

Georgia Library Quarterly

Volume 55
Issue 2 *Spring 2018*

Article 1

4-1-2018

Spring 2018

GLA GLQ
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Recommended Citation

GLQ, GLA (2018) "Spring 2018," *Georgia Library Quarterly*: Vol. 55 : Iss. 2 , Article 1.
Available at: <https://digitalcommons.kennesaw.edu/glq/vol55/iss2/1>

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GEORGIA LIBRARY QUARTERLY



VOLUME 55 NUMBER 2 SPRING 2018



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*People, Libraries
and Agencies* **IN THE NEWS**

Fannin County Public Library

The Fannin County Public Library (FCPL) is a branch of the Mountain Regional Library System (MRLS). Nestled in beautiful downtown Blue Ridge, FCPL has no shortage of attractions nearby. From Mercier Orchards to the charming local restaurants and craft breweries to the Blue Ridge Scenic Railway and the beautiful hiking trails, Blue Ridge is a great place to live or vacation and, of course, to get your daily dose of an awesome library!

The Fannin County Public Library, though limited in space, makes the most of its resources, constantly striving to better serve the community and the many tourists who visit Blue Ridge. Of course, the

summer reading program is always a huge hit in Fannin County. Storytimes are held every Tuesday and led by Darcy Arnall, who has a big heart for the kids and isn't afraid to be silly, loud, and just plain fun. In addition, the library offers a wide variety of live performers, such as magicians, illustrators, storytellers, musical acts, and the Hampstead Stage Company. Hampstead has performed the likes of *Beauty and the Beast* and *A Christmas Carol*, and will perform *Treasure Island* this summer!

And that's not all! The library system also offers puppet shows! In 2016, MRLS Director Vince

Stone, with the help of some willing staff members, created the Mountain Regional Puppet Company, which performed its first show that summer. They haven't slowed down since! Performing acts are based primarily on children's books, such as *Pete the Cat* and *The Polar Express*. The Mountain Regional Puppet Company has entertained hundreds of adults and kids alike and has become quite the popular attraction! In the summer, the Fannin



Darcy Arnall leading children's storytime

County Public Library also screens movies in the city park every other Friday, drawing solid crowds and providing a fun night for families. In 2017 FCPL showed *Moana*, *The Secret Life of Pets*, *The BFG*, and *Rogue One*.

To improve services, the library recently installed a

courtesy charging station for patrons' mobile devices and a brand new KIC Click Mini Scanner to allow patrons to quickly and easily scan, save, and transfer photos and documents. In addition, all libraries in the Mountain Regional Library System now offer mobile Wi-Fi hotspots with unlimited data for checkout.

Of course, the library also has a vast collection of books, magazines, audiovisual materials, and genealogical resources. Whether you are a Fannin County resident, a part-timer, or just happen to be visiting for the scenery, stop in and check out what the library has to offer. You

will feel more than at home with the incredibly helpful and friendly library staff, the abundance of resources, and that rich Fannin County hospitality.

Learn more about the Fannin County Public Library at www.mountainregionallibrary.org or follow FCPL on Facebook.

GLA SPOTLIGHT

Lost in the Stacks

[*Lost in the Stacks*](#) is a collaboration between the Georgia Tech (GT) Library and WREK Atlanta, the student-run radio station at Georgia Tech. Every Friday at noon, librarians and archivists from the GT Library produce the hour-long radio show, creating a mix of music and library talk, all connected by a common theme. Recent episodes included discussions of data visualization, citizen archiving, digital preservation, and special collections, featuring interviews with librarians, archivists, professors, and students.



The first episode of *Lost in the Stacks* broadcast in January of 2010, produced by librarian Ameet Doshi and library technical associate Charlie Bennett. They first conceived the show as a way to engage Georgia Tech students and promote library services on campus, expecting to use an eccentric blend of library marketing, information science musings, and rock 'n' roll music to catch the attention of those who perhaps thought that libraries were boring and that all the information they needed was available through Google. Listenership, however, quickly grew past the campus community and into the greater Atlanta area,

and when *Lost in the Stacks* began podcasting in August of 2013, the show became an international platform for investigating almost any subject through the lens of library science and archival studies, and a way for the Georgia Tech Library to present its [dramatic reimagining](#)

as a 21st century digital library to the campus community and beyond.

Ameet is on extended leave from the show to focus on his current job as director of service experience and program design, but Charlie, now the public engagement librarian, cohosts the show with NextGen

Public Services Manager Emy Decker, Digital Archivist Wendy Hagenmaier, and Scholarly Communications Librarian Fred Rascoe. They have interviewed guests from libraries, archives, and universities across the United States, along with librarians, activists, and students in Sweden, Morocco, Finland, Mexico, Canada, and Germany, and luminaries like the Archivist of the United States, musicians Ian MacKaye and Robyn Hitchcock, writers Astra Taylor and Audrey Niffenegger, and radio producer Jad Abumrad.

Lost in the Stacks airs every Friday at noon on 91.1FM in Atlanta, streaming live from <http://www.wrek.org/>, or podcasted on [Apple Podcasts](#), [GooglePlay](#), or [RSS](#).

GLA SPOTLIGHT

Winder Public Library

Built in the late 1980s, the Winder Public Library has served Winder for more than 30 years. The building also served as the headquarters for the Piedmont Regional Library System (PRLS) until September 2014, when regional administrative offices moved to Jefferson, Georgia. Regional offices serve all 10 public library locations in Banks, Barrow, and Jackson counties: Winder, Auburn, Statham, Jefferson, Commerce, Braselton, Maysville, Talmo, Banks County, and Harold S. Swindle in Nicholson. The move of PRLS regional offices left over 3,000 square feet vacant. The extensive renovations have increased the library's public area, providing more room for books, computers, and patrons.

With almost 100,000 visits, more than 42,000 computer sessions, and more than 139,000 checkouts per year, Winder is the busiest library in the tricity region. Athens architect Joe Smith and interior designer Cortney Orme of Vivre Interiors in Gainesville, Georgia led the renovation, which included additional computer stations, study rooms, improved meeting space, energy-efficient lighting, and more efficient use of space for both staff and patrons.

Over 200 people attended the Winder Public Library grand reopening that was held Sunday, January 21 at 1:00 p.m. Local donors were present and recognized. State Librarian Julie Walker presented the Georgia Library Champion of the Year Award to Representative Terry England for his tireless support of public library service in Georgia. The audience also enjoyed live performances of stories and songs by beloved children's author Carmen Deedy and multiple-Grammy-nominated folk musician John McCutcheon.

Carmen Deedy and John McCutcheon performed at the Winder Public Library as a part of North Georgia Kids Read program. North Georgia Reads promotes collaboration among neighboring library systems and brings bestselling authors to a community of 46 libraries in the region. Library systems currently participating in North Georgia Reads include Gwinnett, Cobb, and Hall counties, and Piedmont Regional Library System.

Public library funding in Georgia is a group effort. The Winder Public Library building is owned by Barrow County. Winder Public Library receives funds from federal, state, county, and



city levels, and from the Barrow County School System. The renovation project spanned three years. The state of Georgia funded 90% of the project (approximately \$600,000) using Major Repair and Renovation (MRR) Re-Purposing Construction funds. Re-purposing current library buildings is more cost-effective than new construction. Local matching funds came from Piedmont Regional Library System's fund balance and local donors. The library offered six study room sponsorships with naming rights for \$5,000 each. Four of those rooms have been

sponsored by: Bob and Shirley Lanham; Jane Thompson and Cheryl Brownstein; The Barrow County Historical Society; and Senator Frank Ginn, whose mother was a librarian.

Visit the Winder Public Library website at <http://winder.prlib.org/> to learn more about the programs and services of this beautiful library.

Photo by Ben McDaniel



From the PRESIDENT

The Georgia Library Association (GLA) president's year is badly frontloaded. The first few months of the year account for about two-thirds of the year's work. The Executive Board and I have been busy since last I wrote. A selection of our activities follows.

Mumford, a venerable library supplies company, went under. Mumford has for years paid for prints which are distributed to legislators. A frantic back and forth finally produced an agreement between GLA and the Georgia Public Library Services to split the costs. Next year the Georgia Public Library Services will handle it.

We managed to take the last of umpteen steps necessary to change the name of a couple of committees. The old Public Relations Committee is now Marketing and Branding. Governmental Relations is now Advocacy.

Conference planning began in earnest. Between the Conference Advisory Task Force Report and the three post conference discussions, I'm sure we had more information to go on than ever before.

A few highlights so far: the keynotes will be Loida Garcia-Febo, the incoming president of the American Library Association, and Christy Crouse, a speaker for Dolly Parton's Imagination Library. It is hoped that Dolly will send along video greetings. We are going to try something different for the luncheon this year. Instead of a speaker, we will have tables for librarians of shared interests to get together. Wednesday night will feature a story teller who specializes in ghost stories about the Springer Opera House and the Linwood Cemetery, two local

Columbus, Georgia landmarks. Taking the advice of the Conference Advisory Task Force, we are going to try making use of tracks. In an effort to increase traffic at the exhibits, we plan to try Vendor Bingo or something similar. We have tweaked the poster sessions and have made sure there is a poster wrangler to coordinate the sessions on site.

As the planning has moved along, I have come to appreciate the work of Jean Cook more and more. She has been our program chair for some time, and I am lucky to have her this one last year. I hope she will continue to serve on future conference planning committees, because she knows a ton. Likewise, Angela Megaw has more than ably handled the registration chair position. We are all indebted to her and hope she will be heavily involved in conference planning next year.

Every other year we must select a site for the two years after the current year. The cities in competition will make their pitches on May 3, 2018, and we should have a decision soon after. In 2020, we will have a joint conference with the Southeastern Library Association and help them celebrate their centennial.

Wendy Cornelisen (Advocacy) brought to our attention that the Atlanta School Board was proposing the elimination of a number of school media positions. The Georgia Library Media Association was writing a letter of support to the superintendent and board, and we were invited to write our own. Which we did.

The Nominations and Elections Committee has proposed a new method of voting for offices. It has met with approval at all stages and is now

in its waiting period before a vote of the membership.

Mack Freeman proposed two needed new awards. One is an award for a librarian in mid-career. The other is a sort of commendation the president can use to thank people who have been particularly helpful in the past year.

Sofia Slutskaya monitors how many people read my column in the GLQ. After the last one, Carol Stanley emailed me to tell me she liked it. In doing that she also solved a curiosity I had had. Now I know who the other person who read it was.

Fred Smith
President, Georgia Library Association 2018
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My Own PRIVATE LIBRARY

I like to consider myself an equal blend of my mother's and father's very disparate personalities, so it's not surprising that my personal library is essentially a mash-up of the two systems we had going in my childhood home. Dad had a nice office, all walnut and plush burgundy, with several floor-to-ceiling bookshelves and one very nice book cabinet with glass doors. The cabinet held industry-specific books that he had accumulated over the course of his career; they were mostly big, expensive-looking volumes about engineering principles and computer-aided design (CAD). All of his other books lined the shelves, organized first alphabetically by author's last name, and then chronologically by publication date. Mom had a more ad hoc method of organization. There was a constantly fluctuating pile of Nora Roberts on her bedside table, several artfully arranged mini-piles of books throughout the house for decorative purposes, and then randomly placed loner books that she would pick up and put down wherever she happened to be. You might find one under the seats in the car, one sitting out by the microwave, one shoved between the couch cushions, etc.

Neither system ever sat well with me. Mom's books tended to either end up lost or fall victim to some unfortunate accident, like a tumble into the bathtub or a chance encounter with a spaghetti sauce spoon. Dad's books were well-protected, but not well-loved. They were read once and then relegated to a slice of shelf, doomed to sit there, in order, forever. In

arranging my little library, I have opted for a set of middle-ground guidelines:

1. No dust jackets. I know that's going to upset many collectors and purists out there, but let me explain. I understand that some dust jackets

are truly beautiful works of art—and I have framed more than one in the past—but if it's not going to hang on my wall, it's got to go. I find it impossible to comfortably read a book while the dust jacket is still on, and I think the plain-spine look is much more aesthetically pleasing anyway.



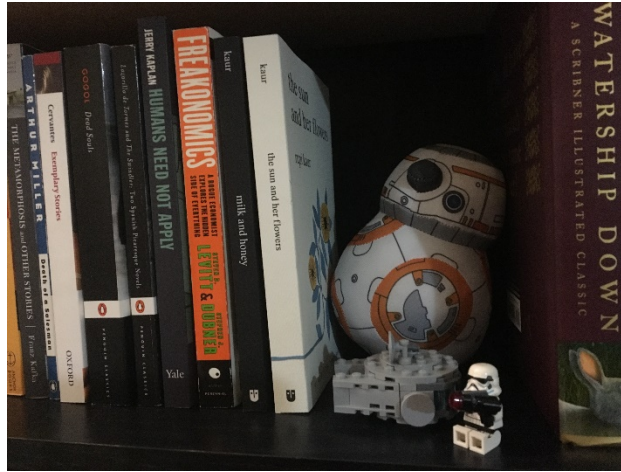
2. No dog-earing, highlighting, or annotating.

These page-marring practices were the bane of my existence when I worked for a public library. I hold myself to a higher standard. I accrue plenty of bookmarks, so there's no need to crease any pages, and if a particular passage strikes a chord with me, it usually makes a cameo appearance in my journal. There's no need to permanently record my passing thoughts in the book itself; chances are, next time I read it, I won't be thinking the same things.

3. If I wouldn't give it at least three stars on Goodreads, I don't keep it. Every book Dad ever owned is still sitting on one of his shelves. He's upgraded to a bigger office twice, so he hasn't run out of room yet, but that day is coming. I don't have unlimited space in my apartment, so I don't keep things that don't enlighten, thrill, comfort, or surprise me. Life is

too short to waste shelf space on unfortunate books.

4. There cannot be chaos. I prefer to keep an ill-defined sorting system, based loosely on genre and personal associations/connections I have drawn between books. Most people would intuitively understand the general framework: fiction is separate from nonfiction, the traditional classics have their own section, all of the art books are grouped together, and so on. However, it would be hard to explain why I think *Watership Down* truly belongs sandwiched between a collection of photography from *Humans of New York* and a short biography of the pirate queen Grace O'Malley, but I don't know that I would even want to try. A handful of inexplicable



organizational oddities mark my library as uniquely *mine*.

5. No shelf can be pristine. Perfectly tidy shelves with neat rows of books are ideal for a public library, but in a personal setting they have a tendency to look cold and vaguely aloof.

In order to avoid that, there is a little light-hearted piece of my personality on every one of my shelves. I've got an amethyst geode from the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History plunked down next to *Humans Need Not Apply* and a plushie BB-8 perched on top of *Lord of the Rings*. If nothing else, these

trinkets are a reminder not to take myself or my library too seriously.

Michelle Hamilton is Library Associate at University of North Georgia

Assessing Instructional Initiatives and Services through Program Evaluation

By Seth M. Porter and Matthew Frizzell

Introduction

This paper is inspired by an Atlanta Area Bibliographic Instruction Group (AABIG) presentation and discussion that aimed to introduce an overview of program evaluation as a method for assessing organizational effectiveness. At AABIG, the authors discussed program evaluation, including a contextual overview, when to use it, how to use it, the tools required, and a case study reflecting these methods and tools. The following discussion will reflect this format.

The paper is broken into the following sections: (a) a literature review that will give the reader a brief introduction to program evaluation process; (b) the best practices for implementing the empirical analysis of library programs; (c) a case study based on program evaluation efforts at Georgia Institute of Technology (Georgia Tech); and (d) the conclusion will tie the overview, methods and tools, and best practices into a coherent overview on the importance of adopting a program evaluation mindset in the academic library.

Literature Review

Porter (in press) described program evaluation as:

A systematic application of scientific methods to design, implement, improve, or measure the outcomes of a programs (Rossi & Freeman, 1993). Most importantly the systematic nature of program evaluation creates a framework for collection analyses of data that is used to measure the effectiveness and outcomes of a specific program, treatment, or service (Center for Disease Control [CDC],

2017). The term “program” can mean many different actions, treatments, or services. These include media campaigns, education services, instructional programs, public policies, and research projects (CDC, 1999; Bingham & Felbringer, 2002). Essentially, program evaluation is a systematic, scientific approach to assess the effectiveness, efficiency, and outcomes of specific programs (Bingham & Felbringer, 2002).

When we talk about program evaluation based on this definition, we don’t mean a rigid binary process. It is more of an agile and empirical approach to academic library assessment. While we believe it is a much needed approach to assessment in academic libraries, it is not the only approach. That said, we believe it can add empirical rigor to a formal library assessment program. Throughout the next section we will give a very brief introduction on the best practices in program evaluation. These best practices will illustrate the holistic but empirical nature of program evaluation.

The Gold Standard. When approaching program evaluation, the gold standard is experimental design. Experimental methods are completely randomized and the participants are chosen by chance. In program evaluation and assessment in academic libraries this is the most valuable type of assessment. However, it can be difficult to implement because of the need for a random implementation, and a control and treatment group (Bingham & Felbringer, 2002).

Testing. The first place to start is the pre-test post-test. When implementing a pre-test post-test, individuals are chosen randomly for a treatment or control group. There are many

ways to do this, but in an academic library the numbers are usually small so you can pull a name out of a hat or flip a coin (Bingham & Felbringer, 2002). Next, have both groups take a pre-test to measure current levels of content knowledge.

After the initial tests, the treatment group will take part of the program. In an academic library, for example, that could be a pilot program or an information literacy session or for-credit course. The control group will not take part in the pilot program or information literacy sessions. When the program is complete both groups are tested on content knowledge and outcomes are analyzed (Bingham & Felbringer, 2002; Porter, in press).

The Next Best Thing. The gold standard is not always possible, or when it is possible, it is too expensive to implement. Nevertheless, you can still implement empirical assessment programs through quasi-experimental design. Basically, quasi-experimental design attempts to create a random controlled trial through other methods (Rossi & Freeman, 1993; Bingham & Felbringer, 2002).

This is not as empirical as a true experimental design, because the evaluation must identify, classify, and measure all variables of the experimental and control group to attempt to create a true experiment (Rossi & Freeman, 1993). That said, you can still use many of the program evaluation tools that are used in the gold standard of experimental design; for example, the pre-test post-test design could be crafted under a quasi-experimental design (McNamara, 2017; Environmental Protection Agency [EPA], 2017). An example of this in an academic library would be an artificial control and treatment group; for example, different sections of the same class. The experimenter could implement a pre-test post-test methodology to test the effect of a program implementation. While this isn't as pure as an experimental design, it is a plausible replacement.

Cost Effectiveness Analysis. A cost effectiveness analysis (CEA) is a natural fit within academic library assessment. It is a tool used to understand the resource allocation through the projected output and testing of a specific program (Bingham & Felbringer, 2002). Essentially a cost effectiveness analysis analyzes the potential implementation of a program based on the comparison of potential needed resources and what the expected outcomes of the program will be.

The value of a cost effectiveness analysis in an academic library is that you can use tools to measure holistic impacts and benefits that do not have an economic or financial cost (Metz, 2007). That is what a CEA does and why it is a great tool to use in academic libraries (Bingham & Felbringer, 2002).

Case Study

At the Georgia Tech Price Gilbert Library, we are currently undergoing not just a major renovation of our physical spaces, but also reevaluating our services and how we have traditionally done business as part of a process we call Library Next.

The next section looks at an example of using program evaluation methodologies to determine whether we are delivering services in an effective manner. This example will likely look familiar to the reader insofar as these are the types of calculations we do daily as librarians to effectively use shrinking resources. Part of what we would like to focus on is using a rigorous methodology and some of the formalized mechanics of program evaluation in these instances.

Example A: At Georgia Tech we had for years provided reference help that was combined with circulation at one service point. As librarians retired or took positions elsewhere, and jobs were not backfilled, it became necessary to prioritize how librarians spent

their time, and the decision was made to split out these services.

Initially we moved to a tiered service with librarians on call and seated nearby which then eventually morphed into its own service area called the Expert Consultation Center (ECC). While undergoing extensive renovations at the library, space, and how it is being utilized, was especially important because the usable area had been significantly reduced.

So in the case of the expert consultation center there are two constraints that are our cost factors: librarian's time and the physical space. In order to evaluate whether this is the most effective use of those resources, we built a tally to record service interactions. When designing the tally, though, we wanted to include other metrics as well in order to gain better insight into variables such as the complexity of the questions, time spent, nature of the questions, and time when the interaction occurred.

Recording these specific data points is key to helping us better understand our cost effectiveness analysis and answer other related questions. Is our service cost effective between certain hours but not others? Are there certain types of questions which aren't cost effective for librarians to be answering when signage or training staff can better meet this need?

After collecting and analyzing Expert Consultation Center data from September 2016 to January 2017 we were able to evaluate the program to determine if continuing its operations makes sense for Georgia Tech. For that period of time we saw a total of 173 questions asked over a span of 264 hours that the area was staffed which works out to 0.655 questions per hour. The peak times were between 12–2 p.m., with 68% of the questions coming during this time period. Qualtrics was used to create a custom made report for Georgia Tech but any method available to your organization that can tally data should suffice.

We also rated the questions that were asked at the ECC on how complex they were: 0 was a directional question, 1 finding materials in the catalog or research guide, all the way to 5, which was an in depth consultation, pulling from multiple databases, or reviewing patron created content. Here we found 53% of the questions were simple category 0 questions, 11% were category 1, 11% category 2, 14% category 3, 6% category 4, and 5% category 5.

Other metrics measured were whether the patron was a repeat user of the ECC and if they were referred to their subject librarian afterwards with "yes" garnering only 9% and 7% respectively. We also included a qualitative open text field for librarian comments in case any interesting trends stood out or if the data was inconclusive at the end of the study.

When removing the simple questions from the total consultations, the Expert Consultation Center only received 0.30 questions per hour with data trends not indicating significant increases as time went on. Clearly, this indicates an ineffective use of resources and space, so the service was discontinued. In many instances where the data was less conclusive, the evaluation could have extended for a longer period of time to help accurately make an assessment, but in this case the ongoing cost didn't justify ongoing service.

Conclusion

Detailed throughout this discussion the strengths of program evaluation as an addition to academic libraries assessment programs is illustrated through best practices and tools, such as experimental design, quasi-experimental design, and cost-effectiveness analysis. This systematic nature of program evaluation can be used to measure the effectiveness and outcomes of library services. In taking this empirical and scientific approach to library assessment, libraries can internally and externally improve their programs, services, and messaging.

While this is an empirical and positivist approach, we do not dismiss other valid assessment approaches like ethnographic research, document analysis, content analysis, qualitative interviews, survey based research, case study approaches, and programs that combine these into a fluent portfolio such as service design. However, it is important to understand there are other potential methods that will add real value that can be empirically tested and communicated to stakeholders within the library and without, and program evaluation is one of these methods that is an addition to a library assessment portfolio. As demonstrated in the case study, not only do these methods help make judicious allocation

of resources but they also allow an organization to explain policy decisions to internal and external stakeholders in objective terms. In this case the decision to move away from a reference point of service approach was unpopular internally and the data from a program evaluation methodology made for a conclusive decision rather than relying on anecdotal evidence.

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*People, Libraries
and Agencies* **IN THE NEWS**

Georgia Library Association Advocacy Committee

The Georgia Library Association (GLA) has long had a committee focused on the work and actions of both the state and federal government. The GLA Handbook states that the name of the Federal Relations Committee was changed to Governmental Relations in 1967. The goal is to stay informed of the political process, identifying the ways it intersects with our work as librarians.

GALILEO is a prime example, having made its debut on September 21, 1995, just 150 days after then Governor Zell Miller and the Georgia General Assembly approved funding.

Over the years, GLA has been involved in many legislative efforts, including our annual Library Day at the Georgia Capitol. Like many things, this event has evolved over time. Instead of inviting legislators to a plated lunch during session, GLA now partners with the Georgia Council of Public Library to provide dessert to their always-popular Public Library Day, which is catered by the Varsity. GLA also coordinated the distribution of an art print by Debi Davis to our state legislators. Originally sponsored by the now-closed Mumford Books, these prints are beloved and often framed and on display in their offices at the Capitol. This separate event gives library supporters another chance to see and be seen during the legislative session.

Each year, public libraries actively petition the Georgia General Assembly for materials and building funds. There are more local struggles that libraries of all types face, and there have

been bigger issues as well, which have seemingly pulled libraries in as bystanders to larger, more partisan debates.

At the national level, GLA has sponsored a board member's attendance to the American Library Association (ALA) National Library Legislative Day events in Washington, D.C. This two-day event includes a briefing from the ALA Washington Office on the national legislation affecting libraries and a day of visiting Georgia's Congressional Delegation.



Through it all, GLA has strived to build relationships with legislators and broadly share information on the outcome and impact of their decisions. Recently it became clear that the name of the committee,

while very descriptive, did not fully incorporate the work of the group. In 2016, the Governmental Relations Committee began looking for a new name, and now it's official: the Governmental Relations Committee is now the Advocacy Committee.

Defined as the action of advocating, pleading for, or supporting a cause or proposal, advocacy is the process of building relationships over time and speaks to the long-term investment and strategy involved with this work. Advocacy efforts give us a chance to inform funders about the ways libraries have evolved over time.

Libraries have never been dusty book warehouses. They are learning centers and a place for students of any age and any topic to gain knowledge. As libraries continue to embrace new technologies and service models, we need the support of leaders and funders to

keep meeting the needs of our patrons. It is often our patrons who can make the case for more funding.

There are many examples and best practices from other state library associations. Our neighbors in North Carolina have an annual contest to find their student ambassador, who accompanies the state's delegation to ALA's

National Library Legislative Day. ([See this ALA blog post for more information.](#)) This gives library funders a true sense of the impact of libraries in the lives of these students.

The GLA Advocacy Committee looks forward to working with all GLA divisions, interest groups, and committees.

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Digital Library of Georgia

Two New 2017 Subgrant Collections Now Available: Henry L. Benning Civil War Materials and Juliette Gordon Low Correspondence, Series India Letters

The Digital Library of Georgia (DLG) is pleased to announce the availability of two new digital collections, the Henry L. Benning Civil War materials collection, and the Juliette Gordon Low Correspondence, Series India Letters collection, thanks in part to the DLG's Competitive Digitization grant program, a funding opportunity intended to broaden DLG partner participation for statewide historic digitization projects.



Digital Library of Georgia
Sharing Georgia's History & Culture Online

The Henry L. Benning Civil War materials collection is now available at: http://dlg.galileo.usg.edu/CollectionsA-Z/ghlb_search.html. The collection belongs to Columbus State University Archives.

Henry L. Benning was born in Columbia County, Georgia in 1814. After finishing first in his class at the University of Georgia in 1834, he moved to Columbus in 1835. There, he was admitted to the bar, married Mary Howard in 1839, and entered his father-in-law's firm. In 1840, Benning lost a race for the General Assembly but was later elected to the state Supreme Court in 1853. After Lincoln's election, Benning became one of Georgia's most vocal supporters for secession. During the war, he served as Colonel of the 17th Georgia Infantry in 21 engagements including Antietam, Gettysburg, and Chickamauga. By the beginning of 1863, Benning rose to the rank of brigadier general.

His regiment was the first part of the Army of Northern Virginia under Robert E. Lee and later under Braxton Bragg in the Army of Tennessee. After the war, Benning returned to Columbus and resumed the practice of law, dying on his way to the court in 1875.

Benning's war correspondence deals with his service throughout the war and includes orders sent to him and reports of engagements, both those sent to him and those he submitted to his superiors.

David Owings, head of Columbus State University Archives stated: "General Benning is certainly an important figure in

Georgia's history, who resonates nationally because of his role in the Civil War. This material will attract broad national interest from scholars as well as those with a casual interest in the Civil War. We are excited that the Digital Library of Georgia has helped us increase access to our collections by making General Benning's involvement in this important period of our history available online."

Juliette Gordon Low's 1908 India travel correspondence is now available at: http://dlg.galileo.usg.edu/CollectionsA-Z/jglowc_search.html. The collection, Juliette Gordon Low Correspondence, Series India Letters, belongs to Girl Scouts of the USA and is housed at the Juliette Gordon Low Birthplace.

Juliette Gordon Low, founder of Girl Scouts of the USA; her 18-year-old niece Elizabeth Parker; and another friend, Grace Carter, traveled throughout northern India and parts of what is now Pakistan in 1908. Low wrote letters to her family describing her experiences and

impressions and, using carbon paper, copied the pages into a journal. Her accounts document visits to Madurai, Madras, Calcutta, Benares, Lahore, Delhi, and Bombay. Low's work is an excellent example of an early 20th century woman's travel journal. Few American women journeyed to present-day Pakistan and India as the founder of the country's largest girls' leadership organization and her companions did, unaccompanied by men. Low recorded their progress as they traveled to sites that included the Golden Temple of Amritsar, the Shalimar Gardens, the Taj Mahal, Shah Jahan's Red Fort, Humayun's Tomb, the site of the 1857 Indian Rebellion, the Qutub Minar, and the Tughlaqabad Fort ruins. She described the difficulty of making travel arrangements and wrote detailed descriptions about food, culture, festivals, shopping, animals, and art. The women met with Princess Bamba Jindan Singh, the explorer Sir Francis Younghusband, and numerous British army officers.

Stacy A. Cordery, professor in the Department of History at Iowa State University, and biographer of Juliette Gordon Low stated: "Juliette Gordon Low's India travel diary was essential to the writing of my biography of Low, and I thought at the time that it deserved

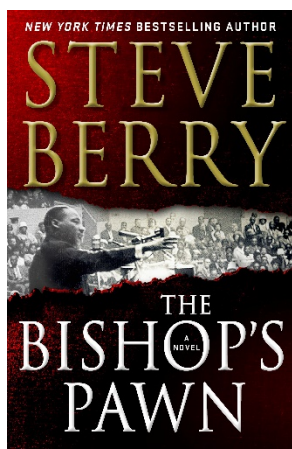
publication on its own because of the breadth and importance of the topics covered. It would be a terrific boon to scholars and the interested public (including school children) should this diary be digitized and available. Among other things, it would help to bring more attention to one of Georgia's most famous citizens."

Until now, the letters have only been accessible to researchers able to travel to view them in person. Digitization will make the materials available to a wider audience, potentially including users such as students studying Low as part of their curriculum, graduate students, art historians, tourism professionals, Asian studies scholars, historians, history enthusiasts, and girls and women associated with Girl Scouting. Low's significance to Georgia history is evidenced by her inclusion in the state's second-grade curriculum. Low recognized the need to train girls to have courage, confidence, and character, and these letters demonstrate this. The letters also present her as a multi-dimensional woman with prejudices reflective of her era and upbringing. The collection of letters is an important initial collaboration between the Digital Library of Georgia and Girl Scouts of the USA (GSUSA) as GSUSA seeks to make its cultural assets more widely available.

*People, Libraries
and Agencies* **IN THE NEWS**

Gwinnett County Public Library

Gwinnett County Public Library (GCPL) hosted bestselling author Steve Berry on Monday, March 26 at the Prototype Prime in Peachtree Corners.



Steve Berry is *The New York Times* and #1 internationally bestselling author of novels including *The Lost Order*, *The 14th Colony*, and *The Patriot Threat*. His latest thriller is *The Bishop's Pawn*.

Berry's books have been translated into

40 languages with over 22,000,000 copies in 51 countries. They consistently appear in the top echelon of *The New York Times*, *USA Today*, and indie bestseller lists.

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Gwinnett County Public Library and the San José State University (SJSU) School of Information have selected Eké Williams of San José State University from a group of five finalists as the winner of the 2018

Innovative Librarians Award. The award recognizes library science graduate students who put forward new ideas that improve libraries and library services.



Williams, a technology training supervisor at Brooklyn Public Library, will receive a \$1,000 cash prize for his work on the Documentary Photography Bootcamp. The bootcamp is an innovative seven-week workshop aimed at educating disconnected youth in the East New York community. Finalists included:

Eké Williams, San José State University (winner)
Innovation: Documentary Photography Bootcamp

Cassandra Hickman, Pratt Institute School of Information
Innovation: KNRC Youth Radio: A Podcasting Program for Teens

Shannon Bland, University of Maryland-College Park
Innovation: Vision Center at Waldorf West

Bianca Hezekiah, Pratt Institute School of Information
Innovation: League of Readers Book Club (LORE)

Hilda Loh-Guan, University of Southern California
Innovation: Empowering Urban Transitional Aged Youth via Strategic Partnerships

Nominations were blind-judged by public librarians and library and information science educators with years of frontline, managerial, and administrative experience.

"We're thrilled to offer this opportunity to library science students," said Michael Casey, GCPL director of customer experience. "This year's innovations were amazing, and we're so happy that we can share them with libraries around the world."

“The premise of this award was to celebrate our innovative librarians and recognize their ingenious ideas,” said Dr. Sandra Hirsh, professor and director at the SJSU School of Information. “They may be early in their careers, but they are already reshaping public libraries! I couldn’t be more pleased with the response to the call for submissions and the creative thinking happening in our field.”

The award is open to all students who are currently enrolled and pursuing a graduate degree in Library Science, or who have graduated with an MLS or MLIS within the past two years.

For more information and to read submissions from all five finalists, visit:
innovativelibrarians.com.

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For the second straight year, *The Atlanta-Journal Constitution* has recognized Gwinnett County Public Library as one of the Top 150 Workplaces in the Atlanta area. GCPL earned a place in the midsize category, among organizations with 150 to 499 employees.



“We are committed to creating a positive and nurturing work environment for our employees,” said Charles Pace, GCPL executive director. “I want to say a word of thanks to all of our employees for their hard work and dedication in providing the best possible library service to the citizens of Gwinnett County.”

More than 2,300 companies were nominated or asked to participate in the 2018 rankings by Energage, a Philadelphia-based employee research and consulting firm. Several aspects of workplace culture were measured, including alignment, execution, and connection, just to name a few.

Visit ajc.com/top-workplaces for the full list of 2018 Top Workplaces.

*People, Libraries
and Agencies* **IN THE NEWS**

Kennesaw State University

New Library Personnel



Paula Adams is the new director of the Reference and Instruction Unit at Kennesaw State University (KSU). Previously, she was the head of user services at Columbus State University Library in Georgia.

Jackie Watkins is in the newly created position, electronic resources collection development librarian. She was a library assistant at Georgia State University. While working on her undergraduate degree at KSU, Jackie had been a library student assistant.



The Access Services Department recently hired four new paraprofessionals, Haley Ryles, Kristoffer Johnson, Matt Dinoff, and Josie Carter.



Haley Ryles, Kristoffer Johnson, Matt Dinoff, and Josie Carter



Kennesaw State University Libraries Retirees: Rita Spisak, Yongli Ma, and Elisabeth Shields

There were several retirements at KSU this spring. Yongli Ma was a librarian with Southern Polytechnic State University (SPSU) before the consolidation with KSU. In total, she has served 24 years in many capacities over the years including positions of acquisitions librarian, associate director for technical services, and head of access services.

Elisabeth Shields has served as the graduate librarian for the College of Humanities and Social Sciences since 2011. Prior to coming to KSU, she worked at Georgia Institute of Technology's Enterprise Innovation Institute for 10 years. She is the driving force behind KSU's national conference, Transforming Libraries for Graduate Students, a conference that attracts attendees from all the country.

Rita Spisak has 33 years of service with the KSU Libraries. She has worked in the Serials, Access Services, Reference, and Instruction Units. Her positions ranged from library associate, librarian, and interim director of two departments.



On March 22 and 23, 2018, Kennesaw State University Graduate Library Team hosted over 100 participants from universities all over the country for the Transforming Libraries Graduate Students Conference. This two-day national conference included formal presentations from visiting and KSU speakers, informal pop-up sessions, and plenty of time between sessions for networking and casual conversations. The original brainchild of librarian, Elisabeth Shields, the conference materialized with great success

after over a year of planning and teamwork from the entire Graduate Library team.



Chapter Contributors

Sharing the title of the conference, the book, *Transforming Libraries for Graduate Students* brought together the ideas of 50 contributors and organized into 34 chapter submissions. The Graduate Library's Crystal Renfro and Cheryl Stiles worked closely with the Association of College & Research Libraries (ACRL) for the publication.

Off the SHELF

The Bohemian South: Creating Countercultures from Poe to Punk edited by Shawn Chandler Bingham and Lindsey E. Freeman (University of North Carolina Press, 2017: ISBN 9781469631677, \$29.95)

In this diverse collection of essays, the quest to find, uncover, and lay bare the South's entanglement with a "bohemian" ethic often feels like a bit of a rebuke 100 years in the making. In the first chapter, Bingham quotes H. L. Mencken's famous retort about the South being "almost as sterile, artistically, intellectually, culturally, as the Sahara Desert," first published in the article "The Sahara of the Bozart" in 1917. Appropriately, 100 years later, scholars, journalists, and others invested in the South's reputation published an almost comprehensive review of all the reasons, both historical and contemporary, why Mencken was mistaken in his indictment. Included in this volume are historical overviews of the South's involvement with the original bohemians of the 19th and 20th century Southern enclaves of bohemian life in art, literature, music, and food, and how the South is continuing her bohemian heritage moving forward in the 21st century.

The Bohemian South: Creating Counterculture from Poe to Punk offers a little bit for everyone in terms of how the South was not and is not the Sahara of the South, including scholarly historical research, journalistic essays, and

personal recollections of the South and her people.

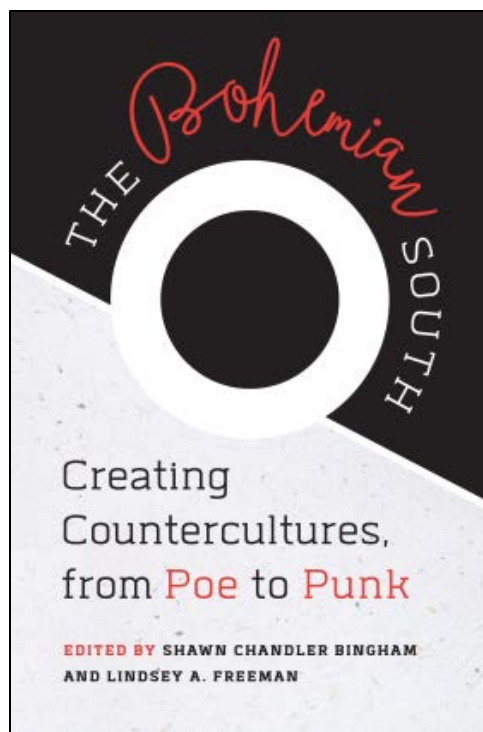
Three chapters, in particular, are the most interesting and offer a glimpse into what the book captures.

In his chapter "The Southern Origins of Bohemian New York: Edward Howland, Ada Clare, and Edgar Allen Poe," Edward Whitley

explores the early American branch of the bohemian subculture of the late 19th century. In particular, he explores Edward Howland and his publication *Saturday Press*, the organ of American Bohemia; Ada Clare, the socialite called "Queen of Bohemia" who hosted salons in her Manhattan brownstone; and Poe, who many call the original American bohemian. What is most interesting about Whitley's investigation into these characters rests in the truth that both Howland and Clare garnered their wealth from their families' Southern plantations. Howland started the *Saturday Press* with the

money gained off the backs of slaves; Clare spent money made from slave labor. In essence, the bedrock of early American bohemianism in the 19th century was financed through slavery.

Chris Offutt, the noted food writer, explores notions of food and class in his chapter "Trash Food." He explores his own identity through food and how others understand it. He talks about "white trash parties" where middle-class people invite guests to bring Cheetos, pork



rinds, fried baloney, and Twinkies; all foods Offutt ate as a child in the hills of Kentucky. He examines how attitudes toward the food we eat harm rural communities and how “trash food” is what people in lower socioeconomic areas can survive on until they become trendy. For example, he explains that crawfish and catfish were “trash foods” until upper-middle class whites decided they were not anymore. Overall, the essay is both personal and universal, a look at one man’s place in the food ecosystem we all take part in and how Southern foodies are reinventing how food is talked about.

Grace Elizabeth Hale covers how an indie music scene burst into existence in Athens, Georgia in her essay, “Acting Out: The Athens, Georgia, Music Scene and the Emergence a Bohemian Diaspora.” While Hale discusses the emergence of bands such as B-52s, Pylon, and REM, she

also looks at how “the Establishment” in traditional scenes in New York and San Francisco reacted with awe at how such acts could emerge from somewhere like Athens, Georgia. In this reaction, she uncovers a thread common to many of the essays in this collection; namely, that those outside the South often gawk at what is created here, precisely because they still see it as the Sahara introduced by Mencken

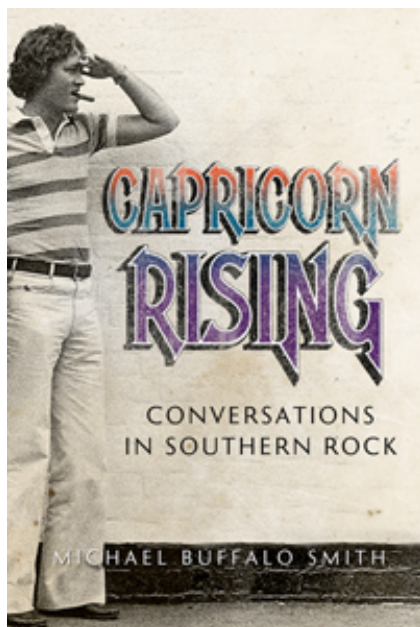
Highly recommended for academic libraries that collect in the areas of Southern and American studies, as the book covers a wide range of topics relevant to history, sociology, anthropology, literature, music, and more.

Thomas Weeks is Reference and Instruction Librarian at Augusta University, Reese Library

Off the SHELF

Capricorn Rising: Conversations in Southern Rock by Michael Buffalo Smith; forward by Willie Perkins (Mercer University Press, 2016: ISBN 9780881465785, \$24.00)

Capricorn Rising is a nonfiction work transcribing a decade of interviews conducted by Michael Buffalo Smith. Smith is a musician and journalist who has spent years chronicling southern rock. He is author of *Rebel Yell: An Oral History of Southern Rock* and *Prisoner of Southern Rock: A Memoir*. Additionally, he was the creator and publisher of *Gritz Magazine* and currently publishes an online magazine named *Kudzo*. Throughout this career, Smith had the opportunity to have regular and close contact with southern musicians. This access is openly shared with the reader of *Capricorn Rising* without a filter of interpretation thanks to the transcribed interview format.



The book is organized around the Southern Rock label of Capricorn Records. Capricorn was in its peak in the 1970s. Capricorn represented The Allman Brothers Band, The Marshall Tucker Band, The Charlie Daniels Band, Wet Willie, and many more. The individuals interviewed represent many of these bands and their producers. The interviews are organized loosely by band allowing for plenty of crossover as the musicians flow through bands.

The book has a table of contents and an index to assist in researching particular topics. The foreword is written by Willie Perkins, tour manager for The Allman Brothers Band. In the introduction, Smith states that his intent is to

provide “education and appreciation of southern music, and maybe make you smile or even laugh.” The book achieves this goal of being both educational and entertaining. It is appropriate for those conducting research and also those who are interested in entertainment. Because the format is transcribed interviews, there is not additional context provided for

understanding. The raw format of the materials further assists researchers in collection of information. This makes the book most appropriate for those with a general interest or experience in southern rock so as to already have a foundation. However, those with an interest will still enjoy the information with the benefit of some external research tools.

The value in the format is the ability to view significant events from a variety of perspectives. For example, there is a discussion about various band members leaving The Allman

Brothers Band. In this instance, there is the description of the situation by the member that left as well as the remaining members. This gives the opportunity for fans to have an inside view of those events.

This book is appropriate for both public and academic libraries. It will be enjoyed by fans of music, southern rock, Georgia history, and pop culture. This year's summer reading theme for Georgia public libraries is Libraries Rock. This book would make a perfect selection to engage adults in summer reading.

Jennifer Lautzenheiser is Director at Middle Georgia Regional Library

Off the SHELF

The Coming of Southern Prohibition: The Dispensary System and the Battle over Liquor in South Carolina, 1907-1915 by Michael Lewis
(Louisiana State University Press, 2016: ISBN 9780807162989, \$45.00)

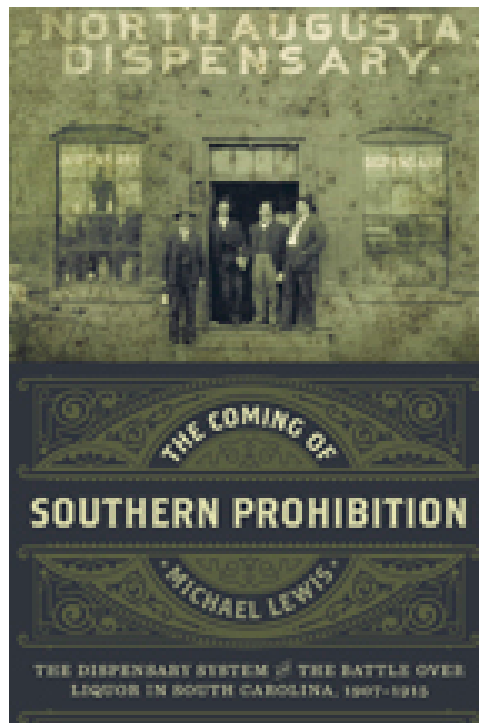
In his book *The Coming of Southern Prohibition*, Michael Lewis offers an exhaustively researched history of South Carolina's alcohol dispensary system between 1907 and 1915. In early 1908, Georgia enacted state-wide prohibition. Thus began a 10 year struggle within South Carolina between those who wished to profit from alcohol sales to neighboring Georgians in order to improve South Carolina infrastructure without raising taxes and those who wished to avoid the social and moral corruption that they believed alcohol sales would bring. What resulted was South Carolina's dispensary system, which essentially established a governmental monopoly on the bottling and sales of alcohol that lasted for close to 10 years.

Lewis's book is broken into three sections, the first of which is a detailed history of the politics of the South Carolina dispensary, the economic context that led to the establishment of the dispensary system, the social costs of the system, and the change from a statewide system to a local option later in South Carolina's movement towards statewide prohibition.

The second section of the book focuses largely on one dispensary in North Augusta, South

Carolina, just across the state line from Augusta, Georgia. This dispensary in Aiken County is offered as a case study in order to form a more nuanced understanding of the forces both for and against alcohol sales in South Carolina at the turn of the century. Lewis offers a detailed description of the coalition of pro-prohibition factions that united within South Carolina to oppose the sale of alcohol including newly emerging evangelical Protestants, women's clubs such as the

Christian Women's Temperance Union, and middle class progressives who feared the social disruption of alcoholism and governmental corruption. In addition, he provides a history of and a sharp analysis of the impact of race, class, and religion that shaped attitudes towards alcohol sales across the South. Finally, he offers an in-depth history of pro-alcohol sales forces within the state who saw an opportunity to relieve land-owning citizens' tax burdens while increasing tax revenue in order to improve civic life, including the building and improving of roads and hospitals, and schools, etc.



The final section of the book describes the successes and failures of the dispensary system and finally, a look at the beginnings of true prohibition in South Carolina through the enactment of laws that prohibited distribution of liquor to dry states. Additionally, Lewis describes the softening of prohibition laws in Georgia, which impacted sales and therefore revenue in North Augusta leading to a lessening

of the political desire to maintain a dispensary within the county.

At times, the book reads more as a dissertation than a book for general public consumption. Lewis includes an exhaustive list of resources as well as charts and graphs detailing sales rates for the dispensary and crime rates for the surrounding county. Nevertheless, it is an excellently written analysis of the socio-cultural and political factors, which weighed into Aiken

County residents' feelings on alcohol sales in the early 20th century. This book is recommended for academic libraries, for libraries maintaining history collections covering the South, or for anyone with an academic interest in the South's love-hate relationship with alcohol.

*Kimberly Boyd is Head of Research & Instruction
at Brenau University*