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The Georgia library community recently welcomed two new public library facilities. The DeKalb County Public Library held a dedication ceremony for the Northlake-Barbara Loar Library (bottom) on May 30. Two weeks later, more than 150 library supporters celebrated the grand opening of the West Georgia Regional Library’s 6,100-square-foot Ephesus Public Library in Heard County on June 14. See pages 17 and 18.
Plans are well underway for our 21st annual COMO Conference, and I hope you all have marked Oct. 7-9 on your calendars! This year’s conference is in Columbus, and we already have lots of great programs scheduled.

This year’s conference theme is “COMMUNICATE, COLLABORATE, CONNECT — COMO XXI 2009,” and there will be something for everyone! Keynote speakers include Patti Digh, author of *Life Is a Verb* and numerous other business titles; Steven J. Bell, associate university librarian at Temple University and noted lecturer on the topic of “future-proofing” your library; and Toni Buzzeo, popular author and school library media specialist from Buxton, Maine.

In addition to all the exciting programs, COMO XXI offers lots of opportunities to “communicate, collaborate, and connect” with other librarians. It’s always great to meet new librarians throughout our state and to visit with old friends. Plus, this year we are inviting our colleagues from Alabama to join us in Columbus.

For those of us looking to explore the city, Columbus offers a variety of museums, tours and other attractions. The Civil War Naval Museum and the Coca-Cola Space Science Center are just two of the sites to see during the conference. And there are plenty of historic sites within walking distance of the convention center.

We are working hard to make COMO XXI the best conference ever. I look forward to “connecting” with you all on Oct. 7-9 in Columbus!

— James P. Cooper
President
Georgia Library Association

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My Own PRIVATE LIBRARY

A peek inside the personal library of a librarian
by Kenneth M. Kozel

My parents were always reading and believed in supporting their local library. They instilled in me the importance of reading, drawing and self-expression. As a child, I can remember many trips to the public library: always not wanting to leave and having to put books back, because I had chosen too many to check out. As a result, my parents have raised a family of bibliophiles who still hunger for books and frequent libraries.

My personal library encompasses many books and collections of materials acquired over the years. Looking back at items I have purchased and the gifts I have received: The books tell an epic story of my life. Many are marked with “Happy Birthday,” “Merry Christmas” and “Congratulations” inscriptions, dated to reflect important milestones in my life. Each book has its own story to tell.

My tastes would best be described as vast, quirky and diverse — I definitely have a sense of humor. There are Stephen King and Anne Rice novels coupled with Beatrix Potter and Jane Austen books. Edward Gorey, Dr. Seuss, Gary Larson and Bill Watterson all happily coexist on the shelves with Joyce Carol Oates and John Grisham. Classics by Eudora Welty, Flannery O’Connor and J.D. Salinger share space with Stephenie Meyer and Christopher Paolini. I would like to say my tastes are more mature, but looking at my full bookcases — I definitely see the kid in me peeking out. I have a vast selection of children’s books, most of them Caldecott winners. These were all purchased for their illustrations and as inspiration for my own future children’s book I hope to one day write and illustrate. My favorite book as a child was Maurice Sendak’s Where the Wild Things Are. Two of my recent Caldecott purchases are Olivia by Ian Falconer and Zen Shorts by Jon J. Muth. Much fiction, self-help sections, good old classics and, of course, adolescent literature fill my shelves. Harry Potter, Tales of Narnia and the Golden Compass series are my latest editions.

Before entering the library field, I earned my Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in painting and graphic design. Most of my collection deals with art, illustration and classical literature, interspersed with mysteries, horror, and children’s classics. My love of books is coupled with my love for movies and music — must be all of that self-expression as a child. I love fantasy, science fiction and any genre that transports me elsewhere. You could definitely say I live and travel through my books.

In this new age of Kindle electronic devices and digitized manuscripts, I am still confident that the tried and true, classic bound novel will always remain. Books have a tactile pleasure that I enjoy: from the colorful dust jackets, the bound parchment to the black ink and even the typeface — nothing comes close to replacing them.

As I age, my library becomes more personal and important to me. Certain books are reread and cherished, while others are pushed to the side. I believe books should be shared; so, many are re-gifted to new fans, friends and family. Also, periodic weeding of my library makes room for more new purchases.

Kenneth M. Kozel is a summer 2009 graduate of the Valdosta State University MLIS Program and an assistant librarian at the Pitts Library at Andrew College in Cuthbert.
Looking at the title of this column, I am reminded of all the things that I love. The number of those things is large, but for some reason, my mind turns to tomatoes. I love homegrown, vine-ripened, juicy tomatoes! Since I grew up on a farm, I am passionate about trying to grow my own. Not having been very successful, I began to think of what I need to do to have great tomatoes. In turn, my thoughts went back to libraries and what part I can play in the effort to have great libraries.

For tomatoes, I need knowledge about the plant and knowledge about its growing process. If I love libraries and I want them to succeed, I need to know how they work, what it takes to develop the collections, how to best serve the patrons, what the staff members do and how to pay the bills. How and where can I find the information that puts aside all the fancy language about missions and goals and theories of change, and freezes the action into a particular moment that is unique to my task of planting the tomatoes or speaking for libraries?

Nurseries have good advice on tomato plants, appropriate soil conditions and the needed amounts of sunshine and fertilizer. For the libraries, I can talk to staff members, stay up on the news regarding issues and funding that impact libraries and understand who the individual and collective decision makers are in meeting libraries’ needs. Learning how to overcome bad growing conditions for both tomatoes and libraries is certainly high on my list.

Next comes the translation step — buy the plants and put my knowledge into action. Or, in the case of libraries: 1) speak out; 2) get to know the decision makers/players on the various levels; 3) assemble the facts supporting my beliefs and wants; and 4) work out a plan to present my evidence in support/opposition of a law, an appropriation or a change of opinion. Many individuals feel that libraries are an essential service in maintaining a productive community. They are strong on libraries but not called to action. It might just be my passion that results in “conversion experiences” for the previously unconvinced. I cannot depend on one person or group to advocate for libraries. It takes networking and teamwork to be a voice for libraries: professionals, trustees, friends groups and individuals. The mother who needs books on child-rearing or the entrepreneur who found information to determine the best location for his business can be just as powerful as those we elect, appoint or hire. These individuals have stories about loving libraries. I need to gather those stories and use them to feed my advocacy approaches, just as I use the fertilizer to feed my tomatoes.

Planting tomatoes in the right location and at the right time is a big deal. So is selecting the time and place to speak on behalf of libraries. Attending governmental meetings, calling on decision makers in their offices and chatting in lines at sporting events and grocery stores are all good locations. The time can be while lawmakers are in session or when they are in recess and on their home turf. Timing needs to be systematic and consistent, not just at a time of crisis or budget presentations. To do the best work, I need to know how the political process works. My message can’t be too late to influence the vote. I must not waste the time of my elected officials discussing matters over which they have no jurisdiction.

Young tomato plants are tender; I need to handle them carefully. I also need to be nice to decision makers. I should not threaten or expect them to make a decision before they have all the facts. If I am visiting, I need to make an appointment and use the time wisely. I need to express appreciation for their time, consideration and their actions, even when they do not give me full support.

I need to be a resource in the local area, to become known as one of those people who, by doing research, can develop a reputation as a repository of good information. If I work on all these things, I should have a good crop and a good outcome. Now I need to just go do it! And I will as soon as I plant my tomatoes! ✪

— Jenny McCurdy

The author is director of Development and Alumni Services at Mercer University and serves on the Dekalb Library Foundation board. She is a past president of the Friends of Georgia Libraries.
Academic libraries as learning spaces: Library effectiveness and the user experience
by Charles Forrest

Academic libraries are reinventing themselves as spaces for active learning. The ongoing transformation of the library's role requires a theory/practice approach that aims to reshape learning spaces in the library in a larger campus context of student learning.

When the patron’s mode of interaction with the library was the transaction, the library’s focus was on information goods, and its goal was control; its primary role was that of gatekeeper, and its success was measured in terms of investments or inputs (e.g., expenditures, total staff, volume count). With the reconceptualization of the patron as customer, the focus became service, and the library’s goal to connect; its primary role became that of assistant, its success measured in terms of activities or outputs (e.g., circulation transactions, reference questions answered, classes taught and students present).

With the next rethinking of the customer as the guest, the mode becomes the experience; the library’s goal becomes collaboration, its primary role that of partner, and its success measured by impacts or outcomes (e.g., fostering student learning success, supporting faculty productivity, enhancing institutional reputation). After the library deploys its resources in support of its activities, the question becomes one of results: What difference has it made? Transactions are useful and service is helpful, but experiences are memorable and potentially transformative.

This paper examines the increasing attention paid to the user's experience of the library, introduces a model to describe the evolution of the library/customer relationship and suggests some key metrics for measuring academic library effectiveness focused on user behaviors and responses to library as place.

Introduction
Academic libraries are working hard to reinvent themselves as learning spaces for 21st century students and faculty. Cognitive research has informed and shaped emerging pedagogies intended to foster problem-based, experiential, active learning. Our campuses and parent institutions are working hard to understand and respond to the implications of these new relationships among learners, learning experiences and learning spaces.

While most academic libraries are becoming more willing to characterize their communities of users as “customers,” some are preparing to take another page from business in an attempt to transform themselves from service providers to collaborative partners in learning and research, in large part by embracing and deploying powerful technologies for distribution, access and manipulation of massive quantities of digital information in a variety of formats — print, image and sound. While the virtual library is accessible from the “anywhere” of the Internet, the user experience grounded in the library as place suggests the need to examine the value-added proposition of the role of the library in the life of the intellectual community that is the basis for the modern residential campus.

The experience economy
In The Experience Economy, Pine and Gilmore propose a model for understanding the transition they see underway from a goods and services economy to an experience economy. In the information world, data is a commodity, the raw material of research and learning. Compiling and analyzing the raw material of data, information aggregators package and deliver information goods, “tangible items sold to largely anonymous customers who buy them off the shelf, from the lot, out of the catalog, and so on.” Libraries select and acquire these information
goods (books, journals, databases, other resources) as the foundation for programs of services, intangible activities customized to the individual request of known clients; services employ an estimated 80 percent of the work force. But the dominance of services in the modern economy leads to their commoditization; the Internet is the greatest force for commoditization for both goods and services. Automation promotes disintermediation; the end user is increasingly able to go “straight to the source” of information, decreasing reliance on intermediaries such as libraries. Will the end result be to take libraries completely out of the equation? What value do libraries add?

Pine and Gilmore suggest that services can be differentiated based on the quality of the customer experience. The focus on the customer experience occurs whenever a company intentionally uses services as the stage and goods as props to engage an individual. While commodities are fungible (easily interchangeable), goods tangible, and services intangible, experiences are memorable. The following table summarizes this transformation of the customer relationship in libraries:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Customer library</th>
<th>Library</th>
<th>Success measured by</th>
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<tr>
<td>Mode</td>
<td>Role</td>
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<td>Transaction</td>
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<td>Service</td>
<td>Customer</td>
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<td>Experience</td>
<td>Guest</td>
<td>Collaborate</td>
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When the patron’s mode of interaction with the library was the transaction, the library’s goal was control, and its primary role was that of gatekeeper, with the aim of exercising effective stewardship over limited, shared resources. With information packaged and deployed in print-on-paper physical containers (books and journals), the library worked to organize and manage scarce physical resources, focusing on policies and rules governing access and use; the patron borrowed and the library loaned. The library’s success was measured in terms of its investments in the resources it made available, the inputs in the information transaction (e.g., expenditures, total staff, volume count, number of subscriptions). With the evolution of the library/user relationship from patron to customer, the primary mode of interaction became service. The library’s goal was the provision of customer assistance, connecting the prepared user with the appropriate source of information or set of resources.

The library’s success was measured not in terms of what it has (inputs) but of what it does, the activities it supports, its outputs (e.g., circulation transactions, reference questions answered, classes taught and students present). With the transition to the experience economy, the library’s inputs and outputs, its resources and services, are used to set the stage for the customer experience. When the library customer is seen as a guest (in the all-inclusive resort sense, rather than the hotel/motel or restaurant sense), the library’s efforts expand to include all the factors that contribute to the quality of the total user experience. Library staff become collaborative partners, setting the stage and attending to the library’s guests on a number of levels. The library’s success is measured not by what it has or what it does, but what happens as a result of those activities and encounters, the impacts or outcomes (e.g., fostering student learning success, supporting faculty productivity, enhancing institutional reputation).

After the library deploys its resources in support of its activities, the question becomes one of results: What difference has it made? Transactions are useful, service is helpful, but experience is memorable — and potentially transformative.

The experience library
The need to pay more attention to all the factors that shape the user experience has drawn a variety of responses from academic libraries. The Library and Information Center at Georgia Tech in Atlanta counts a “user experience librarian” among its information services staff. The McCain Library at Agnes Scott College in Decatur and the Miami University Libraries in Oxford, Ohio, have recruited for such positions with this focus. But what if an entire library committed itself to the “user experience”?

Among the preconference offerings at the 2008 annual conference of the American Library Association in Anaheim, Calif., the LLAMA/Buildings and Equipment Section/Architecture for Public Libraries Committee offered an all-day tour of area libraries including the 6-year-old Cerritos Public Library, billed as the nation’s first experience library. Library project planners at Cerritos spoke of their intention and inspiration: “The new Cerritos Library is the culmination of a complete re-examination of library services, collections and staffing. Inspired in part by the book, The Experience Economy (B. Joseph Pine et al., Harvard Business School Press, 1999), a planning team of city elected officials and library staff, architects, artists,
designers, contractors and consultants redesigned every aspect of the library with the goal of enhancing the user experience.”6 Pine and Gilmore recognize the Disney corporation’s lead in emphasizing the customer experience in the entertainment industry; the Cerritos Library takes a page from Disney by referring to its community of library users as “guests.” So what awaits Cerritos Library’s guests in their new experience library?

The library’s striking and strongly branded main entrance leads to “Main Street,” complete with (faux) palm trees; Main Street serves as the central access path on the entry level. A 15,000-gallon, two-sided saltwater aquarium immediately on the left anchors the entrance to the children’s area. Inside, beyond a life-size replica of Tyrannosaurus rex, children find an artificial baobab tree, the largest ever fabricated by the company that supplies the Rain Forest Cafe, enhanced with recorded sounds of insects and birds. Further down Main Street, the entrance to the young adult area is inspired by art deco-era ocean liners, while adult reference and reading areas offer Craftsman-style furnishings and finishes. A traditional reading room includes a fireplace featuring the projected image of flames accompanied by a recorded soundtrack of logs hissing and crackling on the imaginary hearth. Ascending by escalator from Main Street to the second floor, library guests “enter the 21st century.” A technology theater features open access computers ranged dramatically in tiers. A comfortable, Chinese-themed reading area offers access to a variety of collections. On the third level, guests find a technology classroom, a handsomely appointed board room and a large multifunction room that opens onto a rooftop plaza. The Cerritos Library offers a series of dramatic spaces, each with a strong individual character, each designed and fabricated to evoke a particular feeling or response, to offer a specifically tailored experience. The library is popular and much-used; Cerritos’ guests visit regularly and frequently to linger and enjoy this varied and interesting facility.

Architecture is strongly influenced by place: climate, style and lifestyle. Its location in Southern California along with its proximity to Anaheim and Disneyland offer context and inspiration for the Cerritos Library’s design and service innovations. What can academic libraries learn from this focused, conscious and bold approach to designing unique and compelling spaces in support of the user experience? More and more academic libraries are developing new types of spaces that afford users characteristic experiences beyond the traditional library coffee shops, technology-equipped group studies, flexible collaborative classrooms, learning commons. But most academic libraries are not well-positioned to aggressively incorporate so many retail-inspired features into their facilities. The academic library must necessarily innovate within a tradition thoroughly grounded in a specific and enduring campus history and culture. So what can academic libraries learn from their public library colleagues, as they take inspiration from the commercial and retail sector? As academic librarians work to respond to changes in the scholarly and learning environment and strive to remain not only relevant but central to the core mission of teaching, research and service, how can we know if we’re successful? And perhaps more importantly, how can we tell if we’re making a difference?

Measuring success

Academic libraries count; we have counted for many years and will in all likelihood continue to count in the future. The ARL Statistics is an annual data series that describes the collections, expenditures, staffing and service activities for the more than 120 member libraries of the Association of Research Libraries. The whole data series from 1908 to the present represents the oldest and most comprehensive continuing library statistical series in North America.7 For most of its history, the ARL Statistics and Measurement program has reported data on library inputs, such as total volumes in collection, volumes added, serials received, number of staff, and expenditures in broad categories. In response to a call for more meaningful and relevant measures of library activity, in the mid-1990s ARL added a handful of output measures to its annual survey, including number of reference transactions and number of classes taught.8

More recently, in response to increased demands for institutional accountability, research libraries are being challenged to provide measures that document their contributions to teaching, research, scholarship and community service. ARL's Statistics & Measurement program is supporting member efforts to develop new models for measurement that address issues of service quality, electronic resource usage, and outcomes assessment. In 1999, the ARL membership endorsed the "New Measures Initiative,” aimed in part to develop tools for comprehensive collection, compilation and reporting of outcome measures, including surveys of user satisfaction and measures of service effectiveness.9 One of the first surveys to emerge from this effort was the LibQUAL+™ initiative.10

These new initiatives aim to document the library’s contributions to institutional mission in large part by
asking the library’s users what they think about the quality and accessibility of information resources, the friendliness and helpfulness of staff and the comfort and functional effectiveness of library as place. Local surveys, focus groups and other sociological and anthropological research protocols bring the authentic voice and observed behavior of the user to the process of designing new types of library spaces. These emergent methodologies for assessing the usefulness and effectiveness of those new spaces are based not solely on traditional measures of investment (inputs) and activity (outputs) but on the library’s influence on enhanced learning and quality research (outcomes).

In the broad area of inputs, widely available guidelines ask about the adequacy of space to the intended purpose: Is there enough shelving to house the collection at efficient and effective working density? Are there enough group studies proportionate to the size and pedagogical needs of the student body? In the area of outputs, efforts build on basic activity measures: Is the library used? Are gate counts and occupancy rates commensurate with expectations and comparable to peers? Is seating generally adequate, and especially during peak demand periods around midterms and finals?

These investments and activities, these inputs and outputs, are tactical and short-term, observable on regular cycles (quarterly, semester to semester, annually), familiar and relatively easy to measure. Outcomes and impacts, on the other hand, are strategic and long-term, are often only measurable over several annual cycles and are more difficult to define and measure validly and reliably. But critical to accountability is the ability to answer the question: When you add up the investment and review all the activity, what difference did it make?

The customer survey is the cornerstone of outcomes assessment, asking users themselves about their satisfaction with library resources, services, staff and facilities. Student pre- and post-testing can begin to demonstrate the positive value of library instruction and library use. Do students self-report a positive value for certain types of library spaces? Is it possible to demonstrate a correlation between certain types of facilities designed for student group work and the quality of student collaborative projects? Does the library contribute to developing a sense of academic community? What’s the connection between student perceptions of the library as a welcoming and inviting facility and their self-reported satisfaction with library staff and services? Are users staying away from the library, perhaps going elsewhere, preferring other on-campus or off-campus spaces — and if so, why? The answers to such questions can inform strategic planning, helping to frame initiatives whose implementation period can be measured in years.

Conclusion

The information marketplace has become more competitive in recent years, with academic libraries no longer holding a clear monopoly. As we struggle to understand our new roles and responsibilities among our communities of users, we can find inspiration and value in the best practices and innovations in the commercial and retail sectors, especially those features adopted by our colleagues in public libraries. At one time or another, we have all been customers and can reframe our approach to designing services and facilities based on a deeper and more nuanced understanding of that shared customer experience. If we can frame experiences for our students, faculty and visitors — our guests — that linger in their memory long after they have left our libraries and our campuses, we will continue to remain central to the academic enterprise. Delivering experiences that produce lifelong memories that continue to inform and transform thought and behavior long after those experiences have ended is as good a working definition of the educational enterprise as one might hope to find. Celebrate the experience!

Charles Forrest is director of Library Facilities Management & Planning for the Robert W. Woodruff Library at Emory University in Atlanta.

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Providence

Selected Correspondence of George Hull Camp
Son of the North, Citizen of the South

Edited by Connie M. Cox and Darlene M. Walsh
Foreword by former Georgia Governor Roy E. Barnes

Personal letters of the Camp, King, Atwood, and Dunwody families tell the story of life in Roswell, Marietta, and Darien, Georgia, from the antebellum era, thru the Civil War, & into the early 1900s.

I’m inclined to put the Cox/Walsh book ‘Providence’ on the same pedestal of such monarchs of Southern literature as Robert Manson Myers’ ‘The Children of Pride,’ and Margaret Mitchell’s ‘Gone with the Wind.’ — Aubrey R. Morris, Alpharetta-Roswell Revue & News, 2/5/09

Late novelist Eugenia Price based some of her characters on the same men and women whom the reader meets in the Camp correspondence

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Notes • Name Index & General Index • Bibliography • Genealogy

George Hull Camp (1817-1907), a native New Yorker, adopted the South as his home, served the Confederacy during the turbulent years of America’s Civil War, and never wavered in his affection and concern for his family in the North. Hired in 1842 as company storekeeper at the newly established Roswell Manufacturing Company, Camp was taken into the home and under the wing of company president Barrington King. Camp rose quickly in Georgia society and business, becoming King’s right-hand man and eventually succeeding him as company president in 1866. Camp married Jane Margaret Atwood, who was the daughter of wealthy coastal planter Henry Skelton Atwood and Ann McIntosh Atwood. McIntosh County is named for her family.

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Encouraging Faculty Requests for Library Materials: Midwest’s New Book Selection Service
by Lydia F. Knight

Faculty participation is an important foundation of academic library collection development. It can be a challenge to find ways to encourage more input from faculty who have so many demands for their time and attention. Some faculty members submit numerous materials requests each year, and others rarely, if ever, request materials. While the librarians have the professional expertise to maintain and develop the collection, they should not be the only source for recommendations for purchases. Faculty are experts in their fields, and their participation in collection development is crucial to the currency and overall quality of the academic library collection. The challenge is to encourage all faculty members (not just a few) from all disciplines to provide input for collection development.

The first step is to maintain a current collection development policy. Georgia Public Library Service has a helpful Web site on “Resources for Library Development” that provides many useful resources that can be used to draft and update collection development policies (www.georgialibraries.org).

The Dalton State College Collection Development Policy states:

The quality of the collection depends largely on the involvement of teaching faculty.... No one person can have complete knowledge of all fields or know the needs of an entire community to assume responsibility for all selections. Faculty input is integral to this process and ensures that collections are balanced and reasonably support all college courses (Dalton).

The policy also states that the library’s priority is supporting the needs of students and faculty at the appropriate degree level. From its founding and up to 2000, Dalton State College offered associate degree and certificate programs. Beginning in 2000, the college added three bachelor’s degree programs and by fall 2008 the college had 10 bachelor degree programs. The Roberts Library collection development process had to reflect these changes and support the curriculum with upper undergraduate materials.

In past years, librarians have routed publisher catalogs, brochures and new title announcements to faculty for selection. Faculty members have also sent requests via e-mail, phone and campus mail for library materials. Increasing the total number of faculty requests was one of the departmental goals for Roberts Library. To help meet this goal, Roberts Library began using a notification slip plan in 2005-2006. A profile was set up with the vendor using Library of Congress subject headings to customize titles for our curriculum. Printed, multipart 4x6 forms were mailed to the library weekly. The forms were sorted by discipline and routed via campus mail to faculty who volunteered to be discipline coordinators. The discipline coordinators then routed the slips to their colleagues within the department. Faculty would initial slips for titles to add to our library collection. After the slips were returned to the library and reviewed by the director, the firm orders were complete. The first year Roberts Library used the notification slips, the number of titles requested went up 7 percent. The second year, the number of titles requested increased by 30 percent. During the same two-year time period, the number of full-time faculty increased 11 percent. Both the addition of faculty and the notification slip program probably were factors in the rise of the number of titles requested.
While the notification slip plan did result in meeting our goal for more faculty requests, there were some drawbacks. Even though we modified our institutional profile, the number of notification slips mailed each week was high. In addition, we were still receiving many titles that were not applicable to our curriculum. Sorting and routing the slips by discipline was a cumbersome process. It was time-consuming for the faculty discipline coordinators and added to their weekly paperwork, and some faculty disliked using the notification slips. The time constraints, the paper waste and faculty complaints were considerations on whether or not to continue the notification slips.

The decision was made to cancel the notification slip plan and try a different method from another vendor. Midwest Library Service offers a New Book Selection Service; instead of notification slips, forthcoming title lists are distributed weekly via e-mail. These lists can be profiled by using Library of Congress Subject Classification. Of course, it would not be practical to send tailored e-mails to each faculty member. Instead of using individual email addresses, group e-mail addresses were used for each division, for example, nursing@daltonstate.edu. A profile was created for each of the 15 departments: business administration, business/technical, criminal justice, education, health/technical, humanities, natural science/math, nursing, philosophy and religion, political science, psychology, social work, sociology, technology, and world and U.S. history.

Before we started sending the e-mail notices, the division chairs were notified of the new program, and they responded positively to the proposed service. Next, an e-mail explaining the new book selection service (NBSS) process was sent to the entire faculty. During the annual faculty retreat in fall 2007, the library director presented a five-minute PowerPoint presentation demonstrating the procedure for the service. A handout explaining the NBSS process was also included in the faculty packets at the meeting. Afterward, several faculty members mentioned they were glad the paper notification slips had been cancelled.

The e-mail notifications were activated during the fall and spring semesters of 2007-2008. During the breaks between semesters and the summer term, the e-mail notifications were inactive. Each week the faculty members would receive the e-mail relevant to their division. After opening the e-mail and the new titles list, faculty could check boxes for recommended titles and submit the list online. Once submitted, the list went to a file marked “confirm transactions” on the Midwest Web site. The Dalton State library director would receive an email notification that there were “x” number of pending transactions from that division. Once a week, the confirm transactions file was checked by the library director, and titles were evaluated based on the Collection Development Policy. For example, the policy states that Roberts Library will not purchase textbooks unless there are special circumstances, so textbooks would be deleted from the file. A staff member would also check for duplicates in our OPAC. Afterward, titles were ordered as funds permitted or saved for later consideration. During the first year, there were a few e-mail or phone questions from faculty as they learned the new process. Some faculty thought the e-mail notifications were spam at first, so it was important to let them know to add the Midwest e-mail address to their list of “safe” addresses.

An increase in faculty participation was immediately apparent. Each week there were about 30-50 submissions for new titles. At the end of the 2007-2008 year, the total number of titles requested by the faculty had increased by 70 percent. This was an amazing number, and it was not expected to be so high. (Only one full-time faculty member was added that year.) It was gratifying to see statistical proof of the success of the e-mail notifications. This plan enabled the library director to be confident that funds were being spent efficiently and wisely on the purchase of titles that were recommended by faculty and that directly supported our curriculum. In times of budget constraints, it is even more important to demonstrate careful use of funds. The Midwest New Book Selection Service has proved to be another valuable tool in measuring institutional effectiveness and demonstrating completion of the library goals and objectives. Documentation of this plan and statistics will be kept on file in preparation for our next Southern Association of Colleges and Schools self-study and visit. 

Lydia F. Knight is library director at Dalton State College.

References:
GLA announces slate of nominees for 2010 officers

First Vice President/President-Elect

Carolyn Fuller
Carolyn Fuller has served as Henry County Public Library System's library director since September 1999. A native of West Virginia, she earned a B.S. in music education from Concord College, Athens, W. Va; a master's degree in Christian education from the Presbyterian School of Christian Education, Richmond, Va.; and her master's of library and information science from University of South Florida.

Carolyn has served on the GLA board previously as secretary and as Public Library Division chair (for two years). Other service to the profession includes the PINES Executive Committee, the Board of Regents' Public Library Advisory Committee and the GALILEO Steering Committee. In her home county, Carolyn has volunteered for the Henry Arts Alliance, Inc. and the Visual Artists Collective of Henry County.

In addition to her Henry County public library experience, Carolyn has worked in a graduate school library in Kentucky, a municipal library in Florida and a regional library system in North Carolina. She previously taught public school music for seven years in Florida and West Virginia and has served as church organist and music director for many congregations. Her hobbies are painting, reading, hiking/camping with her dogs, and music.

Lace Keaton
Lace Keaton has served as the director of the Okefenokee Regional Library System in Waycross since March 2008. She earned a B.A. in humanities from George Williams College (Ill.) and an M.L.S. from Clark Atlanta University. Her work experience includes positions as deputy director, Live Oak Public Libraries in Savannah; branch manager and reference services manager for Worthington Libraries in Ohio; librarian II and information specialist, Gwinnett Public Library, Lawrenceville; and as a circulation, children's and technical services assistant at Nye Library in Ft. Sill, Okla. She is a graduate of Snowbird Leadership Institute (1999) and Leadership Worthington (2001).

Her professional activities for GLA include serving as the 2007 Public Library Division chair, arranging the Authors' Reception at COMO. Lace also has been chair of the Demco Merchandising Grant Jury for the Public Library Association (2002). For ALA, she served as a member of the Greenwood Publishing Award Jury (2009) and two consecutive terms on Reference and Users’ Services Association's Management and Operation of Users’ Services Section (1999-2003). For the Ohio Library Council, Lace served on the Annual Conference Program Planning Committee (2004), Annual Conference Local Arrangements Committee (2002), the Diversity Awareness and Resources Committee (2004-2005) and the Library Futures Initiative Communications and Marketing Task Force (2005).

Treasurer

Cathy Jeffrey
Cathy Jeffrey received her MLS from Florida State University. Cathy is a native Georgian and has worked her entire professional career in the state of Georgia. She has been employed at the Clayton State University Library for the last 20 years in the technical services department. She is currently head of technical services at Clayton State. Previously she worked in the cataloging department at Georgia State University, first as a monographic cataloger and later as head of the monographic cataloging unit. Cathy has been a member of GLA for many years. She has served the Georgia Library Association in the following capacities: chair of the awards committee, chair of the handbook committee, chair of the technical services interest group and chair of the academic division.
Second Vice President

Judith Brook
For the past 25 years, Judith Brook, B.A., MLIS, MBA, has been a Georgia librarian. Since moving here from Southern California, she has been a member of GLA’s Academic Library Division, where a paper she co-authored won the best paper award the first year (1998) it was offered by Blackwell Publishers and the association. Jackson, E.C., Brook, J.D., and Sisk, F. (1999). “Full Text: Convenience or Quality?” was published in GLQ, 36, 5-8. Since then, she has co-authored five other papers and given five presentations. She has been a member of the nominating committee of GLA, Library Council chair of Atlanta Regional Council for Higher Education (ARCHE), president of the Bibliographic Instruction Group and a member of the GALILEO Steering Committee. She is associate dean of University Libraries for Mercer University and director of the Monroe F. Swilley, Jr. Library on Mercer’s Atlanta campus.

Julie Housknecht
Julie Housknecht is an assistant professor at North Georgia College & State University’s Library Technology Center, where she works with instruction, reference and collection development. She holds an MLIS from Florida State University and a BBA from Georgia State University. Prior to working at North Georgia, she held librarian positions in both public and academic libraries with a variety of responsibilities, including cataloging, children’s services, instruction, outreach, reference and serials. Julie currently holds memberships in GLA, ACRL and ALA. Her other professional activities include attendance of ACRL’s Information Literacy Immersion Teacher and Program tracks, as well as presentations at numerous area conferences. She is currently chair of the GLA Assessment Interest Group.

Secretary

Jeff Heck
Jeff Heck serves as automation librarian at Augusta State University, a position he’s held since 1995. Heck graduated from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, with a B.S. degree in journalism (1987) and an MSLIS in library and information science (1993). He was employed for two years on a grant-funded project, “The Scholar’s Workstation,” prior to work at ASU. He has been a member of the Georgia Library Association since 1995, serving as chair of New Members Round Table, 1996-97; parliamentarian, 2006-07; chair of the Handbook Committee, from 2007; and secretary, 2008-09. He is an editorial board member of the Georgia Library Quarterly, currently serving as assignments editor. At the local level, Heck has served as president of the Kiwanis of Uptown Augusta and continues to serve as secretary. He is a board member of the Consumer Credit Counseling Service of Middle Georgia and maintains a variety of Web sites for Phi Kappa Phi and other groups.

Jana Lonberger
Jana Lonberger handles instruction, research assistance and collection management for U.S. history, American studies, interdisciplinary studies, and the Graduate Institute of Liberal Arts and provides general reference services at Emory’s Robert W. Woodruff Library. She holds a B.A. in history and French from Indiana University and an M.Ln. from Emory and has completed course work for an M.A. in history from Georgia State University. With almost three decades of professional experience, she held a variety of positions in technical and public services at the Georgia Institute of Technology Library prior to joining the Woodruff Library staff in 1997. A GLA member since the 1980s, she has served as a member of the Constitution & Bylaws, Handbook, Scholarship, and Conference committees and as secretary of the Reference Services Interest Group. She was also the recipient of a 1999 Academic Library Division Best Paper Award and has contributed book reviews to GLQ.
On April 14, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation announced a $5 million grant to the OCLC library cooperative to develop a public information campaign that will help public library leaders heighten awareness of the needs of local libraries and increase support for the services they provide during these challenging times. OCLC will pilot the campaign in select areas of Georgia and Iowa. The Georgia campaign kicked off June 23, with numerous festivities in downtown Savannah. Later in the year, OCLC will make available community awareness campaign materials and other guides to assist library leaders throughout the country in their efforts to strengthen support for local libraries.

The current economic crisis has led to dramatic increases in library visitation across the nation, as people rely on libraries for free computer and Internet access to conduct job searches, access government services, learn new work force skills and use other resources they can no longer afford at home.

The tightening economy has also put library funding — 80 percent of which comes from local sources — at risk. Many library systems predict deep state and local funding cuts in 2009, a growing burden for the roughly half of all libraries struggling against declining or flat budgets. “There has never been a more important time to highlight the importance of and support the services provided by public libraries,” said Jill Nishi, deputy director of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation’s U.S. Libraries effort. “As a longtime partner to libraries, we believe it’s critical to help ensure they remain strong during this especially challenging time. But we hope new partners, community leaders and local governments will also continue to recognize the value of libraries and support them accordingly.”

OCLC is working with Leo Burnett USA, a Chicago-based marketing communications agency, to design and test the community support campaigns in Georgia and Iowa with the help of field managers. They are using advertising, direct marketing, online engagement, public relations and grassroots community initiatives to heighten awareness of the need for increased library support.

“The value and relevance of libraries are especially clear in a difficult economy; however, few people are aware of how their libraries are funded and of the increasingly fragile state of library funding,” said Cathy De Rosa, global vice president of marketing for OCLC. “It is our goal that the campaign model jointly created and piloted with local communities can provide a road map for building awareness of the vital services libraries provide and how to convert that awareness into increased support.”

“Public library use in Georgia is soaring, and many of our facilities and staff are strained,” said State Librarian Dr. Lamar Veatch. “We are very pleased that OCLC and the Gates Foundation have selected Georgia to participate in this important library advocacy program. This work should help refine techniques to enhance the understanding on the part of local funding sources of the vital roles that libraries play in their communities.”
More than 150 library supporters came to celebrate the grand opening of the new Ephesus Public Library in Heard County on June 14, 2009. Mayor Denney Rogers says that planning for the new library began in 2002, and the entire community is excited that the library is finally a reality.

Speakers for the event included Rogers, Rep. Randy Nix (R-LaGrange), State Librarian Lamar Veatch, West Georgia Regional Library Director Jim Cooper, Heard County School Superintendent and library board Chairman Benji Hyatt and Heard County Commissioner June Jackson.

The new library is a 6,100-square-foot facility that includes a meeting room and 10 computers available for public use. The opening book collection includes more than 4,500 children’s and adult books, and more are on order. Funding for the $1.2-million facility included $650,000 in state funds and $610,000 in local funds.

“Through the PINES network, the library is connected to other libraries throughout Georgia, and Ephesus citizens have direct access to over 10 million books for their use.”

The branch manager for the Ephesus Library is Donna Alvis. Her assistant is Judy Rogers. Both have lived in Ephesus for most of their lives. “We are so blessed to be in a community that gives so much support to the library,” Alvis said.

Veatch said that he is delighted with the new facility. “I can’t recall ever attending a grand opening where literally half of the city’s population attended the event,” he said.

At the conclusion of the program, Mayor Rogers asked for anyone younger than 1 year old or anyone over the age of 90 to participate in a ceremonial “book opening” for the library. Eight-month-old Tessie McWhorter was the youngest participant in the ceremony, and Lonnie Rogers, Bernice Rogers, and Ila and Carlton Crenshaw.

Veatch said that he is delighted with the new facility. “I can’t recall ever attending a grand opening where literally half of the city’s population attended the event,” he said.

The oldest and youngest attendees participated in the Ephesus library’s “book opening” ceremony. From left: Kayla McWhorter holding 8-month-old Tessie, Lonnie Rogers, Bernice Rogers, and Ila and Carlton Crenshaw.

Mayor Rogers recalled the days of his youth when his late mother, Vivian, set up a small library for the Ephesus community in her home to house books brought by the West Georgia Regional Library bookmobile. Rogers said that his mother “is smiling as she looks down upon this event today.”

Rep. Nix expressed his appreciation for being included at the grand opening and emphasized how important the library is to the community. “Even though this project was begun before I was elected as your representative, I am pleased about the library and the resources it will provide.”

The restored original bell from the old Ephesus schoolhouse is on display in the lobby.
DeKalb unveils first construction projects

May 30 was a day of celebration at the first of the DeKalb County Public Library System’s major construction projects to be completed. DeKalb County CEO Burrell Ellis, county commissioners, the system’s board of trustees and the Northlake-Barbara Loar branch staff invited the public to the dedication of the enlarged and renovated facility in Tucker. The ceremony included a ribbon cutting, tours of the building and refreshments.

The branch, with its additional 5,000 square feet of space, officially reopened for business on June 1. It features a larger collection, a new teen area and twice as many public access computers as before.

Money for the library’s expansion came from a 2006 bond referendum approved by voters in unincorporated DeKalb County. The referendum covers an additional 12 projects, including the system’s Toco Hill-Avis G. Williams branch, which held its own dedication ceremony and open house on June 20 in Decatur.

The new facility is nearly twice the size of the old Toco Hill-Avis G. Williams Library, which it replaced on the same site. It now offers a collection of 64,000 library materials, additional public computers, a technology training center, special areas for children and teens, a larger meeting room and new study and conference rooms. Service at the branch resumed on June 22.

The system’s Dunwoody branch is currently closed for renovations but will reopen on July 6. Construction projects there will give the library improved accessibility and an updated look. ☛
GLA executive board honors Krug

On behalf of the membership of the Georgia Library Association, the executive board has bestowed honorary membership upon the late Judith F. Krug in gratitude and appreciation for her dedication and commitment to libraries, librarianship and the First Amendment rights of all people. Throughout her long and distinguished tenure as director of the Office for Intellectual Freedom of the American Library Association since 1967, Krug was hailed as the public face of our profession’s every effort to preserve, protect and defend the First Amendment right to freedom of expression and the corollary right to receive ideas, information and images so essential to the functioning of a free and democratic society. Krug provided practical assistance and unstinting support to thousands of librarians, library workers and library trustees throughout the United States striving to fulfill their ethical obligation and public trust to preserve the complete record of human expression and to provide free and unbiased access for all. ▶

Special Libraries Association news, notes

The Georgia Chapter of the Special Libraries Association recently presented the program “Community influence: Successful program planning and economic tools for survival.” The presenter was Christeen Snell, head of the Fayette County Public Library. She has been noted in the Atlanta Journal-Constitution for her success in bringing community members together. Chris was asked by the programming committee to share how she makes it all work in her Fayette community and service to others. The program included remarks from County Administrator Jack Krookeel, who urged attendees to consider constituents as customers. Comparing librarians to firefighters, he said librarians within the community must: be fast and have a quick response, be professional, be empathetic and have great customer service. The Georgia Chapter held its annual spring luncheon on April 29 in Atlanta. The speaker was Jodi Upton Kuehl, account services/EBSCO manager and supervisor of the field support team in Birmingham, Ala. Kuehl reminded attendees that they are in a position to prove the importance of the library and urged them to utilize the EBSCO training and built-in tutorials and continue to be responsive to end-user needs. ▶

Former library director Anthony passes

Emily Hasson Anthony, age 83 of Sautee, passed away on May 7. From 1972 until 1988, she was director of the Northeast Georgia Library System, where she was instrumental in the growth of libraries in White, Rabun, Habersham and Towns counties. ▶

Carter Library co-sponsors Briars’ event

On Feb. 25, the James Earl Carter Library on the campus of Georgia Southwestern State University in Americus presented the documentary Briars in the Cotton Patch in celebration of Black History Month. The program, a joint venture with Koinonia Farm and Faith Fuller, director of communications for the Fuller Center for Housing, included an introduction to the film, an hour-long viewing and a panel discussion with Fuller, former resident Alma Jackson, Koinonia program director Bren Dubay and current residents Amanda Moore and Ellie Castle.

After the panel discussion, Fuller held a surprise viewing of never-before-seen footage of a 1965 Americus High School reunion in which former classmates of a Koinonia resident discussed the ways they mistreated him and apologized for their actions. The program was a great success, generating lively participation by members of the audience of more than 70 people. ▶

Brewer receives Smithsonian internship

Camille Ann Brewer, a student in the MLIS program at Valdosta State University in Valdosta and proprietor of CAB Fine Art Services, has been selected for a full-time internship in the Smithsonian Archives of American Art in Washington, D.C., during summer 2009. Her duties will include assisting with digital conversion and creation of metadata for at-risk audio and video materials. The archives holds approximately 16 million documents and artifacts that chronicle the history of the visual arts in the United States. ▶
IMLS taps Henderson to attend conference

Francine I. Henderson, research library administrator for the Auburn Avenue Research Library on African American Culture and History, a special library of the Atlanta-Fulton Public Library System, was selected by the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) to attend the national conference “Stewardship of America’s Legacy: Answering the Call to Action” in Buffalo, N.Y., in June. Henderson is one of more than 70 representatives of small- and medium-sized museums and libraries nationwide invited to participate based on their leadership in the profession and in their communities. “I am honored to be selected to be part of this national forum, because the preservation and conservation of our nation’s historical documents and artifacts deserve national attention,” said Henderson. IMLS is hosting this forum in cooperation with Heritage Preservation, the American Institute for the Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works, and the Art Conservation Department of Buffalo State College, State University of New York.

Woodruff Library prepares for renovation

The Robert W. Woodruff Library of the Atlanta University Center closed to the public in May to prepare for the major interior renovation that will transform the library space into a 21st century learning environment. Woodruff reopened on June 1 with a temporary entrance and temporary service locations. Interlibrary loan participation will continue throughout the renovation.

From September to December, archival research and reference services will be relocated and limited due to construction in the Woodruff Library Archives & Special Collections Reading Room. Researchers planning a trip to the Woodruff Library Archives in the fall are strongly urged to make research appointments by contacting archives staff at archives@auctr.edu or 404-978-2052. As construction unfolds, the Woodruff Library will continue to share additional service changes online at: www.auctr.edu/renovation-site/index.asp. For more information, call 404-978-2067 or e-mail renovation questions to libraryrenovation@auctr.edu.

Atlanta student wins Archives’ award

Acting Archivist Adrienne C. Thomas has announced the winners of the National Archives’ “Excellence in Genealogy” Awards. The essay contest was held to celebrate both the 75th anniversary of the National Archives and the Fifth Annual National Archives Genealogy Fair. The awards recognize significant achievements in genealogy research, based on genealogical records from the National Archives. The first-place $1,000 award went to Myron McGhee of Decatur, circulation specialist with the Pitts Theology Library at Emory University. He is also a student in Valdosta State University’s MLIS program. McGhee’s essay, “The Use of National Archives Holdings for Genealogical Research,” traces his family’s ancestry using federal, state and local government records.

Gwinnett names design contest winner

The Gwinnett County Public Library has announced the Gwinnett Reading Festival Design Contest winner. Library officials invited artists to create a fresh look for the Gwinnett Reading Festival. The contest is conducted annually to give the festival a new, artistic look each year. “The Gwinnett Reading Festival Design Contest is a great opportunity for a local artist to make a substantial and lasting impact on our community,” said Nancy Stanbery-Kellam, executive director for the Gwinnett County Public Library. The 2009 contest winner is Nhiani Halim, a resident of Lilburn and graphic design student at the Art Institute of Atlanta. Honorable mention was awarded to Linda Hunt Nay of Dacula. The Gwinnett Reading Festival is scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 17 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Duluth Town Green.

Curtis retires, Nielsen to serve as interim

Susan Curtis, head of reference at the UGA Libraries in Athens, retired June 1 after 30 years of service. Kristin Nielsen will serve as interim head of reference while a national search is conducted.
Mountain Regional holds celebrations

A communitywide celebration was held April 15 to say thank you to Union County citizens, Friends, library staff and elected officials for their respective parts in advocating for the Union County Public Library’s renovation and addition project — the first building project in the Mountain Regional Library System in more than 20 years. Library Director Donna Howell recognized special guests, welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming to help the system celebrate. Attendees included Sen. Chip Pearson, Rep. Stephen Allison, Commissioner Lamar Paris, members of the building committee, Union County and regional library trustees and former Union County Librarian Wilma Ash. The Union County event came one day after the Friends of the Libraries of Towns County celebrated National Library Workers Day by presenting every library staff member and regular volunteer working in Towns County — at both the Mountain Regional Library headquarters in Young Harris and the Towns County Public Library in Hiawassee — with a gift certificate to a local restaurant and a hand-crocheted bookmark made by Friends member Barbara Hale inside a personalized thank-you card. “It was a wonderful way to recognize the contributions of every library worker to the success of our libraries,” said Howell.

GOLD/GALILEO conference coming July 31

Librarians from across the state are invited to help celebrate two decades of library collaboration at this year’s GOLD/GALILEO Users Group Conference on Friday, July 31. This year marks the 20th anniversary of the beginning of Georgia’s interlibrary lending and resource sharing network, GOLD, and the first of its user annual conferences. The keynote speaker will be Helene Blowers, digital strategy director for the Columbus (Ohio) Metropolitan Library. Links to registration materials and hotel information are available later this month at www.georgialibraries.org/lib/gold.html.

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Georgians attend national ALA event

State Librarian Lamar Veatch led the Georgia delegation to National Library Legislative Day (NLLD) in Washington, D.C., on May 12. Joining Dr. Veatch were Mariclaire LaForte, a student in Valdosta State University’s MLIS program, and Elaine Yontz, vice chair of Friends of Georgia Libraries (FOGL) and professor of library science at Valdosta State. The delegates met with staff members of Georgia representatives and senators to explain how federal legislation affects Georgia libraries. One important effort is to seek increased funding for the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA). LSTA supports GALILEO, Web access for public libraries, and the Georgia Library for Accessible Services (GLASS), among other projects. The American Library Association Washington Office staff presented training sessions on May 10 and 11 to prepare the delegates for the legislative visits. Future dates for NLLD are June 28, 2010, and May 9-10, 2011. Plan to attend! ☞
The Georgia Library Quarterly reviews books on aspects of life in Georgia and the South, including history, literature, politics, education and genealogy. Materials written by Southern authors or published by regional publishers may also be considered, as well as those on libraries and librarianship.

Brijin Boddy, Off the Shelf Co-editor, Chattahoochee Valley Regional Library System, bboddy@cvrls.net
Karen Odom, Off the Shelf Co-editor, Houston County Public Libraries, kodom@houpl.org

See more Off the Shelf reviews at http://gla.georgialibraries.org/gpq_bookreviews.htm

NONFICTION

Ty Cobb Safe at Home by Don Rhodes (The Lyons Press, 2008; ISBN 978-08203-3017-4, $15.95, pbk.)


In the preface to his work Ty Cobb Safe at Home, Don Rhodes states that one of his goals is to focus on Ty Cobb’s “rich life in Augusta.” While Cobb’s place in baseball drives otheraccountings of his life, including his own autobiography, Ty Cobb: My Life in Baseball, this account looks at Cobb through the words of Augusta, Ga.’s newspapers and the eyes of Augusta’s people. We see Cobb leaving home and coming back, participating in civic and social life and being part of the fabric of the town. By emphasizing Augusta’s position as the home base of Cobb’s life, Rhodes has succeeded in making Cobb the man the focus of the story rather than the teams, scores and plays. Rhodes says nothing which would revise opinion that this legendary ballplayer was in private: quick-tempered, impatient, sometimes violent and less than kind to his family. Rather, he shines more light on a Cobb who was motivated by high standards and, in spite of serious faults, still made the world a better place when he left, as is illustrated in Cobb’s legacy of the Ty Cobb Healthcare System and the Cobb Educational Foundation. It’s a swift and absorbing read, of interest more to the local history enthusiast than the baseball fan, but satisfying to both. If your interest is piqued by the insight into the man, a further look at his legacy might be in order. The Ty Cobb Educational Foundation Through Fifty Years has capsule biographies of important people in Cobb’s life and reproductions of Cobb’s correspondence. The reliance on primary sources adds weight to the narrative of the founding of the fund and the awarding of subsequent scholarships. While an informative and interesting book on its own, this would be an excellent addition to the reading resource list of Georgia academic counselors and scholarship reference collections.

— Reviewed by Carol Waggoner-Angleton
Reese Library
Augusta State University


O’Connor once speculated that “there won’t be any biographies of me because, for only one reason, lives spent between the house and the chicken yard do not make

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Being letters and essays published posthumously as fundamental aspect of her life and art remain her own. Meanwhile, the best sources for understanding that well) will address this aspect of her life more fully. In the professor emeritus William Sessions (who knew O'Connor) her art. Perhaps the biography currently being written by O'Connor's essential spiritual life and its relationship to what is lacking in both books is a better understanding of Gooch biographies in their permanent collections. Yet All Georgia libraries should have both the Cash and the Gooch an opportunity to fill the biographical void.

No, the reason there was no biography of O'Connor until recently is that her friend Sally Fitzgerald was generally understood by fans and scholars of O'Connor to be working on the definitive O'Connor biography, a project that had been under way for more than 20 years. Fitzgerald was still working on the O'Connor biography when she died in 2000. This provided Cash and Gooch an opportunity to fill the biographical void.

Gooch's carefully researched and documented biography relies heavily on the recollections of people who actually knew O'Connor. That is both a strength and something of a weakness, since some of those recollections are well over 50 years old. He also largely refrains from literary explication in favor of giving biographical details that help provide context for the stories.

So now we have two biographies, and one would think that would be more than enough to cover a life “spent between the house and the chicken yard.” As Gooch commented in a recent interview, “Unless someone comes walking out of the woods with a startling revelation, the plot points of O'Connor's life have been set, and the connections with her work are now open and available for interpretation and reinterpretation.”

All Georgia libraries should have both the Cash and the Gooch biographies in their permanent collections. Yet what is lacking in both books is a better understanding of O'Connor's essential spiritual life and its relationship to her art. Perhaps the biography currently being written by professor emeritus William Sessions (who knew O'Connor well) will address this aspect of her life more fully. In the meantime, the best sources for understanding that fundamental aspect of her life and art remain her own letters and essays published posthumously as The Habit of Being and Mystery and Manners.  

---Reviewed by William A. Richards  
Professor of Library Science  
Georgia College & State University


This collection of observations and meditations pair a photographic image from the monastery with corresponding text. Both the size of the photos and the amount of related text vary from page to page. Some observations cover three paragraphs, others two or less. Each photo has a caption, or title, such as “Friends,” “Colored Brick Wall,” “Stress,” “The Brighter the Light.” The book is coffee-table sized, at 9-by-10 inches. All photos are color.

Although the book follows no obvious pattern (there is no table of contents), it does offer a focus of morning observations in the first pages. Each photo captures a scene, an object or a mood from the monastery. Besides the photo of the author on the back cover overleaf, no human is fully pictured. Among the 200 or so photographs, only three contain images of the human form: an artist painter's torso, Jesus Christ on the Cross and the Buddha. Still, the book is titled Portraits of Grace.

The objects of the photographer's eye range from clay pots to airplanes to flowers to aged tools to scenes of rooms set with their items of function such as a dining room, a scriptorium or a wall of shelved books. Many photos capture a sense of timeless function: a brick pathway, an old step stool, a bicycle, a pair of worn boots. Other scenes capture the columns of the monastery church in various shades of contrast from vivid dark to bright light, or subdued infusions of light. An ever-present theme of the book is light: the light of the Divine, which illuminates the human to better grasp as well as the variety of light needed to capture the photo in its intended sense.

Is it a photography book or one of meditations? It is both a visual delight and a collection of concise wise observations about our lives within the context of a larger continuum. The Monastery of the Holy Spirit, a Trappist community, is located in Conyers. Visitors are welcome to walk the grounds, shop at the bookstore/gift shop and bonsai nursery, to worship at regularly scheduled services, as well as attend retreats. This book is the third by the author. All three volumes explore the dimension of grace found in the everyday, the ordinary and in the monastic way of life.  

---Reviewed by Tim Wojcik  
Librarian & Media Specialist  
Our Lady of Mercy Catholic High School
Coastal Georgia Center, Savannah, GA
September 25 - 26, 2009

Georgia Conference on Information Literacy

Keynote Speaker.
KATHLEEN BLAKE YANCEY
Kellogg W. Hunt Professor of English and Director of the graduate program in Rhetoric and Composition at Florida State University

Working with her colleagues, KATHLEEN BLAKE YANCEY leads the R/C graduate program, inviting distinguished speakers for talks and workshops, and supporting graduate student research, theory, and practice. Her research focuses on composition studies generally: on writing assessment, especially print and electronic portfolios; and on the intersections of culture, literacy and technologies.

In addition to co-founding and co-editing the journal Assessing Writing, she has authored, edited, or co-edited ten scholarly books and two textbooks as well as over 65 articles and book chapters. Her latest volume, the edited collection Delivering College Composition: The Fifth Canon, was released in 2006. In that volume, she and other scholars examine the role of delivery in shaping (and mis-shaping) college composition—in location, in space, through faculty, and not least, with digital technologies. In July 2008, Delivering College Composition received the 2006-2007 Best Book Award from the Council of Writing Program Administrators.

Who Should Attend
✓ Academic, school and public librarians.
✓ School teachers and faculty in any discipline.
✓ Media specialists
✓ Students preparing for careers in K-12 or university teaching, media, or library fields.

Benefits of Attending
Obtain best-practices for developing information literacy skills in K-12 students, postsecondary students, and lifelong learners of any age.

Network with others who share an interest and expertise in information literacy.

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