

10-1-2014

From the President

Susan D. Morris
University of Georgia, smorris@uga.edu

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.kennesaw.edu/glq>

 Part of the [Library and Information Science Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Morris, Susan D. (2014) "From the President," *Georgia Library Quarterly*: Vol. 51 : Iss. 4 , Article 7.
Available at: <https://digitalcommons.kennesaw.edu/glq/vol51/iss4/7>

This Columns is brought to you for free and open access by DigitalCommons@Kennesaw State University. It has been accepted for inclusion in Georgia Library Quarterly by an authorized editor of DigitalCommons@Kennesaw State University. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@kennesaw.edu.



From the PRESIDENT

Dear Colleagues,

The season is changing once again and the 2014 version of GLA is heading toward its close. A blast of Arctic air descended on us this past weekend. Hallowe'en night and All Saints Day saw snow in the North Georgia Mountains and a fierce, icy wind throughout the state. This kind of weather makes me want to go immediately into *comfort* mode: comfort food, comforters, maintaining my comfort zone....

I am reminded of an article I recently read at the *Forbes* website about comfort zones, or rather I am reminded of the quote-of-the-day which preceded the article. The quote, attributed to Molière, French comedic writer whose plays are still as timely, funny, and biting today as they were in the seventeenth-century court of Louis XIV, really hit home:

Unbroken happiness is a bore: It should have ups and downs.

Have you ever known somebody who just couldn't wait to retire to Florida, the land of eternal sunshine and warmth—only to move back to a more temperate climate a year later because they missed the changing of the seasons? They were bored with unbroken happiness. They needed the tender green and blossoms of spring, the searing heat of summer, the colorful leaves of fall, and the freezing winds of winter to feel stimulated and alive. We're also familiar with the well-known adage that ***variety is the spice of life***. This year, my life certainly has not been boring! My life since this past January has been more than liberally spiced with ups and downs!

I must say that many of the ups have had to do with GLA, as well as GLA's role with COMO. I have worked with some really wonderful people this year, both in GLA and in COMO. I have been pushed way beyond my decades-long comfort zone, way beyond my wildest imagination. And it has been—in many ways—good for me.

As far as GLA goes, we made some changes to the *Handbook*; there will of course need to be more changes, since GLA is organic in nature. We also held our first electronic election, which was a big success as reflected in a noticeable increase in voter participation. Jay Turner spearheaded a membership survey which had some interesting results. We all need to take a closer look at the results and see what we can do to increase not only membership, but also membership *participation*. One “up” is that GLA is fiscally sound; some of us remember precariously lean times in the past, so this is good news. Another “up” is that, after suffering major problems, the GLA listserv now has a new home. If you are not already automatically subscribed, you can find out more about it at: <http://list.georgialibraries.org/mailman/listinfo/gla-l>

As far as GLA's role in COMO goes, you only need look at the credits on the last page of the printed program to see the extent of GLA's role in putting on a very successful conference, with some 500 attendees and 70 vendors. Along with the participation of partners GAIT and SELA, we had three nationally known speakers and a hundred programs with appeal to all kinds of libraries. We moved beyond our comfort zone in having the conference in Augusta for the first

time in almost twenty years. We changed several traditional activities—had “movie night” at the nearby public library, had an all-conference Italian buffet instead of Divisional luncheons, had an all-conference awards ceremony rather than the GLA awards banquet.

My personal comfort zone was challenged just some three weeks ago. After decades of going to conferences at ACRL, ALA, COMO, GALILEO, GOLD, OCLC, and down the alphabet of library acronyms, I went to a non-library conference for a change! I was literally the only librarian at SEMA, the Southeastern Medieval Association, where I was privileged to attend a session dedicated to my late husband. At the conference were professors of various foreign languages, philosophers, historians, and a huge number of Chaucer specialists. To seek a comfort zone of sorts, I, as a librarian, managed to find connections between what was going on at this conference to what I do for a living as an interlibrary loan librarian. These professors, these producers of the content of scholarly articles and monographs, had several sessions pertaining to problems in editing variations in handwritten manuscript texts in general and the effect that electronic publication is having on what they do in particular. We as librarians talk about this in our world partly as embargos on articles and restrictions built into e-book contracts. These scholar/producers were talking

about frustrations in dealing with technologies which record their ideas and then later become obsolete requiring further transformation and retuning, while at the same time possibly blocking or delaying access to the information they worked so hard to research, organize, and share with their colleagues. The expression of the SEMA members’ concerns crisscrossed with those of GLA and ALA members. It was most interesting to hear basically the same problems discussed from slightly different angles.

Since I wrote the opening paragraph, I have heard that our weather is on a roller coaster, for two consecutive weeks moderating until midweek and then plunging again by the weekend. We are definitely headed for a new season and this 2014 GLA cycle is indeed drawing to a close. I wish Lace Keaton and her Executive Board the best for the next year. I wish all fellow GLA members the best for the next year, and I especially thank you all for allowing me to serve as your president this past year.

See you at Mid-Winter in January to participate in the beginning of the next season and the next GLA cycle!

Susan Morris
President, Georgia Library Association 2014
smorris@uga.edu