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## Georgia Library Association - Genealogy and Local History Interest Group

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## Georgia Library Association Genealogy and Local History Interest Group

On February 12, 2016, the Georgia Library Association (GLA) Executive Board approved the creation of the Genealogy and Local History Interest Group. The purpose of the interest group is to exchange ideas and information about the use and accessibility of library genealogy, local history, and archival materials. Any member of the Georgia Library Association engaged or interested in the work of managing, promoting, accessing, or digitizing library genealogy or local history special collections



Muriel Jackson

may become a member of this interest group. The idea for the genealogy and local history group was born during a conversation at the Society of American Archivists Annual Meeting between Tamika Strong, IT program manager at the Georgia Public Library Service; Muriel Jackson, head of genealogy and archives at the Washington Memorial Library (MGRL); and Angela Stanley, head of archives and special collections at the Athens-Clarke County Library (ARLS). Strong, Jackson, and Stanley identified a need for a



Angela Stanley

professional network of support for those Georgia libraries possessing unique local history or archival materials, or those serving genealogy and local history researchers. “The needs of local history, genealogy, and archival collections differ from those of traditional library resources,” says Stanley, chair of the new group. “They frequently contain unpublished material requiring original cataloging, manuscripts, photographs, oral histories, maps, and a host of other formats. In addition to the specific preservation needs of these materials, the reference and research requests are often more in-depth and require greater time and knowledge on the part of library staff.”



Tamika Strong

Other inaugural members include Vice-Chair Debra Fennell, Heritage Librarian at the Ladson Genealogical Library; Secretary Muriel Jackson; and Charter Members Tamika Strong, Michael Strong, and Carolyn Crawford.



Debra Fennell

Specific interests of the Genealogy and Local History Interest Group include the management of digitization projects and born-digital collections, collections management and preservation, reference and research services, archival processing, programming, and project grant funding. For more information, or to join, visit the Georgia Library Association website at <http://gla.georgialibraries.org/>.