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Dr. Elyse Eidman-Aadahl

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Sharon Forks Library

Located in the southern part of Forsyth County, Sharon Forks Library serves an increasingly diverse community. Usage of Sharon Forks Library, which opened in November 2000, has outpaced even the rapid growth of the county. At 20,500 square feet, it was the smallest of Forsyth County Public Library’s (FCPL) branches, yet it has the highest circulation of any library facility in Georgia at more than one million items per year. The library sees more than 230,000 library visitors and 24,000 patrons attending programs annually. All this activity could not be contained in such a relatively small space, so the library knew it had to expand the size of the building. Library employees were thrilled when it was announced that Sharon Forks Library was receiving a $2 million state construction grant to add to $2.8 million from SPLOST funds and $2.4 million in local impact fees.

McMillan Pazdan Smith (MPS) was awarded the contract in 2015 to design the expansion and renovation. After gathering community input and going over FCPL’s building program, MPS and library staff spent the next year designing a new building that included over 18,000 square feet of new space that almost doubled the size of the library. The construction contract was awarded to Cooper & Co. General Contractors in 2016. The 13-month construction began in January 2017. Sharon Forks Library remained open throughout most of the construction process. After the first phase of the project was completed, the branch closed for four weeks to allow staff and movers to bring most of the furniture and all of the collection into the smaller addition. Four months later the branch closed for five weeks to bring in new furniture and additional shelving and to place all the collections and furniture in their new locations.

Sharon Forks Library gained a meeting room that can hold over 400 people, two conference rooms that each seat ten, five study rooms, a children’s activity center, a teen room, many seating areas, and a Hot Spot, which is a large tech-friendly space featuring mobile furniture. This collaborative space also has white boards for groups to use and is a busy space after school. With the additional shelving, the library was able to add a world languages collection that includes Hindi, Mandarin Chinese, Tamil, and Telugu. The community response to this collection, and to the project overall, has been tremendous.

The library hosted a grand reopening celebration on March 24, 2018 that included Indian dance groups, Chinese lion dancers, a Chinese tea ceremony, two breakout rooms, a scavenger hunt, tours, and other activities.
attended by over 1,500 patrons. On April 13, 2018 the library held a ceremony at which public officials, library board members, and enthusiastic library patrons spoke about the project, which was a true labor of love for the community.
Tapestry Public Charter School
Library

There is a new library at Tapestry Public Charter School. This wonderful school was started by two moms, both of whom have neurotypical developing children as well as children on the autism spectrum. They were searching for an inclusive place for their children to learn. Not finding any, they decided to start their own.

Tapestry started in rented classrooms of a local church. It was there that Anne Benevento, one of the parents, first saw a sad, crooked bookcase with a few books on it. That was the “library.” Anne felt this was not good enough for these amazing kids. Being a brand new school, there were no plans nor a budget for a library, so Anne mobilized.

She began filling the shelves by shopping at yard sales, Goodwill, library book sales, used bookstores, and digging through friends’ basements. Anne held book drives and ran Scholastic Book Fairs to earn money and to get donations. The support and encouragement of the principal and many of the parents has been outstanding.

Starting in 2014, Tapestry has grown from only a middle school to including a full high school. The first senior class will graduate this year! Tapestry is now located in the old Northwoods School building in Doraville, which they have made into their home. Having more room, they were able to turn one of the larger rooms into an official library this year! This was made possible because a private family donation allowed Tapestry to be able to purchase new chairs, tables, rugs, paint, and more books and supplies. This serene new space now seems to be the heart of the school where kids can come in individually or in groups and work on tables, on high tops, or sit cozily in one of the modern wing chairs and read!

Almost all of what Anne learned has been from the welcoming library community! She asked many questions of different school librarians, retired librarians, research librarians, even some that were librarian friends of friends—they all took the time to share what they knew, answer questions, and give advice and encouragement. Starting a library from scratch was a much bigger project than she originally realized! From them, Anne learned how to: enter books into the system, make barcodes and spine labels, cover books, put in reading levels, separate them into color coded genres, and so much more. Because of all the support Anne received, there is now a new library for these amazing kids at Tapestry—one where they find favorite new authors and discover new stories every day! For more information about the Tapestry Public Charter School go to: http://www.tapestrycharter.org
The goal of Thomas University Library is to empower students. The library is small, holding approximately 20,000 print books, and serves a population of roughly 1,000 associate’s, bachelor’s, and master’s students. As the only academic library on campus, Thomas University (TU) Library strives to provide students with information, tools, and programs to help them succeed in their college pursuits and as members of their communities. An overwhelming majority of the TU student population is Georgia native, but, as most students commute, only 20% live locally. Therefore, the library’s efforts to help them engage meaningfully with their own residential communities and with the TU community have to be both far reaching and individualized.

The program the library recently had success with is the TU Voter Registration Drive that was hosted on April 11, 2018. The program’s mission was to help give students the ability to be active participants in their community as registered voters. The registration drive was open to students from any state who are eligible to vote in the United States. The library staff was on hand to provide students with the support they needed to be informed voters. This included answering general questions, helping students look up their poll locations, and providing information about congressional, state, and local elections. To celebrate civic duty and the right to vote, the library provided refreshments, music, and handouts for the enjoyment of all who attended.

Because a substantial portion of TU students are distance learners, the library made special efforts to keep them informed about the event and welcomed them to participate remotely. Library employees were able to answer questions about voting and voter registration over email. A few distance students even let the library know that they had registered to vote after hearing about the event!

The TU Library wants their students to know that it is a place where their questions and voices are valued. In an effort to create meaningful leadership opportunities, many of the library’s student workers give input and take the initiative to choose library programs and displays. Jocelyn, a TU master’s student in clinical rehabilitation and longtime employee of the library, directed the drive as project organizer. She said that it was exciting to help students who had never registered to vote before and that the day went really well. By the end, 27 new voters were registered and 13 students verified that they were already registered. That’s almost 10% of the TU on-campus population who were in attendance.
During finals week, TU Library’s private study spaces and computer labs were full of students in the midst of studying. The library even converted a spare office into another group study room to give students a place to talk and practice presentations. The Thomas University Library wishes their students and all the college students in Georgia good luck on their final exams, papers, and projects!

Please visit Thomas University Library website at www.thomasu.edu/library to learn more about the library and its services.
As I write, registration for the 2018 Georgia Libraries Conference on October 3–5 will open any time now.

We have as one of our keynotes Loida Garcia-Febo, the incoming ALA President. Our speaker from the Dolly Parton Foundation backed out, but we have replaced her with a speaker from a similar, albeit home grown outfit—the Ferst Foundation. Betsy Wagenhauser, president of the Ferst Foundation for Childhood Literacy, will be our second keynote. As a profession, we are highly dependent on having a literate public. Whether you prefer science journals, romance novels, digital, paper, blogs, whatever, reading is the common denominator. Ferst is, in a sense, a partner with libraries. From their web page:

Ferst Readers was founded in 1999 to address the growing problem of children from low-income communities entering kindergarten without basic early literacy skills and school readiness, a preventable problem that has far-reaching impacts throughout students’ lives. The recipe for early school success is simple: start school with strong literacy skills.

We also have a number of interesting preconferences and a tour of Ft. Benning on Wednesday of conference week. An authors’ scavenger hunt will add to the always fun and rewarding Author’s Reception. We think we have a really exciting conference for you, so fill out those registration forms!

The 2019 and 2020 conferences will be held in Macon. This was a very difficult decision. All of the competing sites had positive things to offer. But looking at the whole picture, Macon won out this time.

In the works for next year is a special President’s Award. There is no money involved; the winners will receive a plaque or certificate. The GLA president is to give these out to anyone who was particularly helpful to him or her during the presidential year. In one mood I wish this had already started, but in another mood I am glad it hasn’t. That’s because I would not know where to stop. And I would be sure to leave someone out who was really deserving. I think everyone on the Conference Planning Committee would get one. And the Site Selection Committee—fun and hard working group of people. But two would go to Gordon Baker and Elizabeth McKinney for sure. I seldom have any GLA question Gordon can’t answer. Elizabeth told Jennifer Lautzenheiser and me that she intended to be an active past president, and she has been just that. I can always count on her to guide me through the difficult decisions.

Fred Smith
President, Georgia Library Association 2018
fsmith@georgiasouthern.edu
Read? Who has time to read? This is a popular phrase I hear echoed by both students and staff alike. However, what they do not realize is that we literally read every day without thinking about it! Therefore, we can build a personal library from the items we do read and what we want to revisit. I am not too naïve to understand people are busy and time is tight, but who says personal libraries should be all print?

My personal library consists of both print and digital resources. My personal library also consists of temporary and permanent items. Surprised? You shouldn’t be. While we are embracing the educational trend of personal learning environments (PLE), it is possible to have personal libraries (PL) as well. Personal libraries (known as PL for the rest of this column) are where you gather information to enrich your life personally or professionally.

But I have digressed, so let me get back to discussing my PL. My PL is both traditional and nontraditional. It is traditional in the sense that I have physical copies of my favorite magazines, authors, and subjects. This encompasses about 20% of my collection. My PL is also nontraditional in that parts of it are digital content and even streaming content. No, these parts are not just PDF copies of books sitting on an electronic device somewhere. They are mostly a collection of bookmarks, articles, websites, and readings that are online or downloaded. Because my digital PL is online, they tend to be more temporary in nature as information gets updated, replaced, or deleted. Not surprisingly, 80% of my reading occurs here.

So why does the majority of my reading take place in the digital format? For me, it is personal choice and convenience. The content is usually shorter, easier to digest, and meets an immediate or ongoing need. As an educator, a technologist, a media specialist, a webmaster, a librarian, and, most importantly, a mother, sister, and auntie, it is no wonder my time is spent on readily available digital content. However, wading through the internet to find information that is accurate and reliable is another matter, and digital content should always be verified in this era of “fake news.” Overall, my PL is a separated into three main categories: informational, inspirational, and entertainment.

First, most of my PL relates to items I retain for informational purposes. Granted, most of these items are technology-based because life is always evolving. I fight to keep up in my field through digital means. This includes streaming videos that could be for learning, reviewing tech
tips, or researching the latest gadgets. It could also be to check and view vendor websites, book reviews, or other selections of materials for education or teaching. The field of education changes often and technology changes even faster. Thus, online content can change rapidly, lasting temporarily from a few days to a few months. Informational reading comprises about 80% of my reading category.

Second, my PL items contain inspirational items to inspire me, which takes up 10% of my reading time. It could be a video clip from YouTube to a hard copy of the latest Joel Osteen book, or my favorite issue of Oprah magazine (yes, magazines still exist). Everyone needs to read something that encourages them. I read things that motivate me for my sanity, build my self-esteem, and help me keep focused on my purpose as well as my priorities. It is important to bounce back from burnout and the frailties of human life. We must find something positive to counteract these events to recharge our body, mind, and spirit. Without doing so, people may turn to more harmful vices. Plus, we all need to be inspired on occasion so we can inspire others. When we do so, we intend to live less stressful, more fulfilling lives—and may I dare say, be happier?!

Last, I read for entertainment, encompassing 10% of my reading leisure. We all need a healthy outlet for release. For some, this may take the form of addictive social media readings and postings. This is not me. However, I do read weekly blogs from multiple sites on my favorite soap recaps and spoilers. To me, this is no different than reading popular books that make their way to blockbuster theater screens. I still think the books always appear to be better than the movies. We need and crave entertainment as humans. The problem is, when we spend too much time being entertained beyond the regular stretch of vacations, we may end up having an unbalanced life in relation to our reality.

However, reading for entertainment can be a great escape from reality on its own merit. As a youth, I read to escape my harsh reality of poverty and abuse. Some of my favorite stories were the Laura Ingalls Wilder series, any Choose Your Own Adventure series, anything Roman or Greek mythology, the Junie B. Jones series, and, of course—who could forget—anything Judy Blume. My readings from my young adult years included the Sweet Valley High series, Makes Me Wanna Holla, classic fiction of the 1970s–1990s, Hardy Boys, and Nancy Drew, as well as Go Ask Alice. As an adult, I have read many Terry McMillian, Mike Thaler, and Carmen Agra Deedy books along with The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian, picture books, and books by various ministers from my inspirational collection. Now, I prefer joke books, cookbooks, and coming-of-age stories because they are less intense than the too-close-to-real-life books you find in most adolescent literature.

In closing, reading should a pleasurable pastime. It should be an experience that leaves one wanting more. I encourage recreational reading in my school library and among my family members. The ability to read and to read well should not be taken for granted. It is a privilege we should hold dear when 50% of the adult population in the US cannot read beyond an eighth grade level: (http://literacyprojectfoundation.org/community/statistics/).

Think you don’t have to read? Think again. RIF was right all along. Reading IS fundamental.

Linda Johnson is Media Specialist at Riverdale High, Clayton County Public Schools
Buddy Program for Georgia Libraries Conference: An Interview with NMRT Chair, Emily Williams, July 20, 2018

By Catherine Manci and Emily Williams

Tell me a little about what the buddy program is at the Georgia Libraries Conference.

The New Members Round Table (NMRT) Division Conference Buddy Program provides new GLA [Georgia Library Association] members and/or first-time conference goers an opportunity to meet an existing member who’s attended the conference in the past and plans to be in Columbus this fall. The veteran member, or mentor, provides assistance to the mentee before and during the conference—answering any questions they might have and offering advice on how to navigate the event.

First-time attendees are identified at registration and given an opportunity to sign up for the program. NMRT will post a call for mentors on the GLA listserv and through our mailing list, and the mentors and mentees will be paired up. Beyond that, it’s just a matter of making introductions via email or phone before the conference and then planning to meet in person in Columbus. From there, it’s up to each individual to participate to the degree that they are able.

How and when did this program begin?

Kat Greer, the 2017 NMRT Chair, began the program prior to last year’s conference in an effort to provide support to first-time conference attendees. She designed our version based on the Library Information Technology Association’s (LITA) ALA Conference Buddy Program and the similar service provided by the GLBTRT Round Table of ALA. She drafted and submitted a proposal to the [GLA] Executive Board outlining the guidelines for participants and developed an action list of associated tasks necessary to establish the program. She essentially laid the foundation, and we’re working to improve the program and facilitate its continued success.

What does participation in the buddy program involve?

You know, it really only involves a small time commitment before and during the conference. As I’ve mentioned, we recommend that the mentor and mentee contact one another before the conference to ask and answer any questions about the conference and discuss their anticipated schedules. During the event, they should meet in person for a meal, coffee, tour of the vendors, or attend a session. Of course, we’re going to encourage participants to attend the NMRT & Interest Group Council Social & Meet Up on Thursday evening, but it’s not a requirement. We just want to connect people who don’t know each other but might have something in common. Conferences can be intimidating and exhausting, especially for the more introverted types. Hopefully this program will serve as a way for people to meet someone new and reduce some stress for those experiencing conference jitters.

What is the benefit to the new members of GLA?

My assumption is that people have joined GLA to not only receive a conference discount, but to also become a member of a group of peers who dedicate some portion of their life to the world of libraries. Signing up as a mentee in the Conference Buddy Program enables you to meet someone within that peer group who is already familiar with not only the conference, but also the association. The program can serve as a networking tool to not only other members, but to committees and interest groups and the service opportunities they
provide. As a bonus, you’ll have someone who can answer your conference questions ahead of time, provide a personalized introduction to the event, and be a friendly face when navigating through a sea of attendees.

What would you say is the benefit to the buddies that are veteran members of GLA?

Veteran members gain the opportunity of sharing their knowledge and seeing the conference from a different perspective. Besides the obvious service component, this is as much a networking opportunity for them as it is for the mentee. I can’t think of one person in the library world who hasn’t experienced some sort of fluctuation during their tenure—be it in vacancies, technology, or professional standards. The more people we know within our field means we have more people to call on when in need, be it to serve on a committee, provide assistance with a new ILS, or interpret new guidelines.

What is your hope for the future of the buddy program?

I’d like to see the Buddy Program reach more people and become a gateway to a more active relationship with the association. When connecting active members with new ones, there is greater potential to forge stronger relationships between new members and the association, leading to more individuals who will help do the work of our divisions, interest groups, and committees. New people inspire energy and provide fresh ideas and perspectives to the organization, preserving the legacy of excellence and innovation that GLA has established.

Catherine Manci is Research and Instruction Librarian at Savannah College of Art and Design Atlanta

Emily Williams is Cataloging and Metadata Librarian at Georgia State University
Intellectual Freedom and Libraries: Building Community

By John Mack Freeman

When it comes to intellectual freedom, I often don't know.

That may be a strange way to start an article on intellectual freedom (IF) since I’m the current chair of GLA’s Intellectual Freedom Interest Group and the incoming chair of ALA’s Intellectual Freedom Round Table.

Intellectual freedom is the right to seek and review information without restriction. But because information and the way the world interacts with it is constantly in flux, so is what it means to be free in pursuit of it.

It most often seems like intellectual freedom comes to the forefront of people’s minds when there is a problem. And those problems typically happen when people are alone. But the world of intellectual freedom is anything but a lonely place.

Problems Happen Alone

One of my first experiences with intellectual freedom was in an early library job when a graphic novel I had initiated the purchase for had a complaint lodged against it. I had been trained in the library on the formal process for dealing with concerns. But instead of the formal process playing out and the item being given the chance to stand on its own merits, it just disappeared. For a while it was still in the catalog in a damaged status, but after a few more months, it went away completely. No explanation. No process. Just gone.

To many people, this may sound like a relatively common occurrence. It is simpler to eat the cost of an item and get rid of it than to confront the challengers and risk bad press. Over time, this demonstrates that it is better to avoid even unintentional offense than to stand up for the professional ideas people learn in library school.

I felt naive that I did not see this face-saving outside-the-system solution as a possible end to this issue. But it also helped to clarify for me why IF is important, even outside the classroom. I realized that I had not given enough consideration to the politics of intellectual freedom and what it would really mean to put these beliefs into action in the public sphere. Since then, I have kept diving further and further into IF, learning more about censorship, filtering, the right to be forgotten, disinvited speakers, public forums, and so many other topics. And the more I learned, the more I knew that any lasting change in this area would have to be accomplished as a group. Luckily, the IF community is there.

The IF Community

When libraries or individuals get challenged on issues that have intellectual freedom implications in day-to-day life, they can feel isolated. A single library person has to weigh a lot of factors and decide what is the most correct. The classic example is someone showing up to the library to launch an angry tirade about a book they want to challenge, but IF concerns crop up in numerous areas. Do new vendors the library wants to work with respect user privacy? Are new staff members trained on the ethics and principles inherent in contemporary library work? Do library workers self-censor to avoid the possibility of conflict? Is it the library’s place to take a stand on hot button issues like “fake news,” or should our advocacy be more passive? These ongoing issues, coupled with an inherent lack of perfect information, can make any person feel overwhelmed and alone.
But while problems may arise in lonely situations, they do not have to be solved that way. What intellectual freedom advocates have is a community that they can fall back on. At the state level, the Georgia Library Association has the Intellectual Freedom Interest Group. At the national level, the American Library Association has the Intellectual Freedom Round Table, the Intellectual Freedom Committee, and the Office of Intellectual Freedom. There is the Freedom to Read Foundation, the Comic Book Legal Defense Fund, the National Coalition Against Censorship, and dozens of other organizations that combine into a veritable alphabet soup of advocates fighting for the First Amendment and the right of people to express themselves.

However, all of this infrastructure does not matter at all if it is not put to use.

These groups may seem daunting. Some are based far away. Some can have thousands of members, and it can be hard for people to find their place inside of them. Others may be small or new and still discovering their power. But what they all have in common in my experience is a wealth of knowledge and a willingness to help, either by themselves or by connecting people to those who are experts.

The IF community is not monolithic, and the debate that it engenders can help each person clarify their beliefs. But because there are so many different ways to be involved and so many different groups to keep track of, it can help to start small.

Building Your IF Community and Knowledge

The first step in building an IF Community is to start talking about the issues that matter to you personally and to your community. Find others who have a common point of view on these issues, and engage them in conversation. This informal group of peers can be an important sounding board when looking to explore the nuances that come up in daily work life.

If there is no one local that seems like a fellow IF advocate or if you need larger and more immediate support, reach out and join a larger association. Most states (including Georgia) have a group dedicated to intellectual freedom, and the members are typically good for sharing information, offering support, and providing a sounding board when IF issues arise in the library. They often have committees or sponsor programs that can provide ways for people to get involved with IF in their professional service. Additionally, they bring together people from all types of libraries, which can be helpful in providing unique perspectives on issues under discussion. But if you need someone immediately to give advice about a crisis, the ALA Office of Intellectual Freedom is staffed with people who are ready and willing to offer assistance.

The next most important thing is to stay informed about what is going on with intellectual freedom issues. The Office of Intellectual Freedom blog at https://www.oif.ala.org/oif/ can be a good place to find up-to-date information of what is going on with IF on a weekly basis. Also, Google alerts can provide daily information on what is going on in topics of special interest. However anyone decides to stay informed, the most important thing is to make staying informed a conscious choice that is continually developed. Issues emerge constantly, and new developments happen every day. Information is the key to being part of the IF advocacy conversation. Also, starting to learn about a topic after an issue arises at a library is often too late. Forewarned is forearmed, and those best protected from emerging IF issues are those who have spent the time preparing for them.

Conclusion

Sometimes it may seem that IF people have all the answers. After all, many of them bring decades of knowledge and experience to the table. But because the world is constantly
shifting, because there is always something new, and because people keep changing, there reaches a point when everyone who answers truthfully must say “I don’t know” about something in the intellectual freedom world. There is no shame in that. But that is the first step. After that moment, the problem can be taken to the community for assistance, discussion, and workshopping until the right answer for that situation is discovered. Sometimes that group may be as simple as a call to a colleague whose opinion is respected. Sometimes that group may extend nationally and lead to a formal guidance document that hundreds of libraries can use as a model. But whatever the size of the group, the ultimate result is that the issue gets solved and that no one had to do it alone.

Like I said at the beginning, I often don’t know. But I have confidence that we can figure it out.

John Mack Freeman is Branch Manager at Gwinnett County Public Library, Peachtree Corners Branch
Georgia Library Association
GLA Officer Candidates for 2019

First Vice-President / President Elect

Laura Burtle, Georgia State University

Laura Burtle seeks the position of GLA first vice-president/president elect because she feels it is important to engage with the Georgia library community. Public, academic, and school libraries share interests around teaching, training and instruction, state and local legislative and political funding and influence, collections and publisher/vendor interaction, legal issues including copyright, contracts, and first amendment concerns, and security. The Georgia Library Association is the organization that can bring librarians from different constituent groups together and expose commonalities, while also recognizing differences.

Laura regularly speaks at the Georgia Libraries (COMO) Conference, recently presenting on teaching faculty about their copyrights, fair use and the Georgia State copyright lawsuit, and copyright exceptions for libraries. She is past chair of the Academic Library Division, served as the GLA Webmaster, and was a long-term member of the Georgia Library Quarterly editorial board. Laura was awarded the GLA McJenkin-Rheay Award for early career librarians in 2004. She was co-convener of the ACRL University Libraries Section (ULS) Current Topics Discussion Group and chair of the ULS Procedures Committee and currently serves on the ALA Committee on Legislation Copyright Subcommittee.

Laura is the associate dean for scholarly communications and digital library services at the Georgia State University Library. She earned an MSLS from the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill and a JD from the Georgia State University College of Law. In her current role, Laura advises faculty and graduate students on copyright and publishing, including fair use and licensing, open access, author rights, and publishing contracts. She manages the university’s institutional repository, contacting publishers and advising faculty on article versions. She has responsibility for the Digital Library Services department and is a member of the library’s senior leadership team.

Angela Megaw, University of North Georgia

Angela Megaw joined the library faculty of the University of North Georgia (previously Gainesville State College) in 1998. She’s served in several different capacities at multiple campuses and is currently an
associate professor of library science and reference services librarian in Dahlonega. Angela earned her MLIS from the University of South Carolina in 1997 and her MEd in Instructional Technology from the University of Georgia in 2005. Her current research interests include health sciences literacy, the development and use of learning objects, and accessibility of library materials.

GLA has provided Angela many opportunities to grow and develop as a library professional. She joined GLA fresh out of library school and attended her first COMO conference in 1998. She has participated in several interest groups including Reference Services, Professional and Continuing Education (co-chair 2008), and Distance Learning. Angela served as vice-chair (2014) /chair (2015) of the Academic Library Division and as a member of the Executive Board (2015). Over the years she has also been a member of multiple GLA committees including Scholarship, Membership, and for the past three years she’s served on the Conference Planning committee coordinating conference registration. You also may remember her as the budget manipulating branch manager, “Deanna,” in last year’s Murder by Design event at the Georgia Libraries Conference.

Angela has a passion for teaching and serving. She has taught for-credit information literacy classes for the University of North Georgia (UNG) and Shorter University and has conducted several workshops for UNG’s Center for Teaching, Learning, and Leadership. Angela was a founding member of the Library and Information Services Board for MERLOT (2008–2009). She’s served as a mentor and on the board for the Clarke County Mentor Program (2013–2014), served as a board member (2001-2005), president (2002–2003) of the Gainesville Theatre Alliance’s Theatre Wings and served as president of the Theatre Wings endowment fund (2003–2006). She is also a 2013 graduate of LEAD Athens and volunteers with Habitat for Humanity. Angela is excited at the prospect of serving GLA as first vice president/president elect. She hopes to continue the legacy of great volunteer leadership GLA has experienced and look for new ways the organization can support and advocate for Georgia libraries.

§

Vice-President of Marketing & Branding

Amanda Roper, Brenau University

Amanda Roper is the resource sharing and library communications specialist at Brenau University and has 13 years’ experience in libraries. She is the 2017 recipient of the Georgia Library Association’s Hubbard Scholarship, chair of GLA’s Paraprofessional Division, and an active member of GLA’s Marketing and Branding Committee. Amanda has presented on marketing, library communications, and student engagement for the Carterette Webinar Series, GA COMO, and the Library Marketing and Communications Conference. She is currently pursuing her MLIS at Valdosta State University where she
is the Student Organization for Library and Information Science (SOLIS) communications officer. Amanda is focusing her library studies on marketing and communication, student engagement and instruction, and collection development. As vice president of marketing and branding, Amanda will seek to further strengthen and solidify the GLA’s branding and messaging by conducting thorough market research, collaborating with committees and interest groups, listening to the needs of the GLA membership community, and constructing a comprehensive and strategic marketing plan to invigorate and inspire the Georgia Library Association constituency.

Jacqueline Radebaugh, Columbus State University

Jacqueline Radebaugh currently is the head of technical systems and services at Columbus State University (CSU) Libraries. She has been with Columbus State University for nine years. A few years ago, Jacqueline started the CSU ePress to house the university’s publications. To grow the CSU ePress, Jacqueline created several marketing campaigns using both print and electronic marketing materials.

From 2011–2012, Jacqueline served as the chair of the CSU Distance Learning Conference Committee. In this position, Jacqueline marketed two well-attended conferences to educators from across the Southeast.

As part of her regular duties at CSU, Jacqueline maintains the libraries’ website and blog. She also set up the libraries’ Facebook and Twitter accounts. Jacqueline regularly provides advice, guidance, and information on library computer technology needs and manages the libraries’ technical services activities.

From 2013–2015, Jacqueline served as the GALILEO visiting program officer for the Georgia Knowledge Repository (GKR). In this role, she helped participating libraries contribute to the GKR and coordinated a large digitization project. Moreover, Jacqueline helped to design the GKR website and created a monthly newsletter highlighting its activities and accomplishments.

Prior to working at CSU, Jacqueline worked at the Library of Congress in the Network Development and MARC Standards Office. In this position, she was responsible for the creation of technical documentation for the MARC 21 formats. She also designed the online MARC 21 documentation website and worked closely with the American Library Association (ALA) MARC Advisory Committee.
Jacqueline has been a member of the Georgia Library Association since 2009. She currently serves as the vice chair of the GLA Marketing & Branding Committee. In this position, Jacqueline is working on a social media policy for the association. Jacqueline has been a member of the GLA Marketing & Branding Committee for two years. As a committee member, she volunteered to assist in creating the public relations communication policy, as well as the GLA style guide.

Jacqueline has presented at the Georgia Libraries Conference (formerly GaCOMO) several times and gave a paper for the GLA Academic Library Division. She previously served on the GLA Membership Committee and on the Distance Learning Interest Group. Jacqueline would like to become more involved in GLA and help to forward its mission to empower libraries in Georgia.

Jacqueline holds a Master's degree in Library Science from the University of Kentucky and a Bachelor’s degree in English from the University of Louisville.

When not working, Jacqueline enjoys writing in her fitness blog, playing with her dog, Alice, and cooking.

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Treasurer

Justin Nobles, West Georgia Regional Library System

Justin Nobles is currently the assistant director of materials management for the West Georgia Regional Library System, a five-county library system headquartered in Carrollton. He has worked with the system for seven years. His duties include managing the acquisitions and cataloging departments of the system, overseeing the materials budgets for the system’s 19 libraries, and providing collection development and management training to all member libraries. He is actively involved in the budget and financial reporting process of the library system and believes that the skills used in his position can be directly applied to the role of treasurer for the Georgia Library Association. Some of the duties of treasurer include creating financial reports, keeping accurate financial records, and preparing an annual report. These are all responsibilities that Justin has experience with in his work for the library.

His involvement in the Georgia Library Association has allowed him to expand his professional interests beyond his daily work in the library. It has also given him the opportunity to network with librarians and library workers throughout the state, helping to learn more about the field of librarianship and advancing his professional interests. He wants to serve in a larger capacity within the organization that has given him these opportunities, and he believes that the role of treasurer matches his skill set perfectly. Justin is currently the chair of the Professional and Continuing Education (PACE) Interest Group and served on the Conference Advisory Taskforce from 2016–2017. His professional affiliations include the American Library Association (ALA), Public Library Association (PLA), ALA Learning
Ben Bryson, Marshes of Glynn Libraries

As a candidate for the office of treasurer in the Georgia Library Association (GLA), Ben Bryson’s priority is to continue fulfilling the association’s goals of accountability and transparency to its members in relation to its finances. Both his background in library administration and his experience working with library grants have prepared him to successfully fulfill the duties of this position within the GLA.

Since starting as assistant director for the Marshes of Glynn Libraries in July 2015, Ben has participated in his system’s annual budget planning process and has overseen the budgets for the library system’s programming, printing, and preservation areas. He has also written and administered grants and sub-grants from a variety of funding sources, including LSTA, GPLS, Georgia Humanities, and Georgia Council for the Arts. Additional job duties include working with the system’s Board of Trustees, through which he has gained valuable experience with organizational governance, strategic planning, and decision-making.

Ben’s previous library experience includes positions at Altamaha Technical College (ATC) and Coastal Pines Technical College (CPTC), which was created from the merger of Altamaha and Okefenokee Technical Colleges. As interim director of library services for ATC and assistant director for library services at CPTC, his accomplishments included successful preparation of narratives and documentation for SACSCOC accreditation and participation on the Consolidation Steering Committee, which developed all institutional policies and procedures that resulted from the merger of the two colleges.

Since joining the librarian ranks, Ben has enjoyed attending or presenting at library conferences such as COMO (now GLC), the Georgia International Conference of Information Literacy (GaCOIL), and the ACRL Conference. He has also presented at other venues such as the TCSG Library Council, GPLS Public Library Directors Meeting, and a Carterette Series Webinar. Other statewide contributions to supporting libraries include serving as a representative from the TCSG on the USG Next Generation/Alma Exploratory Committee, participating in the GALILEO Strategic Planning process as a public library representative, and last, but not least, volunteering at the GLA Scholarship Raffle tables.

After growing up in Coastal Georgia, Ben is appreciative of the opportunity to continue giving back to these communities as a librarian. He and his wife live on St. Simons Island with their dog and cat. When Ben is not working, he enjoys a variety of outdoor activities, such as running, bicycling, and paddle boarding, which let him appreciate the natural beauty of the area.

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Secretary

Amy Eklund, Gwinnett County Public Library

Amy currently serves as Collection Development Librarian, Gwinnett County Public Library. A GLA member since 2007, Amy has served in various leadership positions within the association. She served as the secretary for the Technical Services Interest Group, ACRL chapter councilor, and Nominating Committee chair for the Academic Library Division, and chair of the planning task force for the GLA booth at last year’s ALA Midwinter Conference in Atlanta. She was co-recipient of the GLA Team Award for her previous role as volunteer runner coordinator for the Georgia Student Media Festival Committee. She is completing her 2016–2018 term as ALA councilor (a voting member of the GLA Executive Board) and was recently elected as vice-chair for the Collection Development Interest Group. Amy feels honored to be nominated for the GLA secretary position and would continue to enjoy using her association knowledge and skills to help the GLA Executive Board grow and develop the association.

Emily Williams, Georgia State University

Emily Williams is the cataloging & metadata librarian at Georgia State University (GSU). She has worked in cataloging since 2014, when she began as a copy cataloger at GSU. She obtained her first professional position as the metadata & resource management librarian at Kennesaw State University where she worked until 2018. Prior to technical services, Emily worked in access services at the GSU College of Law Library, the Clarkston campus library at Georgia Perimeter College (pre-consolidation) and at the downtown branch of the Boise Public Library in Idaho. Throughout her career, she has made an effort to forge and maintain relationships within the library community.

As a GLA member since 2012, Emily has served the association in a number of capacities: as a conference GLA scholarship raffle volunteer, creator of organizational info materials for the GLA booth volunteers at the 2017 ALA Midwinter Meeting, volunteer at that same booth, and as the 2018 chair of the New Members Round Table division. She has volunteered and acted as secretary for a number of work committees and understands the importance and value of thorough notes, attention to detail, and follow-through when communicating. She would be honored to serve GLA in such a capacity. Emily achieved her MLIS from Valdosta State University and a BA in anthropology with a focus on archaeology from the University of Georgia.
Auburn Public Library

Auburn Public Library selected for 2018 Inclusive Internship Initiative

Auburn Public Library joins 50 other libraries from 35 US states in hosting interns from diverse backgrounds

Auburn Public Library, part of the Piedmont Regional Library System, is participating in a connected learning internship program this summer sponsored by the Public Library Association (PLA), a division of the American Library Association (ALA). Through its Inclusive Internship Initiative (III), PLA is sponsoring paid, mentored public library internships for 50 high school juniors and seniors from diverse backgrounds. With individual guidance from a mentor, each intern will engage with multiple facets of library life, from administration to programming to user services. Over the course of the summer, interns and mentors will develop and complete a project related to the intern’s interests.

This project will have an immediate benefit to the libraries and student participants. Library staff will better understand early career pathways to librarianship and gain appreciation for their role and impact in supporting diversity along those paths. Students will better understand the many ways librarians positively serve their communities, and gain the tools to make decisions about the educational directions that will lead them into library
service and leadership. Interns will have opportunities to connect with one another, and mentors across the country, to share what they are learning and doing through live and virtual channels, creating a ripple effect of learning and awareness.

Auburn Public Library selected Emily Brooks as its intern for summer 2018. Emily, a 2018 Apalachee High School graduate, will enter her freshman year at the University of North Georgia this fall. The selection was made based on Emily’s academic standing, application essay, and letters of recommendation. Emily will work closely with her appointed mentor, Library Manager Belinda Outwater, throughout the internship on her connected learning project, an oral history of the City of Auburn. Ms. Outwater and Emily traveled to Washington, DC in June for the initiative’s summer kick-off event, and they will be in Chicago in September for the wrap-up and intern presentations.

This program is funded by the PLA with support from a pre-professional Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Program Grant (grant RE-00-17-0129-17) from the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

About PLA: The Public Library Association (PLA) is the largest association dedicated to supporting the unique and evolving needs of public library professionals. Founded in 1944, PLA serves nearly 10,000 members in public libraries large and small in communities across the United States and Canada, with a growing presence around the world. PLA strives to help its members shape the essential institution of public libraries by serving as an indispensable ally for public library leaders.

Additional information about the Inclusive Internship Initiative can be found at https://apply.ala.org/plinterns2018
Digital Library of Georgia

**Digital Library of Georgia Launches New Website**

The newly redesigned website of the Digital Library of Georgia (DLG) is now available at [https://dlg.usg.edu](https://dlg.usg.edu). The site connects users to over 500,000 digital objects in more than 700 collections from over 130 institutions and 100 government agencies. The new site is designed to provide quick and direct access to these resources for all audiences and was developed by incorporating input from end users, librarians, and other stakeholders. The redesign incorporates a new logo design for the DLG and improved navigational tools.

Online visitors to the site will now be able to:

- conduct full-text searching of DLG-hosted collections along with item-level metadata searches;
- perform textual and visual browsing of DLG databases and other web-based collections and sites items can be searched by subject, time period (timeline), geographic location (map browsing), genre, and repository;
- expect seamless, responsive access to an accessible virtual library on Georgia history and culture that combines DLG databases with resources freely available through other repositories, organizations, and vendors;
- carry out self-sufficient information seeking that meets the needs of Georgians across a broad range of ages and educational backgrounds and for a variety of uses, including structured learning in schools and higher education, lifelong learning, scholarship, and personal interest;
- find information for librarians and archivists on digital library standards, best practices, and services that DLG provides; and
- locate materials that promote new resources and partners.

"We’re excited about this fresh new design, and think that it will improve the search experience for Georgians and other researchers seeking out the unique and valuable resources within the Digital Library of Georgia," said Lucy Harrison, assistant vice chancellor for academic library services and executive director of GALILEO.

Julie Walker, state librarian of Georgia, noted, "Georgia's public libraries are excited to support the DLG's new interface, and will enjoy how simple it is to discover freely available and reusable historical images. Students of all ages will be able to integrate these primary sources into their websites, research, and homework assignments."

Public libraries around the state are being provided with printed materials, including rack cards and stickers, as well as a freely downloadable digital press kit to encourage use of the new site. The online press kit, available at [https://sites.google.com/view/dlg-docs/dlg-documentation/promotional-materials/dlg-press-kit](https://sites.google.com/view/dlg-docs/dlg-documentation/promotional-materials/dlg-press-kit) includes:

- a press release;
- a library reference staff training slide deck and webinar;
• a one-page handout of new features available on the DLG’s new website;
• a DLG "Quick Facts" document with information about the DLG, its public library partners, communication channels, and our historic newspaper milestones;
• a badge graphic to share within posts on social media;
• a link to DLG educator resources; and
• the new Digital Library of Georgia logo.

Early, Montgomery, and Toombs County Newspapers Added to Georgia Historic Newspapers Website

Georgia HomePLACE and the Digital Library of Georgia are pleased to announce the addition of nearly 27,000 pages of South Georgia newspapers dating from 1863–1927 to the Georgia Historic Newspapers (GHN) website at https://gahistoricnewspapers.galileo.usg.edu/.

Cameron Asbell, director of the Ohoopee Regional Library System, which includes Montgomery and Toombs counties, said, “Making these newspapers available online provides a unique glimpse into a dynamic time when the area was transitioning from waterways to railways as the primary transportation of goods. This region was shaped by agriculture, timber, and transportation, and we are fortunate that now much of the everyday history recorded in newspapers can be found online for everyone to read.”

GHN includes some of the state’s earliest newspapers, providing perspectives often missing in history books, including important African American, Roman Catholic, and Cherokee newspapers, as well as local and regional papers from across the state.

Consisting of six titles and over 4,000 issues covering Early, Montgomery, and Toombs counties, this newest digital collection provides historical images that are both full-text searchable and browsable by date. Issues are freely available online through Georgia Historic Newspapers.

“Newspapers remain the number one most frequently requested digital primary source format in Georgia’s public libraries,” said HomePLACE Director Angela Stanley. “We tend to think of Facebook as our virtual community meeting place, but newspapers have been filling this role since the 17th century. We’re excited to be able to offer greater geographical coverage in communities across South Georgia.”

GHN is compatible with all current browsers, and the newspaper page images can be viewed without the use of plug-ins or additional software downloads. Annually, the Digital Library of Georgia microfilms more than 200 current newspapers and digitizes over 100,000 historic newspaper pages with funding from GALILEO, the Georgia Public Library Service, and its partners.
Gwinnett County Public Library

GCPL Expands Genealogy Resources with New Databases

Gwinnett County residents searching for long-lost relatives have new resources available to them through the library. Gwinnett County Public Library (GCPL) added Findmypast, Fold3, and Gale Genealogy Connect to their genealogy catalog, which already includes Ancestry Library Edition and HeritageQuest.

Findmypast is one of the leading suppliers of online family history records, currently offering access to a collection of over 2 billion historical records covering the United States, England, Wales, Scotland, Ireland, Australia, New Zealand, and other parts of the globe.

Fold3 features premier collections of original military records. These records include the stories, photos, and personal documents of the men and women who served in the military, courtesy of the US National Archives, The National Archives of UK, and many other sources.

Gale Genealogy Connect features a wide range of comprehensive references and is powered by authoritative information from Genealogical.com. With these unique references, available for the first time online in fully searchable format, users can confidently connect the dots with authoritative contextual information, where the full story lives.

“It is especially meaningful to offer new genealogy resources as we celebrate Gwinnett County’s bicentennial this year,” said Charles Pace, GCPL’s executive director. “We hope this celebration encourages Gwinnettians to trace their roots and explore their past with help from the library. We also appreciate the financial support from the Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners to expand our genealogy resources.”

Ancestry Library Edition and Findmypast are only available within the library. All other resources can be accessed by library card holders from home.

GCPL Earns National Achievement Award for Homegrown Gwinnett

Gwinnett County Public Library (GCPL) earned a Best in Category Achievement Award from the National Association of Counties (NACo). The awards honor innovative, effective county
government programs that strengthen services for residents.

NACo recognized “Fresh Ideas for Growing Community!” and Homegrown Gwinnett, a community gardening initiative funded by the Institute of Museum and Library Services that provided each library branch with an aeroponic Tower Garden system. The project sprouted numerous programs on healthy nutrition, addressed local food insecurity, brought diverse cultures together through food, and has provided a unique STEAM experience for residents of all ages.

“GCPL is honored to be chosen for this prestigious recognition by NACO and the fact that important work the library is doing around food insecurity is being recognized,” said GCPL executive director Charles Pace. “We hope to further expand Homegrown Gwinnett in the coming year as we work to provide information about healthy eating habits to the people in our community, particularly the children. Homegrown Gwinnett is just one more example of how GCPL is on the cutting edge of library services across the nation.”

NACo President Roy Charles Brooks said, “Counties seize opportunities to deliver services more efficiently and build stronger communities every day. Achievement Award-winning programs are examples for counties that are determined to enhance services for our residents.”

Nationally, awards are given in 18 different categories that reflect the vast, comprehensive services counties provide. The categories include children and youth, criminal justice, county administration, information technology, health, civic engagement, and many more.

NACo recognized award-winning counties at its 2018 Annual Conference and Exposition July 13–16 in Nashville/Davidson County, Tennessee.

Started in 1970, NACo’s annual Achievement Awards program is designed to recognize county government innovations. Each nominee is judged on its own merits and not against other applications received.
Oglethorpe University

The Philip Weltner Library at Oglethorpe University in Atlanta is excited to announce two new staff members who joined the team this summer: Sarah Rodgers as library assistant and Alyssa Kowis as reference and instruction librarian.

Sarah earned her degree in English manga cum laude from Oglethorpe in 2018 where she completed the honors program culminating in a thesis titled "Hamilton and the American Promise." Sarah plans to pursue her MLIS degree in the future. She assists in all aspects of circulation including interlibrary loan.

Alyssa comes to Oglethorpe from the John F. Reed Library at Ft. Lewis College in Durango, Colorado. She earned her bachelor’s degree in History and MLIS from the University of Wisconsin, Madison. Alyssa offers instruction and research assistance to students and provides faculty support.

“Sarah and Alyssa join a library staff dedicated to ensuring that every Oglethorpe student is supported during her or his time on campus,” said Director and University Librarian Eli Arnold. “Our staff might be very small, but we are instrumental in the academic success of our students,” he added.
Coyote Settles the South by John Lane
(University of Georgia Press, 2016: ISBN 9780820349282, $29.95)

Often the subject of myth and folklore and fiction, sometimes the object of fear or derision, coyotes are controversial and perhaps misunderstood creatures. One thing about them is undeniable and certain. They are here among us, their habitats ranging over almost all of North America. And they are here in the Southeast, among the mountain residents of North Georgia and among the suburbanites of Metro Atlanta. John Lane’s Coyote Settles the South makes that fact immediately clear.

Lane, author of several nature-related nonfiction titles such as Waist Deep in Black Water and My Paddle to the Sea as well as several volumes of poetry, works as a professor of English and English and Environmental Studies at Wofford College. After hearing their haunting and resonant cries for the first time (on a Halloween evening, no less) while standing on the back deck of his house in South Carolina, Lane became fascinated with these canidae. He described their calls, “They rang high, quivering cries strung through space like a clef of ascending notes held too long, a little lonely but with a strange beauty.” Lane is a keen observer of nature who knows the language of a naturalist but often expresses it through the diction of a poet.

The author’s research takes him from his backyard to several locations throughout the Southeast: Spartanburg and Greenville in South Carolina, Nag’s Head and Kings County in North Carolina, and Druid Hills in suburban Atlanta. He visits areas that are geographically diverse—a nature preserve, a swamp, a tannery, old farmlands, and city streets. He interviews people whose lives and careers intersect with coyotes in some way—biologists, trappers, hunters, and distraught pet owners. And he meets a “coyote hugger” named Scooter who has the only captive coyote in Lane’s home state kept for educational purposes.

Coyote Settles the South is highly narrative, replete with personal stories and historical accounts of human encounters with coyotes. Lane’s writing is thoughtful and well-researched, and through it he expresses an awe and reverence. In chapter three he said, “Wonder is not a disease, Alan Watts reminded us. I want to express the wonder I feel for coyotes, the wonder that they have survived, that they have prospered, that they will somehow be with us now forever unless somehow they are wiped out by some pathogen.”

Lane would likely disapprove of several recently launched coyote population control programs. In spring 2017 the Georgia Department of Natural Resources announced the Georgia Coyote Challenge. Each coyote killed, up to five per month per hunter, makes the hunter
eligible for a monthly drawing of a lifetime hunting and fishing license. Lane’s home state, South Carolina, also implemented a similar program in 2016, despite the fact that the governor vetoed the legislation.

The Atlanta Coyote Project (https://atlantacoyoteproject.org/) was founded by scientists at Berry College, Emory University, and the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. The group conducts peer-reviewed research, and collects and disseminates information about the biology and natural history of coyotes to the general public. This nonprofit argues that it is a futile quest to eliminate or greatly reduce the coyote population, but rather it is more effective to educate citizens how to co-exist with these non-native residents who are here to stay. The project website also features an interactive form where people can input information about a coyote sighting.

Readers who want to learn more about coyotes in the Southeast will enjoy John Lane’s excellent Coyote Settles the South. Readers who want to learn more about the myth and folklore of coyotes as well as their habitats beyond the South may enjoy Dan Folres’s Coyote America: A Natural and Supernatural History (Basic Books, 2016).

Cheryl Stiles is Director of the Graduate Library and Librarian Professor at Kennesaw State University
Let Us Now Praise Famous Gullies by Paul S. Sutter (University of Georgia Press, 2015: ISBN 9780820334011, $45.95)

Other than being president, what do Franklin D. Roosevelt and Jimmy Carter have in common? Both, in one way or another, played a role in the creation of a state park in Georgia. It could be called Providence.

In Let Us Now Praise Famous Gullies, Paul Sutter guides his readers through the environmental and social history of Providence Canyon, also known as Georgia’s “Little Grand Canyon.” Located in Southwest Georgia’s Stewart County, Sutter likens Providence Canyon to Bryce Canyon or Badlands National Parks, but contrary to how those landmarks were formed, Providence Canyon is the result of man-made changes in the environment that caused soil exhaustion and erosion. Sutter himself notes the irony of the impact humanity had in the creation of the Canyon and states environmental historians often play “with the irony that places we thought were natural are often deeply shaped by human culture.” It is this irony that Sutter successfully works through in the three sections of his book.

Throughout the first section, Sutter introduces the reader to the beauty of Providence Canyon, but notes how indicative of the South it is to create a park out of poor land use practices and “turn a scar into a point of pride.” He begins by discussing the geography and historic land use of the Plantation South and Stewart County, Georgia, home of Providence Canyon. Sutter points out that Stewart County was one of the largest cotton producing counties in the South and attributes the formation of the gullies to the county’s poor agricultural practices. Sutter writes in a factual, but engrossing manner and notes that when conducting his research, he found it difficult to find sources prior to the Civil War that would date the creation of the gullies. He mentions the effects of the gullies’ formation on Providence Methodist Church and hints that residents felt the Canyon’s creation was thought to be an “act of God,” as natural disasters in the nineteenth century were thought to have been a result of God’s displeasure. Sutter then walks the reader through the early nineteenth century geologic and soil surveys conducted in Georgia, including Providence Canyon.

In the second section, Sutter focuses on the decade of the 1930s and the changes in society that brought attention to Providence Canyon. Sutter discusses a 1933 article in the Atlanta Journal Constitution that is one of the first sources he found comparing Providence Canyon with the Grand Canyon. He credits the increasing number of tourists who want first-hand knowledge of the romanticized South, a growing interest in Roosevelt’s New Deal environmental policies of the 1930s, the availability of affordable mass-produced automobiles, and the modernization of the country’s roadways as factors that gave prominence to Providence Canyon. He discusses
the failed efforts to turn the area into a national park and the successful legislation, sponsored by Jimmy Carter’s cousin Hugh, which finally succeeded in turning Providence Canyon into a state park in 1971.

Returning to the irony Sutter first observes, the third section tries to provide some understanding of what the gullies mean in terms of the agricultural practices and political economy of the South. Sutter provides further explanation of the various soil types prevalent in that area of Georgia and discusses other expert studies on the soil erosion, sedimentation, and gullying throughout the area. Sutter provides a fascinating description of Southern farming characteristics, different soil types in the area, and various farming practices, including tenant farming after the Civil War. He notes Providence Canyon’s ironic presence where “an environmental disaster is protected as a park,” but warns readers not to overgeneralize the region.

As part of the Environmental History and the American South series, Sutter’s book opens with photographs from the 1930s, attributed to Arthur Rothstein, depicting the deep gullies that constitute Providence Canyon. Although methodical in placing the black and white pictures in the front of the book as homage to Walker Evans’s photospread in James Agee’s 1941 book, Let us Now Praise Famous Men, which portrayed the lives of sharecroppers in Hale County, Alabama during the Depression, the reader is left wanting to see the beautiful colors for which Providence Canyon is known.

The extensive research integrates the environmental and social history of the rural South and Sutter’s style keeps both researcher and layperson engaged. It is interesting to learn of some of Georgia’s other areas that were affected by erosion. This book touches on many anthropologic and environmental science issues and although it would be a benefit to any library, it is highly recommended for academic libraries.

Melissa Johnson is Electronic Resources & Serials Librarian at Augusta University
Raising Our Voices, Breaking the Chain: The Imperial Hotel Occupation as Prophetic Politics by Terry Easton (The Open Door Community Press, 2016: ISBN 9780692667156, $10.00 suggested donation)

In June, 1990, in downtown Atlanta, eight activists from People for Urban Justice (PUJ) broke into the abandoned, derelict Imperial Hotel, an eight-story, early twentieth-century structure owned by John Portman, a real estate investor. PUJ’s intention was to hang a “House the Homeless Here” banner they hoped would bring much needed attention to Atlanta’s homeless population and the need for affordable housing—Single Room Occupancy—not temporary shelter. At the same time, the City of Atlanta and its business leaders were spending profane amounts of money on the renovation of Underground Atlanta, the building of the Georgia Dome, and Atlanta’s 1996 Olympic bid. When the banner was hung, no one came to arrest the activists or ask them to leave. The break-in was intended as a half-day protest but instead turned into a 16-day occupation. In the two weeks that followed the break-in, many homeless people moved into the hotel, cleaned out debris, and created living spaces. Local churches and volunteers provided daily meals to the occupants and activists, and local reporters and politicians were forced to take notice.

The book includes biographies of the “Imperial Eight” who originally broke into the hotel and a timeline of the occupation. This story would benefit those studying recent Atlanta history and politics, religious activism, homeless populations, and affordable housing issues, especially Single Room Occupancy (SRO).

Susan Clay is Map and Government Documents Original Cataloger at University of Georgia