

January 2009

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Recommended Citation

(2009) "Conyers-Rockdale Library Celebrates Start of Construction," *Georgia Library Quarterly*: Vol. 46 : Iss. 1 , Article 8.
Available at: <https://digitalcommons.kennesaw.edu/glq/vol46/iss1/8>

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Spotlight On CONSTRUCTION

Conyers-Rockdale Library Celebrates Start of Construction

The long-delayed renovation and expansion project for the Conyers-Rockdale Library is now in active progress! The groundbreaking ceremony was held on the beautiful fall afternoon of Oct. 2. Local and state library officials, staff and friends enjoyed the occasion, which was a true celebration. The construction zone was set up the next day, and demolition of the interior was completed around the first of November.

The library is staying open during the construction process, which is expected to conclude in the spring of 2010. Library operations were moved to the lower level of the building in early August. It was a process that took months of planning by staff, two weeks' closed time and a full effort from all staff and volunteers.

It was necessary to reduce the collection by 40 percent in order to arrange what shelving could be fit into the smaller, available space. Approximately 41,000 books were stored in a county-owned, multi-purpose facility. The former meeting room kitchen now serves as the circulation workroom. The circulation desk is set up in the art gallery, and the youth services department shares space with adult fiction and periodicals in the meeting room. The public uses an entrance door downstairs, behind the building.

Many patrons have been surprised by the lovely parklike setting that they had not noticed before.

The project is defined as a complete renovation and expansion of the Conyers-Rockdale Library building, which is now 18 years old and definitely the worse for wear.

The youth services department on the main floor will be expanded, and a two-story addition off the back of the building will create new space for the

library's public services areas to spread out over both levels of the building. This will allow for the addition of a young adult area, a large computer area and a café.

The architect is David Moore, AIA, with Craig, Gaulden and Davis Architects of Greenville, S.C. This firm has designed more than 50 libraries throughout North and South Carolina and Georgia. The construction manager at risk is Potts Construction Company of Conyers. ►►



Deborah S. Manget (center), director of the Conyers-Rockdale Library System, helps steer a bulldozer during the groundbreaking ceremony for the library expansion.