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## From the President

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## *From the* PRESIDENT

**W**here do we go from here?

We have now finished the first decade + one of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. We survived the Y2K scare — how many of us remember where we were at the stroke of midnight on Dec. 31 and holding our breath as we started all computers at 12:01 a.m. on Jan. 1, 2000? It was the first New Year's Eve I had seen in years and the last one I have seen, being that I am not a night owl.

So, since we had survived Y2K and had gotten a lot of new equipment because of it, we felt that we were on our way to a bright new era for libraries. For a while we were doing well: Budgets were being better-funded and there was a hope that there would be money for construction of replacement and new library facilities. Exciting new tools were coming: CDs and DVDs were replacing tape cassettes, new reference/information tools were available online, and cell phones were becoming popular, smaller, and capable of doing amazing things. (Some of us may remember cell phones that were the size of small suitcases, weighed as much and could only be used on a hilltop in

very limited areas.) The only computers that you could find were in big businesses, and they were big mainframes with dumb terminals.

Libraries were changing in appearance and types of resources. Do you remember that there was a time when only librarians knew what the Internet was and even how to get on the Internet? Each search cost money, and we spent time with thesauri forming searches that would yield the most information with the shortest time online. Then information began being delivered on CDs (wasn't it fun to keep up with all those CDs) and then came along CD towers to house and serve up information.

Before individuals began to have access to PCs and access to the Internet, librarians and their staff were the experts in the community as far as the Internet and searching for information and were teaching patrons to be just as savvy. Then began the era of Wi-Fi in bookstores and coffee shops — old news for most libraries. Now technology is moving so quickly advances are too numerous to mention, but you only have to search some of the Georgia

libraries to see what new technologies are being made available to our users. Libraries are still relevant and providing a myriad of value to the population at large but in vastly different formats. Even during the budget cuts that we are experiencing, libraries are rethinking delivery methods and access points.

### **New and exciting news:**

The GLA Executive Board made the decision that our 2011 GLQ issues will be available in both printed and electronic versions. By 2012, the electronic edition will be the only method of delivery.

You can already access the table of contents of past issues by going to the following address <http://gla.georgialibraries.org/gdq.htm>. Many journals have gone this route or will do so in the near future both for economics and convenience. The board felt that the time was right for GLA to move our fantastic journal to the next level so that the resources could be available to a larger library community. ►►

— **Carolyn Fuller**  
*President*  
*Georgia Library Association*