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## President's Column

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### President's Column

2020 has, so far, proven to be a troubling year as we continue to grapple with the COVID-19 crisis, a never-ending spiral of negative, polarizing national politics, and the ongoing racial agony of yet another unarmed black man (and also sometimes a woman) killed by white police officers and the resulting protest demonstrations taking place nationwide. I do not intend for this to be a political column but I feel I must acknowledge the realities which we both as librarians and as American citizens are experiencing.

In regard to the virus crisis, as states continue, for better or worse, to relax restrictions libraries are to varying degrees responding as we continue to do our best to serve our patrons in a safe and responsible manner. Many of us have been working from home remotely, others (like me) have been coming to work all along but, in effect, working remotely with our patrons since most of us have had closed library buildings for at least some of the time since mid-March. It truly is remarkable how we have been able to function thanks to computers, electronic devices, and electronic resources ranging from databases to e-books, and more. Thanks to Zoom, many if not most of us have been able to still hold professional meetings and workshops and, in the academic library world, provide library instruction virtually. This may seem unremarkable to those of us under, say, age 40, but to those of us who grew up in an analog world and whose careers began in such a world (I got my M.L.S. in 1980), this is a truly amazing and wonderful thing. Even 20 years ago most of what we have been able to do to function professionally during this pandemic would not have been possible.

As you know, one consequence of the virus crisis is the transformation of the joint SELA/GLA conference from an in-person conference in Macon (hometown of the late great Little Richard) to a virtual conference. I know SELA President-Elect Melissa Dennis and Georgia Library Association President Laura Burtle and numerous others have been working very hard to make this adjustment. All signs are that the virtual conference will be a truly outstanding event featuring a number of great presentations and programs. Similarly, the SELA Centennial Committee, chaired by Camille McCutcheon, is working on a wide variety of initiatives with plans for special events and more to ensure our centennial anniversary gets celebrated both at the virtual conference and beyond. Watch for announcements and updates on the SELA listserv and on the SELA website!

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