 2015 by reviving and expanding the scope of the Assessment Interest Group, which had been inactive for some years.



RAIG strives to foster the skills, knowledge, and experience of members and others in the practices of 1) library assessment and 2) library and information science research. Both practices share in common not only techniques of qualitative and quantitative data collection and analysis, but also the greater goal of

positively affecting library practices and outcomes by promoting research-based decision making in individual libraries and in the profession as a whole. By recognizing these commonalities, RAIG hopes to reach a broad enough member base to ensure sustainable activity and encourage creative collaborations.

RAIG's first elected officers are Cristina Hernandez Trotter (founder and Chair), Emily Thornton (Vice-Chair), and Jennifer Price (Secretary-Treasurer). Any GLA members who are interested in LIS research and/or library assessment may join RAIG at no additional cost. To learn more, please contact Cristina at chtrotter@gmail.com.

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*People, Libraries
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Gwinnett County Public Library

GCPL awarded \$19,009 Sparks! Ignition Grant for Libraries from the Institute of Museum and Library Services

Gwinnett County Public Library (GCPL) has been awarded a \$19,009 Sparks! Ignition Grant for Libraries from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). Sparks! Ignition Grants for Libraries are a special funding opportunity within the IMLS National Leadership Grants for Libraries program. These small grants encourage libraries and archives to test and evaluate specific innovations in the ways they operate and the services they provide.

Sparks grants support the deployment, testing, and evaluation of promising and groundbreaking new tools, products, services, or organizational practices. With the award, GCPL will develop "Homegrown Gwinnett," a community gardening initiative. The library will experiment with the use of space saving aeroponic Tower Gardens across all fifteen branches. The project has the dual benefits of providing STEM learning opportunities for library patrons as well as providing fresh produce for area food banks, leveraging local partnerships, and



reinforcing the library's role as a community anchor organization.

"Gwinnett County Public Library is pleased to be awarded this IMLS grant which will strengthen and enhance our educational initiatives and outreach," says GCPL Executive Director Charles Pace. "Local children will be able to learn about how food is grown as well as sustainable agricultural practices. In addition, we plan on donating any surplus generated to local food pantries as part of a strategy to increase food security in our community." Installation and staff training will take place over the next several weeks with programming to follow.

Gwinnett County Public Library is a free provider of education and information. Located in Metro Atlanta, the library has fifteen branches that offer free access to computers and Wi-Fi, classes, materials, and programming for people of all ages. For more information about Gwinnett County Public Library programs and services, visit <http://gwinnettpl.org>.

*People, Libraries
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Kennesaw State University

The 2016 Georgia Library Association's Nix Jones Award was presented to Dr. Linda Golian-Lui, Kennesaw State University (KSU) associate dean & department chair and librarian



professor, at the Georgia COMO/SELA Conference on October 6, 2016. This award is given to a Georgia librarian who has significantly contributed to the library profession. Dr. Golian-Lui has provided

professional librarianship and leadership service to Kennesaw State University, the American Library Association, and the Georgia Library Association. She is grateful to nominator Lesley Brown, KSU director of access services and librarian assistant professor, and for the overwhelming congratulations from all members of the Kennesaw State University Library System.

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Emily Williams is the new metadata & resource management librarian and librarian assistant professor, in the KSU Technical Services Department. Her previous position was at

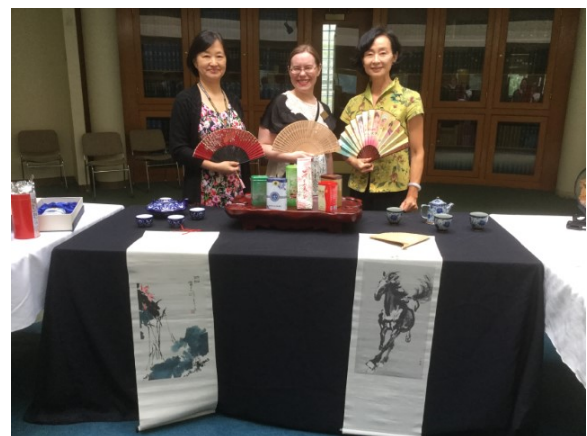


Emily Williams, April Pope, and Matthew Foley

Georgia State University. April Pope is the new stacks maintenance technician, library technical paraprofessional I at the Sturgis Library. Matthew Foley is the new stacks maintenance technician at the Johnson Library.

§

The Johnson Library, Marietta Campus, had the event "Explore Chinese Tea Culture" on September 21, 2016. Xueying Chen, Yongli Ma, and Elizabeth Ivey had moon cakes and a selection of Chinese teas for the campus to sample. They also provided information on the history and health benefits of tea.





To help relieve stress during mid-terms, the Johnson Library had a demonstration of Zentangle by Amy Whitney. Zentangle is a relaxing and fun way to create images by drawing structured patterns.

§

To celebrate Banned Books Week the Sturgis Library, Kennesaw Campus, had students,



faculty, and staff photographed being “charged” with reading their favorite banned book.

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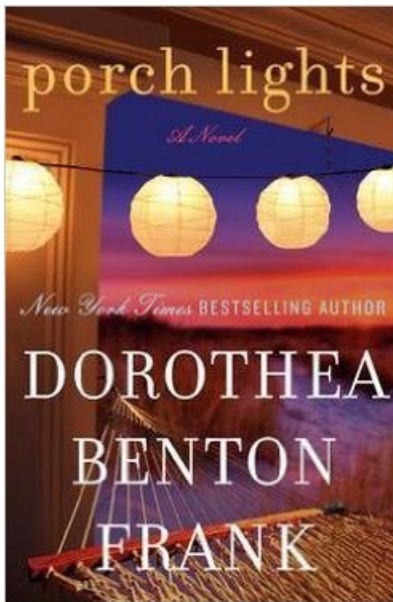
The Friends of the Library Book Sale at the Sturgis Library was held during the National Friends of the Libraries Week, October 17–18, 2016.

Off the SHELF

Porch Lights by Dorothea Benton Frank (William Morrow Paperbacks, 2013: ISBN 978-0-0622-1176-7, \$14.99)

The scene is familiar—sandcastles, sweet tea, and affectionately named houses—the formula for literature’s Southern Lowcountry. If it weren’t for the four-legged characters, reading the clichés would have been unbearable. It’s of no consequence to the story though, because Frank’s characterization is what makes *Porch Lights* surprisingly relatable.

When Jackie, an army nurse, suddenly finds herself a widower and a single mother to her ten-year-old son Charlie (her husband Jimmy dies on the job as a NYFD firefighter), she decides to return to her childhood home, The Salty Dog, for the summer. Jackie is independent, reserved, and resilient. She doesn’t openly express much about anything, except in her head, which often leads her to incorrect conclusions. Her restrained relationship with her mother Annie, for example, is based on unwarranted feelings of criticism and dramatics. But as they continue to interact daily, Jackie comes to learn that life endures tragedy, and through witnessing her mother’s behavior, realizes that she herself needs to embrace change in order to heal.



Annie is the principled matriarch, determined to make her daughter and grandson’s visit perfect. She is full of tales about literary history, particularly on Edgar Allen Poe and the infamous pirate Blackbeard, which Charlie relishes. These moments provide interesting exposition to our otherwise methodical setting. Having Jackie and Charlie home, however, brings about an awakening for Annie’s own change and healing. She and her husband Buster have been separated for eleven years now, and her only child lives miles away—Annie can no longer ignore how lonely she feels, despite her efforts to continue daily normalcy.

The story is told in alternating narratives from Jackie and Annie to great effect. The reader quickly understands that mother and daughter are the same. Although predictable, Dorothea Benton Frank’s story line captures familial relationships and beautifully illustrates how we can always find our way home (both literally and proverbially) when someone cares to leave on a (porch) light.

Recommended for public libraries and adult readers.

Jennifer Putnam Davis is Reference Assistant at Augusta University, Reese Library

Off the SHELF

A President in Our Midst: Franklin Delano Roosevelt in Georgia by Kaye Lanning Minchew
(University of Georgia Press, 2016: 978-0-8203-4918-3, \$34.95)

For Georgians of a certain age, Franklin Delano Roosevelt's (FDR) connection with the state was a constant, but as time has passed, many may have forgotten the time he spent in Georgia. In *A President in Our Midst: Franklin Delano Roosevelt in Georgia*, Kaye Lanning Minchew brings FDR and his twenty-one years of visits to Georgia back to the forefront.

Minchew's thirty-year tenure as executive director of the Troup County Historical Society and Archives provides her with a special insight into the Roosevelt's time in Georgia. She also writes of her own family's longtime admiration of President Roosevelt as part of the reason for putting together this informative chronicle of FDR in the state.

Minchew opens the book with a recounting of Roosevelt's first (and very brief) visit to the state in 1913 while an assistant secretary of the navy. Here the reader has a first glimpse of the book's format. Each page spread features photographs, some rarely seen, with accompanying text. This format is effectively used throughout as Minchew leads the reader through the different eras of FDR's time in Georgia.

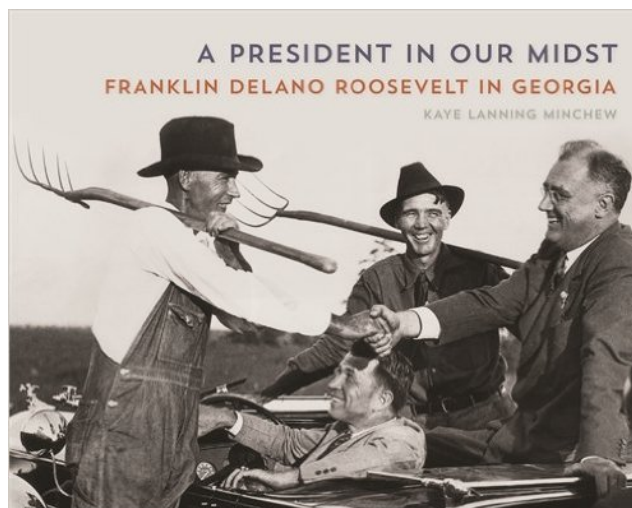
In the first chapter, the reader learns of Roosevelt's bout with polio and his efforts to

recover from the paralysis that left him unable to walk without aid. His efforts at recovery led him to discover the benefits of Warm Springs after his friend, George Foster Peabody, suggested FDR visit the area. This chapter also gives interesting background on the area and the springs. Minchew effectively divides the following chapters into different periods of FDR's life and career. From the beginnings of his

fight against polio, the reader is led into the time period in which FDR worked to show he was "fit" for office. It is here that one gains insight into how the press portrayed him, in stark contrast to today's media coverage of candidates. The chapters go on to cover Roosevelt's leadership out of the Great

Depression and into World War II. Due to the commitment of leading during the war, his visits to the Little White House in Warm Springs dropped sharply. Many were probably caught off guard when he died at the Little White House as he had rarely visited in the preceding years. Minchew, of course, includes the events surrounding his death but wisely chooses to not conclude with this. Instead, she writes of FDR's lasting legacy in Georgia: the work that continued in regards to polio, the economy, and the many memorials.

Within this volume, there are many things that even the casual historian would know about Roosevelt, but the added value is that these things, along with many others, are placed within the context of his time in Georgia and his relationship with the people of the state. The



work could possibly be more effective if it were compiled in strictly chronological order, but with that said, it is still a valuable work that would be useful in public and academic libraries alike. As it is well footnoted and contains a good

index, it would also be helpful to historians and scholars.

*Joy Bolt is Head Librarian – Dahlonega at
University of North Georgia*

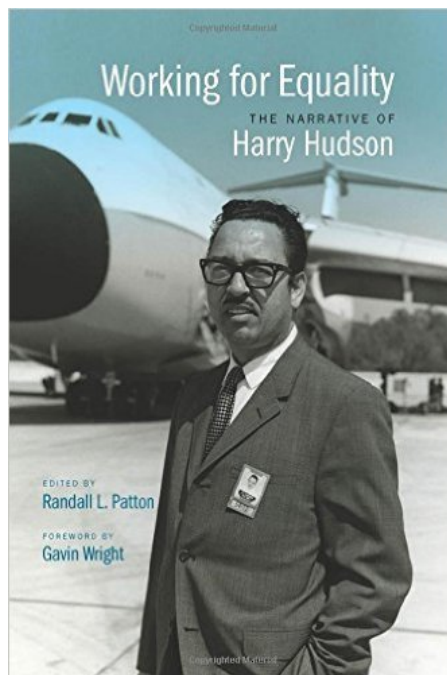
Off the SHELF

Working for Equality: The Narrative of Harry Hudson edited by Randall L. Patton, foreword by Gavin Wright (The University of Georgia Press, 2015: ISBN 978-0-8203-4800-1, \$44.95)

Working for Equality is the memoir of Harry Hudson, the first African American supervisor of Lockheed Aircraft's Georgia division. Harry Hudson walks readers through his career beginning in 1952, "drilling holes and shooting rivets in airplanes." Hudson was one of ten "super Negroes" originally recruited to appease the government and the NAACP during the civil rights movement. Hudson rose in the ranks from laborer to supervisor of an integrated African American crew and later to purchasing agent for the company. Due to his light skin color, Hudson faced discrimination from both white and black colleagues while at Lockheed. Hudson kept an amazing account of his years at Lockheed, starting with handwritten memos, and through the rise of technology, cassette tapes and later computers. Every few years, Hudson would organize his records and tapes until he eventually began writing a book of his time at Lockheed. His work is written candidly and is full of the emotion one expects to find from an African American during the civil rights movement.

The memoir describes the working life of Harry Hudson throughout his career at Lockheed Aircraft's Georgia division. Hudson began his career quite accidentally in 1952. At the time, Hudson and his father owned a gas station in

Atlanta and received a visit from Bobby Kennon, Lockheed's recruiter of "good African American applicants." The interest in recruiting African American applicants stemmed from Lockheed's desire to receive federal defense contracts due to the rise of the Korean War. The contracts would not be awarded to companies that did not hire African Americans.



From the beginning, Hudson chronicles the day-to-day struggles of an African American man working his way into a previously all-white corporation. Hudson's three-week long training program readied him for the work that he did but not for the racist atmosphere and actions of his supervisors. When drilling holes on the assembly line, Hudson and his crew were consistently marked with the "red grease pencil," a pencil used to determine if the size of the hole is the correct size, as incorrect. This made it appear that Hudson and his crew did not drill according to the way

they were instructed to. Two weeks into his new job, Hudson's supervisor told him that he was instructed to sabotage their work to make it look like Hudson and the other African Americans could not work in the industry.

As Hudson rose up through the ranks of Lockheed, racial incidents continued to occur with frequency. After eight years in management, Hudson was given a lateral move from a management position to a salaried position. In his words, "How one can call a move from management to a salaried position a lateral move was a little much for me to

comprehend, having been in management for eight years. Is every one supposed to be dumb and stupid?" Regardless of the situation, Hudson made the most of it and continued to rise up the ranks at Lockheed.

Hudson tells it exactly as he saw it in a fascinating display of thought-provoking penmanship as well as a frank writing style using "aircrafters' language" that draws the reader into the book. Hudson's writing is a firsthand account of the prejudice that existed during his time at Lockheed and how he and the other African Americans made it through day after day. Hudson retired in December 1987, and "all of the ladies in the material division (it seemed) and some of the gents cooked and made salads, cold cut spreads, ham, all types of bread, finger sandwiches, soft drinks, and really

made up a table of food as if the CEO were coming or leaving." In the end, Hudson expresses only one regret during his time at Lockheed: that he was not promoted based on his skill and work ethic but rather to appease the government and civil rights advocates instead. In conclusion, Harry Hudson hopes that "if you read between the lines you will understand the subtle evolution of the American original philosophy of the melting pot of different cultures and so-called races becoming one as the true American, as spelled out in the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution."

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