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Book reviews by Georgia librarians  

The Piedmont Regional Library recently dedicated its new Braselton Library. The 6,800-square-foot building features a wraparound porch with numerous chairs for patrons. From its headquarters library in Winder and 11 branches, the Piedmont system serves the population of Banks, Barrow and Jackson counties. Photos by Alan Harkness, the system’s director.
Librarians must be eternal optimists! We are once again in the midst of a tumultuous legislative session, and once again we remain ever hopeful that this year our ship will dock! It must be one of our best qualities. Public libraries were ecstatic last year when we received $2 million in additional dollars for books that almost put us back to where we were before the budget cuts four years ago. Of course, our former allocation of 60 cents per capita was never funded, and we had been stuck at a 56-cents-per-capita level for seven years, but we are happy as long as funding seems headed in an upward direction. We have been searching for many years for an effective way to make our voices heard. It is a battle we will have to eternally fight.

On one hand, it is positive that libraries are so much taken for granted as a part of our communities that the public doesn’t think about where the money is derived. It’s like electricity — when we flip the switch we expect the light to come on. However, as we all know, it is not cheap to run libraries on budgets that grow slowly while user expectations continue to increase. As an example, my library was proud to have installed wireless Internet access only to be astounded when a user came in demanding we provide him a wireless card for his notebook!

Our Friends and Trustees are our strongest advocates as we saw on Library Day at the Capitol, where a sold-out crowd of library supporters met with our legislators to promote libraries. Their pride in our libraries was immediately apparent. However, we must continue this advocacy back home. Some ideas: hold a lunch for your legislative delegation and elected officials at the library; have an open house at your library honoring your legislators and officials; send pictures with your legislators from Library Day to local papers; and, probably the easiest and most painless, periodically e-mail your representatives to thank them and express any concerns.

We must continue to remain vigilant concerning pending legislation and its effects upon us especially in light of CIPA and bills relating to pornography and the Internet. We were taken by surprise when HB 226, the replacement bill for the previous Georgia obscenity code that was struck down by the court, specifically added “lending” to the bill’s wording. While the bill exempts “a person associated with an institution of higher learning,” it does not exempt public libraries.

Attempts to have an exemption added as an amendment that would read “a person while working in an official capacity in a public library” failed in the House. The effect could mean any library staff could be targeted if a person checked out a book she/he did not deem appropriate, including even ILL books borrowed from other libraries.

More startling were the vehement comments made by some House members who did not want the exemption for public libraries added. Comments included that librarians never want anyone telling them what to do; there is no way for taxpayers to keep librarians from using tax money to buy dirty books; taxpayers have no control over the librarians; and board members aren’t elected so taxpayers have no control over board members. At this writing, the fight has moved over to the Senate side, but it demonstrates the need to keep in touch with our legislators to offset these misperceptions.

On a happier note, plans for GaCOMO 2007 (Jekyll Island, October 17-19) continue. The program proposal form is now available at www.georgiacomo.org, and proposals may be submitted through May 31. At the GLA Midwinter Conference, there were many great program ideas, so please follow through with submitting these. We want to share innovative programs going on throughout Georgia and the United States at COMO, and we can’t do this without your participation!

— JoEllen Ostendorf
President
Georgia Library Association
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gla.georgialibraries.org
A peek inside the personal library of a librarian
by Dusty Gres

My personal library collection began the Christmas I was 8 years old. Money was tight, but my father had found an old china cabinet in someone's trash and gone to junk shops, used bookstores, even the city dump, collecting books. What a gift! My own bookcase full of books — all kinds: Alice in Wonderland, Little Women, Tom Sawyer, Robinson Crusoe, Last of the Mohicans, Prisoner of Zenda and Zott; oldies but goodies — Cuckoo Clock, Penrod, Water-babies, Mother West Wind, even a copy of One Thousand and One Arabian Nights that I am sure my father did not know was unabridged! Not all, but some are still on my bookshelves today.

Over the years my library has grown, sometimes to unmanageable proportions. I've added, weeded, boxed and moved what seemed like the Library of Congress at times. Marrying another book collector didn't help. We made a rule: No book was added to our home library if it could be checked out from the public library. Except for those we already owned, or really wanted because they were special, or were given to us, or wanted to read again; there is an exception to every rule.

My library is really a collection of collections. In an old bookcase, not quite what my father gave me years ago but as close as I could find, there are: the books from that long-ago Christmas gift, my beloved Freddy the Pig books (the first books I bought with my own money), my Andre Norton collection — begun when I was a teenager and added to throughout the years, mostly paperbacks, but all signed by the great lady when I was privileged to be her librarian — and my father's pulp fiction collection — Tarzan rubs elbows with Sam Spade.

On the “library shelves,” handmade oak shelving I rescued from a library that was being renovated, are ranged my state fiction collection: beginning with my Florida childhood — The Pink Motel, Up a Crooked River, Strawberry Girl, The Lion's Paw by Robb White (one of the finest children's adventure stories ever written), The Barefoot Mailman, Alas Babylon, If Nothin' Don't Happen, A Land Remembered. I've added Georgia titles and Georgia authors I’ve met at CSAC, GLA/COMO and who have visited my library in the years I've been here, including — to come full circle — books by Bailey White and Robb White, Jr.

My fairy and folktale collection: All the Andrew Lang's plus stories from many countries and regions. (Have you read some of those Japanese tales? They will make your skin crawl!)

My reference collection: Dictionaries (I favor Webster's 2nd Unabridged), history books, encyclopedias, poetry, literature, and every animal, vegetable or mineral identification book and “living off the land” book I can find. I cannot bear to see a flower, tree, animal, (etc.) that I can’t identify; I think it's the reference librarian gene. Plus, I’m a child of the ‘60s, The Whole Earth Catalog(s). The “Classics Collection” — not sure what else to call it. I am probably one of the last human beings on the planet to have voluntarily taken Latin, years of Latin. I have quite a few books I have enjoyed reading through the years, from Winnie Ille Pu to Harrius Potter et Philosophi Lapis.

There is my husband’s collection: Books about boats — building them, running them, knots, rigging, sailing, the ocean, seamanship. If it exists and it has to do with water, he's tried to collect it (the library rule has been invoked many times). He's got Carry On, Mr. Bowditch right next to Bowditch’s American Practical Navigator, all those interminable Time-Life series, the works of Robb White and Randy Wayne White, Scuffy the Tugboat,

Continued on page 32
Getting on Your Community’s Leadership Team
By Ellen G. Miller and Patricia H. Fisher

Librarians often think of the future, evidenced by updating their strategic plans, missions and/or visions. But there’s another aspect of “future” to consider — the director-board team becoming part of the local community’s leadership team.

“Hold on!” interrupted Director Donnalee. “Our team is nearly tapped out with business as usual. Why even think about economic development or community building?” Because the library has two choices: Sit at the community’s several decision-making tables or keep waiting underneath for crumbs to fall off. The goal is to energize your public library director-board team to position itself and the library as a power-structure partner, not a niche player.

Your community’s quality of life and economic viability depend on several interlinked spheres. Each sphere, shown below, has its own decision-making table.

- Government
- Education
- Culture and entertainment
- Health and social services
- Religion
- Economic development

Getting a seat at those leadership tables means mastering the basics, starting with their goals, roles, resources and authority. City, county and township governmental levels require extra attention, since their legal powers, organization, funds and processes affect every interlinked sphere.

Yes, it takes time to understand these spheres. But that knowledge is essential if your director-board seeks a seat at any of your community’s decision-making tables.

Unfortunately, “seeks” is indeed the operative word. As a tax-supported institution serving virtually all of these spheres, one might assume that most of the nation’s 9,214 public libraries sit at some community decision-making tables.

Not so. In A Place at the Table, Kathleen de la Peña McCook examined the community-building literature and practice, noting the dearth of mentions about libraries in either support or leadership roles. “Libraries, like schools, are generally viewed as community services that are passive participants rather than proactive partners in broad visioning initiatives,” she said.

McCook discussed the comprehensive community initiative, a model that does capacity building through planning strategies such as those used by the United Way of America. She also showed how to link the Public Library Association’s Planning for Results process with community building in areas such as arts and culture, city services/infrastructure and employment/workforce. Her suggestions to local libraries include implementing personnel policies that support community building through ongoing outreach by staff.1

Seats at Seattle’s Tables

The Seattle Public Library uses McCook’s model daily, stated city librarian Deborah L. Jacobs. “We are leaning toward making ‘outreach’ — as in A Place at the Table — part of regular performance expectations for all managers,” she said. “Eventually it is our goal to make it a part of all employee work-plans since everyone has a role to play in making the library a key community player.” Jacobs believes in the library being in front of policy makers, donors, businesses, nonprofits and patrons. For example, the director of youth services sits on early-learning and education boards such as the
Civic participation extends to the board and director, too. Each of the five trustees sits at different community tables. For example, the vice president of the library board is on the Washington governor’s Early Learning Advisory Board and the larger Washington Learns education initiative. Jacobs sits on the Seattle Downtown Association’s board as well as that of the Seattle Convention and Visitor’s Bureau, among others. Her advice to other director-board teams? “There is no future for the library without doing advocacy, participation, partnerships and collaborations,” Jacobs stated. “Each community should understand that no table is truly set without the library being at it.”

The Special Case of Economic Development
City fathers and mothers face intense pressures. For a library to become part of the power structure, it must understand those pressures. Of all of the interrelated spheres involved in community building, economic development is arguably one of the most important. Why? Both a growing tax base and local quality of life depend on it. Listen up, director-board teams! Blue-chip national and local groups are calling for innovation, a skilled workforce, economic gardening and more. They are also calling for local stakeholders to help the power structure land jobs.

Should libraries heed that call? Yes, for three huge reasons. First, those jobs mean a growing tax base, benefiting your library. Second, those jobs will help keep the next generation in town for years to come, building your community. And, third, local entrepreneurs trying to start or grow their businesses need information to succeed. Information is your library’s specialty. Economic development provides an outstanding opportunity for your director-board team to help community leaders achieve their goals concerning growth of jobs, tax base and competitiveness.

Positioning Your Library as a Player
Like a fine wine, “positioning” has textures, body and complexity as shown in this definition: “In marketing, positioning is the technique by which marketers try to create an image or identity in the minds of their target market for its product, brand, or organization... Positioning is something (perception) that is done in the minds of the target market.”

The bad news? Most libraries do a terrible job creating a positive image with civic leaders. The good news? Virtually all of the nation’s 9,214 public libraries provide programs benefiting those leaders’ constituents. Not incidentally, many of those beneficiaries — or their parents — are also voters.

If your library has programs supporting economic development, tell your civic leaders! The trick is remembering to cover all the bases. Describe those that indirectly help with jobs and tax base as well as those that obviously do so.

Libraries Target Birth to Age 5
The education landscape was carved up decades ago. Grades K-12 belong to schools. Higher education takes over after that.

But what about birth to age 5? Since 2001, it has become the turf of many public libraries. A significant, research-based movement — termed “emergent literacy” — now links those libraries with parents of children under age 5. Emergent literacy helps prepare those youngsters for school and reading.

Reading is essential to the knowledge-based economy. Based on research concerning how children learn, the Every Child Ready to Read @ Your Library® and related initiatives by public libraries should help children enter school ready to learn. As a result, their test scores should go up as they progress through school.

Does your library offer an emergent literacy program? Tell your power structure. This long-term program will help your community build an even more competitive workforce.
Small Business Information Centers
Also tell those leaders about your library programs that directly support economic development. One widespread program offered by both large and smaller libraries is the small business information center.5

For example, serving 85,200 population, the Cecil County, Maryland Public Library’s small business information center started with a $47,088 state grant that was matched with local in-kind contributions of $13,314. Since the grant’s end in 2004, county commissioners have funded the center. Its website includes model business plans as well as links to licensing and code information.

Located in the central library, the center is staffed by a full-time librarian with both MLS and MBA degrees. The focus is on forming and sustaining ongoing relationships with business clients. An affiliated group, the Cecil Business Resource Partners, as well as local banks send would-be entrepreneurs to the library’s center to get started.

Success begets success. The more that library directors, managers and trustees are out in the field, the more they see possibilities for new linkages. The library attracted two other partners to the Cecil Business Resources Partners. One was SCORE, the Service Corps of Retired Executives; the other was BEPAC, Business and Education Partnership Advisory Council, an organization charged with preparing public school students for postgraduate employment. Winning a chamber of commerce award for small business support prompted invitations for the library to serve on important county committees.

All of these library successes helped Cecil County. Library director Denise Davis commented, “We let people know about these successes. [We would advise other libraries to] make it clear that when you can help your county, you will do so. However, you can’t always do what the county would like you to do since you don’t want to drift too far from your library mission or vision. The risk is losing your own identity and purpose. But when you can help and it makes sense to do so, really come through for them in significant ways. Be a dedicated part of their team. In the process, be sure to get more and more parts of the county leadership to be part of your team.”6

Judging a Library by its Friends
Partnerships can help position the library as a player with decision-makers. When volunteers, especially civic influencers, spend precious time and dollars to help your Friends or foundation, your power structure sits up.

Running a library without a Friends group or a library foundation is like rowing a boat with one oar: Hard! Not only do these support groups provide funds to the library, but they also show civic leaders that the library attracts committed, effective individuals.

One of the nation’s most successful support groups is the Friends of the Saint Paul, Minnesota Public Library. In 2005, it was cited for its support when the library won the National Award for Library Service from the Institute for Museum and Library Services. The group’s vision is to “provide the necessary support to ensure that the Saint Paul Public Library is among the foremost library systems in the United States.”

The Saint Paul Friends routinely raise from $1.7 million to $2.4 million annually. Factors in its success include varied programs that attract donor support, including community outreach; a board, committee and advisory group structure of over 100 people; and a highly formalized plan of action.7

“We work with the library, the community, the mayor, the library board and city council in a carefully structured manner,” said Friends President Peter Pearson. Steps include:

- regular meetings with the library director to find out the library’s top funding needs
- convening an advocacy committee representing every city ward and every library branch to identify local needs
- advocating with the mayor that library requests be included in his budget proposal that goes to city council as well as suggesting new items
- advocating with each city council member to support the library initiatives in the mayor’s proposed budget. The Friends also lobby for new items. They went to city council, supporting a library marketing/public relations position not in the mayor’s budget. Council added it.

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When volunteers, especially civic influencers, spend precious time and dollars to help your Friends or foundation, your power structure sits up. Running a library without a Friends group or a library foundation is like rowing a boat with one oar: Hard!
arranging for influentials to advocate with city council on behalf of the library portions of the mayor's budget. "We involve highly respected individuals in the advocacy process," Pearson said. "Former elected officials are especially credible with our council."

The Saint Paul Friends also use the power of matching funds. "If you’re requesting that city council spends $100,000 on a library program, offer a matching $100,000 from your Friends group or foundation," Pearson urged. "City officials don’t want to be criticized for ignoring extra dollars."

Pearson’s advice to other libraries? “Make your advocacy process formal, not off the cuff. Make sure you have a community involvement process.” Working hand in hand with the library director is essential, as is getting influentials involved in testifying at city council budget hearings. Last and not least, "Never stop," he said. "We’ve used the same process for 14 years and it works." 8

Partnerships and relationships help show the local power structure that the library is indeed a community player.

Notes:
1 Kathleen de la Pena McCook, A Place at the Table (Chicago: American Library Association, 2000): 14.
2 McCook, A Place at the Table, 33-37, 101-5.
4 “Every Child Ready to Read @ Your Library,” www.ala.org/ala/alsc/ECRR/projecthistory/pilotprojectevaluation/evaluationexcerpts/evalexcerpts.pdf.
6 Denise Davis, director, Cecil County (Maryland) Public Library, e-mail to author, August 8, 2006.
8 Peter Pearson, e-mails to author, August 23, 2006.

Adapted with permission from chapter five of The Library Board Strategic Guide: Going to the Next Level, forthcoming in Spring 2007 from Scarecrow Press. The guide is written for the public library director-board team. Its other chapters cover: Risk Management; Local Values, the First Amendment and Challenges; Leadership and Management that Achieve Your Library's Vision; Getting and Growing the Funding Your Library Needs.
Paper Recycling and Academic Libraries
by Jack R. Fisher II and Elaine Yontz

Academic libraries, as centers for print materials for their campuses, have much to offer to paper recycling activities. A successful paper recycling program can enhance the morale of the library staff, reduce waste handling fees for the institution and strengthen the relationship between the library and other units in the campus community.

This study reviews the literature on recycling and libraries, describes a feasibility study of a public-private partnership between a medium-sized academic library and a local vendor and discusses the outcomes of a study compared to the experiences of other libraries. The feasibility study focused on identifying cost-effective measures for making outdated serials, deselected books and office paper available for recycling.

Review of the Literature
The published literature on paper recycling and libraries includes results from surveys and descriptions of activities at individual libraries.

Alpi1 surveyed the subscribers of STS-L, an electronic discussion list for science and technology librarians. She had 65 responses, for a return rate of 6.4 percent. Results indicate that 94 percent of respondents were recycling office paper, 80 percent were recycling mixed paper and 61 percent were recycling cardboard. Alpi's recommendations include maintaining strong communication with other campus units and investigating local options for materials that cannot be accommodated on campus.

Briscoe surveyed large academic law libraries in 19872 and repeated the survey to the same libraries in 19903. She found significant increases in paper recycling. Recycling of newspapers grew from 21 percent in 1987 to 59 percent in 1990; computer paper, from 20 percent to 73 percent; and loose-leaf pages from 17 percent to 62 percent.

Calloway and Callahan4 surveyed a random sample of academic libraries from each of the former Carnegie classifications. [Editor's Note: The classifications, designed by the Carnegie Commission on Higher Education, provide a means of evaluating higher education institutions.] The survey was sent to 328 libraries. The return rate was 36 percent. For public institutional areas, 92 percent of respondents reported collecting white paper, 60 percent reported collecting newspapers and 59 percent reported collecting colored papers. A wider variety of paper materials was recycled from staff areas: 92 percent for white paper, 72 percent for newspapers, 69 percent for colored papers, 62 percent for cardboard, 49 percent for magazines and 31 percent for books.

Rickert5 surveyed 115 academic libraries in Wisconsin and Minnesota, with a 65 percent return rate. She found that 88 percent of respondents were recycling both office paper and newspapers.

Descriptions of projects at individual academic libraries include Briscoe, Calloway and Callahan, Le Ber and Gregory, and Wagner. Briscoe reports that she began recycling as a one-person effort at the University of San Diego Law Library and “gradually persuaded the management to institutionalize the process.”6 The current web site of University of San Diego Law Library and “gradually persuaded the management to institutionalize the process.”7 Calloway and Callahan assert that one impetus for recycling at Southern Illinois University Carbondale is the Talloires Declaration, an international statement of commitment to environmental sustainability in higher education.8 Le Ber and Gregory of the University of Utah identify paper recycling as one part of the effort by the Spencer S. Eccles Health Sciences Library to become “green and sustainable.”9 Wagner10 describes the early years of Emory University's Library Environmental Action Force (LEAF), whose members
spearheaded what has become an extensive recycling program. The website of Emory University acknowledges the members of LEAF as the originators of a program in which the university now “takes great pride.”

Themes that emerge from this literature survey include:

- Electronic materials have generated a new layer of recyclable paper, due to ubiquitous and wasteful printing. This is a particular problem when students do not pay for printing by the page. Rickert found in her survey that “nearly all libraries reported an explosion in paper consumption.”

- Recycling can be easily integrated into staff routines. Ellis predicts that “eliciting cooperation from the staff should require no more than some publicity.” Le Ber and Gregory state that “a minimal commitment of staff time” is sufficient.

- A partnership with a local vendor can work. In cases where the partnership was not sustained over time, the libraries report finding other ways to continue recycling. When Briscoe’s original vendor went out of business, institutional recycling efforts were able to take over. When Le Ber and Gregory found that their first partner could not continue at the negotiated price, they located a new vendor with a better rate.

Feasibility Study
Valdosta State University (VSU) is located in the city of Valdosta in southern Georgia. The population of the metropolitan area is approximately 123,000. VSU has approximately 10,000 students and 500 faculty. Odum Library holds more than 467,560 bound volumes, more than 1 million volumes of microform, and 2,815 current subscriptions to print newspapers, magazines and journals.

In July 2004 paper recycling activities within the library were minimal. Bins for office paper could be found in public areas, but library staff observed that custodial staff usually threw this paper away with other trash. Staff reductions during the economic downturn following September 11, 2001, had disproportionately affected the Plant Operations Division, and recycling activities had been reduced as a result. Lack of consistent help from custodial staff had stymied recycling.
A new librarian at VSU realized how much recyclable paper was being discarded and wanted to work for change. During fall semester 2004, that librarian was appointed to the Recycling Subcommittee of the campus-wide Environmental Issues Committee. The librarian helped to write a waste management policy, including recycling, that was approved by the Faculty Senate in April 2006. Shortly thereafter, the subcommittee was informed that any changes that increased cost could not be implemented for at least a year due to campus budgeting cycles.

Another subcommittee member knew about a local company, Southeastern Records Management. The owner of the company had expressed willingness to pick up recyclables at no charge to the university. With the support of the other subcommittee members and of library administration, the librarian decided to find out if Southeastern would use the library as a test site for a partnership with the campus. The owner visited the library in May 2006. Southeastern Records Management has been in business for 12 years and has handled recyclable materials for the past two years; the owner, an alumnus of VSU, explained that his company became involved in recycling as an outgrowth of their records management activities, which generate much recyclable paper. They are willing to pick up recyclables at no charge because they can sell what they collect. They sell recovered paper to mills that are offering the best price at the time of sale. Southeastern discerned that the library is an ideal pickup point due to the quantity of paper and because the building has a loading dock. They offered to schedule a pickup of office paper, colored paper, junk mail, cardboard, magazines, journals, newspapers, file folders and books. Sorting would not be necessary. Papers from food packages, envelopes with windows, waxed paper, and paper towels were to be excluded. The first pickup was on May 12, 2006, and the second on June 8, 2006. On May 12, the volume was approximately 8,500 pounds. By June 8, another 2,500 pounds had accumulated. At $36 per ton for waste dumping, we estimate that these two pickups have saved the university $195.

On June 27, 2006, Southeastern met with the VSU Vice President for Finance and Administration, the coordinator of Environmental Health and Safety, the director of Plant Services and members of the Recycling Subcommittee. VSU emphasized that the Plant Services office is supportive of recycling but does not have enough staff to maintain consistent pickups. Southeastern offered to pick up paper recyclables from multiple campus locations at no charge. The company would commit to keeping a regular schedule and would hire additional staff if necessary, as long as the activity was not a net loss. The owner also expressed his desire to become involved in recycling of other kinds of materials, including some that would produce higher revenue for his company, at fees competitive with what VSU now pays for those services. Some of the pickup companies currently being used are not local, and the benefits of working with a local company were discussed. Southeastern’s staff had been reliable, efficient and courteous during the test. The consensus was that having Southeastern more involved with VSU’s recycling efforts would be positive for all parties. The dormitories during move-in week were identified as a target for cardboard pickup.

Discussion

The paper recycling project at Odum Library has worked very well so far. Student assistants, support staff and librarians are enthusiastic and cooperative. Some staffers are still discarding office paper, but this seems to be a habit that will change over time. Because Southeastern does not require sorting, the impact on staff time has been minimal. Due to attentive cooperation from Southeastern and to the fact that the company is local, the time spent by a librarian to schedule and oversee the pickups has been negligible. Library staff members are gratified to see that they have blazed a trail that may result in a significant increase in recycling across the campus.

Paperrecycles.org reports that “every ton of paper that is recovered saves 3.3 cubic yards of landfill space.” We estimate that 18.15 cubic yards of landfill were saved through the first two pickups at Odum Library. We are encouraged to know that we need not have an extensive nor perfect program to make a difference.

Like other libraries, we have found that collecting and storing most paper recyclables have been easily integrated into existing routines. Newspapers, outdated serial issues and weeded books were already being collected and handled by Acquisitions and Serials staff. Depositing them in holding areas was a simple change. Since library staff are accustomed to handling materials within defined procedures, it may be that our staffers are more likely than other campus workers to adjust to a recycling process with ease.

VSU is repeating a pattern seen in other libraries, where librarians are leaders in campus recycling efforts. In the highly interactive community of a university campus, activities that create bridges between the library and other units have cascading benefits. The librarian will continue to play a proactive role on the Recycling Subcommittee and will look...
for opportunities to lobby for changes that will promote recycling, including the addition of staff or reassignment of existing staff to specific responsibilities for recycling. Closer examination of recycling programs at universities comparable to VSU may increase insight into how to effectively nurture recycling on our campus.

Did we investigate using recycling as a stream of income for the library? Are we concerned about Southeastern’s obvious interest in cost recovery for paper recycling and in future profit from expanded contracts with VSU? Each party in a partnership must have an incentive to motivate continued involvement. This arrangement gives Odum Library what we want: to see the voluminous paper recyclables recovered with no additional expense to the library and negligible impact on library staff time. Southeastern needs the incentive of income, and the university administration needs the incentive of cost savings. We suspect that earning money would involve library staff in burdensome bureaucratic procedures. Attempting to negotiate for transfer of saved funds to the library would pit us against other units and would distract from the effort to establish recycling as a unifying priority. For these reasons the library decided that the current partnership fulfills our objectives and is sustainable by the library.

The future of a private company, and thus the future of any public-private partnership, cannot be predicted with certainty. Southeastern’s status as a local company owned by an alumnus and one that has expressed strong willingness to partner with VSU may bode well. Odum Library is encouraged by the examples of libraries that were able to adjust when finding new recycling outlets became necessary. An unpredictable future is no reason to ignore the advantage that this partnership can supply now.

The strongest benefit to Odum Library has been the effect on staff morale. Most students and staff are convinced of the contribution that recycling can make to a sustainable environment. Seeing recyclable materials being discarded is distressing and the opposite is uplifting. Since our ability to reward staff members is limited, the library is grateful for this affordable opportunity to enrich their quality of life.

Librarians who are interested in initiating a project can begin by identifying local businesses or groups who handle recyclable materials. The telephone yellow pages might have useful leads under “Recycling Centers.” Colleagues in biology or plant operations departments should have relevant technical knowledge and may be able to suggest potential community partners.

Paper recycling offers opportunities for an academic library to contribute to a sustainable environment, enhance staff morale, cut costs for the university and cement relationships across the campus. Public-private partnerships should be investigated as a way to make recycling feasible and affordable. Paper recycling is recommended as a positive focus for any academic library.

Notes:

7University of San Diego. Recycle Services, http://www.sandiego.edu/residencelife/recycle.php
8Calloway and Callahan. See also Association of University Leaders for a Sustainable Future. Talloires Declaration, http://www.ulsf.org/programs_talloires.html. Signatories of the Talloires Declaration include Morehouse College and the University of Georgia.
11Emory University. Emory Recycles, http://www.fm.emory.edu/recycling.html
12Emory University. History of Emory Recycles, http://www.fm.emory.edu/recycling/about.html
13See Alpi, Calloway and Callahan, and Rickert.
14Rickert, 826.
15See Briscoe 1987, Ellis, and Le Ber and Gregory.
16Claudia B. Ellis, “Where Have All the Forests Gone?” Technicalities 1, no. 6, May 1981, 16.
17Le Ber and Gregory, 267.
20Le Ber and Gregory, 267.

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Abstract:
Paper recycling is a fitting endeavor for an academic library. A literature review and a feasibility study revealed that the benefits can include reduced costs to the university, librarians’ involvement in a cooperative campus-wide project and improved staff morale throughout the library.

Paper Recycling and Academic Libraries
Jack R. Fisher, II
Acquisitions Librarian
Odum Library
Valdosta State University
1500 N. Patterson Street
Valdosta, GA 31698
Work telephone: 229/245-3734
E-mail: jrfisher@valdosta.edu

Elaine Yontz, PhD
Professor
Master of Library and Information Science Program
Valdosta State University
1500 N. Patterson Street
Valdosta, GA 31698
Work telephone: 229/333-7185
E-mail: eyontz@valdosta.edu

Cooley: Georgia Library Quarterly, Spring 2007
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Library Tools for Connecting With the Curriculum: How To Create a Professional Development Workshop for Teaching Faculty
by Sonya S. Shepherd, Debra Skinner and Robert W. Fernekes

Working as an information services librarian with reference desk, bibliographic instruction, and information specialist and co-liaison responsibilities for the College of Business Administration continues to provide unique opportunities for interacting with students, classroom faculty and colleagues. Using the ACRL Standards for Libraries in Higher Education definition of outcomes set the stage for a collaborative project that has evolved from an initial presentation at ASCUE to online tutorials for classroom faculty and librarians to reshape the student’s learning environment by linking academic requirements directly to library resources.

Background: The Information Situation
The information situation today can be overwhelming for students in general, but especially for new college students who may be doing true library research for the first time. Often presented with conflicting information, students may be unable or not take the time to discern how to proceed in doing library research or know that assistance is available at the library. Getting the correct information from multiple sources online, as well as from print media, poses a challenging task for students who may not know what a database is or what licensed sources they can access for a given research requirement. Although immersed in a technology-driven environment that provides on-demand and continuous communication of personal information, students face unnecessary obstacles for the simplest of tasks: (1) locate a book at the library using a recommended reading list and (2) locate a journal article on your topic in one of the following communications journals. Most librarians will recognize these basic research tasks as information literacy competencies that students should know how to do in order to be effective learners. On the other hand, traditional research assignments provided to students as handouts are plagued with shortcomings for students who are not proficient with searching a library catalog or knowing which database actually indexes the journals that the student must access to satisfy the research requirement. A review of the recommended reading list revealed incorrect entries for some book titles and that the library owned only 20 percent of the book titles. It was also disturbing to discover that some of the journal titles had ceased publication and others had changed their names since the list had been created.

Introduction: How We Got Started With Linking Tools
Alarmed with what we learned from these two typical research requirements and recognizing that there are students that we do not see, three librarians at Zach S. Henderson Library – Sonya Shepherd, Debra Skinner and Bob Fernekes –
formed a team to determine a practical solution which would facilitate “pushing” students into library resources that classroom faculty were directing them to use. In addition to creating library subject-based research and resources guides, we felt that the time had come to collaborate with classroom faculty to streamline the “locate resource step” in the overall research process. In the two typical research examples cited, we strongly felt that the student’s need to easily access the resource in order to demonstrate course-evaluated critical skills far outweighed the student’s need to learn basic information literacy skills.

Equipped with recent advances in linking technologies, such as the saved catalog search and journal finder applications, we had the necessary capabilities to simplify the search process at our fingertips.

“Library Tools for Connecting With the Curriculum” presented at the 2004 ASCUE Conference provided confirmation that we were on track. Upon return from this conference, we did an information presentation to Henderson Library faculty where it was suggested that we create a faculty development workshop. After several workshops offered through the Center for Excellence in Teaching (CET), we decided to develop individual tutorials for each of the linking tools. Our last presentation at COMO 2005 introduced five new tutorials that could be used by colleagues and classroom faculty in Georgia.

It's All About Outcomes: Why Are We Doing This

Based on the complex and complicated nature of the student’s information environment, it became more important for us to go where the students are and provide typical research assignments online with embedded “easy links.” The challenge of providing students with easy direct access to specific resources can best be accomplished through collaboration with classroom faculty. Thus, our objectives were twofold: (1) to market linking tools to classroom faculty through the library liaison program, and (2) to provide classroom instructors with capabilities to link directly to library resources from course syllabus, faculty web pages, course management applications and research assignments.

From a scholarship of teaching perspective, the linking tools tutorials are designed to improve student and faculty use of library and online learning resources. In a similar manner, it is believed that direct links will facilitate the library’s contribution to learning, as well as document the impact its resources and programs have had on users. By extension, this impact includes reviewing course syllabus and research assignments to ensure that classroom faculty are providing students with up-to-date information on library and online learning resources.

How the Tutorials Were Developed

Five linking tools used for connecting library resources to the curriculum were created to help faculty simplify the process of locating resources needed by their students for class assignments. Linking tool 1 connects to the Electronic Journal A-Z Listing. Linking tool 2 connects to book and journal titles in the online catalog. Linking tool 3 connects to booklists in the online catalog. Linking tool 4 connects to GALILEO and Henderson Library-funded databases. And linking tool 5 connects to electronic reserves. The concept of using these linking tools was first presented at the 2004 Association of Small Computer Users in Education (ASCUE) Conference. Later that summer, we presented the linking tools concept at our library faculty meeting. We thought by presenting the linking tools concept to our colleagues we would have another way to promote library resources and services via our library liaison program.

The library faculty thought the concept of linking tools was a topic worth pursuing with teaching faculty across campus, so they suggested we...
talk to the Center for Excellence in Teaching (CET) staff about offering a workshop that would demonstrate how to create and use the linking tools. We met with the CET staff to discuss the linking tools workshop and decided the format of the workshop would be an hour in length, demonstration only, and if participants had further questions or wanted personalized assistance, they could contact us for personal appointments.

After several offerings, we revamped the workshop by extending the time from one hour to two hours to allow for hands-on instruction. The workshop also included more detailed instructions using PowerPoint on how to create and use the linking tools with the assumption that participants would seek outside assistance for creating courses using WebCT and/or creating personal Web pages. The PowerPoint containing all five tools was also converted into PDF via Word so the file would be available from the library’s Web page as an online tutorial. Afterward, we decided to make the tutorial smaller by creating a PowerPoint for each linking tool. That way, if a faculty member was only interested in one tool, then she/he would only access that tutorial. Of course, all the tools were made available online in one PowerPoint file and in smaller PowerPoint files as well as in PDF format. Each PowerPoint file consisted of an explanation of why faculty would use the linking tool, an explanation on how to create the tool, an example of the tool being used and library liaison contact information for questions/comments.

Even though several workshops have been offered, attendance has been low, but the few faculty who have been in attendance have expressed their appreciation for the ability to link to online library resources as well as for the opportunity to learn how to create and use the tools to supplement their course content via WebCT or a personal Web page. As more and more faculty realize linking to online library resources is possible, they are expressing an interest in the workshop and are requesting personal appointments for assistance. We have gone to their offices and showed them how to create and use the linking tools. And this seems to be the most effective way to demonstrate how to create and use the linking tools. Additionally, we are trying to promote a Web site created for faculty that allows them to access the tutorials for learning how to create and use the linking tools at their own pace. This site can be found at http://library.georgia-southern.edu/lirref/linkingtools/tools.htm, which compiles all the tutorials (PDF and PowerPoint) into one location.

**Conclusion**

In the future, we will continue to revise and expand our linking tools offerings. It will be important to remain flexible, offering assistance according to emerging demands including both individual assistance and group presentations. Workshops will be scheduled on a formal and recurring basis as well as scheduled on demand as requested by a group or department. By partnering with the Center for Excellence in Teaching, workshops receive campus wide publicity and are part of a large group of offerings presented each semester. We can follow up a group session with an office visit to faculty members who request this service. By sitting in the faculty member’s office, the liaison can provide individual assistance with a real project on which the faculty member is working.

Another aspect of future training will be to train other library liaisons so that they can assist faculty as well in linking resources for student use. Individual assistance at the point of need is often the most effective technique for assisting faculty with linking tools. By making other faculty liaisons aware of the capabilities of linking tools, they will be able to make suggestions to faculty as they recognize an opportunity for utilizing linking technology.

We will continue to develop resource guides using the linking tools that we are promoting. These guides are available on the library page and are available for use by faculty as well as students. These guides can become examples that faculty can use in creating their own resource lists or assignments with links. In addition, more tutorials will be developed over time to expand the self-help resources available to faculty in terms of linking. Materials and workshops will require regular revision based on technology that becomes available and as new databases and resources are added. An example soon to become a reality is the ability to “deep link” to journal articles through the use of link resolver technology. Constant monitoring of the technological capabilities and resources will make the linking tools workshops relevant for as long as the current revolution in linking capabilities continues.

**Notes:**

RFID Technology in the Library Environment
by Linda Howard and Max Anderson

Radio frequency identification (RFID) is one of many products falling under the umbrella name automatic identification, or auto-ID. These technologies are used to help machines identify objects. Other auto-ID technologies include barcodes, smart cards, voice recognition and optical character recognition.

RFID technology has been around for about 60 years. During World War II, the Allied Forces used it to identify friendly aircraft in an effort known as IFF (Identify Friend or Foe). In the 1980s, the technology went public and was used for everything from tracking cows and pets to triggering equipment down oil wells. The most common applications include tracking goods, assets and production-line moving parts; security, such as controlling access to buildings and networks; and automated payment systems that let customers pay for items without using cash.

Current uses of the technology suggest its flexibility in diverse situations. Dog owners have used RFID tags to identify their pets rather than the traditional tattoo. Hewlett Packard used RFID tags to track runners at the Boston Marathon. An amusement park in Denmark uses RFID technology to help parents keep track of their children while at the park. The Vatican is currently tagging its 1.6-million-volume book and manuscript collection with RFID microchips. RFID technology is used to combat counterfeiting in sports memorabilia and to track baggage at airports.

The world’s largest retailer, Wal-Mart, requested that its top 300 suppliers tag all their pallets and cases in 2005. In a similar move, Target, third largest retailer in the United States, set a 2007 deadline for its top vendors to implement RFID. The Department of Defense required its 45,000 suppliers to be tagged in 2005. Libraries are the largest institutions using item-level RFID tagging and, as such, are on the cutting edge of the developing technology for this unique application of RFID.

**RFID in Libraries**

RFID technology offers libraries many advantages. By enhancing efficiency in circulation and security, RFID technology frees up staff to provide increased information and intellectual support to patrons. RFID technology reduces the frequency of repetitive stress injuries, gets materials back on the shelf more quickly and provides higher levels of privacy to patrons, who can check out their own materials. Using RFID inventory systems can also save time and money.

One disadvantage is that RFID does not provide fail-safe security. RFID technology is certainly not worth the investment if being implemented primarily for that reason. Tags can be ripped off materials, media is a problem to tag, and readers do not always read tags on all of the materials going out of the library. Other obstacles are the high cost of the technology, a lack of standards and privacy issues.

So what does RFID technology look like in libraries? Components of an RFID library system include tags, conversion units, readers like self-check units, automated return systems and inventory-taking equipment, security gates, and a server or docking station software.

**Tags**

Tags contain an antenna and a chip with a capacity of at least 64 bits that can be encoded with data the library selects. They are in the high-frequency range of 13.56 MHz and are available as WORM, read, and read/write. WORM (“write once read many times”) indicates that a tag can be programmed one time only. Read tags come with preprogrammed information, usually some type of item identification, and cannot be written to. Read/write tags can be “written to” many times and are the most frequent choice for libraries. Most vendors claim a minimum of 100,000 transactions before a tag needs to be replaced.

Other tag features include antitheft and anti-collision properties. The anticollision feature allows more than one item to be checked out or in at the same time, as opposed to barcodes, which, because they require line-of-sight for material processing, can handle only one item at a time. The antitheft feature, referred to as the...
Conversion Units
Conversion units are used to copy barcode data to an RFID tag during the material conversion stage of the RFID installation. These units can be purchased or rented, are portable for easy movement around the library and fit in the aisles between the stacks. The type of equipment purchased will influence the conversion plan. For example, a combined self-check conversion machine could bypass a formal conversion process altogether. In one option, conversion takes place as patrons check out materials; items used frequently receive the fastest conversion. After a set period of time, it is possible to run a report to see what remains to be tagged and to develop a staff workflow to accomplish it. Conversion units can be rented by some vendors for approximately $250 per week or purchased for $2,500 to $5,000.

Readers
Readers come in various forms. They can be handheld, mounted, freestanding (like security gates), desktop, or installed in the return bins. Many libraries currently use security systems like tattle tape with their security gates. Libraries should be aware that if RFID is being implemented for the security bit, these gates will need to be replaced. Security gates can cost $3,500-$6,000, and book-drop readers can cost around $2,500.

Self Checkout Readers
We are all accustomed to using self-service in many different environments such as the grocery store, retail establishments and ATMs, so library self-check is not a big leap for library patrons. Basically, the self checkout process desensitizes the security bit and updates the material status in the library's circulation system. Self checkout units are by far the most popular RFID solutions for libraries and provide immediate improvement in service and quality of experience for library patrons. RFID libraries report that anywhere from 40 to 90 percent of their check out has moved to self check. These units also provide patrons with a greater degree of privacy, since only the patrons handle their materials during checkout.

Security Gates
Though RFID security gates look very similar to the standard gates many libraries already have in place, the internal technology is different. For certain RFID systems, security gates emit a sound if the material has not been properly checked out.

Servers/Docking Stations
In order to manage the communication between various components of the RFID system, a library may choose to use either a server or a docking station (the docking station involves increasing the amount of software in the readers). Basically, the server or docking station software receives communication from the reader(s) and exchanges information with the library's circulation database. Whichever way a library decides to go, the library will be using SIP2, Standard Interchange Protocol, which manages the communication between the RFID system and the library's integrated library system (ILS). The server can be a very expensive part of the solution, often

Inventory-Taking Equipment
Inventory wands are handheld devices used to scan materials for library shelf maintenance including weeding, finding lost or misplaced materials and inventoring or counting the collections. Some have screens which are hard to read. Others offer a separate unit, like a PDA, that has to be held or worn on the wrist but which provides a better viewing area for the user. Scanners that work with both RFID tags and barcodes are available and desirable for use during conversion or partial conversion of the collection to RFID. Costs for inventory-taking equipment typically run from $2,500-$4,500.
costing as much as $15,000 with much of this cost being the software. Keep in mind that the costs for the various parts of the RFID solution are coming down gradually. Check with vendors to get accurate pricing.

**Standards**

The International Organization for Standardization (ISO) is the organization that sets the technical operating standards for how readers and tags communicate. ISO 18000-3 tags, developed specifically for item-level tagging, have recently entered the marketplace. This standard establishes RFID-specific communication protocols at 13.56 MHz. The standards for these tags improve the ability to read a variety of vendor tags with one reader. However, since vendors can customize their tags by adding proprietary protocols that limit interoperability of RFID systems, libraries that interact frequently with each other are advised to jointly select the RFID system that meets their needs. For the present, that is the only way to ensure interoperability between institutions.

**Privacy**

Privacy advocates voice concerns that RFID technology will allow for uncontrolled snooping, like satellite tracking of library patrons and the materials they check out. Some fears of snooping are based on the belief that the tags on library materials contain patron information. Privacy advocates recommend that only information on the barcode be programmed to the tag. The link between the borrower and the borrowed material is maintained in the circulation module of the automated library system, and it is broken when the material is returned. However, if libraries implement smart cards (RFID chips on patron cards), then the privacy of cardholders could be at greater risk for compromise.

Others fear that RFID tags can be scanned outside the library environment. Though multitag readers are a technological possibility, so far none has been developed expressly for the library marketplace. Yet, as David Molnar pointed out at a recent ALA program on RFID, current readers can be programmed to read specific tags. This requires placing the readers in locations where they will gather effective information. Even if tags contain only the barcode number, snoopers can hotlist or put together a list of barcodes and titles they are looking for.

Molnar suggests that the best way to protect patrons currently is to encrypt and password the data on the tag. He suggests that libraries understand exactly what kind of encrypting the vendor will provide. For more on Molnar's perspective on privacy, see Molnar and Wagner's paper, "Privacy and Security in Library RFID — Issues, Practices and Architectures." Tags may contain a static identifier that is burned on at the time of manufacture; according to some, this persistent identifier enables tracking via hotlisting.

Several organizations are involved in raising awareness of the privacy issues around RFID including the ACLU, Electronic Frontier Foundation, Center for Democracy and Technology, and ALA. The attached bibliography contains references that discuss the various positions of the advocates around privacy issues.

Libraries should be proactive about privacy issues by educating the communities they serve. Adopting a privacy policy that is posted in the library is one way to keep your patrons aware of the steps you are taking to protect their rights. Two good sources to consult for guidelines on the privacy issues and policies for your library are Berkeley Public Library’s “Best Practices for RFID” and “Guidelines for Using RFID Tags in Ontario Public Libraries.”

**Getting Started**

Implementing an RFID system requires assessing a library's processes and targeting those processes where RFID would be appropriate. Lists of questions to guide the assessment process have already been developed. (See Laura Smart's “Making Sense of RFID” in the bibliography following this article.) Another approach is to take a look at the processes in your library from the patron's point of view. To the patron, everything in the library is pretty much centralized, i.e., all activities go through the front desk. According to Kern and Nauer in their article, “Implementing RFID in Libraries for Process Automation,” RFID systems allow the library to decentralize processes so that reconfiguring the physical space of the library may be an option to consider. This article provides suggestions about space reallocation based on an RFID system being in place.

**Nine Issues for Librarians To Consider About RFID**

1. **Workflow issues surrounding the technology.** Do you need that $200,000 book sorter? Do you need this technology? Follow the life of a book, for example, and compare it to the pieces of RFID technology. What pieces do you feel would make it easier to handle the material?

2. **Cost of tags.** Just because Wal-Mart and the Department of Defense are requiring their vendors to use RFID tags does not mean the cost for library tags will come down; they are most likely on a different frequency, which makes it a different type of tag.

3. **Barcodes or no barcodes?** Libraries need to consider whether they are going to take out all of their barcodes once they convert to RFID. Remember that without a barcode number on an item, you are depending on your RFID system to correctly identify it. Some vendors now incorporate barcode numbers into bookplates which cover the RFID tag.
4. What sort of information are you going to keep on the tag? Potentially, the more information you store on the tag, the longer it will take to transmit the data. To help allay fears about privacy concerns, ask vendors about data encryption.

5. How are you going to determine return on investment (ROI)? Does the RFID system in which you are investing fit with the long-term goals for your institution? In addition to the cost of the RFID system, consider the costs of software, hardware, overhead and salaries while converting (some of your staff may have to be pulled from normal duties to do conversion). A year after implementation, look at staff productivity. Has it gone up? Has it gone down? Check out the ROI laundry list from Laura Smart’s “Making Sense of RFID.”

6. Privacy issues for patrons and staff. Are you going to incorporate tags on library cards for patrons? Most libraries have chosen not to do this. Make sure you communicate with both patrons and staff about the privacy policies of the library and how information is to be used. You may need to explain how RFID works and what type of information will be stored on the tags. Will you incorporate encryption of data?

7. Are you going to use the RFID system as a security measure as well? When asked whether it would be easier to gut the security gates and replace the technology inside or to replace the gates altogether, most vendors agree that replacing them altogether is less expensive.

8. Confirm with the vendor that your library systems and RFID systems will work together smoothly. All RFID vendors comply with the SIP2 protocol, which allows your ILS (integrated library system) and the RFID system to communicate; however it might need some tweaking. Equipment will need to be maintained after installation. As standards change, hardware and software may need upgrading.

9. Where are you going to get the money for the technology? Since this technology can be expensive, whom must you convince that this is the right direction for your library, and how are you going to do that?

**Conclusion**

RFID is a technology that offers many advantages to the library by creating time-saving process management efficiencies, thus enabling staff to provide even more-valued-added services to patrons. RFID also provides the patron with self-service check-in and checkout options. According to Jim Lichtenberg, another speaker at last year’s ALA RFID panel, RFID stands with other cutting-edge technologies being developed in nanotechnology and biotechnology. And these advances are not going away; they are only going to get more prevalent in our lives. We are probably in the early adapter stage of RFID in libraries, with many of the kinks and issues still to be worked out. But for Lichtenberg, like many others, it’s not if, but when. Only when the major issues of privacy and security are addressed by both librarians and vendors will solutions be found.

**Linda Howard is Program Development Consultant at SOLINET in Atlanta. Her email address is lhoward@solinet.net. Max Anderson is Educational Services Librarian at SOLINET. His email address is manderson@solinet.net.**

**Resources:**


**Additional Online Resources:**


Library Journal names five Georgians to annual list of ‘Movers & Shakers’

Library Journal, the national independent magazine for library directors, managers, and others in public, academic, and corporate/institutional libraries, has named five Georgians to its list of fifty 2007 Movers & Shakers. The magazine will celebrate the honorees at the American Library Association conference, to be held in June in Washington, D.C.

Included on this year’s list are Michael Casey of the Gwinnett County Public Library; Dustin Holland of Alpharetta-based library vendor Better World Books; Brian S. Mathews of the Georgia Tech Library and Information Center; Ross Singer of the Georgia Tech Library and Information Center; and Catherine Vanstone of the Southwest Georgia Regional Library.

The article featuring all of Georgia’s Movers & Shakers appeared in the magazine’s March issue. GLQ congratulates all our state’s honorees!

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DTAE libraries earn accreditation

2006 was a busy and rewarding year for librarians at several Georgia technical colleges heading toward their initial accreditation through the Commission on Colleges (COC) Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS). Three colleges, North Georgia, Valdosta and Okefenokee Tech, earned initial candidacy status while two colleges, Coosa Valley and North Metro, each became SACS accredited. Any librarian who has been through this process understands the huge effort required by all those connected with the college, but few librarians have an opportunity in their career to bring a library to the point where it is first recognized by a national accrediting agency such as COC.

For some librarians, this process resembled one of returning to library school. Linda Johnston at the Blairsville Campus of North Georgia Tech realized the visit enabled her to “to see the library and its services with fresh eyes and provided valuable input into not just what we do but why we do it. I am a goal-oriented person and COC provides you with concrete goals.”

Dawn Adams, at the main campus of North Georgia Tech, recognized the aspect of self-examination. “For me it was like taking stock of your life, only you are taking a good hard look at the role the library plays in your college and how others will perceive it.”

In some cases, the process brought a working team closer together so that each member could learn from the other. At North Metro Technical College (NMTC), the library is shared with Georgia Highlands (GH), so the two librarians, Kate Stirk and Eddie McCleod, were responsible for learning resources. At NMTC, Stirk recognized that accreditation means a quality library. “Eddie and I work very well together. With her experience in various academic libraries in Georgia and my experience as a K-12
media specialist with a brand new MLIS, we were able to turn the NMTC/GH library into a professional resource for both faculty and students. Our goal was to make this the best library possible — not to get SACS accreditation — though that was the end result.”

Linda Floyd, director of library services at Coosa Valley Technical College (CVTC), says, “I am thrilled that the library has been an integral part of CVTC’s COC process and that we have been able to make strides during the past several years with the college’s support. It is very nice to feel you are providing your faculty, staff and students quality library services that meet the criteria of an accrediting agency such as COC.”

Although the process directly involved only a few of the 34 technical colleges, it brought the whole DTAE Library Council together like a family with a few members going through a big test. Kathryn Tomlinson, library/media services coordinator at Valdosta Tech, found that “the most effective preparation was visiting other libraries in the technical college system. Librarians at numerous technical colleges shared their experiences, knowledge and resources.” Linda Floyd is grateful for “the support of other DTAE libraries during this process. Without the open sharing of information through this group, the task would have been much more difficult. This is a great group to work with.”

Congratulations to all who worked so hard to achieve this new accreditation!

**Librarian publishes book on TV comedies**


Tucker, an administrator at DeKalb County Public Library, describes in the book how some of the most beloved and historically important television shows of the 1950s came into being — “Our Miss Brooks,” “Topper,” “I Married Joan” and others. Readers will learn how these shows were created, the problems and challenges that early TV presented and what happened in the lives and careers of the women who were their stars. While many public library readers will find the book a nostalgic look back, academic libraries supporting performing arts, communications, or women's studies programs will appreciate the extensive research and scholarly documentation that make it a valuable and authoritative resource.

“One of the best experiences in researching and writing this book,” Tucker said, “was the opportunity to interview two great ladies — Gale Storm, who starred in “My Little Margie,” and Betty White, who began her national TV career with a show called “Life with Elizabeth.” I’ll always be glad that I had the opportunity to meet such remarkable women and that they shared their stories with me.”

**Emory’s Woodruff Library acquires love letters of Ted Hughes and Assia Wevill**

Emory University’s Woodruff Library has acquired the correspondence from Ted Hughes, the late poet laureate of Britain, to his lover Assia Wevill.

In one letter in the collection, Hughes instructs Wevill to “please burn all my letters,” an instruction she obviously did not follow. The surviving correspondence begins in March 1963, continues until 1969 and “offers readers unprecedented access to Hughes’ state of mind at a time of crisis in his personal and professional life,” says Stephen Enniss, director of Emory’s Manuscript, Archives and Rare Book Library.

The collection includes more than 60 letters from Hughes to Wevill, six from her to him, as well as a number of notes, sketches, fragmentary diary entries and a small number of photographs of Wevill.

Wevill is remembered as the woman with whom Hughes began an affair in the summer of 1962 which led to Hughes and his wife, poet Sylvia Plath, separating. Although Wevill often was erroneously described as Hughes’ second wife, the couple never married, and in March 1969, she tragically took her life and that of her daughter, Shura, in a manner resembling Plath’s death.

The correspondence spans the period in Hughes’ life when he was writing “Gaudete,” editing Plath’s “Ariel” for publication and writing the sequence of poems based on the life of a mythical crow figure. This intimate correspondence reveals Hughes’ struggle to find peace in the years after Plath’s death and his sometimes tortured relationship with Wevill. “This correspondence, which joins Ted Hughes’ own literary archive already at Emory, further strengthens the library’s Hughes holdings and promises to add greatly to our understanding of one of the major poets of the 20th century,” says Enniss.
Leebaw appointed to post at Emory Library

Danya Leebaw has been appointed a business research librarian in the Goizueta Business Library of Emory University’s Robert W. Woodruff Library. Danya completed a master of library and information science degree in August 2006 at the University of Pittsburgh. While working on her degree, she worked concurrently in two graduate internships and a part-time position. Previously, Danya worked for eight years in the corporate sector in marketing and media.

Smyrna library celebrates a life of service

On January 31, former Smyrna Public Library Director Doris Patterson Morris was honored at a dedication ceremony for a library meeting room named in her honor. Her husband, Max, children, extended family, friends, library patrons and local political leaders attended the ceremony and reception. Mrs. Morris began working in the library, where she shared her love of reading with thousands of children, in 1972. She was director of the library from 1982-1987. During that time, she established the classic antique book collection and oversaw the feasibility study that resulted in the new library completed on the Village Green. In 1995 Mrs. Morris came out of retirement to serve as interim director until the current director, Michael Seigler, was hired. Mrs. Morris also played a major role in developing the library at Smyrna’s First Baptist Church and served as Sunday school director.

Established by volunteers in 1936, the Smyrna Public Library is the only city-operated library in Georgia and has a collection of more than 100,000 items.

South Georgia Regional director to retire

Liza Newsom, director of the South Georgia Regional Library System (SGRL), is retiring after 11-plus years of exceptional service. Liza’s contributions to the library, library staff, community and library patrons have not gone unnoted, and she will be greatly missed by all. Liza taught in the Lowndes County and Valdosta City school systems for 14 years before becoming director of the Brooks County Library System, where she worked for seven years. She started her work as director of SGRL in 1995 and has been witness to a number of significant changes within the system.

“By far the biggest change has been the Internet,” Liza said. Thanks in large part to the Gates Foundation, SGRL now has 80 public access computers in their library system, a wireless computer lab with 24 computers at the main library, and a heavy schedule of free computer classes. She remembers how folks said computers were going to create a paperless society, and the Internet was going to make libraries obsolete. But within her first year as director, SGRL had a 63 percent increase in library visits. “The number of people using our libraries climbs every year, and I accredit that to our dedicated staff,” she says.

“We were determined that people were going to use our libraries, and if they wouldn’t come to us, we’d go to them,” she recalls. Library staff members visit schools, both public and private, every day, and book van staff members have become vital library ambassadors. Because of all this activity, SGRL has led the state in the number of children per capita attending library programs for years. More than 80,000 have participated in programs for each of the past five years.

“There’s a direct correlation between strong libraries and strong communities,” Liza says. “I want the people in our community to see the neighborhood library as a community center and a tool to enrich and enhance their lives and their children’s lives.”

Liza cites The Valdosta Daily Times and the local Friends of the Library as library heroes. According to Liza, the paper has promoted the library and its events “shamelessly,” and in many ways the newspaper staff deserves much of the credit for advances the library has made in the past decade. And, of course, the Friends of the Library are near and dear to her heart. “These are the folks who treasure the library and celebrate the joys of reading,” Liza says. Over the past decade, the Friends have donated more than $500,000 to the SGRL library collections. The once moldy collection has been replaced...
with brand-new books, expanding the collection by more than 75,000 items.

Although Liza said it was a difficult decision to retire, she knew it was time to move to the next phase of her life. “I have been so lucky. I have worked with so many wonderful people — my colleagues, my board members, our patrons. I have been one of the fortunate few to have a job I absolutely loved,” she said.

In retirement, Liza plans to put her organizational skills to good use and possibly join her fellow workers in volunteering. “One of the best things about working at the library,” she says, “is meeting all of our wonderful volunteers: John Thomas, Laura Daughtery, Lynn Devery, Kay Scott, Jan Feese, Merrilee Casady, John and Kate Swiderski, Anita Shelton, Sarah Smart, Jody Leonard and many more. They’ve set a wonderful example for me.”

**Tech retirees account for 95 years of service**

Kathy Brackney, head of the Architecture Library; Jean Hudgins, head of Information Control and Management; and Crit Stuart, associate director for Public Services retire from the Georgia Tech Library in spring 2007.

Kathy Sharp Brackney came to Georgia Tech as a reference librarian in July 1977 after earning her masters in librarianship from Emory University. She has a bachelor’s in history earned in 1972. Kathy served as a reference librarian from 1977 to 1980 before taking over the library’s document delivery service. In 1982, she assumed responsibility for managing the Architecture Library and she’s served well there ever since. Focusing her professional activities on art and architecture, Kathy has provided direction for this branch library and contributed frequently with papers at meetings of the Association of Architecture School Librarians. She distinguished herself by winning the college’s Staff Service Award in 2001. According to Dr. Thomas Galloway, dean of the College of Architecture, Ms. Brackney has played a substantial role in deepening the college’s instructional and scholarly resources. He stated, “Kathy’s impact on the college through her leadership has been immense and all of us in the college will miss her greatly.”

In 1974, Jean Price Hudgins joined the staff of the library as library assistant. From that time until 1977 Jean worked part-time for the library while matriculating on her masters in librarianship at Emory. She returned to work full time in 1977 and was appointed to a faculty position in 1978. Jean took over as head of monographic cataloging in 1979 and became head of Information Control and Management in 1992. She has served assertively to keep the library’s complex agenda of bibliographic control moving forward effectively. Outside the library, Jean has been actively engaged with both ALA and SLA throughout her career, where she has given numerous papers and presentations as well as worked diligently to help shape the transition of the cataloging profession as the digital workplace matures. Jean won the prestigious Kaiser Award from the Georgia Tech Library in 2004 for her leadership and exceptional management of her department and as an early adopter of metadata and cataloging technologies.

Crit (Charles Crittendon) Stuart joined the staff at Georgia Tech as a library assistant in 1975 not long after receiving his bachelor’s degree in history from the University of Arkansas. After taking the opportunity in 1979 to work part-time while studying for his masters in librarianship at Emory, Crit returned to work full time in 1980 as the assistant head of circulation. Following several promotions to higher levels of management through the circulation, document delivery and interlibrary loan units, Crit became associate director for public services in 2000. Since that time, Crit has ably managed the consolidation of the various components of public services into a successful partnership with other campus service entities as the profession transitions toward a more collaborative approach to information support services.

His leadership includes collaborative reconfiguration of public services and computing center support activities resulting in one of the most creative enterprises of its kind in the United States. The integrated East and West Commons areas of the library provide a model for the country that has eventually led Crit to retire from Georgia Tech to assume programmatic leadership for the Association of Research Libraries’ new agenda to incorporate restructure information commons throughout the U.S. academic and research libraries. Crit won the prestigious Kaiser Award from the Georgia Tech Library in 2005 for his leadership and vision for academic library services and student engagement. He has been active professionally and given numerous papers and presentations.
Athens Regional Library news and notes

The Public Library Association Awards Committee has selected the Athens-Clarke County Library for its 2007 Highsmith Award for Innovation. The Athens Library was selected for its Pinewoods Program and the partnerships the library has formed throughout the Athens community. The award and a $2,000 check will be presented to Kathryn Ames, Director, at the President’s Dinner during ALA. The Athens Library opened a branch facility in a Latino mobile home park. The branch includes 12 public computers, a large bilingual collection of materials, an art program and adult education programs — including ESL and Plaza Comunitaria — and provides a wide range of public programming. Partnerships include such diverse groups as the Lyndon House Arts Center, the Mexican Consulate, the College of Education at UGA, volunteer tutors from the community, International Public Service and Outreach, the local hospitals and medical services and local churches. The program has been a model for replication for several other library systems in the Southeast and was funded with an IMLS grant and local funding.

Chattahoochee Valley news and notes

On Thursday, December 7, Lyn Seaman and Patty Chamberlain hosted the MCSD Pre-K coordinators and families at an interactive movie night at the Columbus Public Library. Debbie Perkins, Muscogee County School District Pre-K coordinator, worked with other Pre-K coordinators to get the publicity to families and provided popcorn and drinks for all participants. The hope was to get about 40 families to participate in this new event, but as it turned out, the auditorium was overflowing with over 150 people in attendance. The evening was filled with stories, 10-minute short movies of Arthur, questions about the movie to engage parents and children, songs and door prizes.

“Arthur Gets Lost” and “Arthur Cleans Up” were the two short movies chosen. They led into a question-and-answer time for the audience. One answer had the entire auditorium in applause. The question was “What do you think you can do to keep from getting lost in places?” A 4-year-old little boy proudly stood up and spoke in a loud and clear voice and said, “Always stay with your parents, they love you enough to keep you safe.” Lyn and Patty structured the evening to include movement, singing, play acting and interactive storytelling to make the experience worthwhile for the children and parents. Amid puppets, popcorn and Pepsi, short movies, and give-a-ways of books and READ posters, the library’s auditorium was full of laughter and connections between parents and children. Other similar events are being planned, including a program on fitness and nutrition.

On January 4, the Columbus Public Library began a 12-month series based on the topic of Worldviews. This series was the creation of Muscogee County Library board member Sherrod Taylor, based on an article in the Review of General Psychology, 2004, Vol. 8 no. 1, 3-58, “The Psychology of Worldviews” by Mark E. Koltko-Rivera. According to Koltko-Rivera, “Worldviews are sets of beliefs and assumptions about physical and social reality that may have powerful effects on cognition and behavior.” This statement is the foundation for the series, intended to promote understanding and compassion. Each session of the series will be held the first Thursday of the month starting at 7:00 p.m.

Chestatee Regional Library news and notes

On Saturday, February 3, 2007, 50 aspiring children’s book authors from across the state gathered at Dawson County Library for a free workshop on writing and marketing children’s books. The workshop was presented by Lola Schaefer, author of more than 200 children’s books. Ms. Schaefer shared her invaluable knowledge on how to break into the children’s book industry, how to submit a manuscript, how to determine if your idea is marketable, the craft of writing, revision, and how to manage a writer’s life.

Because of her background as an elementary classroom teacher for 18 years, Lola authors early-reader biographies and books about the natural world for the school/library market. She visits many elementary and middle school classrooms each year, both as an author-in-residence and as a writing consultant. Lola has been an impassioned presenter for more than 20 years. Today she combines the understandings of current educational research with sound writing techniques so that teachers and students can immediately experience the benefits of successful writing communities in their classrooms (from http://www.lolaschaefer.com/visits.html).

Response was so overwhelming that a “second chance” workshop was scheduled for Saturday, March 10.
East Central Georgia news and notes

Award-winning Georgia author Melissa Faye Greene was the featured speaker at the Friends of the Augusta Library annual meeting held February 5. A reception and book-signing followed the discussion of Ms. Greene’s latest book, There is No Me without You: One Woman’s Odyssey To Rescue Africa’s Children. The Friends of the Library elected new officers for 2007-2008 including: president, Will Brown; vice president, Polly H. Williams; secretary, Beth Brown; and treasurer, Todd Schultz.

Georgia Southern news and notes

Henderson Library information services librarians have recently been traveling abroad, east and west, to deliver papers. Robert Fernekes and LiLi Li attended the IFLA (International Federation of Library Associations) World Library and Information Congress in Seoul, South Korea, in August. Fernekes’ paper was “Partnering for Student Learning: The University Library Information Commons.” Three days later, Li delivered his paper, “Building the Ubiquitous Library in the 21st Century,” which has since been translated into French, German and Russian, and is accessible online at http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla72/papers/140-Li-en.pdf.


Lisa P. Smith has returned as an information services librarian after a stint as outreach medical librarian for the Magnolia Coastlands AHEC (Area Health Education Center). She also serves in the new role of information literacy coordinator.

Hall County Library news and notes

The Hall County Library System has been named one of nine winners in the Public Library Association’s (PLA) “Grow Your Own @ Your Library” institutional scholarship pilot program.

“We could not be more excited,” said system Director Adrian Mixson. “We currently have more than 10 percent of our staff enrolled in a library science program, and this grant will help offset some of what it costs them for textbooks and tuition.”

The highly competitive PLA program was developed to address the educational needs of public library staff. This year, the organization awarded $8,000 grants to each of nine public libraries, one from each of the nine Public Library Data Service (PLDS) population categories. Hall County took the prize for library systems with a service population between 100,000-249,999.

Since its beginning in 1997, Mixson said, the Hall County Library System has established a tradition of nurturing paraprofessional development and encouraging willing employees to pursue professional librarianship as a career.
Since that time, five staff members have earned master's degrees in library science, and four are currently pursuing degrees. Of those who have completed degrees, three went to work in public library settings, one went to work for the University of Georgia's electronic library (GALILEO), and one is working for Auburn University's library and pursuing a doctoral degree.

The Hall County Library System, with the support of the Northeast Georgia Historical & Genealogical Society, was host to an Ulster Historical Foundation Workshop on February 21 at the Blackshear Place Library. All the way from "the old country," two scholars helped researchers and genealogists solve many puzzling questions. The workshop was led by Dr. Brian Trainor, who has served as director of the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland and chairman of the Irish Manuscripts Commission, and Dr. William Roulston, research director of the Ulster Historical Foundation.

Screven-Jenkins Regional news and notes

The Screven-Jenkins Regional Library System hosted performances by Harry O'Donoghue, an Irish folksinger from Savannah, earlier this year. O'Donoghue performed at the Screven Library on February 11 and at the Jenkins County Memorial Library on March 13.

"He was a great hit," said library Director Wendy Weinberger. "More than 90 patrons attended the Screven performance, and 45 attended the Jenkins performance. For us, that is a lot of people."

South Georgia Regional news and notes

One recent Saturday morning in the Back Door Bookstore, the Friends-operated shop located in the rear of the Valdosta-Lowndes County Library, a very pretty 8-year-old approached the volunteers and stated that she was there to be a volunteer. This was a surprise; generally, FOL volunteers are quite a bit older. But this youngster was determined. She immediately started helping to figure the value of purchases and bagging books. As the morning wore on, we learned that our newest volunteer was named Ashley Bilak and, despite only being in third grade, she had already made a vocation decision to be a librarian (when she grows up). She even showed up looking the part, with her hair obligatorily pulled up in a bun. "I thought you had to wear your hair in a bun to work at the library," Ashley recalls.

The library has a general rule that volunteers have to be 18 years of age or older. In this case, because Ashley's desire was so great, it was decided that as long as she was accompanied by a parent, she would be allowed to volunteer regularly. Ashley often arrived at the library on Saturday mornings with her father, Ted Bilak, in tow. On days that the bookstore is closed, staff members find other duties for her, such as rubber-stamping due date cards. Now, when her gymnastics schedule permits, Ashley continues to loyally give her time, energy and enthusiasm. She's been reading, she claims, since she was 2 and relishes her time helping out. In an age when television, video games and computers seem more important to kids than books, it is refreshing to meet someone like Ashley who is already so passionate about the printed word.

And, while Ashley isn’t yet eligible for the position of library director, we have no doubt that at a later date, she may well be the candidate with the appropriate credentials and longest possible work history with the SGRL system. At this rate, she’ll have 10 years of service by the time she’s out of high school!

Three Rivers Regional news and notes

The Magnolia Coastlands Area Health Education Center has awarded the Wayne County Public Library a $3,000 grant for the purchase of library materials on the topic of HIV/AIDS. This funding derives from an award of a National Library of Medicine RFQ to the Magnolia Coastlands Health Education Center.

Hog Hammock Public Library hosted "Rhythms of a Different Motion," a hands-on drumming workshop, on Jan. 13, 2007. The guest drumming instructor was Kofi McDonald of "Expressions of Africa." The workshop was sponsored by the Ezra Jack Keats Foundation.
Best Garden Plants for Georgia
by Tara Dillard and Don Williamson

This book has an attractive layout featuring photos and short descriptions of plants selected for being proven winners in Georgia gardens. Longtime residents will recognize many favorites, and they will also find others they may have heard of but not yet tried. Although the cover is busy, the interior is engaging. One plant is described on each page, with two photos showing the plant’s habit or distinctive feature, such as its flower. The authors give helpful tips about soil conditions and growth habits to help gardeners match plant and location. Some good trivia is included; for instance, Elaeagnus grows so well in Georgia that some gardeners consider it a weed. However, the authors could have included a stronger warning about English ivy—although it grows quite well, once it has smothered your trees and covered your house, you may rue the day you wished for a no-care ground cover. I also wish that native plants were always marked, as they are very definitely adapted to Georgia conditions and are unlikely to be regretted later on. Some descriptions leave the reader wanting more detail, but this book is intended as an overview. After you’ve read the highlights here, you’ll want to read more about those plants that pique your interest or just run to the nursery right away! Suitable for all ages, this book is recommended for public libraries and general-interest collections, especially in areas with many newcomers to the state. ➡

— Reviewed by Marie Daum
Gwinnett County Public Library

The Southern Railway: Further Recollections
by C. Pat Cates, Dick Hillman, and Sallie Loy

This book is a follow-up to the authors’ first book, Images of Rail: The Southern Railway. Whereas the first book presented a general overview of the railroad and its many aspects, this book presents a more focused look at several components of the railroad’s history. Through the author’s use of over 200 pictures and photographs, the reader is presented with a literal look at this history. The book is divided into five chapters. The first chapter gives a look at the facilities of the Southern Railway, including the Spencer Yard in Spencer, North Carolina, the John Sevier Yard in Knoxville, Tennessee, and the Inman Yard in Atlanta. Chapter two shows the history of passenger trains and equipment. This chapter includes many photos of passenger trains from around the south, including trains in Hawkinsville, Augusta, and Toccoa, Georgia. The role of the Southern Railway in World War II is the focus of chapter three. Included in this chapter is a section about the Southern Railway’s involvement in the development of the Tennessee Valley Authority. Chapter four focuses on the Southern Railway’s involvement in World War II, including the construction of the Tennessee Valley Authority and the development of the TVA’s dams. Chapter five provides a look at the Southern Railway’s involvement in World War II, including the construction of the Tennessee Valley Authority and the development of the TVA’s dams. Chapter five provides a look at the Southern Railway’s involvement in World War II, including the construction of the Tennessee Valley Authority and the development of the TVA’s dams.

— Reviewed by Sara Hooper
Gwinnett County Public Library
chapter are many photos from the war front. The fourth chapter presents the reader with a look at the different jobs within the railroad and the people who performed those jobs. The book concludes with a chapter on steam trains. Too often, books of this nature tend to focus only on pictures of trains. This book goes beyond showing just the trains and lets us see the people who have made the railway what it is today. In doing so, we see the bravery of those who served in World War II, the dedication of the railway workers, and the excitement of those who watch the trains go by. Many photos from Georgia locations other than those identified above are included in this book. Any library that has the first book by these authors should also have this one. It is also recommended for those libraries located in communities with close ties to the railway.

— Reviewed by Lonnie Roberts

Altmaha Technical College

Equiano, the African: Biography of a Self-Made Man by Vincent Carretta


Author Vincent Carretta offers a fresh perspective on the life of Gustavus Vassa, also known by the African name, Olaudah Equiano. Vassa is best known for his autobiography, The Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano, or Gustavus Vassa, the African (1789), in which he chronicles his life as a captured African, slave, seaman with the British Royal Navy, manager of other enslaved Africans, and finally as a free man. Vassa’s autobiography is significant because at the time of its publication, it added a much needed voice to the abolitionist movement, a firsthand account of one who had experienced the horrors of capture, the Middle Passage enslavement. The success of the autobiography, which went through nine editions, was a monumental feat for any man of that time, but particularly for a formerly enslaved person of African descent. In Equiano, the African, Carretta reveals circumstantial evidence that contradicts Vassa’s claims regarding his birth in Africa and Middle Passage experience. Citing a baptismal certificate and naval logs, Caretta argues that Vassa more than likely constructed an African identity. Those expecting the author to devalue the historical and literary significance of Vassa’s autobiography will be disappointed. Interestingly, the author’s analysis and revelations about Vassa’s life only serve to enhance the greatness of his achievements. Using a vast array of primary resources, Caretta places Vassa’s life experience within historical context. As a result, the Gustavus Vassa that emerges is a rich, complex, multi-dimensional and at times contradictory individual. Any collection containing The Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano, or Gustavus Vassa, the African would do well to add this book to its collection. Recommended for academic libraries.

— Reviewed by Shaundra Walker

Georgia College & State University

Sweetgrass Baskets and the Gullah Tradition by Joyce V. Coakley


Joyce V. Coakley was born and raised in the Christ Church Parish District of Charleston, South Carolina, where her ancestors lived since the 18th century. Ms. Coakley interviewed and collected oral stories from relatives, friends, and acquaintances for over 30 years. The result is an insider’s collection of personal photographs and stories gathered from the community, woven together to illustrate Gullah sweetgrass baskets and history. The book includes a glossary of common sweetgrass terms, Gullah names and titles, Gullah verbs, and common Gullah phrases. “Hush da nize” means “hush the noise” and “yiddie so” means “I heard it.” A chapter titled “Flowers and Other Vendors” discusses the necessity of growing and selling flowers and vegetables as a means of income for newly freed slaves. Sweetgrass Baskets and the Gullah Tradition is primarily a scrapbook of photos and art; this is a story told in a series of vignettes of old photographs (there is a page or two of text at the beginning of each chapter). Each photograph is accompanied by a description and a glimpse of history. The importance of religion, family, friendship, and learning is stressed. Photographs of people, houses and locations are interspersed with photographs of sweetgrass baskets. Forty-nine artists provided baskets and background for this book. Basket design history and innovations are mentioned. This book does not contain an index, but it is a good collection of personal photographs of a community’s journey from slavery to present day. Reading this book is akin to visiting relatives and hearing interesting tales told by the family storytellers. Sweetgrass Baskets and the Gullah Tradition is recommended for school and public libraries. Academic libraries may be interested in the photo collections and accompanying short stories.

— Reviewed by Laura Tartak

Georgia Perimeter College, Rockdale/Newton Campus

Robert S. Davis’s new book of essays explores the history of the infamous confederate prison as told through the experiences of the many groups and individuals caught up within the narrative. Each essay is devoted to a different person or group of people that interacted during the prison’s brief existence from 1862 to 1864. In addition to describing the dire conditions of imprisonment in Andersonville, the book tackles many of the myths and misconceptions that have developed over the centuries. Through extensive primary research, Robert S. Davis postulates theories to answer some of the most enduring questions that remain about Andersonville, such as why more prisoners didn’t escape and why General Sherman didn’t liberate the prison. The author weaves the stories of prisoners, guards, generals, and slaves into a narrative that vividly illuminates the complex social histories of Andersonville. This book also contains an excellent bibliography and guide to historical research on Andersonville. Recommended for academic and public libraries.

— Reviewed by Elizabeth White
University of Georgia


In May 1864, General William T. Sherman began his 120-day Atlanta campaign, battling his way across a 100-mile trail from Dalton to Jonesboro. Author Philip L. Secrist, a descendant of a Civil War soldier, takes the reader on a tour of Sherman’s 100-mile battle path, stopping at key battle sites along the way. From Dalton, Sherman headed toward Resaca before leading a march to Adairsville, Cassville, and the Etowah River. More battles were fought at Dallas, Kennesaw Mountain, Peachtree Creek (the battle site of Peachtree Creek is now an upscale Buckhead neighborhood with only a small park to serve as a reminder of the Civil War battle fought there), culminating on July 22, 1864, with the Battle of Atlanta, one of the bloodiest battles waged by Sherman. Of special interest to Secrist is the terrain on which Sherman’s battles were fought. This interest led the author to compare the terrain in 1864 to the same land today when attempting to verify the location of battle sites. War artifacts recovered from battle sites, along with Secrist’s study of the terrain, aided in the identification of the sites. Secrist illustrates his account of Sherman’s campaign with a variety of historic images: a Confederate belt buckle found 300 yards from the New Hope Church Battle site; military headquarters along the way; and maps depicting wartime trenches, battle lines, and 1864 landmarks. Well researched and full of historical details, this book is a must for Civil War buffs. However, the gripping accounts by soldiers and civilians, the author’s highly descriptive and engaging writing style, and the tour-guide approach of the book will interest even the casual reader. People presently living along Sherman’s trail to Atlanta will feel a particularly strong connection to the book. Sherman’s 1864 Trail of Battle to Atlanta is recommended for public libraries and American history and/or Civil War history collections.

— Reviewed by Lisa Block
Emory University


Author Scott Walker writes a narrative history of the 57th Georgia Infantry Regiment in which Robert Braswell, his great-great-grandfather, enlisted. The book reveals the beliefs and the human suffering endured by these soldiers and their families as they tell their own stories in excerpts from unpublished letters and diaries. Soldiers of the 57th Georgia were primarily very young men, many related and even neighbors, who joined the regiment not only out of a sense of duty to the newly formed Confederacy but also as an adventure. The men came from very small South Georgia towns like Fort Valley or Thomasville and had never been away from home before. From 1862 to 1865, the 57th Georgia marched into Kentucky and Vicksburg, and the soldiers served as prison guards in Andersonville and fought Sherman in the Atlanta campaign. The men had inadequate training, very old guns and ammunition, and limited supplies of food and clothing. Beside all of these hardships, incompetent leaders kept the soldiers marching constantly for days without even an enemy encounter. By the end of the Civil War, the 57th Georgia
was decimated not only by battle fatalities but also by disease. This book will appeal to Civil War buffs as well as to any reader interested in the human condition. — Reviewed by Carolyn M. Brown
Woodruff Health Sciences Center Library, Emory University

Touching the Web of Southern Novelists by David Madden

David Madden, professor of creative writing at Louisiana State University, explores his personal and professional relationships with a select group of Southern novelists, using the “charged image” (a term he coined describing an image with multiple layers of meaning) of a spider web. Each strand of the web connects his reactions to the subjects of his essays from his viewpoints as reader, teacher, novelist, and critic. Most of the essays included in this collection are reprints from journals, the lone exception being the previously unpublished Evelyn Scott’s “Breathe Upon These Slain: A Gallery of Imagined Photographs.” However, the two essays connected to Georgia are “Flannery O’Connor: Old Testament Christian Storyteller” and “Carson McCullers: Transfixed among the Self-Inflicted Ruins.” (O’Connor was born in Savannah and died in Milledgeville; McCullers was born in Columbus.) Madden’s web connects with O’Connor peripherally; he shipped out of Savannah as a merchant marine, and he stopped at a Milledgeville diner while traveling through Georgia and had O’Connor’s property pointed out to him. His web also encompasses Robert Penn Warren, William Faulkner, Katherine Anne Porter, Thomas Wolfe, Ernest Gaines, Jesse Hill Ford, George Garrett, Barry Hannah, Cormac McCarthy, and James Agee, with some strands strengthened by personal anecdotes. While most of these names evoke some degree of familiarity, Jesse Hill Ford of rural Tennessee is a relative unknown. Madden’s essay on Ford is one of the most compelling in the collection. Ford, a white writer, thinly novelized the local murder of a black soldier he feared was waiting to murder his son as he came home. Madden’s web reverberates with insight and personal contemplation, distinguishing this collection of literary criticism from the typical dry fare of academe. He delves into his own psyche with the same degree of consideration he gives his subjects, bringing to life the reason why he is one of the preeminent voices in Southern literature. In addition, this collection contains a comprehensive index most researchers dream of finding and almost never see. Recommended for academic libraries and larger public libraries. — Reviewed by Melanie C. Duncan
Middle Georgia Regional Library System

Remembering Georgia’s Confederates by Dr. David N. Wiggins

With over 4,000 titles in print, Arcadia Publishing’s Images of America series is familiar to legions of local history buffs. The winning formula involves pairing regional enthusiasts with a niche imprint eager to publish annotated black-and-white photographic images of a place or period of history. Longtime Carroll County educator and Civil War collector Dr. Wiggins presents over two hundred historically significant early photographic images of many of Georgia’s men in grey. Wiggins is particularly adept in identifying names of individuals, muster rolls, birthplaces, burial sites, service records, and the particulars of uniforms and weaponry. He assiduously cites the sources of his material. The reader will encounter moving and often haunting portraits gleaned from private collections, libraries, historical societies, and what must be a valuable personal cache of images. Enlisted men mingle on the same page with distinguished officers. Real brothers in arms stare into the camera. Part one, the major part of the book, is a compilation of individual soldiers. We view members of the “Wirth Rebels,” the “Fayette Grey Guards,” the “McIntosh Volunteers,” and the “Clinch Rifles.” We see the “proclaimed youngest regular Confederate, 10-year-old David Bailey Freeman. In contrast, we see an image of General William Joshua Bush, Georgia’s last living Confederate veteran, who died in 1952 at the age of 107. The second part presents pictures of Confederate reunions held in Georgia, while the third and fourth parts contain images of monuments and cemeteries honoring the dead. A self-described miscellany of early photographs, engravings, postcards, and portraits, the book is a visual treat for anyone interested in Georgia’s Civil War legacy. — Reviewed by James A. Taylor
Atlanta-Fulton Public Library
Warm Springs by David M. Burke, Jr. and Odie A. Burke (Arcadia Publishing, 2005; ISBN 0-7385-4199-0, $19.99). This pictorial work featuring Warm Springs, Georgia, located in the west central part of the state, features over 200 photographs. The work begins with an explanation of the geology of the area that causes the warm springs to exist. There is some discussion of the early history of the locale from the 1800s through the early 1920s when the area was primarily a vacation spot for the well-to-do. The majority of the book, however, emphasizes the years from 1924 to 1945 when Franklin Delano Roosevelt was active in Warm Springs. It touches upon the ostracism suffered by polio victims—who were not allowed to ride in passenger cars on trains and feared to be contagious when bathing in a shared pool—and the great changes that Roosevelt affected for them. He caused Warm Springs to become a haven for those suffering from polio and other paralyses, spending two-thirds of his fortune to purchase property and buildings in the area. He hired physical therapists and had constructed pools, living quarters, a hydrotherapy center, and more. Roosevelt incorporated the March of Dimes that eventually funded the vaccine for polio. Many photographs show Roosevelt in relaxed settings, among polio victims, children, and ordinary townspeople. The narrative submits that it was during his stay in Warm Springs that Roosevelt came to understand the plight of the rural poor. Due to that understanding, he implemented the Rural Electrification Administration, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, the Tennessee Valley Authority, and the Civilian Conservation Corps, all of which helped bring the country out of the Great Depression. This volume belongs in any library with a focus on Georgia, social history, political science, and/or Franklin Delano Roosevelt. — Reviewed by Mary-Frances Panettiere, Georgia Institute of Technology

My Own Private Library

Continued from page 4

Coast Guard tugboat regulations, and books by and about sailors from Richard Henry Dana and Captain Bligh to Linda Greenlaw. One entire wall of them on old hatch boards from a freighter. Of course, it does jazz up the place — the last thing sitting on those hatch boards (before his books) was a Mercedes!

Of my entire life of book collecting, I am having the most fun now. I have started a collection for our granddaughter — she has her own bookcase, and I am getting all those books that a librarian-grandparent loves to read to children and loves children to read. So far I haven’t invoked the library rule. I hope that 50 years from now the books will remind her of her grandmother, as my father’s books remind me of his love for me and for reading. — Reviewed by Sandy Hester, Fitzgerald-Ben Hill County Library

Juvenile Literature

Yumion series by Rhonda Frost Petty, illustrated by Pam Alexander (Be Sweet Publications: The Onion Ambassador, 2001; ISBN: 0-9709105-0-9, $16.00; Yumion Goes to the City, 2002; ISBN: 0-9709105-1-7, $16.00; Yumion’s Mountain Holidays, 2004; ISBN: 0-9709105-2-5, $16.00; Sails, Pails, and Alligator Tales, 2005; ISBN: 0-9709105-6-8, $16.00). Vidalia, Georgia, was made famous years ago for its unique variety of onion. Now the city is entering the spotlight again as the birthplace of another onion variety—the walking, talking kind. Meet Georgia’s newest ambassador, Yumion, the lovable adventurer whose mission above all is to remind everyone to “Be Sweet.” In this four-volume series, Yumion, the Onion Ambassador, travels all over Georgia learning about all that this great state has to offer. Yumion’s travels take him from the fields of Vidalia to the state capital in Atlanta. From there he ventures to the Mountains and then out to the coast, ending up in the great Okefenokee Swamp. Readers of this series will not only learn about Georgia’s great sites, but also learn a bit about some famous personalities, such as President Jimmy Carter and Zell Miller. The rhyming text and engaging illustrations make this series an excellent choice for reading aloud to any audience, young or old. Pam Alexander and Rhonda Frost Petty have compiled an excellent series of tales that will be useful to students, teachers, librarians, and even tourism committees throughout the state of Georgia. After reading these adventures, one wonders, where will Yumion go next? — Reviewed by Sandy Hester, Fitzgerald-Ben Hill County Library

Dusty Gres is director of the Ohoopee Regional Library System in Vidalia.
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