

10-1-2021

Georgia Library Association - Academic Library Division

Linh Uong

University of North Georgia, linh.uong@ung.edu

Catherine Mancini

Georgia Tech, catherine.mancini@library.gatech.edu

Lamonica Sanford

Georgia College & State University, lamonica.sanford@gcsu.edu

Kristina S. Lang

Georgia State University, klang4@gsu.edu

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Recommended Citation

Uong, L., Mancini, C., Sanford, L., & Lang, K. S. (2021). Georgia Library Association - Academic Library Division. *Georgia Library Quarterly*, 58(4). Retrieved from <https://digitalcommons.kennesaw.edu/glq/vol58/iss4/10>

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

Georgia Library Association Academic Library Division

Elections

This year, elections for the Georgia Library Association (GLA) Academic Library Division (ALD) 2022 positions will be held from November 8th to November 28th, 2021 with the interest group and other division officer elections. So please vote! Thank you to those who have agreed to run this year, and ALD looks forward to announcing the names of the new vice-chair/chair-elect and secretary. The new officers will join the incoming chair, Catherine Mancini from the Georgia Institute of Technology, and the current ACRL Chapters Council representative, Lamonica Sanford from Georgia College & State University, as the ALD officers for 2022.

Academic Research Paper Contest

Sheeji Kathuria is the 2021 recipient of the GLA ALD Research Paper Award for "[Library Support in Times of Crisis: An Analysis of Chat Transcripts during COVID.](#)" Sheeji is the reference and instruction librarian and the honors librarian for Perimeter College at Georgia State University (GSU). In her duties, Sheeji coordinates instruction for the GSU Perimeter College Alpharetta campus and serves as the Honors College librarian for GSU Perimeter College. In both of these roles, she works closely with faculty and students on their research and teaching, as well as developing instructional objects on finding, using, and citing scholarly sources. Additionally, she serves as the assessment coordinator for GSU Library, where she assists the dean in collecting and submitting library data to external agencies.

Sheeji is an active member of the Georgia Library Association (GLA), Asian Pacific American Librarians Association (APALA), and the American Library Association (ALA). Sheeji noted that she has always had an interest in overall reference assessment, the use of social media in library services, and better understanding why patrons approach the library in virtual reference environments. Her research interests also include an emerging interest in using machine learning in the textual analysis of chat and social media data.



Reflecting on her win, Sheeji said that "embarking on a research project and writing a scholarly paper completely by myself has been a huge professional goal of mine. I also coded this large dataset and wrote much of this paper in the thick of Spring semester busyness which was at times very challenging. Winning this award is an honor, and I am very thankful to the GLA Academic Library Division for this special distinction."

Congratulations to Sheeji on her winning paper!

ALD 2021 Annual Meeting

Like last year, the Georgia Libraries Conference was held virtually and the ALD business meeting was held via Zoom on September 28, 2021. During the meeting, the ALD executive committee provided a recap of the year, announced the ALD Research Paper Award winner, and shared links for freely available resources for professional development and learning from the Association for College & Research Libraries (ACRL). This included the August 2021 ACRL Report, *COVID-19 Protocols in Academic Libraries in Canada and the United States* (<https://www.ala.org/acrl/issues/value>).

Virginia (Ginny) Feher, editor of the *Georgia Library Quarterly (GLQ)*, also spoke and encouraged members to submit articles and news items to *GLQ*. This will be Ginny's last year as editor and Ashley Hoffman will be taking up the reins in 2022.

ACRL Virtual Webinar Series

ALD offered a free ACRL webinar to its members entitled "Navigating New Routes to Sharing & Evaluating Scholarly Work" on May 6, 2021. This session offered an overview of current practices and emerging possibilities for the sharing, publication, and evaluation of scholarly work. This webinar looked at the range of options available for sharing scholarship, especially through digital platforms, the potential benefits and challenges of Open Access publication, and some of the latest methods and controversies in measuring scholarly impact. On May 14, 2021,

ALD held a virtual post-webinar debrief with members. Laura Burtle, associate dean of the University Library at Georgia State University, led the debrief conversation. Burtle is the library's scholarly communication expert and provides guidance and support in copyright, fair use, publishing, open access, author rights, and related areas.

On July 8, 2021, ALD offered another ACRL webinar to its members. The ACRL webinar entitled "Online Library Instruction: Best Practices for Live Synchronous Teaching" was presented by Jason Puckett, the online learning librarian and associate professor at Georgia State University Library. Puckett is also the author of *Modern Pathfinders: Creating Better Research Guides* and *Zotero: A Guide for Librarians, Researchers & Educators*.

The webinar offered participants suggestions on how to take advantage of the synchronous online classroom environment and addressed some of its advantages and limitations. As a follow-up to the webinar, on July 29, 2021, ALD and the Reference & Instructional Services Interest Group (RISIG) co-sponsored a virtual meeting that focused on ideas, experiences, and suggestions related to teaching and providing reference online.

ALD would like to thank Laura Burtle (Georgia State University) and Catherine Bowers (Valdosta State University) for, respectively, hosting and co-hosting the follow-ups to the ACRL webinars.