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## From the President

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## *From the* PRESIDENT

The newly branded Georgia Libraries Conference (GLC) will be held October 4–6 in Columbus Georgia. The Conference Committee is working hard to bring us a fabulous conference this year. The Conference Advisory Task Force has also worked hard to provide input and assistance. The committee will maintain some of our most valued traditions while incorporating some new events.

This year's conference theme is "Different by Design." What's *different* this year?

Edutainment with authors. A redesigned author event sponsored by GLA's Public Library Division.

Murder Mystery Night. A new, more interactive format for Wednesday evening entertainment so that we can spend time networking and solving a mystery with our colleagues. The added bonus here is that Carol Stanley is chairing the planning group for this. You know it is going to be good!

Storytelling Lunch with local historians. Did you know the biggest Confederate port was completely landlocked? What works of iron were cast in your presentation rooms when the facility was the Columbus Irons Works? Do ghosts haunt the Trade Center today? Learn from the locals. Added bonus: food costs are significantly lower in Columbus, so the price for the luncheon will drop significantly. We are also getting the top of the line buffet. Come hungry and ready to learn!

All Conference Reception. This year's reception will allow conference attendees to meet and mingle with incoming GLA officers. The awards

ceremony will be held in a space adjacent to the reception area. Conference attendees can attend the ceremony to cheer for awards recipients and continue enjoying reception food and drink.

And some things will remain the same. Foremost is the commitment to providing excellent conference content and continuing education opportunities. For the library staff required to maintain a State of Georgia Certification, you still can fulfill your two-year requirement for CE credit by attending the conference. Note that you will be responsible for your own CE forms.

This year's conference will feature ten concurrent sessions with speakers from a broad range of libraries and backgrounds. There are more programs for public libraries offered this year than ever before. Our keynote speakers, R. David Lankes and Siva Vaidhyathan, are sure to engage us in topics related to current issues we face in libraries.

From his bio:

R. David Lankes is the director of the University of South Carolina's School of Library and Information Science, and recipient of the American Library Association's 2016 Ken Haycock Award for Promoting Librarianship. His book, *The Atlas of New Librarianship* won the 2012 ABC-CLIO/Greenwood Award for the Best Book in Library Literature. Lankes is a passionate advocate for librarians and their essential role in today's society.

From his bio:

Siva Vaidhyathan is a cultural historian and media scholar and is a professor of Media

Studies at the University of Virginia.

Vaidyanathan is a frequent contributor on media and cultural issues in various periodicals including [The Chronicle of Higher Education](#), [New York Times Magazine](#), [The Nation](#), [Slate](#), and [The Baffler](#). His books include *Copyrights and Copywrongs: The Rise of Intellectual Property and How It Threatens Creativity*, *The Anarchist in the Library: How the Clash Between Freedom and Control Is Hacking the Real World and Crashing the System*, *The Googlization of Everything -- and Why We Should Worry*, and *Intellectual Property: A Very Short Introduction*.

We look forward to taking advantage of downtown Columbus' growth since we last held our conference there. There are many restaurants and shops within walking distance and a wider variety of hotel rooms at many price points. For those of us looking to explore the city, Columbus offers a variety of museums,

tours, and other attractions such as the Civil War Naval Museum and the Coca-Cola Space Science Center. It's always great to meet new librarians throughout our state and to visit with old friends. Stay tuned for details of special deals and tours that will be listed on the conference website.

A note about IMLS funding before I close. The House "Labor H" Appropriations Subcommittee approved a spending bill that keeps IMLS level-funded at \$231 million for FY18. The full committee will meet to vote on Wednesday, July 19, so we will know the result of this after publication of the next GLQ. Keep your fingers crossed and keep contacting your legislators!

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