

Spring 5-7-2021

The President's Column

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Recommended Citation

Dennis, Melissa (2021) "The President's Column," *The Southeastern Librarian*: Vol. 69 : Iss. 1 , Article 2.
Available at: <https://digitalcommons.kennesaw.edu/seln/vol69/iss1/2>

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The President's Column

This is such a busy time of year for us! As schools and universities end their semesters and the days grow longer, we begin our speedy transition (especially in the Southeast) to summer planning and summer weather. The nationwide vaccination effort is also impacting our ability to be fully open libraries again this summer after a year of online-only options.

I'm hopeful that librarians will not forget the lessons we have learned since COVID-19 impacted our entire reality. A "return to normal" may be very enticing, but we have learned how to use technology and online resources and services in new ways to meet our users' information needs and to remain connected. I'm hoping that many library employees can benefit from these lessons in positive ways that alleviate work stress going forward. We learned that the phrase "this meeting could have been an email" may have been even more true last year, while also taking full advantage of services like Zoom to connect on specific issues in a timely way that didn't require everyone meeting in a conference room. Small takeaways like these will help us return to "normal" while retaining some of the benefits to ourselves. As for our users, continuing curbside pickup and online research consultations also come to mind as well as expanding our outreach to online events that reach a broader audience.

As for SELA, we are working on a great summer conference, fall joint conference with NCLA, and individual sections, committees, and round table events. Remember, if we don't work together, we don't work at all.

I'm glad that we are continuing our celebration of our 100th anniversary! If you haven't taken a look at our [Centennial page](#), please do so! There are links to videos of interviews with Past Presidents as well as a link to join the Centennial Club.

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.



Melissa Dennis
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