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The President's Column

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The President's Column

It's a new biennium for SELA and that means new leadership. With this new wave of leaders, I am honored and humbled to be your president and serve our organization with such creative, inspiring, and dedicated librarians from the Southeast. I am grateful for everyone who volunteered to serve as section and round table chairs, committee chairs, and state representatives. I'm excited to work with a new Secretary, Kristin Rogers, and new Treasurer, Vicki Gregory, as well as a new *SELn* editor, Ashley Dees. As you know, the *SELn* is now completely open access and I look forward to reading your articles, book reviews, news, and now sharing these timely issues freely with a global audience. As I look through the names on our leadership directory, I see new acquaintances as well as old friends and am grateful to lead this organization with you. If we don't work together, we don't work at all. Please email me if you want to be involved in SELA. I am happy to connect you with a team where your service will make your membership more meaningful and your contributions will make SELA stronger.

It's a new year, so it is time to plan a new conference while reflecting on what we have learned. Our President-Elect, Crystal Gates, is more than qualified to lead this task along with our NCLA leaders and friends Kate Englebrecht (NCLA Vice President) and Gerald Holmes (NCLA SELA Representative). I could not have asked for a better group of people to help plan a conference, whether virtual or hybrid, filled with fantastic experiences for next October. From our experience with Georgia Libraries last fall, we know we can meet online and still have fun, so do not be discouraged if opportunities for in-person meetings are still limited this year.

This year also brings a new administration in our government. I am optimistic for more vaccines and less fear of COVID-19. I am hopeful that our nation's leaders will provide opportunities and support for our libraries so we can continue to help our communities flourish. We take what we learned from each other last year and build on

that to make our 2021 plans. The executive committee has already approved a new budget that reflects our cautiously optimistic predictions on what this year may bring us. We are also considering a summer online conference to strengthen our commitment to each other and reinforce our support to our members.

I miss seeing all of you in person, but I hope to see you in Zoom for meetings and conferences this year. We have heard some new ideas so far, but I want to hear your ideas for SELA, too. Let's have fun this year! I'm proud to be your President, so please don't hesitate to email me and let me know how I can best serve you.



Melissa Dennis
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