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From the President

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From the PRESIDENT

“What interesting times we live in!” Personally I could use some boring times. In the past year, we have participated in webinars such as: *Serving the 21st Century Patron; How Ebooks, File Types and DRM Affect Your Library*; and, *The Post Recession Library System, Why Technology is no Longer a Luxury*. All were good presentations and have caused me to think about the role of libraries in the lives of our patrons. My conclusion is that, since people are the reason that we exist, our services to them have always been a moving target. If you look around, you will probably notice that libraries have changed more than other entities. Yet, when you walk into a library, you can still see the same thing that you saw when you were a child. My first solo trip to town was a Saturday morning trip to the library. My mom had taken me a week before to get my card, which I thought, was pure gold. I can close my eyes and remember the sight and smell of the library. There were books as high up as I could see on every wall and the middle of the floor had shelves much taller than my 36-inch height. The librarian asked what I wanted to read and I told her that I wanted to start at the beginning and go to the end! Although my staff tells me that they are sure paper hadn’t been invented when I started to read, there were only books in that library. Soon multiple audio and video formats were added and have remained.

Never boring, COMO XXIII is just around the corner, October 5-7 at the Classic Center in Athens.

The title of this year’s COMO is the “5G Network: GAIT, GALILEO, GLA, GLMA, GOLD.” If you haven’t registered, you still have time—so what are you waiting for—do it now. There are sessions of interest for all communities and attending these sessions will give you a boost to deal with the challenges of the coming year. Also, remember the GALILEO training sessions on Wednesday, since the GOLD/GALILEO Conference was cancelled.

Many of us who attend COMO do not know the history. I asked my good friend, Dr. Gordon Baker, for the history of COMO. He said COMO came about in 1986 when all the librarians in Georgia were stretched financially to attend all the different conferences....GAIT, GLMD (now GLMA) or GLA. The presidents of the three organizations met and created a joint conference every other year and the Georgia Council of Media Organizations Conference was born. The three Presidents appointed the first Steering Committee to develop the conference. That committee consisted of: Bill Early from Bound to Stay Bound Books, representing the Georgia Association of Media Representatives; Paula Galland from Glynn County School System, representing the Georgia Association for Instructional Technology; and Charles E. Beard from West Georgia College, representing the Georgia Library Association. Gordon Baker of the Clayton County School System, representing the Georgia Library Media Department (now Association), was the first conference

chair and treasurer. Mary Jean Sloan from the Cobb County School System was appointed as conference program chair. “Cooperative Ventures Conference” was the first title.

Libraries have probably changed faster than almost any other institution that we know, leading the way in many areas. Is there more that we can do? Yes of course. Let us start by attending COMO XXIII and getting excited about what we do and get equipped to do it. Attend sessions on RDA, mobile device security, Georgia Peach awards, cloud computing, and we cannot leave out the Book Cart Drill Teams. The job of a librarian remains interesting because we are all about lifelong learning. Libraries will never be obsolete as long as they continue to remain on the cutting edge of media developments and new technologies. Whether it’s a book or a Nook, the mission of libraries remains the same: bridging the technological divide and providing the means for the members of our communities to be lifelong learners. This is my last column as president of Georgia Library Association. I have enjoyed serving, and I wish to thank all of you members, the Executive Board, and especially my library staff, who have made it a good year for me. I wish Elizabeth Bagley, the incoming President, and GLA a great 2012.

— Carolyn Fuller
President, GLA