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Georgia Library Spotlight - Center for Puppetry Arts Library

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GLA SPOTLIGHT

Center for Puppetry Arts Library

Many people in the Atlanta area are familiar with the Center for Puppetry Arts. It is a popular destination, offering live puppet shows for families and adults, puppet-building workshops, and a museum featuring puppets from around the world, as well as a beloved Jim Henson

exhibit. As you might imagine, it is difficult to hold in-person puppet shows in an era of social distancing, especially since they often involve enthusiastic crowds who are encouraged to sing and dance along with performances! To adapt, the museum has been open by appointment only, and there have been live puppet shows available online.

The shows and the museum drive a lot of the traffic to the Center for Puppetry Arts. For those of us interested in special and research libraries, however, the center's Nancy Staub Research Library is an unexpected delight. The library includes books about puppeteering, creating puppets, and the deep and fascinating global history of puppetry. The collections also contain video of performances, as well as movies and TV shows, many of which are hard to find



elsewhere or are unique to the center. There is also a viewing station for visitors who want to see film content.

A neat recent project by former archives intern Piruz Haney focused on processing the Thomas Fountain Collection. One of the funny things about puppeteers is that they can often be less

famous than their puppets! Fountain is best known for being the lead puppeteer for Salem the cat from the TV show *Sabrina, the Teenage Witch*. The museum collection contains two animatronic Salem puppets and other objects from the show. If you are interested in hearing when new objects are

put on display in the museum, you can follow the Center for Puppetry Arts on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/CenterforPuppetryArts/>.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, please check the library's website for visitor information at <https://puppet.org/about/nancy-staub-research-library/>. Yanique Leonard, the center's collections manager, is happy to answer any questions by email at YaniqueLeonard@puppet.org.