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## Harkness New Assistant State Librarian

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*People, Libraries  
and Agencies* **IN THE NEWS**

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## GLA holds midwinter planning conference at Clayton State

The Georgia Library Association's Midwinter Planning Conference will be held at Clayton State University's Downs Center for Continuing Education on Jan. 28 from 9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m. We urge all members of GLA to attend this conference to plan the activities of GLA for the year, such as beginning the work of divisions, committees and interest groups in planning for COMO programs.

The keynote speaker for this year is Jason Griffey, an associate professor and head of library system

information technology at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga.

Griffey is the author of *Mobile Technology and Libraries* which is part of a 10-volume set (Tech Set) published by Neal-Schuman.

He was named one of Library Journal's Movers & Shakers in 2009 and is regularly invited to speak on libraries, the social economy, mobile

technology and other technology-related issues. A couple of quotes from Griffey: "I'm a geek librarian with delusions of grandeur," and "I'm a techie librarian with a radical bent."



Griffey

"I have read his *Mobile Technology and Libraries* and have found much useful information in it," said GLA President Carolyn Fuller. "I think that we will enjoy Jason and learn much from his keynote address."

Start your new year off right by attending the GLA Midwinter Planning Conference! ▶▶

## Harkness new assistant state librarian

Alan Harkness has joined Georgia Public Library Service (GPLS) as Assistant State Librarian for Library Development. He will provide training and consulting services to public libraries across the state and will manage the agency's efforts in continuing education, youth services, resource sharing and the professional library collection. He will also supervise Georgia Libraries for Accessible Statewide Services (GLASS), the local network of regional libraries for the blind and physically handicapped.



Harkness

Harkness earned a Master of Library Science degree from Florida State University in Tallahassee. He also holds a

bachelor's degree in interdisciplinary studies from Georgia State University in Atlanta.

Originally from Forest Park, Harkness has more than 25 combined years of library experience in Banks, Barrow, Clayton, Forsyth, Gwinnett, Jackson and Screven counties. He most recently served as regional director for the three-county Piedmont Regional Library System in Winder, a position he held for four years.

"We're very excited to have Alan join us at GPLS," said Deputy State Librarian Julie Walker. "Throughout his career, he consistently has been involved with developing and implementing the kind of innovative programs and services that will be of great benefit to Georgia's library community. He brings impressive skills in management, training and public service to this position, and we are delighted to have him on board." ▶▶