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Georgia Library Association - Atlanta Emerging Librarians

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*People, Libraries
and Agencies* **IN THE NEWS**

Georgia Library Association Atlanta Emerging Librarians

The Atlanta Emerging Librarians (AEL) planning committee operates under the auspices of the Georgia Library Association's (GLA) New Members Round Table (NMRT). Each year, AEL events are hosted by a new planning committee, which oversees and facilitates workshops and networking opportunities for librarians and paraprofessionals. The 2021 AEL planning committee accepted the baton from the outgoing 2020 committee in spring of 2021. However, the lingering pandemic forced the new members to meet virtually to begin planning events for the upcoming year; they gathered in April for a meet-and-greet planning session via Zoom, which resulted in the committee's first event of the year entitled The Great Pivot: Getting Hired After COVID.

This event focused on building a professional skillset and included tips and techniques for writing excellent cover letters and stand-out resumes. As the goal was to better prepare those new to the librarian field, the committee sent out a call for panelists and resume experts; they received numerous interested volunteers. The Great Pivot: Getting Hired After COVID took place virtually via Zoom on Wednesday, June 23, 2021, for one and a half hours. Experts discussed their own experiences with job hunting and, conversely, serving as hiring

managers. They concluded their talks with advice for newcomers. This was followed by breakout sessions in which experts and participants were split into four different rooms; each room focused on specific topics like crafting the perfect resume, writing captivating cover letters, matching jobs ads to an applicant's individual skills, and a general Q&A that allowed audience members to ask any pressing questions. The Great Pivot attracted many attendees, the majority of which gave positive feedback via a post-event survey.



Ultimately, the Atlanta Emerging Librarians is a committee that strives to give back to new and rising librarians. The committee hopes to incorporate

additional professional development opportunities into upcoming gatherings. As such, its members have planned a forthcoming slate of virtual and in-person events that will revolve around current issues within the field of librarianship. Topics will include transferring skills from previous jobs to new positions, pivoting due to changes from COVID-19 and its effect on librarian jobs and job searching, in-depth resume and curriculum vitae writing, and how to "hack" library school programs. AEL intends to provide participants with varying perspectives on librarianship from those new to the profession, mid-career librarians, and library veterans.

Additionally, AEL hopes to highlight the fact that libraries have expanded their roles beyond their

brick-and-mortar walls and have been key players in engaging and helping their communities. The North Cobb Regional Library (NCRL) is one of the first Cobb County libraries to have a community garden. Therefore, the committee plans to host an event in fall of 2021 to showcase the role libraries have played in overcoming food insecurity and will invite attendees to “grow” with AEL. Through a joint effort, AEL and NCRL will utilize the free and lifelong learning resources that Cobb County libraries has to offer and will integrate culinary literacy into this event. The community garden has been developed through the cooperation of several organizations: Cobb County Parks, the Atlanta Food Well Alliance, the Captain Planet Foundation, Georgia Organics, the Atlanta Area

Council of the Boy Scouts of America, and the Master Gardner Volunteers of Cobb County. This upcoming event will showcase NCRL’s community garden and South Cobb Regional Library’s food pantry, and it will highlight the importance of both emerging and mid-career librarians working with local organizations to create a positive impact on the community.

AEL will finish the year with the annual Mingle with the Admins in winter of 2021. Stay tuned for more information, as AEL is hard at work planning these events. Contact the committee with any questions at ael@georgialibraryassociation.org.