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Georgia College
Ina Dillard Russell Library

The Ina Dillard Russell Library, located in Milledgeville, Georgia, is the heart of the Georgia College campus, serving the campus community of Georgia’s designated public liberal arts university. Russell Library primarily serves students, faculty, and staff through its physical and virtual resources and services.

The Russell Library’s mission is to prepare inquisitive academics to thrive in an information-intensive and diverse, global community by identifying, collecting, and providing access to resources, developing learning-centered services, and by providing instruction and expert support in a learning-rich environment. By creating a culture of innovation and a space for collaboration and development, library faculty and staff seek to impart the skills necessary for success.

The library’s departments include the Administrative Office, Access Services, Collection & Resource Services, Instruction & Research Services, Instructional Support & Operations, and Special Collections. The library houses the university’s Learning Center; Center for Teaching & Learning; Student Disability Resource Center; Center for Testing, Innovation Center; and Books & Brew.

The library is also one of the largest repositories in the area. Holdings include the papers of author Flannery O’Connor and Congressman Carl Vinson as well as the papers and artifacts from the collection of the Honorable Floyd L. Griffin, Jr., the first African American elected to the Georgia legislature from a majority-white, rural district since Reconstruction and the first African American mayor of Milledgeville. The acquisition of the Griffin collection was a major coup for the library and university in their efforts to strengthen community relationships.

In support of Georgia College’s Diversity Action Plan, the library has made progress in diversifying its physical and electronic collections through a combination of trials and subscriptions. The library’s commitment to diversity is also seen through recent programming efforts. In 2018, the library received a Common Heritage Grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities to administer a project entitled “Documenting Milledgeville’s African American History,” which will bring the community together by digitizing materials documenting the area’s African American history. As part of the grant, several library staff attended a scanning and metadata training given by the Digital Library of Georgia to train staff for the two community harvest days.

In 2018, the library along with the university’s English department received a National
Endowment for the Arts Big Read grant. Tayari Jones’s *Silver Sparrow* was the selected title. Programming included book discussions on campus, at the Twins Lake Library System, in local barbershops, and with the African American Male Initiative at Georgia College. Other events also included a community photography workshop and performance of screen adaptions and readings by Baldwin County High School students.

As a way of addressing the various learning styles and instructional strategies, the library’s heavily used library instruction room is currently being converted into an active learning classroom. The new classroom will include flexible seating options that will facilitate group work, multiple interactive displays, mobile boards for individual and group use, and other technology to be used by students, librarians and other faculty, and staff to aid in instructional and informational sessions.

For more information about Georgia College’s Ina Dillard Russel Library, please visit [https://www.gcsu.edu/library](https://www.gcsu.edu/library).
Middle Georgia Regional Library

A message of “Oh yes, we’re open!” can be added to the Middle Georgia Regional Library’s (MGRL) tagline of “Oh yes, you can!” Although a budget crisis threatened to shut down the Bibb County branches of the system last summer, all locations are open and committed to meeting their communities’ information needs through excellent services and materials. That commitment to service and access prompted The Macon Telegraph newspaper to name the Macon-Bibb library staff the 2018 Person of the Year.

The regional headquarters at Washington Memorial Library (WML) provides access to leading-edge business resources, robust technology offerings, and internationally known genealogy and archive resources. Its Business and Nonprofit Center (BANC), funded in part by the Community Foundation of Central Georgia and the James S. and John L. Knight Foundation, is a top-six facility nationally, and the only training-tier public library resource of its kind in Georgia.

WML staff and outside facilitators teach free computer and technology classes nearly every day that cover typing and computer basics, Microsoft Office, internet safety, coding, and 3D design. Patrons also have access to publicly available 3D printing services and “Book a Librarian” for advanced reference questions.

Housed on the first floor of WML, the Genealogical and Historical Room and Middle Georgia Archives helped 11,532 people in 2018. Over the years, visitors from every state and dozens of countries have conducted genealogical, historical, and archival research at WML. Researchers have access to one of the most outstanding collections of its kind in the South, including items from pre-colonial history, the colonial period, and source material from England, Scotland, Ireland, and Wales.

Washington Memorial Library serves children and families with high-quality programming. Around 1,500 children signed up for 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten (1KB4K), and over 50 of them have completed the program. In addition to traditional programming such as story times, the children’s department offers a wealth of cultural, hands-on, and STEAM programming. The “Around the World in a Year of Stories” series was created in partnership with Mercer University to teach children about global cultures through engaging programs. Little learners study STEAM concepts through monthly art history programs.

The library partners with the Bibb County School District for “The Art of Reading,” a...
signature event in which children in pre-k through Grade 12 submit original works of art inspired by books. Last year there were nearly 100 submissions from children of all ages.

The Library Without Walls (Library WoW) program expanded in the past year to serve over 3,000 community members. In an effort to reach out to underserved communities, Community Engagement Coordinator Saul Hernandez brings resume workshops, story times, computer classes, and more to senior living facilities, farmers’ markets, the health department, and other non-traditional venues.

Macon-Bibb Libraries collaborated with the Community Foundation of Central Georgia to host 22 tables for On the Table Macon in October 2018. On the Table Macon encourages people from diverse backgrounds to share a meal and have meaningful conversations about topics that are important to the community. Around 175 people engaged with the library’s tables about topics including combatting poverty, promoting literacy, accessibility issues, and educational concerns. Perhaps the most impactful table was “Stranger in a Strange Land,” which was hosted at the Lanford Library. The library switched signage to Spanish, greeted participants in Spanish, and distributed instructions in Spanish. The event simulated the experience of an immigrant family as they navigate resources in our community. Community leaders representing the court system, the district attorney’s office, tourism, healthcare, and the school system attended. This meeting started valuable conversations. For example, families expressed anxiety about having to wait 20 minutes for interpreters to translate Emergency Management instructions into Spanish.

The past year has also seen major staffing changes at the Middle Georgia Libraries. Long-time staffer James O’Neal took on the role of head of public services, Denita Thomas became affiliate services coordinator, Melanie Duncan became head of collections and acquisitions, and Mary Riggins assumed duties as book purchasing agent. Lauren Mullins became the head of Washington Memorial Library, Dean Maddox became Lanford branch librarian, Micah Newson joined the system as head of reference for Washington Memorial Library, Tim Spishock became the technology librarian, and Jeanne Peloquin came on board as marketing coordinator.

The Bibb County Libraries hosted over 362,000 patron visits in 2018, with over 62,500 cardholders circulating nearly half-a-million items.

MGRL is a six-county, thirteen-branch system that serves a population of approximately 225,000. In addition to Bibb County, regional members include Crawford, Jones, Macon, Twiggs, and Wilkinson Counties.
Valdosta State University
Odum Library

In January 2019, Valdosta State University’s Odum Library opened a new Learning Commons area as part of a renovation project that began in the summer months of 2018. The new commons area includes new study rooms, with collaborative technology workstations. The project also introduced the university’s Academic Support Center, which provides tutoring and other academic assistance to students, to its new home in the library.

The renovations involved a number of large-scale projects that readied the space for its new purpose. Eleven ranges of shelving were removed to make room for the renovation. The books on these ranges were relocated to shelves that were recently cleared in a concurrent print journal weeding project. To make room for more study rooms, the library’s Circulation Department cleared out of their offices on the second floor and relocated to a new suite of offices on the first floor. Though the project required significant work, it helped fulfill a longtime need for more open study spaces in the library.

According to Dean of Libraries Alan Bernstein, “for many, many years, the library has recognized the need for more collaborative spaces for group studying.” After trying to accommodate student requests in an informal way for many years, university administrators approved the Learning Commons project, which sought to make students more comfortable, whether they were seeking a place to study or trying to get help with their classes. The new Learning Commons helps to achieve these goals by offering comfortable seating, 12 glass-walled study rooms, smart boards, and collaborative screen sharing stations.

The location of the Academic Support Center in this new common area was also critical for making students more comfortable. According to Valdosta State’s Vice President for Student Success, Dr. Rodney Carr, “trying to create a collaborative study space makes students feel very normal about coming in and asking for help.”

The director of the Academic Support Center, Dr. Chere Peguesse agrees, noting how the renovation has removed the “separation” between the center, the library, its employees and tutors, and students.

Administrators are not the only ones who have praised the new Learning Commons. Students have been flocking to the new space. Building usage assessment data collected in the space that was renovated noted a nearly 800% increase in attendance in the renovated area compared with the same area in the year before the renovation, making it the most popular space in the library by far. The renovation has driven increased attendance overall in the building as well, with both gate
counts and building usage data suggesting a 15–20% increase in overall library attendance. The high level of usage has led to a second phase, to begin this fall, on the other half of the north side of the second floor, to help it match the recent renovations.

To find out more about Odum Library and what’s going on in their new Learning Commons, please visit their website [www.valdosta.edu/library](http://www.valdosta.edu/library) or follow them on Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram (@VSUOdumLibrary).
This has just been a whirlwind of a year! It seems that not too long ago, many of us were January Mid-Winter Meeting. I recall setting the theme for the year, or at least my personal presidency, as “Building Better Together.” At this moment, I feel as though we have surpassed my hopes though not always in ways that I anticipated. I am so incredibly grateful to have had the opportunity to serve you this year.

The major effort of the year was the transition to an administrative services management company, IMPACT Association Management. This transition was a multi-step process that began last year with an RFP taskforce. This taskforce was comprised of Eli Arnold, Ashley Dupuy, Mack Freeman, and me. The evaluation and selection process was thorough, with IMPACT Association Management having the experience and value that most closely aligned with our needs. Ashley agreed to spearhead the transition, which was a lengthy process that is nearing completion. Gordon Baker has been generous with his time to provide support during the transition.

This transition has allowed the board to provide some additional supports to our association that will allow for growth and greater value to our membership. One of the most immediate improvements will be the full implementation of membership management software. This software automates many of the processes with membership. The goal is to help the association maintain a closer connection with our members and better deliver to their specific needs. I look forward to seeing the impact of these decisions in upcoming months and years.

The Georgia Library Conference remained a priority for the year. This year’s conference committee included: Jacqueline Radebaugh (program chair), Timothy Daniels (exhibits chair), Austina Jordan (registration chair), Rosemary Humphrey (technology chair), Micki Waldrop (catering chair), Lee Olson (signage), Wendy Cornelisen (conference app), Laura Herndon (local transportation assistance), Benjamin Bryson (treasurer), Sarah Reynolds, Ben Carter, Elizabeth McKinney, Fred Smith, Lisa Smith, Gordon Baker, Laura Burtle, Kimberly Callahan, Yadira Payne, Ernie Evangelista, Stephanie Irvin, Michael Holt, Lori Gwinnett, Kelly Ansley, and Jeanne Peloquin. These folks dedicated a considerable amount of time and effort to making the conference a success. Many hands make for a light workload. More hands would always be welcome at the table.

If you were able to attend the conference this year, you heard from a couple of keynotes that spoke specifically to our efforts of “Building Better Together.” John Bracken, executive director of Digital Public Library of America, emphasized their focus on cooperative work with partners, which touches libraries of all types. Karin Slaughter, author, delighted us with humorous tales with a dark side. Jeremiah Pauley, staff sergeant—retired, shared his story of resiliency. His tools can help us all to overcome obstacles and remain flexible to meet new challenges. Jessica Walden of Rock Candy Tours entertained and enlightened us with the rich music history of Macon.

I hope that all attendees left inspired and equipped with new ideas. We tried some new initiatives that seemed to be well received.
Wendy Cornelisen’s efforts to launch a conference app helped me to set an intention and stick to it. I have heard from many that this was a preferred method for conference planning. The organizational registration option allowed an organization to purchase one full-conference registration and transfer the pass to different people for each day of the conference. This was beneficial partially due to Macon’s central location and ease in accessibility.

Some of the new changes were not quite so smooth sailing. The All-Conference Lunch was included in the cost of registration. We did not anticipate the number of attendees who do not personally register themselves. This created a situation where people arrived at lunch not having indicated that they would be there. Gratefully, this was remedied with the swift action of Micki Waldrop and the conference center catering. They were able to provide lunch for 327 attendees when only 220 had responded they would attend. This was a hiccup that comes with trying something new. We appreciated the patience of those who had a wait for their meal.

I would be remiss if I didn’t mention the yearlong efforts of Kimberly Boyd (chair), Ernie Evangelista (vice-chair) and Casey Long (secretary) for the Special Libraries Division. They started the year with a goal of better integrating GLA opportunities with other special library groups throughout the state. Like many lofty goals, there is a lot of effort in relationship-building and finding common ground. We are just beginning to see the fruit of their efforts, and I’m hopeful this will continue in future years. Ultimately, this will weave an exceptionally strong network of library professionals state-wide.

I look forward to a great year next year under Laura Burtle’s leadership. I am grateful for the opportunity to work with you all this year and hope to see you all soon at Mid-Winter on January 10, 2019.

Jennifer Lautzenheiser
President, Georgia Library Association 2019
lautzenheiserj@bibblib.org
Eons ago in my schoolboy days, I made the daily walk from Metcalf Elementary to Milner Library, the original (read: old) library on the quad of Illinois State University (ISU). ISU was founded as a teacher training institution for the state, and Metcalf was its laboratory school. My father was an administrator for the university and his office was two buildings over from Milner. Until I was old enough (in my mother’s opinion) to walk the mile to our home after school, I was told to meet my father at his office, and he would drive us both home. That, of course, meant I had about 90 minutes to kill at the end of every school day. And I killed them in Milner Library.

I loved the place. I would take random self-guided tours through the stacks—a great, multilevel, battleship-gray skeleton around which the brick and stone edifice was built. I would pluck an old book from a shelf and leaf through it, savoring the smell and feel of it. But mostly I would find dead-end aisles that I would haunt, feeling somehow comforted by having floor-to-ceiling shelves of books on either side of me in the narrow space. It was womblike.

Unconsciously, I tried to replicate that in every home I’ve ever had. Always, always there has been at least one wall filled floor to ceiling with books. I moved several times before I realized why I was doing that. It doesn’t take a psychoanalyst to figure out I’ve been trying to recreate the comfortable feeling I got hunkering down on a rolling step stool deep in the stacks of Milner Library. Of course, my current home is no exception. One wall. Floor to ceiling. But this home is unique because this wall houses the fruits of the book collecting I did between 2004 and 2015. In Library of Congress call number speak, the entire wall runs from ML 102 to ML 3849. All jazz history and biography. And there are some unique items on my wall, including local and regional jazz histories published in small batches by local jazz societies.

One such local gem is To a Harmony with Our Souls: A History of Jazz in Central Pennsylvania, published in 2005 by the Central Pennsylvania Friends of Jazz. Lavishly illustrated, the book provides biographies of jazz musicians who lived and worked in Central Pennsylvania, stories of touring jazz groups who performed over the years in the area, and a rundown of the various venues that presented jazz to midstate Pennsylvanians as far back as the 1930s. In all I have 66 books in my collection on jazz in specific cities, regions, and foreign countries. Some tell the stories of unlikely places and times for such an American art form, including one on jazz in Finland, one on jazz in Saskatchewan, and two on jazz in Nazi Germany.

One of several first editions in my collection is the notorious Beneath the Underdog: His World as Composed by Mingus. First published in 1971
by Knopf and still in print to this day in a paperback edition, it was marketed as the autobiography of bassist and composer Charles Mingus. A conventional memoir it’s not. In fact, the book is often described as being more like a Beat novel. It’s a page-turning read, but when you get to the end of it you realize you know little more about Mingus’s life as a musician and composer than you did when you began on page one. You are, however, aware that you’ve had an intimate—if not pornographic—peek into his mind. Ultimately the book can be understood as the lurid fantasies, or perhaps even delusions, of a musician considered by many to have been a genius.

Of the more than 450 books on my wall of shelves, 250 are classed as biography (ML 410 through ML 429). Of these biographical works on jazz musicians, band leaders, and producers, 61 are first person memoirs or oral histories. Unlike Mingus’s tome, one true memoir is a unique little volume titled *I Ran Away with an All-Girl Band*. Penned in 1999 by saxophonist Patricia Wolff, it’s well-told recollections of her years touring with Freddie Shaffer’s Victory Sweethearts. In 1940, at the age of 14, she joined the sax section of the all-female thirteen-piece band. She stayed with them for eight years. She brings the war era evocatively to life, telling moving and funny stories about those years with grace and style.

Wolff’s memoir is of happy days and a fulfilled life. Inevitably in a collection of jazz musician biographies, one also finds stories of tragedy, addiction, and death. Joe Albany was an excellent, trailblazing but underappreciated pianist. A foundational player in the Bebop movement, Albany found himself living in a flop house in Los Angeles. And addicted to heroin. His daughter, A. J. (for Amy Jo, named after two polar opposite sisters in *Little Women*), wrote a moving, episodic memoir of her life being raised from the age of five by a single, drug-addicted dad. Titled *Low Down: Junk, Jazz, and Other Fairy Tales from Childhood*, she articulately presents her unique life and upbringing, introducing the reader to a cornucopia of fascinating places and even more fascinating people she experienced because she was Joe Albany’s daughter. Though she doesn’t soft-pedal the tragedy and pain she endured, her memoir is completely devoid of self-pity. Published by Bloomsbury in 2003, it was adapted for the screen in 2014.

There’s your peek at my current floor-to-ceiling wall of books. I still find comfort in having them there. Now, if only I could hear all that music inside all those volumes...

*Clayton H. Hulet is Reference and Instruction Librarian at Perimeter College at Georgia State University, Newton Campus*
From June 20–25, 2019, librarians descended on Washington, DC for the American Library Association’s (ALA) Annual Conference & Exhibition. Featured speakers included Jason Reynolds, Sonia Sotomayor, Hoda Kotb, Carla Hayden, George Takei, Mo Rocca, and more. Numerous Georgia librarians attended and presented at the conference. Following are reports from some of these Georgia librarians and Georgia Library Association members:

**Laurie Aycock**  
*Interim Director of Collection Development and Librarian Assistant Professor*  
*Kennesaw State University*

The 2019 ALA Conference was another great conference that included a whirlwind of activities, sessions, speakers, and free books! I presented a poster session entitled “You’re Hired, Now What? Developing Library Employees.” The poster, created along with my colleagues LaTiffany Davis, Rosemary Humphrey, Mark Kirkley, and Ann Mills, showcased the onboarding and mentoring programs we have for new employees at the Kennesaw State University (KSU) Library System. It also highlighted events that our All-Staff Professional Development team coordinates for all library employees.

I’m a member of the ALA Government Documents Round Table (GODORT) Awards Committee. At the GODORT Awards Reception, I presented the W. David Rozkuska Scholarship, which provides financial assistance to library school students currently working with government documents in a library. It was so fulfilling to have the opportunity to present this scholarship to the winners this year since I’m a previous recipient.

The exhibit hall was a massive hub of activity—including vendors, author talks, cooking demonstrations, mini concerts, and live podcast recordings. I attended two author panels. One featured authors who contributed stories to the anthology *The Hero Next Door, Stories of Courage and Compassion*. The other panel was...
“Fierce! Why We Can’t Get Enough Empowering Female Characters in YA.” I talked to two authors at their book signing and found out they are from Atlanta and have a book club in Decatur. What a small world!

On the last full day of the conference, I attended the Stonewall Book Awards and the Odyssey Book Awards ceremonies. I enjoyed hearing the authors read from their work and talk about their inspiration behind the stories. Kacen Callendar, author of the award winner Hurricane Child, spoke about how they had considered suicide as a teenager. However, at the time, the last book in the Harry Potter series hadn’t yet been published. Kacen said they decided they couldn’t go without knowing how the story ended so decided they had to stay. This story was an important reminder to me of the power of books and how important libraries and librarians are in making those stories available to readers.

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Jina DuVernay
Visiting Archivist for African American Collections, Rose Library
Emory University

The ALA Annual Conference in Washington, DC was time well spent. The location of the conference was attractive as there are many things to do in the city when one is not conferencing. Also, the weather was great each day of the conference and did not hinder traveling by foot, which was nice. Overall, I deem the conference as being successful. Personally, it was productive, educational, and fun.

As a part of the 2019 Emerging Leaders (EL) cohort, I, along with the other 49 EL members, attended the last group session on the first day of the conference. Later that afternoon, my team and I presented a poster to a curious and supportive crowd. Honestly, the number of people who came into the EL poster session room surprised me. There were so many people interested in the work that the entire cohort...
did, and it made us all feel comfortable and welcomed. After our poster presentation, we also presented a full report to the Learning Round Table, the group that proposed the project that we worked on, which was well received. So my EL experience was successful.

I also co-presented a poster entitled, “Start a Book Festival in Your Community!” This poster was based on an annual book festival that I volunteered to work on, located in Montgomery, Alabama. A colleague and I spent three consecutive months leading a book discussion for high school students that culminated with the students having the opportunity to meet the author of the book on the day of the festival.

Aside from presenting, I attended some very enlightening and engaging panel sessions such as “Difficult Discussions: Diversity in Digital Collections and Archives” presented by Alex Gil, Amardeep Singh, and Sylvia A. Fernandez. I also very much enjoyed hearing the presentations of Kim McNeil-Capers, Ralph McDaniels, and Ian Lewis during the “Hip Hop Programs, Strategies, & Archiving for Hip Hop Generations” panel session.

I not only enjoyed the beneficial panel sessions and posters but I also enjoyed the book signings and the bit of free time that I had to visit the Library of Congress and the National Museum of African American History and Culture. The conference allowed me to spend valuable time with colleagues as well as network and meet new people. I left Washington DC feeling accomplished and rejuvenated.

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Catherine Manci
Public Programming Librarian
Georgia Tech

The Georgia Library Association made it possible for me to attend the ALA Annual Conference this year because of their generous scholarship for me as an Emerging Leader. This was my first time attending an ALA Annual Conference, and I felt lucky to have the guidance of the Emerging Leaders program. At the ALA Midwinter conference my Emerging Leaders group was assigned a project by the Learning Round Table to compile resources around equity, diversity, and inclusion for staff development. It was great to get to meet up with my group in Washington, DC after working on this project for several months. Another perk of my group was meeting fellow Georgia librarian Jina DuVernay, who happened to be in my Emerging Leaders group.

At the Annual Conference this year, all of the Emerging Leaders attended group sessions about the structure and governance of ALA, avoiding burnout in leadership positions, social justice in leadership, and reflective activities about our time working together on our projects. The Emerging Leaders program culminated in a final poster session on Friday of the conference, which was a very well attended event. Finally, we presented our work to the Learning Round Table (LRT), and I am now serving on a committee for LRT to help the project move forward with a future Emerging Leaders group.

In addition to my work around the Emerging Leaders project, I got the opportunity to get involved in the Library Instruction Round Table (LIRT) through their Communications Committee. Much of my time at the conference was spent attending sessions, and I feel like I gained a lot both in terms of knowledge and mindsets around the profession. Two exceptional sessions that I attended were “Show Me the Money! Or not? Making Sense of the 4th Factor of Fair Use” and the “Instructional Technologies Tool Share and LITA Guide on Privacy.” While in DC, I enjoyed a tour of the Library of Congress, as well as a stroll around the National Portrait Gallery.

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https://digitalcommons.kennesaw.edu/glq/vol56/iss4/1
Proposing a program for ALA should not intimidate anybody who wants to participate and has ideas to share. We worked with the Association for Library Collections & Technical Services (ALCTS); they and other ALA divisions offer many opportunities to participate and share. Interest groups often solicit proposals on mailing lists for a short 15-minute presentation or round table discussions. Both of us have participated in the Creative Ideas in Technical Services Interest Group program that is organized as a series of simultaneous round table discussions with topics ranging from ethics of cataloging to RDA toolkit redesign. If you are involved in teaching or staff training, the LearnRT Training Showcase is another great informal opportunity to present on your training or instruction tips and tricks. The presenters are asked to bring some handouts, posters, or training materials. Attendees move around the tables, mingle and talk to the presenters. The event is held in an exhibit area, and the organizers provide refreshments.

Anybody who ever presented at ALA knows that the conference experience starts long before the conference itself. The program proposals are due nine months before the conference, and many ALA groups and divisions require a number of additional steps before a proposal is accepted. The ALCTS Program Committee conducts interviews with proposal authors that are very similar in nature to phone job interviews. The committee asks additional questions about a proposed program, but also offers ideas and suggestions on how to make the program more relevant to ALCTS members. For us, the process of preparing the program was as rewarding as the presentation itself. To make our program relevant to the national audience, we had to reach out to colleagues in other academic and public libraries and to other ALA groups and divisions. Our conversations with our fellow presenters helped us see how our viewpoints fit in the technical services landscape of both academic and public libraries.

The highlight of the conference for us was the program we organized, "Improvement Through People: Transforming the Technical Services Workforce for Better Service," on Sunday afternoon. This was a panel on the application of business methodologies to transformations in library service delivery, co-sponsored by the ALCTS and LLAMA divisions of ALA as well as the Learning Round Table. Speakers John Huber, president of J. Huber & Associates consulting firm and author of the books Lean Library Management and The Purpose-Based Library, and Jenny LaJeunesse, technical services manager from Gwinnett County Public Library, joined us in front of a standing room only crowd. After Sonya introduced the topic and the speakers, John and Jenny engaged in a lively conversation about applying principles of Lean management to improve delivery of new books at Gwinnett. Marlee then gave an overview of the project management, supply chain, instructional design,
and training methods used to create new service models at Georgia Tech. Lastly, Sonya led the audience through a discussion and questions about reorganization, preparing staff for new roles, enabling staff to embrace change, and where to go from here.

Learning more about the ALA host city and visiting some of the attractions is always a pleasant part of the ALA experience. Marlee, who traveled to DC with her son and her mother, visited the International Spy Museum at the end of the conference day on Saturday. This museum, which first opened in 2002, recently moved to a new 140,000 square-foot purpose-built facility south of the National Mall. Exhibits covered the history of espionage, personal accounts from actual spies, and objects from tiny cameras and hollow coins up to James Bond’s Aston Martin. Visitors adopt a secret identity and mission embedded in their visitor badge, which they use to interact through RFID with exhibits throughout the museum. One favorite was a screen with a camera and digital tools for creating a virtual disguise, which was then rated for its ability to blend into the environment where your virtual mission takes place. The museum balances popular depictions of spying with the real-life work of intelligence analysts and agents, and the triumphs along with the risks, hazards, and failures of spy work.

Sofia had a chance to visit the National Portrait Gallery and learn about the very fascinating process of acquiring presidents’ portraits.

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**Stephen Michaels**  
*Reference Services Librarian*  
*University of North Georgia*

As a mid-career librarian who had never been to the ALA Annual Conference before, I have heard many opinions both enthusiastic and hesitant about attending. The most common advice I’ve heard is “you should go at least once to experience it.” I was lucky to have the opportunity to attend in DC, and I certainly found the experience worthwhile.

I kicked off my visit by joining a colleague to visit the Library of Congress for the first time. I had no idea that so much of the space was dedicated to art and exhibits. I was in awe of the place before I ever stepped foot inside and, once inside, I was downright slack jawed. More than anything else I’ve ever experienced, the Library of Congress clearly illustrated (literally) how the founders, leaders, educators, architects, artists, and librarians sought to take the best parts from past civilizations in order foster an educated and reflective citizenry. Although I don’t know when the next time will be that either of us will visit the library, we both got our official Library of Congress Reader Identification Cards—free of charge!

A highlight of the conference for me was a talk from Yale history professor Dr. Joanne Freeman about her book *The Field of Blood: Congressional Violence in Antebellum America* that uncovers the shocking instances of physical violence and intimidation that took place in and around Congress leading up to the Civil War. In addition to the interesting subject matter of the book, Dr. Freeman told us stories and answered questions about her research and writing.
process, which required years of tireless work. My main takeaway from her talk was that even the most brilliant scholar can still struggle with research and require help and reassurance at times.

Another memorable session, “Cause for Collaboration: Integrating Journalism and other Allied Professions into Library Instruction to Fight Fake News,” discussed different levels and modes of collaboration between libraries and journalistic organizations in efforts to combat misinformation and disinformation. While some research in the field of psychology paints a grim picture with regards to people’s natural tendencies when encountering “fake news,” the presentation focused on the opportunities for librarians and journalists to share expertise in meaningful ways. One exciting idea that the presenters discussed was creating space and support for people to work together on local fact-checking endeavors, like creating a local Snopes or PolitiFact. One heartening finding shared by the presenter, taken from a study at Stanford, stated that most people still trust libraries.

A colleague suggested that I volunteer to review resumes at the ALA Placement Center during the conference, and I’m glad that I did. I met with librarians and library students of varying ages in various stages of their careers and shared my perspective on how to present themselves to prospective employers based on their experience and goals. While I hope that I dispensed some advice of value, I can confidently say that the stories we shared with one another broadened our understanding of the trials, tribulations, and opportunities of the library job market.

A chance meeting at a restaurant with an old college friend led me to attend a panel she was participating in the following day: “Discussing Social Issues through Speculative Comics.” Among the presentation’s topics, I was
especially interested in hearing the writers’ talk about how to tell stories of trauma without relying on the frequently exploitative portrayal of explicit suffering.

In other comics happenings, I met two of my favorite writers and artists in the exhibit hall. I didn’t even know that they would be at the conference until the day before, but I was absolutely thrilled (not to mention a bit starstruck) to meet Jaime Hernandez, of Love & Rockets fame, and Gabrielle Bell, whose autobiographical work has meant so much to me over the years.

In closing, I will share another piece of advice that was shared with me from a more experienced attendee: “don’t forget to take a breather. It can be very overwhelming the first time because it’s so easy to want to go to everything.”

Emily Rogers
Reference Librarian
Valdosta State University

I attended the 2019 ALA Annual Conference in order to meet with the Government Documents Round Table (GODORT) Awards Committee, which I chaired this year, and help introduce and present awards to the 2019 GODORT awards recipients at the Awards Reception, at the George Washington University Jacob Burns Law School on Sunday, June 23, 6:00–8:00 p.m. I also attended the GODORT Membership Meeting and the GODORT Steering Committee Meeting.

Other conference programs and events I attended focused mainly on government information resources and included:

“Financial Literacy: Free Resources for Librarians” (Preconference Friday, June 21)

Many Americans are struggling with questions about personal financial topics such as retirement, college planning, fraud prevention, and investing. This interesting preconference presented representatives from the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB), Department of Labor, Securities and Exchange Commission, Federal Trade Commission, Office for Victims of Crime, New York Public Business Library, FDIC, and National Endowment for Financial Education. Speakers highlighted the variety of resources available from these nonprofit and government agencies to help promote financial literacy. Of the most value was the panel of three librarians who discussed financial literacy programs held at their libraries. This panel provided much useful information for us if Valdosta State University, Odum Library wishes to pursue any financial literacy programming in the future.

“Federal Information Interest Group (GODORT)”

This interest group meeting featured representatives from the Economic Indicators...
Division of the Census Bureau and the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis presenting information about data literacy. Of primary interest are the Statistics in Schools program from the Census and the variety of resources available for monetary data from the Federal Reserve.

“Collectively Curating Government Information and Data: The PEGI Project and the Collective Impact Model”

This program featured representatives of the Preservation of Electronic Government Information (PEGI) Project, which brings together librarians and other information professionals who are seeking solutions to improve long-term access to at-risk born-digital government information of historical significance. The program reviewed the history of the project, illustrated how it fits the collective impact model for large-scale social issues, and forecast future directions for the project in its efforts to preserve born-digital government information permanently.

“Federal Librarians Interest Group”

This interest group meeting featured a presentation on the ways that federal libraries (for agencies such as the EPA, the CDC, the Department of Labor, and others) fit into the Federal Depository Library Program and gave an update on Title 44 and recent legislation that tried to affect the FDLP. Resources that I discovered from this meeting include a history of federal libraries, available on the Library of Congress website, and a comprehensive list of all of the laws and bills that have affected the FDLP and the dissemination of federal government information since 1857.

“Counting on Trust, Trusting the Count: Census 2020”

This panel presented speakers including Robert M. Groves, former Census Bureau director, now Provost at Georgetown University; Hansi Lo Wang, NPR; and Thomas A. Saenz, Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund. They discussed past and current controversies with the Decennial Census, including the pros and cons of the citizenship question that might be included on the 2020 Census form. Because of issues of privacy and confidentiality, the Census predicts a possibility of undercounting, and starting in January there will be a concerted outreach effort to try to get the United States populace to trust the Census Bureau’s efforts to collect accurate demographic information. In 2020 most households will be urged to complete the short Census form online. One interesting fact from the program is that in every Census children ages 0–4 tend to be undercounted.

“National Archives from Anywhere: Online Primary Sources for History, Genealogy, Foreign Relations, and Teaching about the American Experience”

This presentation introduced the multitude of online resources available from the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) through the archives.gov website, while emphasizing that the largest proportion of NARA holdings are actually not available online. Interesting sites included DocsTeach.org, Founders Online, the Center for Legislative Archives, NARA’s Citizens Archivist Missions, the NARA Catalog, and the Access to Archival Databases (AAD).

In addition, I visited with Dr. Linda Most of VSU’s MLS program in the Exhibit Hall, attended the Readex Breakfast with a presentation on historical violence in Congress, and participated in the Library of Congress’s Open House for ALA Members.
Georgia Library Association
2020 GLA Election Results

First Vice-President/President-Elect:
Oscar Gittemeier, Atlanta-Fulton Public Library System

Secretary:
Scott Pieper, Georgia State University

Vice-President for Membership:
Janice Shipp, Savannah State University

The newly elected officers will join returning officers:

President:
Laura Burtle, Georgia State University

Treasurer:
Ben Bryson, Marshes of Glynn Libraries

Vice-President of Marketing and Branding:
Jacqueline Radebaugh, Columbus State University

ALA Councilor:
Tamika Barnes, Georgia State University

GLA Officer Induction Ceremony: Jennifer Lautzenheiser (2019 GLA president), Laura Burtle, Oscar Gittemeier, Jacqueline Radebaugh, Rosemary Humphrey (standing in for Janice Shipp), Ben Bryson, Scott Pieper, and Gordon Baker
Georgia Library Association
2019 GLA Awards

The Georgia Library Association (GLA) Awards Committee is pleased to announce the 2019 winners of the GLA Awards.

Bob Richardson Award

This year’s Bob Richardson Memorial Award winner is Ashley Dupuy. The Bob Richardson Memorial Award is awarded to those who have given outstanding service to the Georgia Library Association. Ashley has served GLA for over 10 years, consistently in leadership roles, and has dedicated herself to improving the organization. Among some of her biggest accomplishments within the organization are creating a system to provide marketing support to interest groups, divisions, and units; creating new policies designed to guide organizational communications; and creating a system to better manage and leverage volunteers.

McJenkin-Rheay Award

This year’s McJenkin-Rheay Award winner is Eli Arnold. The McJenkin-Rheay Award is given to recognize a librarian early in his/her career who has made outstanding contributions to the Georgia Library Association. Eli’s contributions to GLA include serving as the associate editor of the Georgia Library Quarterly from 2015–2018; serving as conference program chair for the annual conference in 2014; serving as co-chair of exhibits for the conference from 2015–2016; and serving as treasurer of GLA from 2016–2018.

Nix-Jones Award

This year’s Nix-Jones Award winner is John Lassiter. The Nix-Jones Award is given to a practicing librarian for distinguished service to Georgia librarianship. It recognizes substantial...
contribution to the library profession, such as: stimulation of library development, leadership in library programs, unusual and imaginative services, and outstanding support of Georgia’s libraries. John Lassiter is the director of library services at Georgia Northwestern Technical College and has served as the library chair for the Technical College System of Georgia (TCSG). John was instrumental in coordinating the migration of the 22 library systems in TCSG to Alma and has been a key participant in two additional TCSG initiatives, TechShare and OpenAthens.

**Library Support Services Award**

This year’s Library Support Services Award winner is Ken Henslee. The Library Support Services Award is given each year to recognize someone employed in a library support profession who has furthered library development or who has made outstanding contributions to Georgia libraries as part of his or her job or business. Henslee, GALILEO support analyst, provides excellent customer service and support that is critically important to members of GALILEO. He has played a crucial role in getting GALILEO members through the transition to OpenAthens in a timely fashion with few issues along the way.

**Charles Beard Library Advocacy Award**

This year’s Charles Beard Library Advocacy Award winner is Michael Thurmond. The Charles Beard Library Advocacy Award is given each year to recognize someone not employed in or by a library who has made outstanding contributions to libraries. Thurmond is the DeKalb County CEO and has instituted specific initiatives that directly affect the DeKalb County Public Library system and their ability to serve their community. One such initiative worked to
restore 111 service hours to the library system in 2017. Thurmond recognized the importance of night and weekend access to library branches and made sure that the budget included those hours.

GLA Honorary Membership

This year’s Honorary Membership winner is Dr. Gordon Baker. Honorary Memberships are given to retired members of the Georgia Library Association who have contributed significantly to the work of the association over a period of years. Dr. Baker has worked tirelessly for many years on behalf of the GLA. Some of his contributions include serving as the GLA treasurer; and the vice president and president of GLA. Dr. Baker has also been heavily involved in conference planning for years.

The award recipients were recognized at the All Conference Reception during the Georgia Libraries Conference (GLC) held on October 4, 2019, in Macon, Georgia.

Congratulations to GLA’s 2019 award winners!
Elections for Academic Library Division (ALD) officers were held in September. Linh Uong from the University of North Georgia will be the vice-chair/chair-elect. Lamonica Sanford of Georgia College will serve as secretary. They will join the chair, Karen Doster-Greenleaf, as the ALD 2020 officers. Thank you to the other candidates who agreed to run this year.

Academic Research Paper Contest

The winner of the 2019 ALD Academic Research Paper Contest was Amanda Sexton, assessment librarian at Kennesaw State University. Her paper was titled "Librarian, Teacher, & Counselor: Interventions to Library Anxiety in Adult Learners." She received a $250 cash award and complimentary registration for this year's Georgia Libraries Conference (GLC). The runner-up paper selected was by Leslie Drost, first-year experience librarian from Kennesaw State University. The title of her paper was "Challenges and Opportunities with First-Year Students for Academic Librarians." Ms. Drost also received complimentary registration. Both presented their papers at the conference. Congratulations to Ms. Sexton and Ms. Drost! ALD encourages members to consider submitting papers for next year's contest.

GLC Sponsored Session

After the paper contest winner presentations, ALD held a panel to discuss publishing professional works with Jason Puckett, online learning librarian, Georgia State University; Allison Galloup, collections & initiatives librarian, University of North Georgia; and Ariel Turner, interim chair of library resources, Kennesaw State University. They discussed their experiences of getting started with writing, working with publishers, and open access.

Thank you to this panel for an informative and helpful session.
Project Outcome for Academic Libraries Workshop

As a part of the GLC conference programming, ALD was able to arrange for an ACRL-sponsored pre-conference workshop and an information session on the new Project Outcome for Academic Libraries toolkit (https://acrl.projectoutcome.org/). Attendees learned how to use the standardized surveys and discussed measuring and analyzing outcomes for programs and services offered in their libraries.

The pre-conference workshop and 45-minute information session were presented by ACRL staff member Dr. Sara Goek. Sara is program manager at ACRL where she contributes to efforts to improve research about academic library contributions to student learning and success. She is the project lead on the new Project Outcome for Academic Libraries toolkit. Sara holds a PhD in history/digital arts & humanities and an MA in historical research from University College Cork, and a BA in history and Irish studies from Boston College.

Sofia Slutskaya and Chris Sharpe, ALD chair, were able to talk with Dr. Goek after the workshop about her experience traveling across the country promoting Project Outcome and learning about assessment efforts in academic libraries. Project Outcome for Academic Libraries is based on a model developed by the Public Library Association (PLA). This free toolkit was designed to help academic libraries understand and share the impact of essential library programs and services by providing simple surveys and an easy-to-use process for measuring and analyzing outcomes. The standardized surveys allow libraries to aggregate their outcome data, analyze trends over time by service topic and program type, and compare their results with peer academic institutions. Training and resources are provided to participating libraries so they can use data-driven results to advocate for their library.

An ACRL task force, with members from a range of academic library types, from community colleges to research institutions, developed and tested the Project Outcome surveys. The team
that developed the toolkit spent much time identifying areas to assess, as well as the appropriate models and questions to include. The task force agreed on seven major areas: digital and special collections, events/programs, instruction, library technology, research, space, and teaching support.

Since the toolkit launched in April 2019, Sara has been traveling to library conferences to promote the project and train academic librarians to use the toolkit. She has facilitated workshops in many parts of the country including such states as South Dakota and Hawaii. During the workshop and in conversation, Sara shared creative ways academic libraries across the country are using the toolkit to assess library spaces, technology, and programs. Some case studies are available to registered users on the site (https://acrl.projectoutcome.org/surveys-resources/case-studies).

ALD asked Sara how to get started with assessment and who should get involved. She recommends to begin with small projects and perhaps with something never assessed before. She believes using the toolkit provides a learning experience for libraries and can engage more people in the process. Open comments from the surveys can be surprising, but also very useful for evaluating outcomes. Presenting a survey to users as helping the library make improvements can also increase response rates.

Sara strongly believes assessment should be a grassroots effort based on a culture of improvement. She encourages every academic librarian to register on the Project Outcome for Academic Libraries website to see if there is a tool they can use to assess outcomes of their projects. Assessment can provide a great opportunity for different departments in the library to collaborate. For example, technical services teams can collaborate with public services to assess how technical service work contributes to student learning.

Finally, ALD asked Sara how state library organizations can get involved with the Project Outcome. She pointed out that Project Outcome has a group member option to assess across a consortia or association. She also said that organizing workshops and sharing results and experience of implementing the toolkit at the state and local conferences can be very beneficial. Academic Library Division leadership is hoping that at next year’s conference, many Project Outcome workshop participants can reconvene to discuss their use of the tool.

To learn more about the project, please visit https://acrl.projectoutcome.org/
Georgia Library Association 2019 Paraprofessional Division Grants

The Paraprofessional Division of the Georgia Library Association (GLA) provides grants to full-time library paraprofessionals to facilitate their attendance at the Georgia Libraries Conference. Each winner also receives an awards plaque and a free one-year paraprofessional membership in the Georgia Library Association. This year, five paraprofessionals were chosen for the grants including Michelle Colquitt, Paula Williams, Lisa Pritchett, Rachel Atterbery, and Shauna Schaffer.

Michelle Colquitt is a library associate at Gwinnett Technical College. She excels in her ability to apply her knowledge of library services in ways that directly support the academic pursuits of the students at Gwinnett Tech. As one of the primary staff members interacting with students, she has a front line, person-to-person perspective. As one of just five team members of the library department at GTC, Michelle was a key participant and decision maker in the 2018 migration from the TLC ILS to Alma/Primo. She furthered her knowledge of advanced library service models by becoming the point person for Gwinnett Tech’s participation as a pilot institution for the GALILEO-led implementation of the OpenAthens authentication system. As a co-worker and team player, she is an independent self-starter, but also a strong collaborator. She is committed to making the library at Gwinnett Tech an accessible and inviting place.

Paula Williams is the administrative assistant for the Dorothy W. Hightower Collaborative Learning Center and Library at Gordon College. She primarily manages the office, which includes budget ledger, desk schedules, directing telephone calls, billing, registrations/travel, signage, and supplies for the library director and staff. She also works with students daily at the circulation desk, answering questions and assisting with research. Paula is very efficient in performing her assigned duties. Her artistic abilities are very helpful with creating some of the library marketing tools. She is very personable and works well with the faculty, staff, and students. Every day is different with new challenges, opportunities, and responsibilities. She is key to keeping the library’s daily operations running smoothly. She is always willing to assist in any way she can.

Lisa Pritchett is a library media assistant for the Davis Academy. The Davis Academy has a robust media/library program that allows her to move across two campuses serving students in Pre-K to Grade 8. Some of her duties include checking out thousands of books, teaching
Rachel Atterbery is the teen coordinator for the Camden County Library. Her position in the library requires her to oversee the young adult section of the library, create teen programs, supervise teen volunteers, and make teen book recommendations. She makes contact with teens via emails to keep them up to date on programs and volunteer opportunities. She has organized a volunteer calendar and created monthly teen programs such as Study Sessions, Family Nights, and Game Nights. Rachael has made great strides in building teen inclusiveness and making them feel at home in the library. She is always looking for new and innovative ways to involve the teens. Rachel is a wonderful employee and truly enjoys her job and that has led to an increase in teen involvement.

Shauna Schaffer is a library associate at the Cleveland Avenue Branch of the Fulton County Library System. As the only library associate at a very small branch her responsibilities are wide and varied. Demonstrating an incredible initiative and a strong dedication, she plans, promotes, and presents library programs for children and adults. She has established an after school homework assistance program at the Cleveland Avenue Branch for all age groups. Her hard work, customer service, and leadership skills have helped to create a more productive branch team. She is consistently pleasant, tackling all assignments with dedication. Her interpersonal skills are exemplary and appreciated by her coworkers and library users. Shauna is reliable, competent, enthusiastic, and willing to learn. Wherever she sees a need, she works diligently to fulfill it.

Congratulations to the 2019 GLA Paraprofessional Division Grant winners!
Georgia Library Association 2019 GLA Scholarship Winners

The Georgia Library Association (GLA) Scholarship Committee is pleased to announce the 2019 winners of the Hubbard and Beard scholarships. These two awards are given annually by GLA to provide financial assistance for students pursuing a master’s degree in library science.

The Hubbard Scholarship

Belinda “Bel” Outwater is this year’s C. S. Hubbard Scholarship winner. Bel is the manager of the Auburn Public Library in Auburn, Georgia, a position she has held for the last four years. She started out as a bookseller with Borders out of college, rising through the ranks to store manager and leading several different locations around Atlanta. When Borders closed in 2011, she began volunteering at her local library and the manager kept offering her part-time jobs, eventually persuading her to say yes. Bel is currently pursuing her MLIS degree at the University of North Carolina Greensboro and is part of the 2019 Library Freedom Institute Cohort. She serves as secretary for the Friends of Georgia Libraries and as a member of several local organizations in her community. She has a BA in religion from Brewton-Parker College and lives in Bethlehem, Georgia with her husband and rotten dog.

Bel wrote, “I am honored to receive this scholarship because in addition to the very welcome financial support, it serves as a vote of confidence from my peers. It says to me, ‘you have been found worthy to be one of us—you are part of the future of libraries in Georgia,’ and that is an unbelievably high honor, as the quality of librarianship here is extraordinary. After graduation, it will be my pleasure to continue to serve the patrons of Auburn and the state of Georgia, giving back to GLA and adding my contributions to our collective.”

The Beard Scholarship

This year’s Charles Beard Scholarship winner is Sarah Rodgers. Sarah Rodgers is a library assistant at Oglethorpe University. She is also currently in her third semester at Valdosta State University and is working toward the completion of her MLIS with a management concentration. She received her BA in English with a minor in communications in 2018 at Oglethorpe. During her time there, she also wrote an honor’s thesis titled Hamilton and the American Promise. Sarah started out as a student worker at Oglethorpe’s library and discovered that she had a passion for the library field. Her favorite parts of her job are interacting with the patrons, who usually have a
wide variety of requests, and helping her fellow library staff accomplish their goals. She is also excited about the various projects that she has taken on, including developing new library spaces, organizing the book sale, and creating promotional materials. Outside of the library, she loves to write, go on adventures, and watch a ridiculous amount of cooking shows.

Sarah said: “I am extremely grateful for this scholarship. With the rising costs of higher education, I knew that I would have to make some sacrifices if I wanted to obtain my MLIS. Winning the Beard Scholarship has not only confirmed that I am on the right path, but it has also made it a more accessible one to follow.”

Complete information regarding the scholarships offered by GLA, including application information, is available on the GLA website at: [http://gla.georgialibraries.org/resources/scholarships/](http://gla.georgialibraries.org/resources/scholarships/)

Congratulations to the 2019 GLA scholarship winners!
Georgia Library Association
2019 Georgia Libraries Conference Scholarship Raffle

This year’s annual Georgia Library Association (GLA) Scholarship Raffle, held at the Georgia Libraries Conference (GLC) on October 11, 2019 in Macon, Georgia, was another grand success.

With the support of donors and volunteers, the GLA Scholarship Committee raised a total of $4,119 for the C. S. Hubbard and Charles E. Beard Scholarship awards. On behalf of the Scholarship Committee and the scholarship recipients, thank you to all for continued support of the association’s scholarship program.

The committee is particularly grateful to Elizabeth McKinney and those who participated in the T-Shirt Booster Campaign for the 9th Annual Pat Carterette Memorial 5k Run/Walk. The funds raised in this event contributed to the overall grand total.

Thank you GLA members for assisting future Georgia librarians in reaching their educational goals!
Digital Library of Georgia

Bartow History Museum Vertical File Records from 1850 to 1929 Now Freely Available Online

The Digital Library of Georgia (DLG) is pleased to announce the availability of the Bartow History Museum vertical file record collection at dlg.usg.edu/collection/barhm_bhmvf. The collection, which belongs to the Bartow History Museum, is available online 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.

The digital collection consists of a portion of a compilation of county documents that include topics such as guardianship (1850–1929), indentures (1860–1929), lunacy (1866–1929), pauperism (1866–1879), land grants/deeds (1866–1929), and other records. Court officials created the records to document legal proceedings and transactions.

Trey Gaines, the director of the Bartow History Museum, said: “the digitization of these items provides documentation of under-represented subjects, particularly citizens of lower economic standing, from the Civil War through the Great Depression. The movement and financial status of families and individuals that lived and moved in and out of Bartow County are demonstrated through the collection’s land, indenture, and guardianship papers. Family dynamics and cultural or social values can be studied through the lunacy and guardianship records that contain information on how people were diagnosed and labeled, as well as how children were legally handled in cases of custody or guardianship. Some of the indenture records show the plight of children after the Civil War, and some further contain information that speaks to matters of race relations.”

Genealogist Yvonne Mashburn Schmidt noted "this area's rural, agricultural, and yeoman families generally were unconcerned with creating records themselves...This record collection held by the Archives contains uncommon records such as mercantile and miscellaneous receipts, voter lists, smallpox lists, pauper lists, indentures, and estray records. These county records generally are not available to researchers. Ancestral names in these records might be found when no other record for the ancestor exists...Historical migration routes and early land grants make Georgia's records especially important. Ancestors from northern and mid-Atlantic states often settled in or passed through Georgia. Some of these and their descendants who settled or stayed for a time participated in Georgia land lotteries. Cass (now Bartow County) was one of the original counties created after Cherokee County's division, and this county's land was part of the 1832 Georgia land lottery. Many of this collection's loose records were created between 1850 and 1880
and include land grants and deeds that may not exist in any other local or state repository. These grants and deeds are original records."

The Bartow History Museum, located at 4 East Church Street in downtown Cartersville, Georgia, documents the history of Northwest Georgia’s Bartow County. Visit bartowhistorymuseum.org.

DLG Provides Back-to-School Educator Resources for the 2019–2020 School Year

The DLG welcomed this year’s back-to-school season by making new educator resources based on the Georgia third, fourth, and fifth grade Georgia Social Studies Standards of Excellence (GSE) available at sites.google.com/view/dlg-educator-resources.

New items include:

- A frameable poster and printable postcard featuring Georgia third, fourth, and fifth grade GSE themes, released monthly
- “Link lists” to DLG and Digital Public Library of America (DPLA) resources, organized by Georgia third, fourth, and fifth grade GSE themes and topics

These new items accompany our existing resources:

- A quick-start guide that supports educators and students in their research of original materials
- A sample slide deck for educators
- A guide on using DLG materials
- A postcard of DLG portals with features available for educators
- National History Day resources that connect K–12 history researchers to primary source documents in the DLG
- A customized National History Day GALILEO portal, designed to simplify access to primary documents, articles, and more for K–12 history researchers (available via GALILEO affiliated K–12 schools. Contact GALILEO at galileo.usg.edu/contact/ for details)

In a joint statement, Joy Hatcher, social studies program manager, and JoAnn Wood, social studies program specialist, both with the Georgia Department of Education, said “the primary sources from GALILEO and DLG provide Georgia’s teachers with a wealth of excellent teaching materials. It is clear that they are working diligently to see that sources are teacher-friendly and aligned to the Georgia Standards of Excellence. We are fortunate to have such a collection and experts determined to make them usable.”

These items provide high-quality, standards-aligned materials that help teachers meet the diverse academic interests and needs of students.

Topics include:

- Early Native American cultures
- European exploration in North America
- British colonial America
- The American Revolution
- The creation of the Constitution
- American westward expansion
- The abolitionist and suffrage movements
- The Civil War and Reconstruction
- The turn of the 20th century
- American involvement in World War I and World War II
- The Great Depression and New Deal
- The Cold War
- Historical developments between 1950–1975
- Important events from 1975–2001

Materials come from museums, archives, libraries, historical societies, and other cultural heritage organizations that have contributed more than 800 collections to DLG’s website, and
all provide insight into the state’s diverse population and geography.

**Fulton County Superintendent’s Annual Reports now Available Online**

The Digital Library of Georgia (DLG) is pleased to announce the availability of superintendent’s annual reports for the Fulton County, Georgia school system at [dlg.usg.edu/collection/fcs_superintendents](http://dlg.usg.edu/collection/fcs_superintendents). These resources have been made available online 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.

These annual reports were submitted by local, public school districts to the State School Superintendent’s Office as part of their operations to receive accreditation and funding, and contain demographic information pertaining to the growth of the school system located in and around Atlanta between the years 1929 and 1977. Data was collected on both African American and white schools and was expressed using the “dual school system” terminology of “colored” and “white.” The reports also contain material related to school employees, building materials and valuations, as well as transportation and supply costs. A small portion of this collection includes reports from Milton and Campbell counties just before they merged with Fulton County.

Michael Santrock, the archives and collections specialist at Fulton County Schools Archives noted: “information gathered from school systems have a great potential to illuminate the history of a place...from learning and teaching to voting and playing, they are institutions that reflect the social and cultural milieus of the districts they reside within. The Superintendent’s Annual Reports of Fulton County Schools document this story by offering a look at the growth of metro Atlanta throughout some very crucial decades of the 20th century. The oldest portion of this collection provides evidence of a largely rural and segregated district during the Great Depression, while the latter portion is a culmination of the movement to integrate the schools after the Brown v. Board of Education decision of 1954—a process that lasted 17 years. In this respect, the reports help to clarify one of the defining issues of the Civil Rights Movement.”

The Fulton County Schools Archives preserves and maintains a wide range of historic materials such as board minutes, school yearbooks, and audiovisual recordings while serving the public as a repository for these historical collections. Visit [fultonschools.org/archives](http://fultonschools.org/archives).

**Thomasville History Center’s Cutler Collection Now Freely Available Online**

The Cutler Collection is now available at [dlg.usg.edu/collection/tchs_cutcol](http://dlg.usg.edu/collection/tchs_cutcol). These resources belong to the Thomasville History Center and have been made available online 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.

The digitized items from this collection consist primarily of diaries, letters, and family papers dating from 1800–1980 belonging to Hazel Beamer Cutler, a dancer on Broadway who performed in the Ziegfeld Follies in the 1920s, and who resided in Thomasville, Georgia throughout much of her life. Included in the materials is genealogical research on the Quarterman and Baker families, pioneers of South Georgia; correspondence with visual artists Dora Wheeler Keith and Ben Ali Haggin, III, and Vermont banker Henry Miles Cutler. There is also some information about Candace Wheeler, founder of the American Decorative Arts movement.

These materials are useful to researchers looking into the history of American illustrator, portrait artist, and muralist Dora Wheeler Keith (1856–1940), who was Hazel Beamer Cutler’s guardian in New York City; and portrait painter and stage designer Ben Ali Haggin, III (1882–1951). Some materials in the collection refer to Candace Wheeler (1827–1923), Dora Wheeler Keith’s mother, who founded the Society of Decorative Arts in 1877 and was associated with the Colonial Revival, Aesthetic Movement, and the Arts and Crafts Movement throughout her long career. The Thomasville Baker and Beamer families developed a friendship with the New York Wheelers and Keiths while the Wheelers vacationed in Thomasville, Georgia during the Resort Era of 1875–1905. These items will shed light into the early 20th century happenings within the field of decorative arts as well as the artistic work of Ben Ali Haggin, III and Dora Wheeler Keith. The Georgia-related materials on the Quarterman, Baker, Mallard, and Schaffer families collected by Hazel Beamer Cutler’s aunt, Sallie Baker (1862–1953), a Thomasville, Georgia educator, will be useful to genealogists. Hazel Beamer Cutler’s diaries provide a rich history of life in New York City and Thomasville, Georgia during the 1920s.

Anne McCudden, executive director of the Thomasville History Center, noted: "having these items digitized will allow our staff and outside researchers to more fully engage with the collection. Currently, we only have a cursory knowledge of the content. Being able to access the collection (specifically the diaries) will allow interested parties to see into the daily life of Hazel Beamer [Cutler] while she was living in New York City in the early 1920s...This collection also documents her time spent with Ben Ali Haggin III, who was from a prominent Kentucky family of artists and authors."

The Thomasville History Center is a non-profit community organization dedicated to ensuring that the appreciation of Thomasville’s unique history remains an intrinsic and unbroken thread connecting the past and future through settings that advance the town’s story. The History Center is supported by approximately 300 personal and business members, hosts approximately 3,000 visitors each year, and engages another 2,000 through community outreach. Nearly 20% of the Thomasville History Center’s audience are students and teachers. Visit the Thomasville History Center at thomasvillehistory.org/.

Digital Library of Georgia (DLG) Awards Six Competitive Digitization Service Grants to Georgia Cultural Heritage Institutions Across the State

Six institutions are recipients of the fifth set of service grants awarded in a program intended to broaden partner participation in the DLG. The DLG solicited proposals for historic digitization projects in a statewide call, and applicants submitted proposals for projects with a cost of up to $7,500. The projects will be administered by DLG staff who will perform digitization and descriptive services on textual (not including newspapers), graphic, and audio-visual materials. This subgranting program was presented the 2018 Award for Excellence in Archival Program Development by a State
Institution by the Georgia Historical Records Advisory Council (GHRAC).

The recipients and their projects include:

**Columbia Theological Seminary (Decatur, GA)**

Digitization of the Joseph R. Wilson papers, late 1800s (containing the sermons of Joseph Ruggles Wilson, the pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Augusta from 1858–1870); John Newton Waddel papers, 1821–1881 (materials belonging to John Newton Waddel (1812–1885) and his father Moses Waddel (1770–1840), both Georgia Presbyterian ministers and educators); and the Presbyterian Church in the US Presbytery of Hopewell minutes, 1797–1866 (minutes from Georgia’s first Presbytery belonging to the Presbyterian Church from the period following the Revolutionary War through the Civil War).

**Dougherty County Public Library (Albany, GA)**

Digitization of city directories for Albany, Georgia, dating from 1922–1949.

**Jimmy Carter Presidential Library and Museum (Atlanta, GA)**


**University of Georgia Map and Government Information Library (Athens, GA)**

Digitization of Sanborn fire insurance maps produced in 1923 for 21 Georgia towns and cities in 17 counties.

**Valdosta State University Archives and Special Collections (Valdosta, GA)**

Digitization of Georgia deeds and plats representing Southeastern and South Georgia counties (including Camden, Glynn, Wayne, Brantley, Ware, and Worth counties) dating from the 1700s–1899.

Preference in the selection process was given to proposals from institutions that had not yet collaborated with the DLG. Dougherty County Public Library and the National Civil War Naval Museum are both new partners for the DLG. Sheila McAlister, director of the Digital Library of Georgia noted: "since the start of DLG’s subgranting program in 2016, we’ve funded 26 projects and added 10 new partners. Documenting the entire state, the collections illuminate the lives of Georgia’s African-American, LGBTQ, and Asian-American communities, as well as the state’s educational, political, cultural, and industrial past."

**Berry College’s Southern Highlander Now Freely Available Online**

The DLG has recently digitized 3,124 pages from Berry College’s Southern Highlander covering the period of 1907 to 1942. The Southern Highlander, the official magazine of and published by the Berry Schools in Mount Berry, Georgia, documents the early history of the Confederate States Naval Iron Works (sometimes referred to as the Columbus Iron Works), which operated from 1862–1865. The ledger also includes entries as late as 1866 as Warner worked with the United States Navy in turning over naval equipment to the United States government.
schools founded by philanthropist Martha Berry in 1902 to serve the rural poor. The magazine also details social conditions and the importance of community-based education.

The Southern Highlander is a unique publication that raised money while promoting the mission of the Berry Schools worldwide. The Southern Highlander offers firsthand knowledge of social and historical topics of the day, including agriculture, the influenza epidemic of 1918, World War I, educational philosophy, and religious work on campus and in North Georgia.

The digitization of the Southern Highlander will provide access to some of the oldest and most frequently requested Berry Schools materials, a boon for scholars, students, historians, alumni, and community members interested in studying the rich, early history and cultural heritage of the Berry Schools, Martha Berry, and early 20th century culture and history in rural, North Georgia.

“While the Southern Highlander is rich in history, it is also an excellent representation of Berry’s focus on a comprehensive education of the head, heart, and hands,” said Jessica Hornbuckle, digital initiatives librarian; “working with the Digital Library of Georgia to digitize the Southern Highlander is the perfect opportunity to share Berry’s oldest publication and the school’s legacy beyond the campus gates.”

The digitized materials are available at [dlg.usg.edu/collection/gbc_berry-193](dlg.usg.edu/collection/gbc_berry-193).

The Berry College Archives was established in 1986 and serves as the primary repository for materials pertaining to the Berry Schools, Berry College, and founder, Martha Berry. The principal purpose of the archives is to appraise, collect, preserve, maintain, and make accessible records of historical value. In addition, the archives seeks to educate its constituents about its holdings, policies, and procedures through outreach and instructional activities.
Justice Leah Ward Sears: Seizing Serendipity by Rebecca Shriver Davis (University of Georgia Press, 2017: ISBN 9780820351650, $34.95)

Justice Leah Ward Sears: Seizing Serendipity is a captivating biography written by Rebecca Shriver Davis, an associate professor in the Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology at Georgia Southern University. Davis manages to tell parts of Sears’s personal story while capturing events in her life that helped shape some of the most controversial court rulings of her career. Sears started her career as an attorney in Atlanta, and then worked for Georgia’s city, county, and state courts, which culminated in her appointment by then-Governor Zell Miller to the Georgia Supreme Court where she became the first African American woman to serve as chief justice of any state supreme court in the country.

Davis begins telling Sears’s story by talking about her love for Broadway musicals as a child and the rejection she felt when she auditioned for the Sound of Music but didn’t get picked as one of the singing children in the Austrian von Trapp family. When Sears auditioned for that role, neither she nor her family were deterred by the fact that it was highly unlikely that a black child would be picked for such a role. This speaks to Sears’s determination to overcome any obstacle put before her.

Sears was born in Heidelberg, Germany into a military family. Sears’s father, Thomas Euric Sears, was an Army aviator who made education an important component of growing up. Her mother, Onnye Jean Sears, insisted on her children being well groomed and cultured by traveling to different countries and visiting museums during the summers. After leaving Germany, the family settled down in Maryland and then Savannah, Georgia where her father was stationed at Hunter Army Airfield. There, Sears and her two brothers attended all-white schools and experienced the difficulties that came with growing up in the era of civil rights and the desegregation of schools. Sears graduated from Cornell University and obtained her law degree from Emory University as one of the top 15% of her class.

Throughout her career, Sears was challenged not only because she was younger than her colleagues, but also because she was an African American woman—“twin electoral handicaps” is what political pundit Bill Shipp called it. Sears won re-election four times to retain her seat on the Supreme Court. She cites two cases, Vogel and Jane Doe, as two of her most significant rulings. Two other cases that Justice Sears was involved in are the Marcus Dixon case and the Genarlow Wilson case, both of which garnered national attention.

The pinnacle of Sears’s career came after having twice made President Barack Obama’s list as a potential replacement for vacancies on the US Supreme Court.
Davis’s telling of Justice Leah Ward Sears’s story includes personal touches, such as how Sears liked to skate through Piedmont Park with her family, which earned her the moniker the “rollerblading justice.”

Anyone who enjoys reading about African American history, Georgia’s judicial system, and history buffs in general will enjoy this first biography of Justice Leah Ward Sears.

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John Duncan and Sandra Underwood have written a complete biography of the obscure architect William Jay. In the early 1800s, Jay arrived in Savannah from England and designed several public buildings and houses in Savannah and Charleston. After four and a half years in the United States, he returned to England and then worked as a civil servant in Mauritius, where he fell ill and died. He was mostly forgotten and even considered a myth by some in the early 20th century. Only three of the houses he designed in Savannah still exist, while his other buildings were radically altered or destroyed by fire. Yet those who knew of his designs praised his talents and ingenuity. In this book, the authors unravel some of the mysteries about Jay’s work and life, including why he went to Savannah and left after a few years.

There are previous works about William Jay and his buildings, mostly in books about Savannah architecture. One book about Jay, William Jay: Itinerant English Architect 1792–1837, was published in 1983 by Georgia State University art history professor Hanna Laserski. Its title gives the impression of a wandering and lost person. Duncan and Underwood make their case that Jay’s travels had more purpose.

William Jay was the son of a famous preacher in England. He grew up in Bath, was educated in architecture in London, and lived in Savannah, Charleston, Cheltenham (a new spa destination in England at the time), and finally the island of Mauritius. Duncan and Underwood divide the book into several parts according to these places and cover the history of the homes and buildings he designed (as well as some others that Jay may have built). The authors describe the difficulty of securing commissions for projects during a time when it was more common to hire a builder rather than a trained architect. Newspaper articles and letters show how Jay exaggerated, or frankly lied, regarding past projects to promote his services.

The term “showy” in the title was used by a 19th century travel author to describe Savannah and is connected with the Regency, Greek Revival style of architecture Jay celebrated. The authors point out that early American architecture history focused on the Northeast while ignoring the South. This book helps rectify this omission by describing the impact and significance of Jay’s buildings in Savannah and Charleston. Jay’s story provides insight into the challenges of being a young architect during this time period and how debt affected both architects and their clients.

There are several tangents in this biography, such as a whole chapter devoted to the issue of slavery and backstory details of figures connected to Jay. They raise some interesting
issues related to American southern history and buildings but can be distracting to the narrative. At several points, the story skips ahead in time and then retraces how Jay arrived at a location or how his buildings were constructed, which can cause confusion in following Jay’s life.

What is missing in this biography is a sense of what William Jay, the person, was like. The authors acknowledge this near the end of the book. Of course, they can only work from the sources available, and they do their best to give hints of Jay’s personality. Based on his work and newspaper articles, he does come across as ambitious and a promoter of art and architecture. It is only toward the end of his life that more personal details are revealed through his wife’s writings about the death of their son and through the archives of Mauritius, which include a conflict with another civil servant. Duncan and Underwood’s book provides the best chronicle available of this talented architect who could easily have disappeared from history.

Highly recommended for collections on architecture and Savannah history. The parts about restoring or modifying his buildings may appeal to public historians and preservationists. The book includes a bibliography, an index, and images of Jay, some figures in his life, his buildings, and other buildings of the time.

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Larry Walker is a lifelong resident of Perry, Georgia who served in the Georgia House of Representatives for 32 years, the State Board of Transportation for two and a half, and the Georgia Board of Regents for over seven. He is currently a founding partner of the Walker, Hulbert, Gray, & Moore law firm in Perry.

In its foreword and preamble, Tales from Georgia’s Gnat Line makes two main promises: it will provide insight into the culture and history of the Southern way of life from an insider’s perspective, and it will show both the good and bad facets of that history. Although the prefatory sections of the book make it seem as though it will be some sort of memoir or, at least, Walker’s reflection on his long life in the South, Gnat Line is merely a compilation of news columns that Walker has written. The book also contains two works of Walker’s short fiction.

Gnat Line is divided into seven sections, organized by topics such as “Politics” and “The Way We Are.” These section headers are faithful to the columns they contain, but that is about where the organization ends. Within each section, the columns do not follow any sort of chronology, and in fact, there are no dates provided with the columns at all. The names of the publications the columns are from—Macon’s The Telegraph and The Houston Home Journal—do not appear until the “About the Author” section at the end of the book. Because the columns are divorced from their source material, some of them lack essential information to help contextualize what Walker is trying to say.

Gnat Line is written in an easy, conversational tone, but it is a conversation Walker is having with friends who have already heard his stories before or were there themselves. Anyone wanting to learn about the culture of Georgia will likely feel as though they are walking in mid-conversation. The fact that the columns were all written separately rather than as one cohesive whole also leads to frequent repetition. Stories are retold several times throughout the book, and the reader is reintroduced to characters again and again, often with the exact same words.

Most of the columns fall into a few different categories: stories about his life growing up in the South; reminiscences about people he has known, dead or alive; topics he has seen in other news columns that have inspired him, such as his “These Things I Believe” column; and his general perspective or advice on various facets of life. Gnat Line is at its strongest when Walker is recounting stories about growing up in the South in the mid-20th century. Stories such as “You’ll Never Get Out of Perry,” which recounts Walker and his friends’ journey hitchhiking up the Eastern Coast to Folly Beach,
offer the most insight into what life was like during that time. Unfortunately, these types of accounts are few and far between, and many of them are cut short before they can reach their conclusion. Sometimes, this is due to the word constraints that Walker is under while writing for a news column, but other times, he will state that experiences in his life have been integral to shaping the person he is today without expounding upon what those experiences were or why they were so important. For instance, when recounting his time working with cotton pickers, he says, “...I learned lots from listening intently to the others who picked with me as they talked and sang. I won’t write about what I learned, but it was very beneficial. Very.” This lack of detail—as well as the narrative’s tendency to dissolve into tangents about the deterioration of modern society—will often leave the reader feeling unsatisfied.

As far as Gnat Line’s promise to depict Southern history in its entirety, its only substantive delve into the South’s dark past is during the column entitled “Speech on ‘The Flag.’” In this section, Walker recollects a speech he gave to his fellow Georgia House representatives to encourage them to pass a bill that would remove the rebel battle flag from the state flag, so that Georgia might heal the wounds of its past. Other opportunities to explore how his experience as a Southerner differed from those of minorities, however, are often glossed over. Walker brings up a memory in which Mr. Hoss, a black man who worked with his father, tells “the little white boy some things he had never heard before” but never elaborates as to what those things might be.

Due to its lack of critical analysis and historical documentation, Gnat Line is not recommended for academic libraries. It might, however, be appropriate for the local history section of public libraries in Middle Georgia.

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