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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.
Clayton County Library System

The Clayton County Library System’s (CCLS) mission is to contribute to the success of the citizens of its diverse community by offering a full range of library services that meet their informational, educational, and leisure interests, fostering the love of reading in youth, and the lifelong pursuit of knowledge for all. Clayton County Library System consists of six branches in the north central portion of Georgia, south of Atlanta. Its six branches serve 65% of the county population, making it one of the highest attended library systems in Georgia per capita. The library collection boasts over 500,000 volumes throughout the six branches. The library was founded in Jonesboro, Georgia, in 1941 by the Jonesboro Women’s Club with a collection of only 200 books. By 1960, the single collection started by the Women’s Club had grown so much that they joined the Flint River Regional Library System as part of a consortium.

Forest Park and Riverdale branches were added in 1967 and 1968, respectively, with the Morrow location opening its doors in 1975. After years of building a collection and following, the Clayton County Library System decided to leave its consortium with Flint River to form their own library system as we know it today.

In the summer of 2020, CCLS will open its seventh branch—the new Northwest Branch. Northwest is over 20,000 square feet and boasts a separate teen area, state-of-the-art makerspace, multipurpose room, and a computer and educational instruction lab.

Clayton County Library System strives to build a stronger connection with the community, to create spaces that appeal to its patrons, and to provide free resources that make Clayton County a great place in which to live, work, and play.

The Early Learning Teachers Career Pathway & Child Development Associate Program is one example of many collaborations between the Clayton County Library System and the community. Within Greater Atlanta communities, there is significant teacher turnover and a constant need for substitute and entry-level teachers. In most fields, when an employee calls out sick, their work can wait. For childcare providers, there are no off days and often no suitable replacements to help children thrive. At the same time, many people want a career change and an opportunity to work with kids, but they lack the credentials to get started.

The Early Learning Teachers Career Pathway & Child Development Associate Program's meetings, trainings, and most of their critical
courses were taught at the Headquarters Library in the computer lab. During their graduation ceremony in the spring of 2020, the group, sponsored by the United Way of Greater Atlanta, presented a plaque to thank the Clayton County Library System for the partnership. What makes this celebratory event much more special is that four of the graduates were actively involved in other CCLS initiatives. Graduates Brisa Aguirre and Evelin Ramos are former interns through the Hearts to Nourish Hope partnership. Brisa and Evelin worked on STEAM activities, digital library card applications, and other children and teen programming. Two other graduates are active translators for Clayton County Public Schools and assist library staff during Parent Workshops.

In the past 10+ years, more than 183 courses and workshops were offered, and over 3,800 individuals have graduated from the program with a direct pathway to Child Development Associate credentials, and a new career path. Many of those people are now childcare center directors and full-time teachers with classes of their own. The Clayton County Library System is very proud to have played such a critical role in the lives of its citizens!

Pictured: Clayton County Library System Deputy Director Scott Parham accepting the plaque from the Early Learning Teachers Career Pathway & Child Development Associate Program during the graduation ceremony for spring 2020.
Thomas County Public Library Story Walk®

What could a family love better than a bagful of books from the library? How about a beautiful story book that gets them outside and encourages them to run and have fun? The Thomas County Public Library has done just that with their recently installed Story Walk®.

You may have heard of Story Walk®. Conjured up by Anne Ferguson of Montpelier, Vermont, it was developed to promote reading and exercise in collaboration with the Vermont Bicycle & Pedestrian Coalition and the Kellogg Hubbard Library. Basically, a Story Walk® is a book that has been dismembered, laminated, and spread out page by page on a trail, bike path, or in building windows.

The Thomas County Public Library has long been an advocate of offering movement-based programming to its patrons to not only promote learning in an active setting but also to promote and encourage its patrons to explore and find new ways of maintaining a healthy and active lifestyle. The library offers programming ranging from alternative medicine seminars to yoga to nutritional literacy. The library has also been a Live Better partner with Archbold Medical Center since 2018, which aims to promote the overall health of the community countywide.

Establishing a Story Walk® has been a goal for the health- and wellness-conscious library. The city of Thomasville itself is striving to grow into a more walkable and active destination and promote its green spaces. It was only natural for the library to reach out and suggest a partnership. The library and the city initially planned on installing the Walk on a stretch of the projected bike trail that will wrap the city. In the end, the library chose to install the Walk in one of the underused and overlooked parks within walking distance of the library system’s main branch.

“Not only is Paradise Park in the heart of our beautiful and popular downtown, but also it is just a few blocks from our main library. Its location is excellent to future use for our school systems (who take weekly trips to visit us for personal StoryTimes), but we will use it in our own movement-based public StoryTime programming,” said Marketing Coordinator Samantha Hanchett. “We want to encourage kids to find the joy of reading in new ways. That reading can be an active and group activity, not just a solitary, sedentary one.”

The Story Walk® takes the reader on a leisurely half-mile stroll through the canopy-covered park. The wooden story boards display not only the pages of the book, but also active reading and thinking breaks encouraging the reader to hang from the monkey bars or take a moment to meditate—small breaks that coincide with the current book on display. The book is...
changed on a monthly basis to keep the Story Walk® fresh and relevant throughout the year.

This is just another way that Thomas County Public Library is reaching out to bring the library to the community and encouraging it to view the library in a new way. Since its installation at the beginning of June, the Story Walk® has received glowing reviews and use from the community. According to Hanchett, “I think the universe had us launch our project at just the right time. Now more than ever our patrons are looking for ways to stay safe and healthy but at the same time are wanting to get outside and enjoy life. We have received a nice stream of images and messages from our patrons using the Walk telling us how much they love it! I foresee it continuing to gain momentum as the year progresses. We hope to install another when the city’s bike path grows in 2021.”

You can follow the Thomas County Public Library on Facebook and Instagram @TCPLS! For more information on the Story Walk®, email the library at info@tcpls.org or marketing@tcpls.org.
As I write this final column of my Georgia Library Association (GLA) presidency, the 2020 Georgia Libraries Conference with SELA (GLC) just wrapped up. What a wonderful virtual conference! Wendy Cornelisen graciously took over as conference chair and led a fantastic team in putting together what turned out to be a very successful event.

Melissa Dennis, Elizabeth McKinney, and Jackie Radebaugh led the proposal and scheduling, while Nicole Klein helped our presenters record and post their presentations. Thanks to Heather Hankins and Kennesaw State University for making the GLC Virtual Poster Sessions a reality!

Austina Jordan managed the registration process and Tim Daniels the sponsorships. Sofia Slutskaya was our website manager and entered every event into the online platform.

Stephanie Miranda and the Scholarship Committee kept our new virtual process legal and successful. Casey Long, Elizabeth McKinney, Melissa Dennis, and Angel Abounader made the conference fun with social events!

Jeanne Peloquin moved across the country but still handled all the email notices and social media for the conference.

Michael Holt and Valdosta State University helped us track your feedback and ideas for next year.

Thanks to our volunteer moderators for the GLC Bonus Pack Webinars and the GLC Sessions. And behind the scenes making sure the virtual event worked was the technology team of Micki Waldrop and Matthew Stembridge.

We were pleased to share this conference with SELA (Southeastern Library Association) and GAIT (Georgia Association for Instructional Technology) and celebrate SELA’s 100th anniversary!

While we don’t know what next year’s conference will look like, the interactions and discussions in the virtual spaces show value in providing multiple modalities for conference attendees to interact and learn from and network with one another, whatever the conference format.

The conference will remain available to registrants on the Whova platform for three months. The GLC Slideshare will host the presentations.

As we continue implementing the changes to our administrative services infrastructure, our communications options are improving. Our association listserv is now transitioned to Google Groups and is limited to GLA members. We are in the process of creating listservs for committees, divisions, and interest groups. Additionally, forums are now active in the member section of the GLA website. These function as discussion boards rather than email lists.

If you are not a member of a division or interest group (or several), you can sign into the website at www.georgialibraryassociation.org and click on Edit Profile to select areas of interest.

Be on the lookout for information about GLA Midwinter 2021. Planning for the year will occur, and you can participate in developing programming for the groups you join.
In December, the Executive Board will receive a preliminary report from the GLA EDI (Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion) Task Force, chaired by Chaundria Campos and Robert Taylor. I am grateful to this group for volunteering to help GLA identify ways to address longstanding inequities in our association and profession.

Congratulations to our newly elected executive officers:

- Karen Manning, Vice-President/President-Elect
- Marquita Gooch, VP for Marketing & Branding
- Jean Mead, Secretary

Continuing Officers:

- Wendy Cornelisen, 2021 President
- Janice Shipp, VP for Membership
- Ben Bryson, Treasurer

The election approved numerous Constitution and Bylaws amendments that better reflect the association's operation and improve function. New roles include a conference chair and an administrative services liaison position.

This year has been unprecedented in many ways. I am honored to have led this wonderful organization this year and have such amazing people to turn to for support and assistance. The Executive Board, active committees, interest groups, and divisions, GLA membership, affiliated organizations, and friends and family have combined to make this challenging year fulfilling and successful.

I look forward to working with Wendy Cornelisen next year as she brings her energy, vision, and drive to GLA!

Laura Burtle
President, Georgia Library Association 2020
lburtle@gsu.edu
Being Catholic was something that I took for granted as a child, just as, I suppose, almost everyone takes for granted their own religious/spiritual heritage and cultural surroundings overall. My parents, both grandchildren of immigrants from, respectively, Italy and Poland/Ireland, had themselves grown up Catholic by dint of those traditions. Though we always had good public school options, going to Catholic schools through the primary and secondary levels just seemed the natural choice at the time. It wasn’t until college, at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, that I found myself among people from vastly different backgrounds and traditions. By the time I reached library school, I started to think more critically about my roots vis-à-vis the person I had become out in the greater world. Whether or not I thought I was actively a part of it, what did it mean to be from my own tradition? How much did I even know about it? I dove in by reading books on topics such as the Crusades, the Vatican Secret Archives, and the reigns of the popes. There was still so much that I didn’t know.

It was also during this time that I took a course at the iSchool at the University of Illinois—during its final years of being called GSLIS— with Professor Emily Knox, an avid scholar of book banning and censorship. The final paper for the course didn’t have to be about either of those topics, but her work and our discussions in class inspired me to propose one obscure aspect that (to me) seemed to perfectly intersect: the Vatican’s 400 years of banning books and authors through the Index Librorum Prohibitorum, the Index of Forbidden Books. Gobsmacked, I discovered that the Index and its official mechanisms were in full force from 1564 all the way until 1966, when both of my parents were almost teenagers.

I’ve continued to learn about this phenomenon in the years since. I’ve found that one of the best ways to do so, when funding permits, is to build my own “damned” library. This has led to the establishment of a special and separate section of my private collection at home. At present, that subcollection lives below a print of the phases of the Moon on the fireplace mantle of my guest room, which has also served as a full-time office since the pandemic began.

I own a few (relatively) older banned titles themselves, including a set of six volumes of Jacques Casanova’s Memoirs, in its first unabridged English translation, by Arthur Machen (a 1945 printing of the 1894 first edition). More recently, I bought a magnificent copy of an Italian translation of the originally Greek Selected Works of Emperor Julian [the Apostate] (1822). This particular title was listed on the Index from 1828 all the way until its abolishment in 1966. It now constitutes not only my first first- (or originally listed-) edition...
Index-banned book, but also the oldest book in my entire collection. (Julian was the nephew of Constantine the Great and emperor of Rome from 361 to 363 AD. He got his nickname by “apostatizing” from Christianity back to paganism/Hellenism, hence the ban—a mere 1,459 years after his death.)

While I slowly acquire actual banned titles in their original or otherwise published-under-ban editions, my small but growing guest room library mainly includes previous works not listed on, but rather about the Index. These books range from the apologetic (Father Redmond Burke’s What Is the Index?, 1952), to the academic (George Haven Putnam’s Censorship of the Church of Rome, vols. 1–2, 1906–7), to the acerbically critical (ex-priest Joseph McCabe’s The History and Meaning of the Catholic Index of Forbidden Books, 1931). I also recently purchased from a pair of specialist publishers in India two freshly reprinted volumes of Heinrich Reusch’s highly influential Der Index der Verbotenen Bücher (1883). It was so academically impeccable and critically well-received that it led to a massive book censorship reform at the Vatican in about 1900, and I’ll have to bone up on my German to appreciate it better.

The primary reference work in my collection is an almost 1,000-page compilation, published in 2002, of the vast majority of works listed on the Index during most of its official existence: J.M. De Bujanda avec l’assistance de Marcella Richter, Index des Livres Interdits Vol. XI: Index Librorum Prohibitorum, 1600-1966. I had to order that one all the way from its publisher in Switzerland.

More generally, I am interested in the intersections of technology and ideas, both today and throughout history. For example, when Johannes Gutenberg perfected his method of movable type letterpress printing around 1450, it blew the roof off of the established means of production held almost exclusively by the Church and its monastic scribes. When the erstwhile Augustinian monk Martin Luther burst onto the scene in 1517, setting off the Protestant Reformation, he did so through this still-new method of mass communication. On these broader themes are a pair of books: History of the Book (Svend Dahl, 1968) and Inventions of the Middle Ages (Chiara Frugoni, 2008). Both were purchased at the used book stalls at the Decatur Book Festival last summer. And Andrew Pettegree’s Brand Luther (2015) is a meticulously researched account of Martin Luther’s own brilliant capitalization on the new print medium.

I have to admit at this point that the “spookiness” of this small collection is part of its appeal. As a fan of H. P. Lovecraft, I’ve grown familiar with literary devices such as his cursed fictional tome of occult secrets, The Necronomicon. And while I’m not a particularly gloomy person by nature, Halloween is most definitely in my top-three favorite holidays. Can you blame me for wanting to dig deeper into what exactly made the index’s several thousands of forbidden books so nefarious?

That brings me to a few titles that I have my eye on. For one, I’d love to own more first editions of banned books—usually, but not always, the ones cited in the various iterations of the Index itself. But in the absence of many thousands of
dollars of disposable income, these first or otherwise early editions will most likely have to be in the form of more recent (and affordable) titles. These include Greek novelist Nikos Kazantzakis’s *The Last Temptation of Christ* (1952); anything by mid-20th century French existentialist Jean-Paul Sartre (all of his books were banned); or perhaps one by Basque-Spanish philosopher and man of letters Miguel de Unamuno, an enemy of Francisco Franco whom the *caudillo* imprisoned until his death in 1936. But then again, maybe I should just go for broke: a 1776 complete first edition set of the forbidden *History of the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire* by Edward Gibbon will only set me back...okay, never mind. It’s $10,617.67. I already have a cheapo used Penguin edition from 2000, so maybe I’ll just buy a lottery ticket instead.

Since writing that fateful library school paper several years ago I’ve continued to research and write and speak about the *Index* on various platforms. This includes a blog ([http://bibofthedamned.com](http://bibofthedamned.com)), as well as a handful of posts on the topic to the American Library Association’s Office for Intellectual Freedom ([https://www.oif.ala.org/oif/?author=43](https://www.oif.ala.org/oif/?author=43)). In 2018, Harvard’s Houghton Library awarded me a Visiting Fellowship grant to use their rare book collections to access several rare first editions that appear on the *Index*. You can find a recap of those visits here: [http://blogs.harvard.edu/houghton/a-year-on-fellowship-at-houghton-library/](http://blogs.harvard.edu/houghton/a-year-on-fellowship-at-houghton-library/). In the summer of 2019, a long-form interview I did on the topic was released by the *AskHistorians* podcast ([https://askhistorians.com/podcast.html](https://askhistorians.com/podcast.html)). And you can find me and this project on Twitter: @bibofthedamned.

Robert M. Sarwark is Knowledge Management Specialist at Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta
Georgia Librarians Returning to Work In-Person during the COVID-19 Pandemic

By Kristen Bailey, Benjamin Bryson, Jessica C. Garner, Adam Griggs, Rebecca Hunnicutt, Jennifer Ivey, Tomeka Jackson, Gail Morton, Lee Olson, Jasmine Rizer, Janice Williams, Kelly Williams, and Ashley Wilson; compiled by Virginia Feher

As libraries across the United States began reopening in the midst of the ongoing COVID-19 Pandemic, library employees prepared and implemented in-person services with safety in mind. To document this period in time, Georgia library employees contributed short essays on their experiences with returning to work in-person, including how they adapted spaces and services for their users.

Benjamin Bryson
Assistant Director
Marshes of Glynn Libraries

Excitement, mixed with a little anxiety, was the predominant mood as our library management team quickly developed procedures to offer curbside services safely at our library branches in early May. Our patrons, as we found out, were equally excited about the ability to check out books, audiobooks, and movies once these services officially began on May 4, 2020. This was also the day I returned to the library after six weeks of working from home.

In early May, the rate of community spread for COVID-19 in Glynn County was less than two new cases per day. In accordance with our management team’s plan for minimizing the risk to our staff and the public, we decided to move to the next phase and re-open our library facilities to the public beginning May 20, 2020.

May 20th arrived, and circulation staff sat behind plexiglass barriers and wore facemasks in anticipation of serving our patrons. Slowly but surely, the public trickled back into our libraries. The familiar faces from before the library closures came back to use the public computers, read the newspaper, and pick up their holds. The typical crowds of summer, however, were absent due to the suspension of in-person library programs and meeting room rentals. We settled into a new, slower pace of summer activity once we caught up with the backlog of courier shipments and returned materials.

By mid-June, however, the relative sense of safety in our community was beginning to collapse as COVID-19 case numbers began to rise. The second half of June saw more than 1,000 new cases of coronavirus in Glynn County. Many restaurants were temporarily shutting down due to staff illness and exposures. As a tourist destination, our community was bracing for the Fourth of July holiday and its aftermath.

Fortunately, our county commissioners responded to the local rise of cases and enacted a policy for county buildings that required employees and visitors alike to wear facemasks in common indoor areas. Our libraries are also county facilities, so beginning July 6, 2020, we were also able to require—not just ask—our patrons to wear facemasks inside the libraries. Two months later, this policy is still going strong as our patrons and staff continue to mask up.

Inevitably, our libraries have experienced a few staff absences due to temporary daycare closures, but none of these absences have been directly related to exposures at the libraries or to library staff themselves. So far, community spread of the coronavirus in the fall is down to about 25 new cases per day from a peak of more than 70 per day at the end of June, although, as of this writing, we have yet to see the full impact of the new school year.
The keys to our success in safely re-opening and sustainably operating our libraries, we feel, have been implementation of the mask requirement policy, the application of social distancing guidelines, and the limitation of group gatherings to minimize potential airborne exposures to the coronavirus and prevent person-to-person contact.

After four months, we have settled in for the long haul of library life during the pandemic. In addition to welcoming our patrons, our libraries are now hosting census worker training, county election board training for our region, mandatory public hearings for our county commissioners, and a livestreamed Coast Guard hearing for the *Golden Ray* incident.

**Jessica C. Garner**  
*Access Services Department Head  
Georgia Southern University, Henderson Library, Statesboro Campus*

As of mid-September 2020, Georgia Southern University has had four weeks of classes combining virtual, asynchronous learning, and face-to-face.

Before classes began, Access Services diligently prepared the library for the return of students during a pandemic. We removed over 200 chairs from the building to encourage social distancing. We posted signs, placed sneeze guards at the checkout desk, socially distanced over 300 computers, and all students, faculty, and staff are required to wear a mask. We did everything that we could to prepare for students to return to campus. Like every business or public institution, we were asked to invent policy incredibly quickly given the scope of the task. We want our students to be successful and to have the college experience that they have always dreamed about while also being mindful of COVID-19.

On the first day of classes, it felt like all of Access Services was collectively holding their breath. As I walked into the library on Monday, August 17, 2020, I scanned the checkout desk and looked across the learning commons and was pleasantly surprised to see all students in the library wearing a mask. Most were socially distancing. I released a sigh of relief and felt a little hope grow that this would all go well.

In a normal semester, Henderson Library is almost always one of the busiest buildings on campus. For the first week of Fall 2019, 87,188 students visited the library. It always felt like there was a steady stream of students flowing around the checkout desk. The first day of Fall 2020 felt different than any other semester.
before. Students were in the library, but it was a quiet hum. Not the vibrating excitement from previous semesters. Our gate count reflected this noticed difference with only 14,721 students visiting the library the entire first week of classes.

At first, students gathered on the main floor, our second floor. In the past, this floor housed most of the computers in the library. To socially distance, all 300 computers were spread over four floors. It took about one day for students to learn where the new computers were located. Four weeks later we are seeing students utilize every area of the library.

While students have learned to navigate the new seating in the library, they have also become lax regarding masks. Access Services began receiving complaints that students were not wearing their masks while studying. Access Services is now making regular announcements via the library PA system reminding students to wear their masks at all times. We are also handing out free masks.

To continue to encourage social distancing, Access Services makes every effort to keep the furniture socially distanced. However, with rolling chairs and moveable furniture, this is a never-ending challenge.

Going forward, Access Services continues to be adaptable and understanding. We know that students are tired. We are also tired. We know that “pandemic fatigue” is real. Our goal is to continue to gently remind our students to stay the course to “Do Right” for the good of us all.

**Rebecca Hunnicutt**  
*Collections Management Librarian*  
*Georgia Southern University*

As many will agree, this has been an unusual year, to say the least. After months of teleworking and making many necessary adjustments due to living, and working through, a global pandemic, I have come back to my library and have been working in my office again for several weeks. There has been some anxiety about doing so, in regards to mine and others’ health and safety, but the Georgia Southern University administration, and my library dean, have done a lot to implement practices to help ensure our
physical health and safety. Because of this, and my limited interaction with students, I feel relatively safe being back in the office. I have been provided with five university purchased masks, multiple bottles of hand sanitizer, and the promise of more when needed. Flex schedules have been implemented, so workers are only in the office approximately 50% of the time, reducing the number of people with whom I come into contact. Another new safety feature is that we are now allowed to enter the building through a back door with a key, instead of the main entrance, which is cluttered with people now that the students have returned. Also, signs! Signs are everywhere in my library. They are on the walls and floors, giving patrons and employees visible reminders of safe practices. Furniture and technology have been completely rearranged to help maintain distance but allow access. It is a very different environment in many ways, but still provides the same level of support as our pre-COVID-19 practices.

The biggest concern of being in the office again during this pandemic has nothing to do with guidelines or implemented safety practices, but with the understanding, knowledge, and compassion that has come with the young college students that have returned to campus. In a small rural town in South Georgia, that had a relatively low instance of case numbers, it is the knowledge that tens of thousands of people have flooded the city at one time, bringing with them a surge in the number of cases. During the shutdown and with quarantining practices in place the last few months, I have been able to control the level of exposure to myself and family, which has helped with the mental stress caused by this pandemic. But now that schools are opening again, and life is trying to move forward, in a new way, the level of control is reduced. At the time of this writing, my city had become a top 10 hot spot in the nation. There is only so much that I and others are able to do in order to protect ourselves, and we are at the mercy of those who are not willing to abide by the safety measures that are needed in order to keep everyone safe and healthy, so that we can eventually move out of this time in history. I now can only look forward to the next lockdown.

Jennifer Ivey
Branch Manager, Madison County Library
Athens Regional Library System

Returning to in-person library work was something that I looked forward to—I missed interacting with staff and patrons, I missed circulation and shelving, and I missed handling books! I knew that working during a pandemic would stretch staff in new ways and cause us to grow as individuals and as a team. We and our patrons would adapt to a new way of service that might expand and contract with waves of COVID-19 infection.

While I harbored concerns about what services might look like, I was also excited about the prospect of expanding my skills in these unprecedented times. I strove to project that to my staff as well, as I knew that many were worried about so many things in addition to providing library services—I wanted to provide a bit of positivity about the situation and really hoped that we could all look at it as a time of growth as opposed to a time of scarcity.

Instead of the influx of patrons and returned books that I expected, services began slowly and built to a crescendo as our community caught on to what we were doing. Some days we emptied our book drops three to four times as opposed to our usual once a day! We...
acustomed ourselves to waving and shouting “thank you!” as patrons walked up to get their items from a safe distance. We eventually extended curbside hours to accommodate more of our patrons, and we provided space for a few blood drives in partnership with the Red Cross.

One of my favorite experiences during this time has been meeting patrons who previously had browsed on their own and used our self-checkout machine. Now they must interact with staff a little bit to get their items brought outside—and they get to see that we are friendly and enthusiastic about continuing to have library materials available for them. Many of our regulars have stated that they appreciate the curbside service and hope that it continues post-COVID-19. A large number of our circulation patrons prefer having items brought out rather than having to make a trek inside, and curbside serves our patrons with limited mobility well.

We most recently began providing computer access by appointment, and patrons are happy to be in the building again. Staff have truly enjoyed seeing our regular visitors again. It has been so good to see them healthy and to know that they missed us as much as we missed them! We are tentatively planning limited browsing of our stacks in the future, and compliance with new protocols during computer sessions are a good test of what we can expect, I think. Overall, I believe that this experience has made us stronger as a community and as a team of staff, and better at our jobs going forward. May we all move forward with good health, and with empathy for each other.

**Tomeka Jackson**  
*Catalog and Metadata Assistant*  
*Kennesaw State University*

When I found out in March 2020 that we would be teleworking from home because of COVID-19, I was shocked but thought this is temporary, and we will be back. Seven months later, returning to work feels even more like a shock to my system. Although I was working one day in the office in May and the rest at home, going back is still an adjustment. In late August, my work schedule changed to being in the office two days a week in the afternoon while continuing teleworking at home. While at the office, I copy catalog print book materials, physically processing them. This process includes placing security bar code strips, applying book cover jackets, and stamping the library’s name in the books. Most of my office work consists of cataloging print books for the library’s teen, general, teacher’s resource, professional development, and textbook collections. Usually, a student assistant helps me physically process books, and until we receive one, I will be pulling double duty, which I do not mind. I will also have an opportunity to perform chat reference this fall for the students at Kennesaw State University (KSU), which I have never done before. Still, I am excited to see how it goes.

While I do not mind the work, the silence is different. I am used to talking to my co-workers and visiting their offices for questions as well as having general conversations during our 15-minute breaks. Now I work alone, wear a mask in the office, follow CDC cleaning regulations using a micro cloth with disinfecting products, wear gloves to handle print books, and avoid the break room or any common areas. The adjustment to the new COVID-19 regulations feels like I am in Will Smith’s film *I Am Legend* or Dr. Manhattan sitting on Mars from the comic series *Watchmen*. Although the changes are odd, and I miss seeing my co-workers, I know everything will be fine and go with the current flow.

Going back to work during a pandemic and finishing my last semester in the MLIS program online at the University of South Carolina will be quite challenging. On the one hand, I will have more time to study, which is needed, especially for my last semester. Still, on the other hand, I am anxious about the uncertainty of this virus. I
take comfort in knowing that KSU has been working hard in implementing safety measures, which includes proper cleaning regulations and providing gloves and facemasks. However, no one can be ready for anything like this except by trial and error. Still, it is better to “be prepared!” as Scar from the Lion King says!

Gail Morton, Research Services Librarian
Adam Griggs, Research Services Librarian
Kristen Bailey, Research Services Librarian
Lee Olson, Head of Research Services
Mercer University, Jack Tarver Library

When Georgia’s stay-at-home order lifted, after almost two months of telework, it was time to return to the library. Wide-eyed and cautious, with our face coverings and hand sanitizer, our department reunited in person in May. We prepared for summer session, with the next academic year just around the corner. At home, we professionally developed through self-directed research, online workshops, and webinars—and we were now ready to apply our new knowledge. This included learning how to provide research services to our Mercer community, what software works best, and how to provide a safe environment for Mercerians. Before opening our doors to patrons on June 1, 2020, we established safe consultation protocols, created distance learning spaces, implemented extra cleaning, put hand sanitizer everywhere possible, and always wore facemasks in shared spaces. We believed that exceptional precautions would protect us.

Fast forward two months to August. Classes were about to begin, and our first group orientation for the 2020–2021 academic year was for Mercer’s Opportunity Scholars and Minority Mentors program. This program is designed to support underrepresented and underserved students, and the library has always been invited to be a part of their large orientation. Before the pandemic, the orientation was done in a large hall with the ability to accommodate over 200 participants. But to follow CDC guidelines, the orientation was offered as two Zoom sessions. We had planned our presentation in advance and applied safety protocols. We were going to use our classroom to project our presentation on the projector with each one of us taking turns to say hello, and to present our assigned slide. Since the orientation was on Zoom, we were able to be more inclusive and invite circulation, who are normally building bound, to join us. Then, two days before the orientation, we found ourselves in quarantine. One of us tested positive for COVID-19, which meant we all had to be tested, and we all had to self-isolate. As a result, we each had to Zoom in to the orientation while quarantined at home. The orientation went relatively well; yet, as it happens in the pandemic, we had some new experiences: someone’s toddler started crying, someone’s internet was a little shaky, and someone who was a little nervous in Zoom seemed to steal the show! We were thankful for a PowerPoint to share with the attendees because no one could see us unless we turned our cameras on.

While all the planning and preparing is important, it is not the cornerstone. Best practices have changed often during the pandemic, and we have refashioned the library.
to suit safety protocols. When we learn something new about the illness, we adapt. This applies to our situation as well. We are very lucky to have learned this valuable lesson and, like a developmental workshop, have applied it to our lives. We have become a lot less rigid, a lot more collaborative, and, most importantly, much more adaptable.

Jasmine Rizer  
Head, Serials Cataloging Section  
University of Georgia

Earlier this year, when numerous shelter-in-place orders were in force, there was a lot of discussion about the quarantine’s effects on mental health. I don’t want to discount how hard it must have been for a lot of people, being cooped up for so long. For me, though, the real mental health horror show started after lockdown was over and the phased return-to-work plan at my institution started to ramp up.

I have literal obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD). You’re probably making a hand-washing joke in your head, and you’re not wrong. There have been times at work lately when I’ve lingered at the sink for a second hand-washing session because I wasn’t happy with the first one.

Obviously, I am not in any way involved with making the big decisions about re-opening my institution. A lot of this is out of my control. In these situations, you’re often advised to focus on what you can control.

OCD is devious, though. It can find a way to wriggle past any safety protocol that might help set a typical mind at ease. Give me a pair of gloves to wear when handling library materials, and I will quickly find myself lost in a tangled skein of contamination scenarios that might be better explained in the accompanying illustration than in words. This may look like a silly little drawing, but I can assure you that the bombardment of worry is quite serious. In the afternoon, it’s hard for me to get away from work because of the temptation to stay and wipe down just one more surface.

In spite of all this, my actual library work keeps getting done. In fact, my brain seems willing to let go of some of the tendencies that, during normal times, can make work more excruciating than satisfying. Maybe my mind only has the capacity to grind its gears over a limited number of things at once, or maybe a crisis simply forces things into perspective. To be clear, I would certainly rather have a hard time at work than have bad things happening outside of work—to myself or to other people. Still, I’m grateful that my brain has not decided to pile questions like, “are you sure you don’t want to look at that publisher’s address one more time?” on top of my worry about my own safety and that of students and my fellow employees.

I wish I could wrap these observations up with a short and handy list of tips for other folks with similar issues. The only advice I feel qualified to
offer is: mental health care can be expensive, and I know everyone can’t afford to see a therapist as often as they’d like, but if there’s room on your calendar and in your budget, there is no shame in needing to check in with a mental health professional a little more often than usual. Returning to work right now is scary. Stay as safe as you can and remember that you’re not alone, folks.

Kelly Williams
Supervisory Librarian, Suwanee Branch
Gwinnett County Public Library

When the United States erupted into chaos in March 2020, I was just getting back to work from a weeklong staycation. My extrovert batteries were critically low, and serotonin was sorely lacking. I needed to pour my energy into a new project, but like many, I was working from home and unable to do much except binge webinars and Netflix. During the work from home period, I received a sudden bright light: an interview for a supervisory position that I’ve been working towards for the past two years. Miracle of miracles, they chose me for my dream job! I was going to start as soon as the library reopened. I found out in March, and by the time we announced a reopening plan in May, I was champing at the bit to spill my secret. I was so excited to share my big news with my coworkers, but it was a bittersweet moment; sharing excitement in a Google Meet just isn’t the same. The dichotomy of excitement and dismay was difficult to balance.

I started the new job in May, not knowing what to expect. Not only was I beginning a new job, with a new role and new people, I was also doing this in a time when uncertainty reigned supreme. How would I be able to learn this new position, while simultaneously helping both myself and my new staff live through the most tumultuous time period in recent history? At the time of this writing, I’m three months in, and some days I still don’t know what to expect. Will we ever get back to normal? What does normal even mean?

In the past few months, I’ve learned so much about this position, this system, these people. I’ve also learned more about myself in the last six months than I have in years of introspection. I’ve learned that I struggle when I don’t have a network of support, that I need meaningful work in order to feel fulfilled, and that there’s so much still to learn. I’m working on how to help myself and my staff cope with change, and how to move forward when it feels time is standing still. I hope to learn to use the lens of this strange time period to discover more about myself and others.

The time I’ve spent getting to know my new team is rife with memories that I’ll look back on with mixed emotions for the rest of my life. What would have been different if I had started when the world was normal? What would I have learned differently, coped with differently, done differently? I’ll never know the answers to those questions. Still, I treasure the chance to have this new experience and go down this path. We’re all going through this time trying to survive; I’m beyond honored that I’ve been given this opportunity to thrive.

Ashley Wilson, Information Services Librarian, Douglas Campus
Janice Williams, Library Coordinator, Waycross Campus
South Georgia State College

Returning to work in a library during a pandemic naturally brought concerns and questions. Our concerns were for our community and ourselves. How do we keep everyone safe? How do we promote library services and keep our students and faculty safe? Should we continue to serve community patrons? On both our Waycross and Douglas campuses, we had to rethink how we allow our patrons to use the space.

Pre-COVID-19, we encouraged students to collaborate in the library. However, group study rooms can no longer accommodate up to nine persons. Due to COVID-19, study rooms are
limited to two or three persons. We previously featured available resources and promoted browsing and borrowing through displays, but now browsing is discouraged.

Re-opening means we need to sanitize everything frequently. We quarantine books before re-shelving. Students are discouraged from retrieving books they want to borrow from the shelves. While supplies last, we do not loan but give out pencils and pens to whomever needs them. Increased signage reminds patrons to sanitize their hands and study space with supplies provided at the various sanitizing stations located throughout the library. Additional signage advises students to avoid moving strategically placed seating to maintain physical distance. Face coverings are required for all, unless alone in an office or study room.

In a pandemic of this nature, where the virus moves from person to person, we had to rethink how we perform routine tasks, loan items, and share space. In Waycross, we share the office space among three staff members, plus a work-study student. Aside from books, we normally touch many things in common, including the computer mouse and keyboard, the date-due stamp, mailing supplies (mailing bags, address labels, tape, scissors), and more. We also lend calculators, pencils, pens, and markers. Opening and closing routines involve touching door handles and light switches. That is not to mention the proximity required for helping patrons with computer issues. We often see someone cough or sneeze on their hand, then touch the computer mouse or keyboard before asking us for help.

While we can sanitize our work areas and equipment, we are finding it difficult to maintain the six-foot distance from patrons when helping with computers.

On the Douglas campus, we have several homeless community patrons who use our facilities for computers, internet, and restrooms. We want them to be able to use our resources, but we have concerns about how to continue safely. We removed some of our computers for the sake of social distancing, but some questions remain. How do we enforce mandatory face coverings with our community patrons who may not be able to afford them? How do they keep up with the news when the only access they have is through our computers and newspapers? While serving our student patrons continues to be our priority, there has always been a place in the library for our community patrons. Although COVID-19 has caused us to restrict resources available to all, those for community patrons have become far more limited.
Information Games in the Academic Library: Library of Kyiv National University of Culture and Art, Ukraine

By Olena Skachenko

Kyiv National University of Culture and Arts is the higher education institution in Ukraine for the training of cultural and artistic personnel. It is located in Kyiv, the capital of Ukraine. The university has 10 faculties and 10,000 students.

The library is a structural unit of the university, and is its information, scientific, and cultural-educational center. The library has six departments: purchase, storage of books, customer service, information and bibliographic, scientific and methodological, and information technology. The most popular library resource is the Electronic Catalog, which has 207,797 records and provides access to the full-text collection of the Electronic Library. The library has a website http://lib.knukim.edu.ua/, YouTube channel https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCawpz00gv421922PTXMTj6w, and social media accounts.

Under the influence of digital technologies, there has been a transformation of library activities and user needs. Various forms and methods of gamification keep up-to-date the application of game technologies in the socio-cultural activities of libraries.

In the library of the Kyiv National University of Culture and Arts, gamification has long meant conducting thematic web quizzes. You can watch a video of one of our web quizzes on Facebook at: https://www.facebook.com/helen.skachenko/videos/2246280045686139/ (Skachenko, 2019a).

As the university library interacts with student youth, the main tasks of the free socio-cultural space are to organize joint activities, develop critical thinking, support stress resilience, and promote the ability to make quick decisions (Skachenko, 2019).

Information Games in the Format of a Brain-Ring

In October 2018, information games in the format of a brain-ring took place in the library. Brain-ring is an intellectual team game in which the teams play against each other answering the questions. That is the "intellectual ring." To create a voluntary motivation for students to participate in the event, we used a combination of cognitive (related to the study of a particular discipline) and social (team competition) motives. We invited participants to take intellectual quizzes,
games, and practical tasks on library subjects and a range of issues related to tourism. The team participants were first-year students of International Tourism Faculty and students of Museum Studies and Examination of Historical and Cultural Monuments Faculty.

We included the following games in the Information Games program:

- **Quiz: 60 Seconds: Who Knows More About Museums and Attractions Around the World** (students should give as many correct answers as they can in 60 seconds);

- **Game: Match the Names of Newspapers and Magazines** (it was necessary to match the names of Ukrainian and world media publications as fast as possible);

- **Game: A to Z book Challenge** (players needed to list 15 books in alphabetical order accurately and quickly);

- **Game: Who is Fantasy?** (players needed to search for suggested terms and concepts in dictionaries/encyclopedias and explain their meaning to the audience);

- **Quiz: Tourist Attractions in Ukraine and the World: Facts, Records** (there were 15 multiple-choice questions);

- **Game: Capital Penalty** (one team named a country and another had to name its capital).


We chose several goals as the main elements of a game that allowed players, when searching and formulating answers, to demonstrate the traits of a researcher, expert, leader, and more. By developing game tasks, we hoped to expand the boundaries of students' knowledge about tourist destinations in Ukraine and the world.

The event was moderated by a librarian, who was the developer of the script and tasks for the games. The moderator formulated the task, explained the rules, and supported the dynamics of the game. The refereeing board counted the points scored, monitored compliance with the rules of the game, and awarded the winners. The atmosphere of friendly rivalry, team slogans, and prepared hints provided support to the groups.

Bloggers from both teams did a live video
broadcast on the library's Facebook pages and participants' Instagram accounts.

II Information Games

In April 2019, II Information Games took place in the library. We included web-quests and web-quizzes in this program. This time, the participants of the competition were first- and second-year students of the Faculty of Hotel, Restaurant and Tourism Business. There were two teams: Pharaohs and Amazon. You can learn more about the winning team and view photos of the games on the website of the Scientific Library of Kyiv National University of Culture and Arts (2019) at: http://lib.knukim.edu.ua/geymifikaciya-onlayn-igri-dlya-navchann/.

In the first online game, we asked participants to make a web puzzle of a famous tourist destination. Next, players must identify the landmark, and name the country and city in which it is located. In the next task, we offered an instant test of their knowledge of geography: in 120 seconds, participants had to write as many names of cities around the world that begin with a certain letter as they could.

While developing the next game, we planned to test knowledge of the tourist country studies discipline. In the interactive task created with the help of the LearningApps.org service, we suggested matching a photo of an outstanding cultural monument and its name.

In the game, Identification, the moderator voiced well-known facts about a certain tourist center of the world. The team that named the tourist center correctly using the least number of hints won.

We completed the II Information Games with the adventure game-breakout In Search of Hetman Polubotko's Treasures (Skachenko, 2019c). We prepared the game-breakout using the online tool Genially (https://www.genially.ly/), which offers the creation of interactive resources (posters, presentations, games, etc.). To win the quest, team members must "visit" five countries on different continents of the world online and answer three questions about the history, geography, or culture of this country. You can watch a video of our students interacting with the creative web quest In on Facebook at: https://www.facebook.com/helen.skachenko/posts/2228344430813034 (Skachenko, 2019b).

Each incorrect answer leads to a plane crash and returns players to the beginning of the game. The correct answer allows you to move on to another question. Three correct answers about the host country reveal the digit of the code. Sequentially typed code digits open a safe of “gold” at the end of the game.

When conducting Information Games in the library, we used such elements of gameplay as instant prizes (for example, apples), points for winning a certain quiz/game, and game status indicators. The winning team received sweet prizes (chocolates in the form of medals), and an award certificate in the form of a diploma. Students commented on the activities on the library's Facebook page. They said that they liked the interactive format, the integration of course materials, and learning new information through the university library.

Olena Skachenko is Head of the Sector at Scientific Library of the Kyiv National University of Culture and Arts, Ukraine
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Georgia Library Association  
2021 GLA Election Results

The Georgia Library Association (GLA) held an election between September 1–30, 2020 to elect new GLA Executive Board and division leaders for 2021. This is the first year that all divisions were required to participate in the September elections. Elections for interest group leaders will continue to be held separately each year in November.

The following individuals were elected as new GLA Executive Board officers. Their term of office will begin in January 2021.

- Vice-President and President-Elect: Karen Manning, Georgia Institute of Technology
- Vice President for Marketing & Branding: Marquita Gooch, Clayton County Library System
- Secretary: Jean Mead, Athens Regional Library System
- ALA Councilor (3-year term, 2021–2023): Angela Glowcheski, Sequoyah Regional Library System

They will join the following officers currently serving on the GLA Executive Board:

- 2021 President: Wendy Cornelisen, Georgia Public Library Service
- Vice-President of Membership: Janice Shipp, Savannah State University
- Treasurer: Ben Bryson, Marshes of Glynn Libraries
- ALA Councilor (3-year term, 2019–2021): Tamika Barnes, Georgia State University
- SELA Representative: Ben Carter, Georgia Public Library Service

The following Divisions held elections and elected the following individuals:

**Academic Library Division**

- Vice Chair/Chair-Elect: Catherine Manci, Georgia Institute of Technology, Public Programming & Community Engagement Specialist
- Secretary: Kristina Lang, Georgia State University, Reference & Instruction Librarian
- ACRL Council Representative: Lamonica Sanford, Georgia College, Assessment Librarian

**Georgia Library Trustees, Friends, and Advocates Division**

- Chair-Elect: Brienné Coates

**New Members Round Table**

- Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect: Gina Viarruel, Gwinnett County Public Library, Library Associate
- Secretary: Kelly Williams, Gwinnett County Public Library, Supervisory Librarian, Suwanee Branch

**Paraprofessional Division**

- Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect: Jessica Tibbetts, Sequoyah Regional Library System, Public Services Specialist

**Public Library Division**

- Chair: Angel Abounder, Commerce Public Library
- Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect: Rosalind Lett, Clayton County Public Library
- Secretary: Bel Outwater, Commerce Public Library

Special Libraries and Information Services Division

- Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect: Stephen Sherman, Southeastern Council of Foundations
- Secretary: Shelia Devaney, University of Georgia Libraries
Georgia Library Association 2020 GLA Awards

Library Support Services Award

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. The award winner could be a vendor employee, an employee of an office or department that supports library services, or an employee of an individual institution.

This year’s winner is Kimberly Spencer, chief financial officer of the Coastal Plain Regional Library system.

Kimberly’s nomination noted her drive in assisting with financial matters both within her system and throughout the state. She has assisted in developing policies for the Georgia Public Library Service (GPLS) new director orientation manual, headed up the RIF for the Georgia Libraries Accounting Alliance to replace Blackbaud, and has provided many informational sessions related to the implementation of MIP Fund Accounting. She has a reputation for being a team player, for being someone who understands the intricacies and individual needs of different library systems, and for being someone who is a knowledgeable and capable communicator.

Charles Beard Library Advocacy Award

The Charles Beard Library Advocacy Award was originally called the Library Advocacy Award. It was renamed in 2003 to honor Charles Beard, Georgia’s strongest library advocate. 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.

This year’s winner is Beth Spillane with Literacy for All!

Beth’s nomination notes her involvement with promoting the action steps for literacy in Georgia. She helped facilitate several meetings of library directors and staff from across the state, building consensus across the age spectrum. She continually involved libraries in the process to meet the state’s literacy needs. When COVID-19 hit, Beth utilized her connections to allow five rural public library systems to offer 81 additional WiFi connections to assist K–12 students without internet connections. Her work seeks not only to find one-time benefits, but also to assist with ongoing capacity-building work.

Bob Richardson Memorial Award

The Bob Richardson Memorial Award was established by the Executive Board in 1999 in recognition of Bob Richardson’s dedicated service to the Georgia Library Association. It honors those who have given outstanding service to the Georgia Library Association.
This year’s winner is Virginia Feher, head librarian at the Oconee Campus of the University of North Georgia.

Virginia has been actively involved with the Georgia Library Quarterly (GLQ) for almost a decade, beginning as an associate editor and peer review coordinator, and becoming the editor soon after. In that time, she has been responsible for the direction and consistent delivery of GLA’s official publication. She has also been actively involved as an officer in the Interlibrary Loan Interest Group and Government Information Interest Group, as well as serving as a past judge of the Academic Library Division’s paper competition and an Atlanta Emerging Librarian coordinator. As editor of GLQ, Virginia has been an active and vocal ex officio member of the GLA Executive Board, providing valuable institutional memory and an engaged perspective on the continuing issues facing the association.

GLA Team Award

The GLA Team Award was established by the Executive Board in 2012. This award honors a team that has excelled in the past year by offering innovative programming or services, performing or acting on assessment activities, undertaking a successful outreach or promotion effort, or providing outstanding support of an individual Georgia library or Georgia libraries as a whole.

This year’s winners are the Adult Programming Palooza Team: Angela Glowcheski, deputy director of Sequoyah Regional Library, and Tracy Walker, programming manager at Forsyth County Public Library!

Angela and Tracy joined forces to create a platform for people to share their ideas, success stories, and tips for improvement around adult programming. Not finding what they were looking for in already existing structures, they created Adult Programming Palooza to fill a hole in Georgia’s library landscape. This work has served to save countless staff hours and to help libraries boost both their programming and outreach capabilities. Since its beginning in December 2018, they have sought to host Adult Programming Palooza twice a year to foster conversations and share best practices. They have also reinvigorated the GPLS reference listserv, providing it a new focus on community services and programming. Their efforts have shined a light on a service area that is traditionally overlooked, and their work continues to be a model for others in Georgia and throughout the national library landscape.

McJenkin-Rheay Award

The McJenkin-Rheay Award was established by an anonymous donor and approved by the Executive Board on July 17, 1981. It is given to recognize a librarian early in his/her career who has made outstanding contributions to the Georgia Library Association, to leadership as
exemplified by the careers of Virginia McJenkin (school libraries) and Mary Louise Rheay (public libraries).

This year’s winner is Oscar Gittemeier, director of library services for the Teton County Library!

Oscar has been active in Georgia’s libraries in numerous ways. His Libraries Are Such a Drag calendar fundraiser raised thousands of dollars for the Beard Scholarship. His work with the Atlanta-Fulton Public Library System allowed him to create connections with individuals throughout the city and to promote libraries wherever he went. He was also principally responsible for work that received grants of more than $500,000. Inside of GLA, he was vice president of Membership, where he worked to make connections with librarians across the state, to increase the presence of GLA at state library events, and to encourage excitement about GLA and all of its activities. As vice-president/president-elect, Oscar’s voice was a welcome addition to the GLA Executive Board. He recently accepted a job that has taken him out of state, but his impact on Georgia’s libraries will linger for years. Oscar has gained the respect of both new and seasoned professionals, and his multiple nominations attest to the inspiration that he provides within the field.

GLA Mid-Career Award

The GLA Mid-Career Award was established by the GLA Executive Board in 2018 to honor significant and ongoing contributions to the library profession, Georgia’s libraries, and the Georgia Library Association by individuals who are in the middle of their library careers. This award honors the accomplishments of recipients while also denoting GLA’s belief in the ongoing potential of the recipients.

This year’s winner is Casey Long, head of research and instruction services at Agnes Scott College.

Casey has had a continued positive impact on the library community throughout her career. Her numerous roles inside of GLA include chair of the Nominations and Elections Committee, Interest Group chair and vice-chair, and GLA secretary. Casey founded the GLA StoryCorps project that sought to record the stories of GLA’s past and current leaders. She was instrumental in forming the Conference Recommendations Task Force that led to the current version of the Georgia Libraries Conference. She was also a dedicated member of the Carterette Webinar Series, helping to significantly raise its profile and winning the GLA Team Award in 2017 for these efforts. On top of all of this, Casey has been an advocate for change, a friend and mentor to GLA members both new and old, and an independent voice for good in Georgia’s libraries.

Nix-Jones Award

The Nix-Jones Award is given to a practicing librarian for distinguished service to Georgia librarianship. It recognizes substantial contributions 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.
This year’s winner is Alan Harkness, director of the Chattahoochee Valley Libraries.

Alan’s multiple nominations for this award spoke to his incredible energy, his passion for public service, and his dedication to the advancement of Georgia’s libraries. Alan has worked in numerous libraries throughout Georgia in a variety of capacities, from children’s librarian and training manager to library director. In all of these roles, he used his platform to expand the library’s capacities, and he used his creative and effective teaching style to better all those he comes in contact with. Alan is at the forefront of the fine-free movement in public libraries, working hard to persuade funding agencies that this compassionate act increases public libraries’ empathy and effectiveness. He is unafraid to speak his mind while still remaining an excellent listener. He epitomizes librarians in Georgia, and he raises the bar on quality and excellence for every Georgia librarian. For his distinguished and long-time service to so many of Georgia’s libraries, GLA is proud to award him the 2020 Nix-Jones Award.

**GLA Honorary Membership**

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. No more than three Honorary Memberships will be presented during any year.

This year, Carolyn Thomas Fuller has been awarded a GLA Honorary Membership.

Carolyn has faithfully served the Georgia Library Association ever since she moved to Georgia. She was a long-time chair of the Public Library Division, serving as chair and coordinator of the annual author’s reception. She also served a three-year tenure as president-elect, president, and past president from 2010–2012. In addition to her service on the board, Carolyn is a regular judge for the Georgia Student Media Festival. She also worked tirelessly to drive GLA’s activities in state advocacy, coordinating the Debi Davis prints for over a decade, which includes securing the financial sponsorship and hand delivering the prints to every elected representative. She was named Georgia’s Librarian of the Year in 2017 by GPLS. As a director, Carolyn advocated for the importance of professional involvement, consistently sending many of her staff to the GA COMO Conference to expose them to ideas and professionals from around the state. Carolyn retired from the Henry County Library System in 2018 after successfully leading it for 20 years.
Georgia Library Association
Academic Library Division

Election Results

In September 2020, elections for the Academic Library Division (ALD) executive committee members were held. Catherine Manci from Georgia Tech was elected as the 2021 vice-chair/chair-elect and will also serve as the 2021 Research Paper Award committee chair. Kristina Lang from Georgia State University was elected as secretary. These new members will join the incoming chair, Linh Uong from the University of North Georgia, as the ALD 2021 officers.

A new Association of College & Research Libraries (ACRL) Council Representative was also elected during this year’s election cycle. Lamonica Sanford has been elected to serve as the Georgia ACRL Representative for a three-year term. Ms. Sanford previously served as the ALD secretary in 2020. Congratulations to Ms. Sanford! ALD would also like to thank out-going ACRL Council Representative Sofia Slutskaya for her dedication and stewardship to the Academic Library Division over the past three years.

Thank you to those who agreed to run this year, and congratulations to the winners.

Academic Research Paper Contest

Alex Thomerson is the 2020 recipient of the Georgia Library Association (GLA) ALD Research Paper Award for “Academic Library Space and Technology Concerns: A Content Analysis by Discipline.” Alex Thomerson works for the DeKalb County Public Library at the Brookhaven Branch, where he helps patrons with circulation, reference, and reader’s advisory service. He is also actively involved in the

Friends of the Brookhaven Library local book sale. During his career, Alex has also worked in youth services, interlibrary loan, and genealogy and local historical research.

Alex said that “it is an honor to be recognized by the GLA Academic Library Division for my paper ‘Academic Library Space and Technology Concerns: A Content Analysis by Discipline.’ I would like to offer my sincere thanks to the ALD officers for this award. As I reviewed the literature of this important subject, I became aware of understudied areas that offered promising insight into user space behavior in academic libraries.”

Lauren Jones is this year’s runner-up for her paper “Post-Traditional Student Satisfaction with the User Services Provided by Dacus Library.” Lauren is a reference assistant at Winthrop University. She has worked part-time for Dacus Library at Winthrop since 2015 where she started out as a student assistant in content
services and later began working for the circulation department. She is passionate about improving the academic library experience for international, ESL, and post-traditional students.

Congratulations to both Alex and Lauren on their winning papers!

**ALD 2020 Annual Meeting**

In accordance with the Georgia Library Conference moving to a virtual platform for 2020, the Academic Library Division meeting was held via Zoom on October 6, 2020.

The meeting kicked off with the keynote speaker, Dr. Shaundra Walker, interim library director at Georgia College and the 2020 DEMCO/ALA Black Caucus Award Winner for Excellence in Librarianship. The topic of her keynote presentation was “The Recruitment, Retention, and Promotion of Librarians of Color: A Counterstory.”

The ALD business meeting took place shortly after the keynote speaker. During the meeting, the Executive Committee provided a recap of the 2019–2020 year, introduced the new Executive Committee members, and announced the research award winners.

**ACRL Virtual Webinar Series**

This year ALD hosted two virtual webinar viewings. ALD was lucky to host the first event in February at physical viewing locations but had to go 100% virtual for the second one in May.

In February, ALD hosted the webinar Copyright and Course Reserves: Electronic and Media Reserves. The webinar explored ways in which academic libraries can lawfully connect faculty and students with access to books, book chapters, articles, and film through electronic and media reserve services. A few host sites organized additional activities or invited copyright experts to answer webinar-related questions.

ALD would like to thank the host sites Georgia College, Georgia State University (Decatur Campus), Georgia Southern Armstrong Lane Library, Frank & Laura Lewis Library, LaGrange College, University of Georgia (UGA) Law Library, UGA Libraries, and Valdosta State University Odum Library for their hospitality.

In May, the ALD hosted the ACRL webinar Developing your Leadership Potential: Effective Practices and Innovative Ideas. Highlighted topics covered during the webinar included:

- How to develop an awareness of sustainable core leadership development strategies.
- Learning how to identify strengths and opportunities for leadership development.
- Practical strategies to foster leadership skill development.
- Challenges new leaders face, and strategies to better support those leaders.
- John Kotter’s Eight-Stage Process of Creating Major Change, and how to apply those stages to bring about change in academic libraries.

One hundred fourteen academic librarians registered to participate in the discussions held on two different dates. Participants were able to share their own leadership experience or
questions and concerns about library management issues. As one participant stated in the follow up survey, “it is very helpful to see that I have other colleagues experiencing the same issues and concerns across the state and the country.”

ALD would like to especially thank Ashley Hoffman (Kennesaw State University) and Mary Ann Cullen (Georgia State University) for hosting the live virtual sessions.
Georgia Library Association
2020 GLA Scholarship Winners

The Georgia Library Association (GLA) Scholarship Committee is pleased to announce the 2020 recipients of the Hubbard and the Beard scholarships. These awards are given annually by GLA to provide financial assistance for students pursuing a master’s degree in library science.

The Hubbard Scholarship

Donald “Don” Giacomini is this year’s C. S. Hubbard Scholarship winner. Don has worked as a youth services specialist at the Gwinnett County Public Library for the last four years and was an early education library associate prior to that.

Coming to the library world after teaching English to kids in South Korea, Amsterdam, and Palestine, Don is passionate about fostering curiosity and providing kids with a positive adult role model for all things literacy. His enthusiasm has helped open many doors and, as a result, Don has focused much of his work on connecting the public library to community partners in meaningful and sustainable ways. Always one to spread the importance of outreach and innovation, he has been privileged to speak to peers at prior GLA, PLA (Public Library Association), and ALA (American Library Association) conventions.

With a prior MA in English language and literature from the University of Amsterdam, Don is currently enrolled at Valdosta State University and is pursuing an MLIS degree. He hopes to grow as a librarian and to eventually lead a youth services department in a large public library system.

Don said, “I'm just so grateful to GLA for this award and recognition. I love the work I do and I feel so fortunate to be able to end each day feeling like I've done some good for my community. I'm also grateful to my own system, the Gwinnett County Public Library, for having enough confidence in my own personal vision to allow me to explore new avenues of outreach wherever they pop up and to my youth services colleagues for their collaborative spirit. I plan on taking full advantage of the educational opportunity in front of me in order to develop my own skills and to expand my network here in Georgia and beyond. The work you all do is important, and I'm honored to be a part of it.”

The Beard Scholarship

Jessica Varsa is the winner of this year’s Charles Beard Scholarship. Jessica is the instruction and information services specialist at the Athens campus of Piedmont College. She is currently near to completing an MLIS at Valdosta State University.
Jessica’s goal as a librarian is to provide equitable access to information for everyone, enhancing lifelong learning through digital technology. As a library employee at a commuter campus, Jessica enjoys the diversity and the challenges unique to first-generation students, transfer, mid-career, and adult learners. This service platform allows Jessica to apply her skills in public service, technology integration, information literacy instruction, and technical services.

Prior to finding librarianship, she worked in local government, shepherding many public initiatives through collaborative processes with city and county administrators, staff, and the public. She is driven daily by the opportunity to support access to information and discovery to improve the quality of life of communities.

Jessica wrote: “I am honored to receive this award as it shows ongoing support for the profession, as well as my efforts to work in this important space. Although the model for higher education is rapidly changing, librarians have excelled in rising to this challenge and providing exceptional information services, and I am proud to be among them.”

Congratulations to the 2020 GLA Scholarship winners!

Complete information regarding the scholarships, including application information and how to donate to the scholarship fund, is available on the GLA website.
Georgia Library Association
2020 Georgia Libraries Conference Scholarship Raffle

The Georgia Library Association’s (GLA) first ever virtual Georgia Libraries Conference (GLC) held a successful GLA Scholarship Raffle on October 9, 2020. The Scholarship Committee utilized the platform RallyUp to facilitate an entirely online raffle where anyone, not only conference goers, could enter to win items and support the GLA scholarships.

With the support of many donors, the GLA Scholarship Committee raised a total of $4,754.26 for the C. S. Hubbard and Charles E. Beard Scholarship awards. On behalf of the Scholarship Committee and the scholarship recipients, thank you for the overwhelming support for the scholarship program, especially amidst the COVID-19 Pandemic in which many are financially constrained.

The committee is particularly grateful to those who donated items to the raffle. The donors were responsible for getting the items to the winners since it did not take place in person. Their generosity and flexibility in navigating a new online raffle format made this year’s raffle possible.

Thank you GLA members for assisting future Georgia librarians in achieving their educational goals!
Georgia Library Association
Atlanta Emerging Librarians

Meetings During a Pandemic

2020 started as a promising year for the Atlanta Emerging Librarians (AEL). The planning committee members were prepared with great ideas and events for new and upcoming librarians in the Metro-Atlanta area. AEL planned a tour of the newly renovated Price Gilbert Library at Georgia Tech, a tour of the Georgia Archives, a get together at a pub for trivia, and a panel featuring professional librarians offering advice to new paraprofessionals on job searching and advancing in librarianship.

Although the new planning committee members had officially taken over in January 2020, it took a month for them to begin to organize. The planning committee had their first official meeting in February with the 2019 AEL committee because a snowstorm at the end of January prevented them from meeting sooner. 2020 committee member Tomeka Jackson’s initial reaction to taking on the role summed up how the team felt: “when I accepted the call to become one of three administrators for the Atlanta Emerging Librarians group for 2020, I had no idea what I was doing or how we would put together three events for the year.” The 2020 group met a second time to start planning, but the global COVID-19 Pandemic shut down operations in March.

The pandemic forced AEL to change all of the in-person events to virtual ones. AEL used Google Chat and Zoom to host programs and meet. The admins had to think outside of the box since none of them had experience hosting virtual social events. AEL ended up hosting three events online. AEL threw a virtual happy hour. AEL organized a watch party in conjunction with the Georgia Tech Library of a classic sci-fi film. AEL’s final event was playing Jackbox Party Pack games.

AEL’s first event, the virtual happy hour, was a meet-and-greet with the AEL administrators. Jackson was in charge of creating promotional posters using Adobe Spark as well as social media marketing. “I found that marketing was tough and making the posters took time as I had to think critically about eye catching titles, colors that drew the eye, and promoting the event on all our social media platforms. I did not realize that I had to use Eventbrite as well,” said Jackson. Five people attended. From the attendees’ feedback, AEL learned that the lack of any icebreakers to prevent quiet moments between conversations with the members was a problem. However, it was still a success as the members talked to one another and exchanged job searching tips.

AEL’s second event was a collaborative watch party, which the Georgia Tech Library hosted through Facebook. During early summer, the Georgia Tech Library held virtual watch parties of classic sci-fi films. AEL decided to piggyback on the event since emerging librarians might be interested in watching too. “The movies were familiar only in title to me,” said Gina Viarruel. “I actually ended up sitting in on all three of the

Published by DigitalCommons@Kennesaw State University, 2020
movies they showed during their watch party series. The attendees were highly engaged with commentary the whole way through. For being stuck inside, it was pretty entertaining to be a part of.” The AEL admins were able to track who came to this event through the web algorithms collected from sharing the watch party on the AEL Facebook page. It was just one of the ways AEL used technology in the virtual event environment.

The Jackbox Party Pack was purchased by Kimberly Griffis for the last virtual event. “I had heard of others doing events including online games, and it sounded like a lot of fun,” said Griffis. The group thought if more people had attended, it would have been a hit, but the one attendee seemed to have had a blast.

Unfortunately, attendance declined for each event: the first event had five attendees, the second two, and the final only one. The opinion of the group was that as the year progressed people were more and more burned-out attending virtual events. AEL is still working on how to host events in the time of COVID-19, but it is a process that everyone is dealing with. AEL would love to hear from others about events they offered and those they would be interested in attending. Although it is unclear how much longer everyone will be planning virtual events, being able to adapt to new ways of keeping librarians connected and engaged has expanded the planning committee’s skill sets and allowed them to think of events outside of an in-person, “normal” environment.
Georgia Library Association
Technical Services Interest Group

The Technical Services Interest Group (TSIG) Workshop Committee has been hard at work this past year launching its Workshop Series. The committee’s first workshop was on May 19, 2020. Over 750 people registered and 510 were in attendance as Robin Fay, metadata and technology professional extraordinaire, presented Linked Data for the Real World: Leveraging Metadata for Cataloging. The next three workshops had high attendance as well and covered topics on Connexion client, metadata, and local holdings records:

- Customizing the Connexion Client to Work for You, by Emily Williams (July 14, 2020)
- Big Data: Managing Large-Scale Metadata Projects in a Teleworked Environment, by Mary Miller and Kathleen Carter (September 1, 2020)
- Updating Local Holding Records (LHR) for Serials, by Tina Jordan (September 29, 2020)

The committee would like to thank the Georgia Public Library Service, LaGrange College Library, and the University of Georgia Law Library for hosting the webinars. Rachel Evans, TSIG vice chair/chair elect, created the flyers for the series.

If you missed any of the workshops, the recordings are available on the GLA TSIG page at: https://gla.georgialibraries.org/interest-groups/

GLA Technical Services Interest Group:

- Linh Uong, Chair
- Rachel Evans, Vice Chair/Chair Elect
- Rebecca Hunnicutt, Secretary
- Kelly Ansley, Workshop Committee
- Bernard Bulemu, Workshop Committee
Digital Library of Georgia

Decades of Episodes of Augusta, Georgia’s Pioneering African American Gospel Television Program Parade of Quartets Now Available Online

The Digital Library of Georgia partnered with the Brown Media Archives and Peabody Awards Collection at the University of Georgia Libraries to digitize part of its collection of Parade of Quartets. This gospel program has aired on WJBF-TV in Augusta, Georgia for more than 50 years. The collection is available at: https://dlg.usg.edu/collection/ugabma_poq

The footage documents decades of regional gospel music performances, religious practices, and political activities. Ruta Abolins, director of the Brown Media Archives and Peabody Awards Collection, noted that these materials are “part of the largest collection of gospel performance footage at any North American library.”

Parade of Quartets, broadcast on WJBF-TV in Augusta since 1954, is a rare example of a sustained African American media presence on a southern television affiliate. Hundreds of well-known Black gospel musicians such as Shirley Caesar, Dottie Peoples, the Mighty Clouds of Joy, the Dixie Hummingbirds, and the Swanee Quintet have appeared on the program. In the last few decades, the program’s content has expanded to include appearances by local and national African American political leaders.

Some of these leaders appear in the digitized materials, which cover the period from 1980 to 2011.

This content serves the study of gospel music, religious broadcasting, African American programming, African American community outreach and organization, local television programming, African American politicians, entertainment, musicology, performance studies, African American studies, southern studies, civil rights history, journalism and media studies, and business.

Dr. Barbara McCaskill, professor of English and associate academic director of the Willson Center for Humanities and Arts, and co-director of the Civil Rights Digital Library at the University of Georgia, said that the collection of shows documents a broad spectrum of essential aspects of life for African Americans in the South. McCaskill explained that “the name ‘Parade’ in the program’s title alludes to the pageant tradition in Afro-Protestant churches. At Christmas, Easter, and church anniversaries, youth and adults perform brief skits of Bible parables and lessons, sing spirituals, and recite Bible verses. Rooted in this important Afro-Protestant pageant tradition, which combines oration, song, and performance in a unique form of worship, Parade of Quartets exemplifies how Black Christians used the new medium of television to agitate for social change and honor their communities, as well as showcasing local and regional black gospel artists.”
McCaskill further explained that “secular-themed church pageants commemorate the patriotism and military service of African American men and women. Additionally, they laud the contributions of African American individuals, communities, and organizations. Many of the artists who guested on the show pitched advertisements for Black-owned businesses. So *Parade of Quartets* is also valuable evidence that southern African Americans recognized the power of television to build community wealth and multigenerational financial stability.”

McCaskill concluded, “for its connections to the Afro-Protestant pageant tradition, its dual functions as an example of musical innovation and civil rights activism, and its effectiveness as a lever for African American business growth, *Parade of Quartets* is a national treasure.”

Karlton Howard, who has produced and hosted *Parade of Quartets* for more than thirty years, added, “the Howard family and *Parade of Quartets* are eternally grateful to the Brown Media Archives and Peabody Awards Collection for the gift of preserving portions of the video history of *Parade of Quartets*. Your kindness will ensure that the culture of the African American gospel quartet will be enjoyed and cherished for generations to come.”

**Historical Issues of a Popular Georgia Agricultural Bulletin Now Available Freely Online**

Thanks to a partnership with the Georgia Department of Agriculture, the University of Georgia (UGA) Map and Government Information Library (MAGIL), and the Digital Library of Georgia (DLG), more than 1,712 issues of the *Farmers and Consumers Market Bulletin* dating from 1926–1963 are now available in the Georgia Government Publications online database.

“We are fortunate that previous generations had the foresight to preserve early copies of the Georgia *Market Bulletin*, creating an archive that shows the incredible progression of agriculture from mule days to the technology age,” said Georgia Agriculture Commissioner Gary W. Black. “We are grateful for the partnership of the University of Georgia’s Map and Government Information Library and the Digital Library of Georgia in helping us preserve this archive in digital form and make it available to all Georgians. It is a valuable record of the tremendous strides we’ve made as both an industry and a society.”

The project began when Amy Carter, editor of the *Farmers and Consumers Market Bulletin*, reached out to UGA’s Georgia state documents librarian Sarah Causey, asking for help in preserving back issues that had begun to crumble. “Amy and I both recognized this as a great opportunity to not only preserve her copies, but to also enhance access by adding...
them to our digital collection of Georgia state publications in the DLG,” said Causey, who partnered with the Digital Library of Georgia to preserve and provide access to government documents and records that are part of MAGIL’s collections.

Since 1917, Farmers and Consumers Market Bulletin has published agriculture and consumer news and market information, and facilitated sales for livestock, farm equipment, and other items for Georgia farmers and others in the industry.

“Throughout its 103-year history, the paper has served as a means of communication between the Georgia Department of Agriculture and its constituency which, when you think about it, is every Georgian,” Carter said. “The Market Bulletin still connects farmers with consumers seeking farm-fresh goods statewide, but it also serves as a vehicle for other divisions of the department such as Fuel and Measures, Plant Protection, Animal Health, Structural Pest, and the Georgia Grown marketing program to reach consumers with important news and information that directly impacts their daily lives.”

Carter added that the newspaper’s archives demonstrate changing trends in farming over the decades, and a popular recipe feature continues to this day.

Carter said, “If you look at today’s paper, you’ll see that the Farm Machinery category of our Classified ads section is very popular. Many people buy and sell second-hand tractors, combines, pickers, and tillers from and to fellow growers through the Market Bulletin. Between the 1920s and the 1950s, however, that was actually a very small percentage of our advertising. Livestock, poultry, seeds, flowers, honeybees, and even chewing tobacco were much more in demand. Another popular item advertised for sale from the Great Depression up until the 1960s was ‘sackcloth’—burlap or cotton feed and seed bags repurposed to make clothes, curtains, towels, all manner of household goods. You can tell by reading those ads that farmers quickly seized upon a lucrative ‘side hustle’ by washing, ironing, and selling the sacks that contained their livestock feed and crop seed.”

Materials Documenting the Beginning of Peachtree City, Georgia are Now Available Freely Online

New online records that describe the history of Peachtree City, Georgia, one of the country’s most successful post-World War II “new towns,” are now available for researchers in the Digital Library of Georgia. The collection, Peachtree City: Plans, Politics, and People, “New Town” Beginnings and How the “New Town” Grew, is available at dlg.usg.edu/collection/frrls-pt_newtown and contains prospectuses, master plans, maps, conceptual drawings, newsletters, and administrative records dating from the 1950s to 2007.

Rebecca Watts, the librarian for the Joel Cowan History Room at Peachtree City Library,
described the importance of these resources: “these materials will provide land planners, city planners, and those interested in how a city like Peachtree City came to be, with insight on its beginnings and early history, when the city was devoted to slow growth in an effort to keep a balance between industry, residential, and community amenities.”

Ellen Ulken, the co-author of *Peachtree City: Images of America* (Arcadia Publishing, 2009) noted: “I found the city’s early newsletters invaluable for tracking down stories, photos of people, issues, and progress of the early 1970s. I feel certain that the next person to come along and write a history of Peachtree City will be glad if this material is available and findable online. The digital format would ensure a long life for these newsletters.”

Goodness and the Literary Imagination is a collection of essays written by Harvard scholars inspired by Toni Morrison’s keynote speech at Harvard’s Ingersoll Lecture of 2012. The visit sparked a seminar, Have Mercy: The Religious Dimensions of the Writings of Toni Morrison, that would explore Morrison’s works; seminar discussions surrounded slavery, the effects of slavery, and religion.

Morrison’s Ingersoll Lecture encouraged listeners, and now readers, to question the definition of goodness and where to find it—concluding that to know goodness, one must also know the opposite, evil. Morrison shared with her audience each life facet of characters from her novels. While goodness never wins, Morrison gives goodness a voice and reminds us to have mercy—a theme woven through her novels in the religious aspect and said when no other words will suffice to fill a void.

Authors of the included essays sift through Toni Morrison’s previous works in search of examples of goodness and glean much more. Including the theme of the semester-long working group, the authors also expand on themes such as loss and desperation, and unconditional love and unyielding faith.

Contributing author Matthew Potts points out that most of Morrison’s novels contain the evil that we find alluring. While Morrison states that evil is worshipped, Potts focuses on the recurring evil of abuse to children by their mothers. As a Christian theology scholar, Potts also writes of the similarities between the abuse and maltreatment of Morrison’s fictional characters and the abandonment and maltreatment of Jesus of Nazareth as God’s love. The title of his chapter, “Demons and Dominion,” refers to Toni Morrison’s A Mercy, in which themes of love, rejection, power, and suffering surface. According to Potts, “love is a hard thing; it operates in a hard world and under conditions of bondage, it cannot fully escape, and so it might...take the form of abuse and abandonment at times.”

Gerald “Jay” Williams’s essay, “Unsung No More,” focuses on the double meaning of one word, “mercy”: more than a filler, it’s a prayer, a plea. Williams tells readers that the heaviness of love knows no limits; he then summarizes that allowing goodness speak is an avenue to begin healing and to look forward to a new day.

Goodness and the Literary Imagination could serve as a supplemental text in any higher education course looking to recreate the
environment of the Harvard seminar, Have Mercy.

This book could also serve as a foundation for enlightenment and abundant discussions; the essays may also serve as a precursor for high school students reading a Morrison novel.

LaTiffany Davis is a Learning Commons Librarian at Kennesaw State University.

It had been a rainy month in the mild, southern town of Valdosta, Georgia. On November 24, 1980, Fred Blanton took his crew and began to prepare his recently purchased timber land for plowing, making way for what he hoped would soon become fruitful cropland. Blanton expected to find roots and stumps, typical debris from a defunct timber tract. Instead, he and his crew found something peculiar: a two-foot by four-foot plywood box. Even more startling was the contents of the box: the dismembered remains of a human skeleton.

In the book Six Inches Deeper: The Disappearance of Hellen Hanks, author William Rawlings recounts the harrowing true events that led up to the discovery of the plywood box and the fallout from its unearthing.

The skeletal remains belonged to that of missing Wilcox Advertising secretary Hellen Hanks, who disappeared on August 31, 1972, eight years before the box was eventually found. Suspicion fell naturally on her husband, James Hanks, but later pivoted to her former employers. Foxy Wilcox and his son, Keller Wilcox Jr., were the owners of Wilcox Advertising, a well-known Valdosta corporation that specialized in outdoor marketing and billboards. By all accounts, they were Valdosta royalty: educated, wealthy, and renowned business owners in the area. Which is exactly why the residents of Valdosta could not fathom how members of one of their most prominent families could be convicted of murder. Two Black employees of Wilcox Advertising, Lorenzo Marshall and Ed Wrentz, were also implicated, which suggested the possibility of racial profiling in the case. Were they in fact the perpetrators of this crime, or did they merely aid in its cover-up?

There are secrets lying just beneath the surface, and Rawlings baits readers in with clever foreshadowing tactics and short chapters. When famous lawyer Bobby Lee Cook was hired to represent the Wilcoxes, members of Valdosta’s elite were sure of a win for their beloved family, but could public opinion sway the jury? The well-researched information and facts presented to readers will leave them with more questions than answers. Rawlings’s chronological report of Hellen Hanks’s murder trial includes snippets of quotes from newspaper articles and actual comments from suspects in the case, which serves as a constant reminder that this book is nonfiction. This shocking case brought Valdosta to the world stage, and the story was so sensational as to be confused with fiction.

Rawlings also presents a multitude of legal facts and definitions, included in footnotes, which
help readers with little to no understanding of a court of law and clarify obscure legal terms. At the core of this story is the Hanks family, nearly forgotten. Barely a tear was shed by the public eye for Hellen’s violent death and brutal dismemberment. Rawlings deftly shies away from conjecture and bias, leaving the reader to draw their own conclusions. True crime enthusiasts and history buffs will enjoy reading this complex tale of murder and intrigue. Its final chapter begs the question: is justice truly blind, or can wealth tip the scale?

Chelsee Dickson is Scholarly Communications Librarian at Kennesaw State University
Understanding the Short Fiction of Carson McCullers edited by Alison Graham-Bertolini and Casey Kayser (Mercer University Press, 2020: ISBN 9780881467420, $35.00)

Carson McCullers has long been considered an exemplary figure of the southern Gothic genre, with her focus on the strangeness and grotesqueness of mid-century southern life. Her novels, such as The Heart is a Lonely Hunter, Reflections in a Golden Eye, The Member of the Wedding, and The Ballad of the Sad Café, have received much critical attention at the time of their respective publications as well as today. The novels tend to be preoccupied with alienation and queerness of various types—disfigurement, disability, illness, addiction, sexuality, abandonment. In this new edited collection from Graham-Bertolini and Kayser, however, it is McCullers’s short fiction that takes center stage. This collection seeks to re-envision McCullers as not only a novelist, but a short story writer as well, by taking on what some see as her neglected work in that genre. Additionally, the editors seek to expand the understanding of McCullers as a writer preoccupied with alienation and queerness into a broader understanding of her as a “writer politically ahead of her time, concerned not just with the failures of the human connection, but intent on critiquing oppressive sociopolitical mores and institutions that may have prevented such relationships.”

Readers familiar with McCullers’s novels will find this exploration of her short stories through the lens of her as a novelist worthwhile. Two stories seem to dominate many of the chapters in this book: “The Haunted Boy” and “Untitled Piece.” As with most of her writing, these stories also deal with the alienated, the abnormal, and the queer. In “The Haunted Boy,” a teenage boy slowly unravels after the trauma of witnessing his mother’s suicide attempt and the rejection of his affection by his best friend. In “Untitled Piece,” a young man travels home, drunk, and encounters a Jewish man on the bus. He reveals information about his past, including a sexual experience he had with his Black nanny as a youth. In both, the specters of mental illness and sexual transgression linger—both themes common in much of McCullers’s fiction. Some authors in this volume (e.g., Horning, Willis, Byerman) have read this preoccupation as semi-autobiographical. McCullers herself struggled with mental illness, alcoholism, and her own gender and sexuality. In this way, much of her short fiction deals with the themes seen elsewhere in her work and for which she is best known. The explication of these themes through her short fiction is worthwhile in expanding general critical attention to these works.

In the attempt to expand the understanding of McCullers beyond these themes, the writers rely mostly on McCullers as a political figure. In many of the chapters, it is noted how she...
engaged with politics—particularly anti-fascist and Marxist politics—as a combatant to the realities of the mid-20th century South. For example, Matsui’s chapter on fascism in McCullers and Welles is an exemplary look at how the politics of the 1930s and 1940s affected diverse artistic outputs. Others also deal with the political nature of McCullers’s writing in their chapters, most notably Graham-Bertolini and Magome. However, Marxist readings of McCullers’s work are not new, as her novels, particularly *The Heart is a Lonely Hunter*, have been getting such treatment since at least the 1990s. As McCullers often used her short fiction as a place to work out thematic concepts for her novels, the expansion of understanding of McCullers as a political writer—particularly as an anti-fascist writer—is solidified by exploring these themes in her short fiction, as well as how they interact with her broader themes of alienation and Otherness.

This book is recommended for academic libraries that collect in the area of southern literature and 20th century literature.

*Thomas Weeks is Reference and Instruction Librarian at Augusta University*