BEGIN YOUR NEXT CHAPTER

Earn an MLIS online from The University of Alabama

Gain the skills you need for success in the growing field of information services with an ALA-accredited Master of Library and Information Studies. Tailor your coursework to the area where you want to make a difference. Focus on school libraries, archival studies, youth services, digital stewardship or social justice and inclusivity.

Contact us today!

BamaByDistance.ua.edu/gla
Sequoyah Regional Library System
DIY Toddler-Safe Sensory Slime Program

The Sequoyah Regional Library System (SRLS) strives to be the "Dynamic Destination for Discovery" for its community. When the news of COVID-19 hit and SRLS worked to adapt their services to be available virtually, many of the librarians explored ways they could support families who had to quickly pivot to having their kids at home full time. Like many public libraries, SRLS began providing virtual storytimes via Facebook, but patrons expressed an interest in seeing educational activities and projects that they could follow along with at home. SRLS youth services specialists began offering STEAM virtual programming, including the DIY Toddler-Safe Sensory Slime virtual program created by Youth Services Specialist Cathryn McCrimmon.

Cathryn wanted to coordinate a sensory virtual program that provided an engaging project for little ones, while simultaneously informing parents and caregivers how they could make the most of sensory play with their children. The virtual program provided a detailed list of the slime ingredients needed for the project and slime creation instructions. Cathryn made it a priority for all the ingredients to be taste-safe in case the children participating at home had the idea to taste the slime.

During the program, Cathryn highlighted how the slime could be used to explore the five senses: touching, tasting, seeing, hearing, and smelling. Some examples of these sensory opportunities include making sounds with the slime by putting the slime in a container, exploring slime as a non-Newtonian fluid with touch, and seeing how chia seeds in slime expand as they soak up water.

Patrons responded well to this program since the project incorporated common household ingredients that they might already have or could easily acquire. They also liked that the slime was taste-safe and provided a great opportunity for learning through play. Seeing this response has encouraged SRLS librarians to provide continued STEAM virtual programming and support families that are homeschooling or participating in virtual school.

Visit the library website at https://www.sequoyahregionallibrary.org/ to learn more about the Sequoyah Regional Library System and its programs.
Union Grove High School Learning Commons

The Union Grove High School (UGHS) Learning Commons is a high school library media center serving over 1500 students in grades 9–12. The learning commons is part of the Henry County School System, located in McDonough, Georgia. The mission is to ensure success for each student as measured by individual progress and by local, state, and national standards. The learning commons commits to a structured system of support to empower students with 21st century skills to promote College and Career Readiness (CCR). The learning commons is committed to the ideals set forth in the American Association of School Librarians (AASL) National School Library Standards Framework for the 21st-Century Learner. The goal is to provide students, teachers, and administrators with books in print, e-books, information literacy skills instruction, and information technology services. In addition, the learning commons provides resources to support the curriculum enabling students to become effective users of information and ideas.

The UGHS Learning Commons has abundant resources to help reach its mission. The entire fiction area is arranged by genre, with popular sections such as dystopian, realistic, mystery, romance, historical, supernatural, fantasy, and science fiction. The learning commons has over 14,000 books in print, access to thousands of e-books, research databases, unlimited book check-out, black and white and color printing services, and a makerspace craft area with die cuts.

Henry County schools offer one-to-one technology. Each student in Henry County schools has a district issued Chromebook with Classlink apps. Students at UGHS have access to wireless printing through Papercut, desktop computers, iPads, charging area for Chromebooks, and flexible hours before and after school.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the learning commons has adapted to remote learning and continued to provide virtual services to students and teachers. The learning commons is open daily from 7:45 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. for students and staff who are on campus. In addition, self-contained ESE (exceptional student education) classes also visit the learning commons weekly for book check out and library information skills instruction. The learning commons provides daily curbside book check out and pickup to students who are taking classes remotely. Students complete a Google Form to request up to 10 books to pick up curbside. The learning commons also has a Google Classroom and Bitmoji Virtual Library that provides students with passwords to databases, information literacy skills
For more information, please visit the Union Grove High School Learning Commons website: https://schoolwires.henry.k12.ga.us/domain/1407
Valdosta State University, Odum Library
Board Game Collection & Gaming Program

Valdosta State University’s Odum Library has a board game collection of over 125 games that range from familiar titles like Clue and Uno to contemporary classics like Catan and Ticket to Ride. The collection supports not only relaxation but collaborative and creative play with games like Dungeons & Dragons. The library also works to find and add game titles like Oceans that support academic departments at the university. Along with games, the library also has programming to support discovery of the collection as well as help establish a stronger foundation between students and librarians and between students and their peers.

The program, pre-pandemic, consisted of a variety of in-person events. Odum Library would host monthly game nights to allow students to meet up and connect with each other, as well as give the librarians an opportunity to teach some of the more obscure or difficult games in the collection. Odum Library also provided how-to-play sessions to showcase educational games for the classroom or team-building games for university departments and organizations. For tabletop role-playing games, the library created a teaching series, Dungeons & Dragons (D&D) 1101, to help students learn and get comfortable with roleplaying and collaborative storytelling. In addition to the introductory classes, the library reached out to professors for a speaker series called Tabletop Role-Playing Game (TTRPG) & Academia. Its purpose was to explore the intersection of games and research and show students how each area can enhance the other.

In response to the COVID-19 Pandemic, Odum Library has moved the programming online. At the start of the semester, the library hosted a trivia night for freshmen through Blackboard Ultra and has since been using Discord, a Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) program, to share gaming resources and host events. Teaching and playing tabletop role-playing games online has been fairly similar to previous experiences and continues to be a popular program. However, Odum Library has had to be creative with board game substitutions and has taken advantage of free online resources, from board game simulators to virtual escape rooms. Jackbox Games has also become a staple of game night, with its wide variety of games and simplicity, and it is the most consistently attended event. During International Game Week, the library tested out asymmetric play with a variety of puzzles and will be rolling out more of this type of gaming in the upcoming semester.
The library has kept up assessment throughout the shift from in-person to virtual programming, and email continues to be the best marketing tool for events. Though attendance is down by more than half across the board, the students that do attend continue to enjoy the programming, with 78% saying they enjoyed the events “a great deal” and 22% saying they enjoyed them “a lot.” Even though attendance numbers are down, the physical collection has shown increased usage; the November 2020 numbers almost doubled those from 2019. So, while events this year look very different from previous years, Odum Library continues to foster the joy of gaming in students.

You can find out more about the collection and programming here: [https://libguides.valdosta.edu/odumgames/home](https://libguides.valdosta.edu/odumgames/home)
While 2020 has been described in many ways, it was also a year that showcased the leadership skills the Georgia Library Association (GLA) has at its disposal. My predecessor, Laura Burtle, helped GLA navigate the twists and turns that were thrown at us, and I’m grateful for the opportunity to learn from her example and serve as the president of the Georgia Library Association for 2021.

Several of the challenges of 2020 will be with us for a while longer. This year will be one of transition and change on many fronts.

As the pandemic persists, GLA will continue to advocate that everyone who works in a library be included in Phase 1B of Georgia’s COVID vaccination schedule. All of Georgia’s libraries play an essential part in fighting COVID-19 by supporting critical front-line services that can help the whole community slow the spread of the virus, such as facilitating vaccine appointment registration and finding accurate vaccine information. Library services will be safer for library workers, and the public, when library workers who have direct contact with their community are vaccinated.

GLA’s Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Taskforce started their work in 2020. Their initial charge is to make specific recommendations for GLA and its units to address issues of equity, diversity, and inclusion in the organization, in libraries in the state, and in the profession. Be on the lookout for the survey of GLA membership in the coming weeks. Many thanks to co-chairs Robert Taylor and Chaun Campos for their forward progress in this work.

The list of unknowns for 2021 includes the format of the Georgia Libraries Conference. The conference planning committee, led by Kara Rumble, is investigating all of our options for a safe conference experience this fall. Stay tuned for more information in the coming weeks.

As we get ready for another year that will certainly be different than any other, it’s good to have connections in place. I’ve already had conversations with leaders of the Georgia Library Media Association (GLMA), the Georgia Association of Instructional Technology (GAIT), and the Society for Georgia Archivists (SGA). Connecting and collaborating with our peers makes us stronger.

Speaking of collaboration, GLA’s School Library Division Revitalization Taskforce has an impressive multi-year plan to further strengthen ties with GLMA and create more opportunities for GLA members who are school library media specialists, or who want to support their important work. I’m grateful to Casey Long for her leadership and creative thinking.

The virtual annual GLA Midwinter Planning Meeting was another shining example of GLA’s talented (and all volunteer) leadership coming together. Every committee, division, and interest group was able to make the switch to a virtual meeting, with each group making plans and brainstorming options for the coming year.

As I stopped by each division meeting, I was struck by the focus on support for GLA members during this time.

I look forward to working together over the coming year. Please reach out to me or any
board member if you have any ideas or suggestions for strengthening GLA.

Wendy Cornelisen
President, Georgia Library Association 2021
president@georgialibraryassociation.org
Let me start off by saying, I grew up in a library. My mom is an elementary librarian, and my dad is a high school history teacher and football coach. The result of this union was wall-to-wall bookcases in almost every room of our house. Our categorization was based on collection size and interest. When a book made it to a shelf, any spot was up for grabs. We had a history bookcase (a Thomas Jefferson biography also doubled as the family safe—need your social security card? Go check Thomas!), a children’s lit bookcase, a vintage/antique bookcase, a mystery/thriller bookcase, a coaching and biography bookcase, and a loosely defined miscellaneous section that stretched four bookcases deep across our family room walls. We also had our personal bedroom bookcases. My mom instilled a strong preference for hardback covers in us—paperbacks just don’t look as good on the shelf! We often had multiple editions of children’s books and cookbooks ready to give as gifts.

Every time my sister and I had friends over, someone would comment on our house being a library and that was always a point of pride for me. I loved every single one of those bookcases. It wasn’t until I was older that I noticed that I had several friends who lived in houses that didn’t have any bookcases. Or that I didn’t have friends who would wait until their parents went to bed and hide in the closet to read books all night. And now a room feels naked without a bookcase. In fact, if I see an empty space in any house, I immediately think “oh, a bookcase would look great there.” I advocate for everyone to turn their home into a library.

After graduating from the University of Memphis with a degree in English, I moved to Boston, Massachusetts in 2014 to pursue my MA in English at UMass Boston (I would later go on to get my MLIS at Simmons). I was tasked with only taking what could fit into my Ford Escape. I boxed up my entire life in that car, but space was extremely limited. I was moving from a little town in West Tennessee, so there would be no coming back for a second load. In the end, I decided to leave my mattress so I would have more room for books, shoving boxes every which way in my car. They were my security blanket—I honestly could not think of moving without them or having a home without them. In Boston, I found the sidewalks to be a treasure chest of furniture, cookware, and other essential home items. I scavenged two bookcases (and a desk!) to house my collection,
haphazardly putting books wherever they would fit.

Currently, I am following in my parents’ footsteps and have started building my own home library (with the help of my English PhD candidate husband, Christian). I will admit that I am a somewhat disorganized home librarian, so our collection initially started as just one big pile, organized by author’s last name. With time, however, we have had the need to create a few dedicated bookshelves/categories. We have a “books we have taught” case housing earmarked copies of textbooks and novels. Also, we have almost enough for a cookbook case, a Victorian literature case (thanks, Christian), a critical pedagogy case, and my personal favorite: a cocktail bookcase that sits atop our bar cart. We are also working on a collection of vintage/antique books to have a case of their own, and these are currently only organized based on book size.

I love books not only because I love literature but also because books can hold memories. My mom always put thoughtful notes in books that she gave as gifts, a ritual she continues to this day. More than anything, I love grabbing a book off the shelf and seeing a note commemorating a graduation or birthday. Often these books are personal markers for me, measuring my successes and setbacks. I also try to buy unique copies of books when I go on trips. My first time out of the country I bought a beautiful copy of *The Bell Jar* from the coziest bookstore in Sydney, Australia. Further, I cherish my copy of *Anne of Green Gables* from a trip to Newfoundland, Canada. Even in middle school, I remember going on a trip to Wise, Virginia, and it was the perfect fall day. The leaves were gold and deep red. The town was cute and bustling, and as we walked downtown, we happened upon a fall festival. There, I bought a copy of *Rip Van Winkle* and *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow* by Washington Irving, and every time I see that book, I think back on that day and remember how happy and perfect it was.

While I am pretty good at weeding my collection and donating those books that no longer excite me, my husband is another story. While I try to only keep books that I would want to read again or hold a special memory (and note), he doesn’t like to get rid of any of our books, littering his copies with Post-it notes and scrawling in the margins. We have books shoved in closets because he won’t get rid of any, yet somehow, we make it work. I love looking at the shelves and seeing a collection of fond memories and beloved works, and I’m excited to think of the new, preferably hardback, editions we will add to the shelves in the coming years.

*Sarah Grace Glover is Reference Services Librarian at University of North Georgia*
You Ought to Write a Book!

By Crystal Renfro

You’ve just finished an innovative project, given a popular presentation, or successfully juggled the diverse responsibilities of librarianship in a particularly effective and successful way. Then something totally unexpected happens. Someone declares, “You ought to write a book!” You’ve never considered such an endeavor, or, if you did, it might have involved some random scribbles of poetry or a fanciful scene recorded in a secret notebook somewhere, never intended to be brought to light. But colleagues, your boss, or maybe even your boss’s boss have jumped on the enthusiastic publishing bandwagon, and you find yourself facing a challenge you had never imagined without a clear roadmap for your way. Like me, your managers might also encourage you to consider how advantageous it would be to have a published book listed as part of your tenure and promotion portfolio. I hear you. I was you just a few years ago. Settle back and let me share with you some of what I learned from getting a 430 plus page, 34 chapter edited book published, which I co-edited with Cheryl Stiles, and which was the number three ranked bestselling ACRL book for 2018–2019.

Laying the Groundwork

When first considering the idea of writing a book, it is important for you to do a preliminary search of library literature to determine the originality of your topic. Has your topic already been published? How is your experience, program, or slant different than current literature? Is there a market-sized audience for which you can target your book? We targeted our book, Transforming Libraries to Serve Graduate Students, specifically to academic libraries with graduate student populations. This was a niche market, but one that had proved to be a very interested segment based on our two national biennial conferences: Transforming Libraries for Graduate Students. During your library literature search, pay attention to the publishers of books similar in nature to yours. They can form the basis of your targeted publisher list when you are determining where to send your book proposal. This type of target market information is also often a part of the information your publishers will request in a book proposal and will prove useful to them as they attempt to determine market size and opportunities.

Next, outline the possible content for your book. Is there really enough material to fill an entire book? For example, if you are describing a program or initiative within your library, the text could be expanded to discuss similar programs in other libraries. There are many ways to incorporate this, from citing other literature to guest authors who write sections about their programs, or to even using a written “interview” format with other program designers.

Third, consider whether you are the best person to write all aspects of the book. Do you want to consider finding co-authors or becoming the editor of the book and putting out a chapter call for authors? If you decide on a chapter call format, do you want a co-editor to help? For my book, I felt comfortable with organization, strategic planning, and maintaining a cohesive, overall tone for the text, but knew I needed a co-editor who was good at editing details and bibliographic consistency.

The Chapter Call

In our case, we wanted to provide a detailed, cross-section overview of library services to graduate students from many different perspectives. This premise lent itself naturally to a multi-author, edited collection format.
Utilizing the chapter call model also offered us the ability to reach out to specific experts as invited contributors to add the value of recognized authors in the field to our book.

One surprise to us was that publishers differ widely in the requirements of their book proposals. One publisher that had expressed early interest in our idea wanted to have a fairly firm outline of the book prior to making any decision regarding their intention to offer a contract. Under this scenario, we needed to complete our chapter call and choose our authors from their submitted abstracts prior to completing any book proposal. This course of action requires a certain leap of faith both on the part of the book editors and on the part of the proposal chapter authors since no book contract has yet been established. It also requires excellent communication between editors and authors for both to understand the time frame (which could and often does shift!) and to maintain interest in the project at each step of the publication process. While we initially worked with this publisher, completing our full chapter call and determining the proposed chapters for our book proposal, they did not choose to move forward with our book proposal as they were not convinced the market size was sufficient.

As a point of clarification, our eventual publisher, ACRL Publishing, does not require an author call prior to proposal. Most of their book proposals include a detailed outline of projected topics that the book editors create, and after they accept the proposal, the editors can do a full chapter call with adjustments to the outline as needed and approved by both editors and publisher based on the chapter proposals you receive. ACRL Publishing was happy to consider our proposal, fully outlined with prospective chapter authors and topics, since we had already reached that point when we approached them with a proposal. We greatly appreciated their enthusiasm, flexibility, patience, and professionalism throughout the publishing process. They were such a help to first-time book editors like us.

There are many ways editors can implement a chapter call for a book. Many calls list the general focus of a book requesting chapter abstracts in any of several areas from which the editors then compile a book outline. My co-editor and I chose a different route. We brainstormed all the most interesting (in our opinion) aspects of graduate librarianship. As we listed possibilities, we began to form an outline grouping similar ideas into overarching sections, such as services by delivery method and discipline, physical space design, workshops and specialty tools, and finally a section on partnerships with other university units. We decided to send out a very specific chapter call to various library listservs. In it, we listed our actual potential book outline and called for authors interested in writing those specific chapters. We also allowed submissions on additional chapter topics if they could be incorporated into our outline. Our very specific call yielded over 50 responses within a one-month time frame and amazingly fulfilled almost every suggested chapter within our outline as well as yielding several wonderful topics we had not previously considered.

Proposal Submission

Most publishers have very detailed inquiry forms with specific deliverables, which take some time and effort to complete. Items such as synopsis of book, estimated length of manuscript, plans for illustrations, manuscript outline, estimated completion date, target audience, author/editor biographies, marketing and promotion plans, and an overview of the competitive landscape for the book are often part of any formal book proposal. Be sure to check with each publisher as the details vary. When working on large projects, bumps inevitably happen, which can either spell failure or require on-the-spot strategic adjustments that often result in even greater success for the project. Our bump occurred when our initial
publisher decided to go in a different direction and not proceed with our book proposal. This caused us to invoke one of the cardinal rules for writers: when rejected, evaluate any comments from your publisher, revise if necessary, and then resubmit to another venue. Following this time-honored advice, on the very same day we were rejected by one publisher, we submitted our proposal to ACRL Publishing, who as mentioned previously subsequently offered us a book contract.

Communication is Key

This brings us to a second critical responsibility that applies to co-authors and especially to book editors. Frequent and timely communication to all stakeholders is critical, and not a trivial task. My co-editor and I decided early on that while contact information for both of us would be on all chapter author and publisher communications, it would provide the most cohesive edit trail to have only one of us send out the majority of the e-mails and conduct individual follow-up when necessary.

Because of the month-long delays while seeking book contracts with first one publisher and then ACRL Publishing, our potential chapter authors were kept waiting in limbo on the acceptance of their proposals. What we had initially proposed to be a summer writing project for our authors turned into fall semester deadlines during one of the busiest times for most academic librarians. We maintained continual communication with our authors, updating them as the timeline shifted, and keeping them always in the loop regarding the book’s progress. Due to this communication channel and, due in large part to their collective professionalism, we were able to successfully receive all chapters within the stated deadlines.

The Importance of Organization

Good organization skills are critical when you are dealing with multiple chapter authors (34 chapters, many with multiple authors each, in our case). Sometimes mass recipient e-mails can be sent with general update information, but it behooves the book editors to complete much of the correspondence on an individual basis. Maintaining author lists with contact e-mails and place of employment is also an essential task to include in your planning. Consider that over the life of your project, some authors may change employment or even go on sabbatical, so maintaining contact is critical. To aid us in this, the library’s Digital Commons manager created a submission system for proposals that captured author names, university, e-mails, tentative titles, and proposals. This eliminated the need for proposal receipt e-mails. Some of the other e-mails that editors may anticipate sending out to chapter authors include acceptance/rejection of proposal, timeline updates, reminders of chapter due dates, revision requests for each edited chapter, reminders on revised chapter submission deadlines, as needed correspondence for image/figure adjustments, and general announcements on book release dates, cover reveals, and more. There are also a number of correspondence topics between you and your publisher that will need to be considered when planning your project including such items as: submissions of initial manuscript and subsequent redline edits, collection of chapter author biographic blurbs, and discussions regarding book cover, layout, and marketing plans, to name only a few.

It Takes a Village

Depending on the size of the book you’re writing, you might require the assistance of other co-workers once the book chapter editing stage is reached. Consider gathering individuals with different expertise: an excellent grammar editor, someone detail oriented to help with organization of chapter copies and spreadsheets, and someone with content rich knowledge. In our case, my co-editor and I enlisted the help of a talented graduate student worker and our equally talented library
assistant to join us in several weeks’ worth of work in editing 34 chapters. As co-editors, we each read and edited all 34 chapters, with our two co-workers each editing 17 chapters. We then came together for several all-day edit-a-thons where we all analyzed each chapter together. Some of us were best at identifying flow issues and sentence structure, while others excelled at formatting endnotes and bibliographies according to our chosen style guide. The editing process was monumental. It took a village.

The Book Project Afterlife

While delivering a completed manuscript to your book publisher is a pinnacle moment, the work surrounding your project is far from complete. Your publisher may have significant re-edits or even restructuring requests for the manuscript. Some you may be able to handle yourself, but others may require going back yet again to certain chapter authors. The publisher will conduct a professional copy edit for clarity, grammar, and style following the manual of style designated by the publisher. The resulting redlined copyedit will then be returned to the book editors for review and possibly chapter authors will see these versions if needed.

Once you have resolved all the major editing elements, the next stage to publication is the actual layout of the book; here the publisher will generally return a new copy back to you for final review and approval. At this stage you will see what your final book will look like. Publishers have great graphic artists who create layout graphics and book covers, but don’t be shy in making suggestions when it comes to your final book’s appearance. In our case, a talented graphic designer in the library suggested a more colorful book cover design that echoed the graphic design we had previously used for our popular graduate librarian’s conference. We loved the cohesive tie-in to our conference, and our publisher was very gracious in working with us to use that cover and provide attribution to our graphic designer. The bottom line is that you never know what is possible if you don’t ask. Our experience is that most publishers are terrific to work with and have a shared interest in making the book a success.

After your book is finally published, marketing and promotion is likely to continue for a number of months. This might include such opportunities as announcements to listservs, stints in author booths and author/editor panels at national conventions, or possible invitations for topical webinars or podcasts. The possibilities are only limited by your willingness to participate and the creativity of you and your publisher for marketing opportunities.

Are you eager to pick up your pen and put on your author’s or editor’s cap? If you don’t tell your story, who will? Whether you choose to be a solo author or take the path of an edited collection like my co-editor and I did, your story needs to be told. The library profession grows and innovates based on the combined contributions of its members. Your book is an important part in that process. The sense of accomplishment and pride you will feel when viewing the final product will be well worth the effort. Happy writing!
Call for Papers!

Academic Library Division of the Georgia Library Association
Georgia Chapter of ACRL
2021 Georgia Libraries Conference

The Academic Library Division (ALD) of the Georgia Library Association/Georgia Chapter of ACRL invites Georgia librarians and library science students to submit research papers pertaining to academic libraries for presentation at the 2021 Georgia Libraries Conference. Criteria for selection include purpose, content, organization, scholarship, and references. Papers should include research on developments in academic libraries that present challenging opportunities for libraries and librarianship throughout the state, region, or nation. Papers should be approximately 2000–6000 words.

The Georgia Library Quarterly (GLQ) may invite selected authors to submit their papers for possible publication in GLQ.

GLA may award complimentary Georgia Libraries Conference registration and a cash prize for the paper selected as the top entry. Complimentary conference registration may be awarded to the runner-up entry. The two top papers will be presented at the Georgia Libraries Conference. If no paper is submitted or papers are not deemed scholarly, then ALD reserves the right to not present an award for the year.

DISCLAIMER: Papers may have multiple authors, but only one author may be awarded complimentary registration, and the cash prize will be shared amongst all authors of the selected paper.

Notice of Intention:
The notice of intent includes your name, phone number, email address, a tentative title, and a brief (200 word) abstract.

Notice of Intention Due: April 12, 2021
Notice of Intention Form: https://forms.gle/uUBEBxifHFemkgMZA

Paper Submission:
The final paper should be approximately 2000–6000 words. Please use the APA (American Psychological Association) as the style guide for the submission.

Final Submission Form Due: July 12, 2021
Final Paper Submission Form: https://forms.gle/QMMr2VwJsa4Jt4vH9

Notification of Results: August 4, 2021

Catherine Manci
ALD Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect
Selected Papers Review Committee Chair
Georgia Library Association
Black Caucus Interest Group

GLA-BC Ignites Members with Lightning Talks and More

On October 1, 2020, the Georgia Library Association’s Black Caucus (GLA-BC) Interest Group held its inaugural virtual preconference called Ignited. The purpose of the preconference was to give members an opportunity to present in a supportive environment and share ideas on various topics that are important to group members. Attendees were from academic, public, and school libraries; topics ranged from “Expanding Your Reach Through Critical Librarianship” to “Balancing Work and Home During COVID-19.” The group has plans to continue the preconference in 2021.

On November 12, 2020, the Great Exchange took place via Zoom. During this event, various GLA-BC members could join the open forum to share ideas to help one another learn and grow. Members shared various ideas on business and career goals, graphic design, self-care, STEM, and social spaces, just to name a few. In addition to these two virtual events, the group also released a newsletter. The newsletter shares national and local news about members, lists professional development opportunities, recommends books, and more. The newsletter is sent to all current GLA-BC Interest Group members. To ensure you are a member of GLA-BC, please log in to the GLA website and check your membership status. GLA members can join interest groups at any time.

The GLA-BC was founded in 2018 by Karen Manning and Tamika Barnes with the support of many other members. The group welcomes its 2021 officers: Angiah Davis, chair, Gordon State College; Priscilla Dickerson, vice chair/chair elect, Auburn Avenue Research Library on African American Culture and History; and Angela Dixon, secretary, Georgia State University Libraries, Dunwoody Campus. To subscribe to the GLA-BC e-mail list, or if you have any questions, e-mail adavis1@gordonstate.edu.
Digital Library of Georgia

Issues of the Houston Home Journal Dating from 1993 to 2008 Freely Available at the Georgia Historic Newspapers Website

Through a partnership with the Houston County Public Library System, the Digital Library of Georgia (DLG) has completed the final phase of digitization of the Houston Home Journal (HHJ), a project that has lasted nearly five years. Issues of the newspaper are now available online at the Georgia Historic Newspapers website: gahistoricnewspapers.galileo.usg.edu/.

This project was made possible by the generous donations and support of the following: the estate of Alice L. Gilbert (former Perry Librarian), Flint Energies Foundation, the Friends of the Houston County Public Library, and the Houston Home Journal.

Over the past five years, the DLG has digitized 8,166 issues, or 129,029 pages, of the Houston Home Journal, dating from 1870 to 2008. This represents the largest date span of any title available on the Georgia Historic Newspapers website. It also amounts to the second greatest number of issues of any newspaper title on the website.

John T. Waterman founded the Houston Home Journal in Perry, Georgia, in December 1870. The Hodges family maintained ownership of the publication for over 60 years before selling it in 1946. The Houston Home Journal remains the legal organ for Houston County and continues publication as the county’s oldest continually operated business.

This phase of the newspaper digitization project includes five Houston County titles from 1993–2008, a total of 1,983 issues, or 61,743 pages. The newly available titles are available at gahistoricnewspapers.galileo.usg.edu/counties/houston/.

Georgette Lipford, president of the Central Georgia Genealogical Society and member of the Friends of the Houston County Public Library System noted:

The recently completed digitization project of the Houston Home Journal and its addition to the Georgia Historic Newspapers website represents an absolute treasure for anyone researching family in Houston County. Sometimes a newspaper notice is the only surviving document of an ancestor’s existence. These issues of the HHJ have obituaries, wedding announcements, legal notices, employment news, hospitalizations, and photographs, all of which tell an ancestor’s or descendant’s story. What previously may have taken hours of searching to locate can now be found with a couple of mouse clicks and it’s freely available to genealogists across the country!

Issues of the Augusta Herald Dating from 1898 to 1924 Freely Available at the Georgia Historic Newspapers Website

Through a partnership with the Augusta-Richmond County Library System, the Digital Library of Georgia (DLG) has completed the digitization of three Augusta Herald titles dating from 1898 to 1924, comprising 6,993 issues and 91,708 pages. The issues are now available online at the Georgia Historic Newspapers website at gahistoricnewspapers.galileo.usg.edu/. The three titles digitized are:
The Augusta Herald, 1898–1908: gahistoricnewspapers.galileo.usg.edu/lccn/sn82014179/

The Augusta Daily Herald, 1908–1914: gahistoricnewspapers.galileo.usg.edu/lccn/sn89053973/

The Augusta Herald, 1914–1924: gahistoricnewspapers.galileo.usg.edu/lccn/sn89053972/

The project marks the first time 20th century Augusta newspapers have been made freely available online to the public. Former employees of the Augusta Chronicle established the Augusta Herald in 1890 and published daily in the afternoon to compete with the morning edition of the Chronicle. By 1915, the Augusta Herald had surpassed all competition and boasted the city’s largest circulation rate. William and Florence Morris of the Southeastern Newspapers Corporation acquired the Herald in 1955, putting the publication under the same parent company as the Augusta Chronicle. The Herald continued circulation through most of the 20th century before ceasing publication in 1993.

The Knox Foundation provided $45,000 of funding for this project and the Friends of the Augusta Library provided $5,000.

Tina Monaco, the historian for the Georgia Heritage Room at the Augusta-Richmond County Library System, said:

This project has been in the works for several years, and the Augusta-Richmond County Public Library System is thrilled to see it completed and to finally have a significant portion of the Herald freely accessible to the public. The lifespan of the Herald, Augusta, Georgia’s longtime evening newspaper, follows almost 100 years of local history, and the nearly 30 years (1898 to 1924) the Digital Library of Georgia has digitized chronicles a remarkable time in the history of our city, our country, and the world. Researchers will have the opportunity to read about the changes wrought as the world moved through the turn of the 20th century, World War I, the Spanish Influenza, the passing of the 19th Amendment, Prohibition, and many other landmark events. The Augusta Public Library is indebted to the Knox Foundation and the Friends of the Augusta Public Library for their generous financial support, without which this project would have never made it off the ground.

Issues of the Southern Cross, the Weekly Newspaper of the Diocese of Savannah, Available Freely Online on the Georgia Historic Newspapers Website.

In conjunction with partners at the Roman Catholic Diocese of Savannah, the Southern Cross (1963–2000) is now available for viewing at the Georgia Historic Newspapers website at gahistoricnewspapers.galileo.usg.edu/lccn/sn22
These newspapers will contribute to a broader scholarship about Catholicism in Savannah as well as in Georgia. The Georgia Historic Newspapers Archive website provides access to these newspapers, enabling full-text searching and browsing by date and title. The site is compatible with all current browsers and the newspaper page images can be viewed without the use of plug-ins or additional software downloads. The archive is free and open for public use.

To fight Catholic prejudice and resist the spread of false information regarding Catholic beliefs and history, the Catholic Laymen's Association (CLA) of Georgia was founded in 1916. The CLA published pamphlets that explained Catholic beliefs for several years before establishing The Bulletin of the Catholic Laymen's Association of Georgia, in January of 1920. The Bulletin ran as a monthly newspaper out of Augusta until 1956 when the organization changed the name to The Bulletin of the Catholic Laymen's Association of Georgia, Official Newspaper for the Diocese of Savannah & Atlanta; this change came after the diocese divided into two regions, Atlanta and Savannah. For a few months in early 1958, the Diocese of Savannah published the Savannah Bulletin, before the Bulletin began circulating two editions for Savannah and Atlanta through 1962. In 1963, the publication split into two separate diocesan papers, The Bulletin (Archdiocese of Atlanta) and The Southern Cross (Diocese of Savannah). The CLA disbanded in 1962, but the paper continued and exists today as the bimonthly Southern Cross.

Michael Johnson, editor of the Southern Cross, commented:

The paper exists to foster the sacramental and prayer life of the faithful and to promote the values of justice and peace that pertain to the Kingdom of God.

The mission of the Southern Cross, the official newspaper of the Diocese of Savannah, is to help carry out the mission of the diocese through the print medium. It does so by proclaiming the Good News in the form of news articles, feature stories, commentary on aspects of the Faith, and their application to daily life. The paper exists to foster the sacramental and prayer life of the faithful and to promote the values of justice and peace that pertain to the Kingdom of God. Through the local stories and photographs carried in the Southern Cross, the bishop and pastoral staff can communicate with the diocesan family, and the parishes can share their activities with one another.

The Southern Cross reflects the diocesan mission to all the people of South Georgia, to the worldwide Church in communion with the Bishop of Rome, and to the whole human family.

Materials Documenting Events in the Presidency of Jimmy Carter Available Online

Select records documenting events in the presidency of Jimmy Carter from 1977–1981 are now available in the Digital Library of Georgia (DLG). There are two collections. The first, Notable Events and Accomplishments of the Jimmy Carter Presidential Administration, 1977–1981, is available at https://dlg.usg.edu/
and pulls together key presidential directives, presidential review memoranda, daily diary entries, and other related materials that describe events such as the Camp David Accords (1978), the hostage crisis in Iran (1979–1981), the Panama Canal Treaties (1977–1978), and the progression of the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA). The second collection, the Presidential Files, Office of the Staff Secretary, is available at https://dlg.usg.edu/collection/carter_pfoss and includes communications to President Jimmy Carter and his senior staff, dating from January 1977 to May 1979.

These archival materials are housed at the Jimmy Carter Presidential Library and Museum, part of the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), and provide significant insight into the Carter administration. The research and evidential value span disciplines including political science, public administration, history, international/foreign relations, and archival studies, among others.

Dr. Meredith Evans, director, Jimmy Carter Library & Museum noted: “These records provide critical documentation of Jimmy Carter’s dedication to democracy and diplomacy locally and globally. We are committed to making these materials accessible and are grateful for the opportunity to collaborate with the Digital Library of Georgia.”

Historical Aerial Photography Indexes that Chronicle Changing Land Use in all of Georgia’s 159 Counties from the 1930s to 1990s Available Freely Online

Along with partners at the University of Georgia (UGA) Map and Government Information Library (MAGIL), the Digital Library of Georgia has made the Georgia Aerial Photography Index Collection available at https://dlg.usg.edu/collection/gyca_gaphind, now providing online access to more than 1,200 indexes produced by US government agencies, including the US Department of Agriculture’s Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS). Indexes covering all 159 Georgia counties are available with coverage ranging from the 1930s to the 1990s. The Georgia Aerial Photograph Index Collection provides access to digital versions of all Georgia county indexes in MAGIL’s physical collection. Previously digitized indexes of select counties in the State of Georgia, along with approximately 50,000 black and white photographs, are available in the Georgia Aerial Photographs database.

Aerial photography depicts the physical and cultural characteristics of land at a specific time. The images can provide insights into various fields from ecology and geography to history, archeology, and urban planning. In addition to aiding in the mapmaking process, aerial photographs can be used to settle legal issues such as property disputes and even identify ancestral sites for people researching genealogy, according to the National Archives website https://www.archives.gov/research/cartographic/aerial-photography.

“MAGIL’s aerial photography collection is heavily used by researchers looking for everything from the existence of the old family
farming to the first appearance of a bridge to the
development of an intersection over time,” said
Valerie Glenn, the head of UGA’s Map and
Government Information Library and Federal
Regional Depository Librarian. “By making these
indexes available through the Digital Library of
Georgia, we are greatly improving access for
those users interested in how Georgia land has
or has not changed and providing them the
ability to conduct preliminary research on an
area without having to travel to Athens.”

Allison Haas has used these materials in her
research, working for EDR/Lightbox. “Daily I use
materials from the Map and Government
Information Library for historical property
research on commercial real estate sites as part
of the environmental due diligence process,”
Haas said. “Historical aerial photographs are key
elements in the reports we provide to our
clients. Quick turnaround on these reports is
very important. Online access to this collection
has improved workflow and helps get the
reports to our clients quickly.”
Georgia Knowledge Repository

The Georgia Knowledge Repository (GKR) is a large digital archive and central metadata repository containing records from participating GALILEO institutions. It includes the academic and intellectual work of Georgia’s colleges and universities. Its purpose is to highlight the scholarship of the participating institutions while also making it available to the citizens of Georgia and the scholarly community at large.

Items in the GKR include journal articles, presentations and speeches, university handbooks, newspapers, newsletters, yearbooks, theses and dissertations, and other types of scholarly works.

The Georgia Knowledge Repository promotes open access, and most items in the GKR are open to the public. The GKR offers resources about the open access movement, including information about various international and local initiatives and movements. The GKR website contains links to presentations about open access and other digital scholarship and copyright issues.

The GKR Coordinating Committee meets monthly and is charged with maintaining metadata guidelines for repositories as well as promoting open access initiatives. Currently, the committee is closely following new scholarship on COVID-19 and the current social justice movements. The committee welcomes libraries to submit collections to highlight on its blog and upcoming newsletter. Submissions can be made by emailing the GKR Coordinating Committee: GKRCC-L@LISTSERV.UGA.EDU.
Far Beyond the Gates by Philip Lee Williams
(Mercer University Press, 2020: ISBN 9780881467369, $25.00)

The clock is ticking for Pratt McKay, a Pulitzer Prize-winning history professor at the University of North Carolina. His late-onset multiple sclerosis is progressing, and he desperately wants to reconcile with his daughter, Lucy, before the disease renders him unable to speak. Pratt invites Lucy to come for the summer and stay with him in his expansive (and expensive) mountainside home.

Pratt and his ex-wife, an equally successful academic at Duke University, were self-absorbed and rather indifferent parents. Lucy is alienated from both, and when the opportunity arose, she thumbed her nose at the academy. Nevertheless, Lucy didn’t stray too far from the life of the mind. She chose to become a high school teacher and married an aspiring writer whose aspirations almost always exceeded his talent. By the time Lucy arrives at her father’s doorstep, she is a somewhat rudderless, divorced, 35-year-old English teacher. Once at Pratt’s, Lucy has trouble connecting with her father and spars with the live-in graduate student, who is part transcriber and part errand boy.

Eventually, Lucy settles into life in Pratt’s gated community. She makes friends with neighbors and townspeople—especially the landscape contractor, Sean Crayton. The two begin to date, and overtime Lucy begins to open her heart to the possibility of love. Meanwhile, Pratt’s attempts to close the distance between himself and his daughter come in agonizing fits and starts. He records his thoughts in the evenings and envisions that Lucy will play the tape of his confession on her trip back home at the summer’s end. But events conspire to force him to confess a secret that he has been harboring since he was in college. Pratt reveals but also continues to conceal—while the clock continues to tick.

Four-time Georgia Author of the Year Philip Lee Williams tells the story of Lucy and Pratt through alternating diary entries. Both father and daughter are wounded and need each other and the full truth to heal. Most readers will view Far Beyond the Gates as a story of regret, reconciliation, and love—and it is. But it also seems to be a tacit indictment of the academy. The book is peppered with “failed academics,” individuals with dissertations that sputtered out, and successful academics with severe character flaws. In this story, if happiness is to be had, it will be found beyond the gates of the university. Recommended for public and academic libraries.

Dr. Kristine Stilwell is Reference Services Librarian at University of North Georgia
LGBTQ Fiction and Poetry from Appalachia edited by Jeff Mann and Julia Watts (West Virginia University Press, 2019: 9781946684929, $29.99)

*LGBTQ Fiction and Poetry from Appalachia* contains fiction and poetry from 20 lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer/questioning (LBGTQ) authors. The editors stated that a key requirement to be included in this anthology is that the contributors must be established authors with at least one book under their belts and identify somewhere on the LGBTQ spectrum. This book is a great introduction to LBGTQ literature, and the anthology provides an entry point for readers to learn about and follow authors of interest. The edited work is held together not only by the lived experiences of the authors, but also by the recurring themes of love of Appalachia, the land, and family, as well as an ambivalence regarding that love. Everything is presented through the lens of the LGBTQ experience; almost all of the characters dream of getting out of Appalachia, and many do. But they all come back.

An example of this can be found in the short story, “Saving,” by Carter Rickels. This story follows the character Dean, a transgender man. In Kentucky, Dean lived with his grandmother for most of his life. They took care of each other. Recently, Dean moved to Brooklyn after putting his grandmother in a nursing home. Dean and his girlfriend come back to visit his grandmother. His plan is to take the house and use it as a vacation home. Once he is back in Kentucky, he realizes what a state of disrepair the house is in. He could not turn it into a vacation spot (or even an Airbnb), and he realizes that none of his friends from Brooklyn would probably want to come to Kentucky for a vacation. He struggles with his decision to leave his grandmother in a nursing home and sell the land—the one thing his grandmother left to him. He considers returning to his childhood home, but he is hesitant and wonders what the locals will think of him.

Savannah Sipple’s “A List of Times I Thought I Was Gay” provides a mostly lighthearted contrast to the heaviness of much of the book. Sipple lists 20 things that led her to believe she is a lesbian. For example, number 17 on her list is “every time I wanted to buy a new tie.” The last item on her list reveals that she has accepted her identity: “20. The first time I said I’ll never marry a man. Then cried when I realized I didn’t have to.”

In all these stories and poems, the LGBTQ characters are ridiculed and/or feel a sense of otherness or not belonging. They all want to leave, but the land, family, and even Appalachian culture either keep them there or bring them back home. Recommended for public and academic libraries.

*Christopher Andrews is Reference Services Librarian at University of North Georgia*
The Vietnam War in American Childhood by Joel P. Rhodes (The University of Georgia Press, 2019: ISBN 9780820356297, $29.95)

How children understand the world is often a mystery to adults; ironic, since all adults were themselves once children. Joel P. Rhodes's book, The Vietnam War in American Childhood, is the first in a new series—Children, Youth, and War—from the University of Georgia Press. The book explicitly examines children born between 1956 and 1970. Rhodes's father served in Vietnam near the end of the war, between 1970 and 1971, when Rhodes was just three years old. The book weaves together various sources that tell a story not often considered when studying the impact of the Vietnam War. He uses comic books, Mad Magazine, letters written to the president, toys, and interviews to help the reader understand how this conflict shaped children's lives. The author also uses child psychology to frame the reader's understanding of how and why children might have reacted the way they did. The book’s eight chapters are each uniquely crafted to tell a standalone story that make it clear that this is a complex subject when presented in unison.

The book begins by looking at how children were socialized to understand the war, paying careful attention to the evening news, daily body counts, and My Weekly Reader. Rhodes also introduces the critical fact that the Vietnam War was extremely unpopular for many years, resulting in children also having to make sense of the anti-war movement. The second half of the book focuses on the people whose lives were directly impacted by the war: the children with family serving in the conflict, POW/MIA families, and Gold Star children. These chapters highlight the human toll of the war in ways the media often ignored. The final chapter tells the stories of Vietnamese adoptions and the Amerasian children, emphasizing that they, too, are vital to understanding the full picture.

Rhodes tells an intriguing story, demonstrating that perhaps when trying to understand the world we currently occupy, we should pay close attention to the events that influence children as they age. The complicated matters of the grown-up world are significant to the children living in the grown-up world. This book is recommended for general and academic audiences.

Austina M. Jordan is Head of Access Services at University of North Georgia