



ALLA COMmunicator: February 2026

ALLA COMmunicator

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The Alabama Library Association (ALLA) is a non-profit corporation formed to encourage and promote the welfare of libraries and professional interests of librarians in the State of Alabama. The Mission of the Alabama Library Association is to provide leadership for the development, advocacy, and improvement of library and information services and to promote the profession of librarianship, in order to enhance learning and ensure access to information for all.



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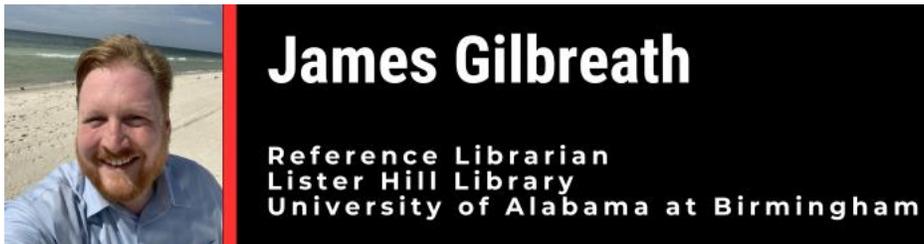
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From the President

ALLA President



Due to a variety of circumstances, the Alabama Library Association will not be holding an in-person conference in 2026. As president, I apologize profusely for this, and, ultimately, this is my fault.

This situation, however, led to a great deal of discussion within the ALLA Executive Council. After much consideration, your ALLA Executive Council has made the decision to move from an annual in-person convention to a biennial in-person held in odd-number years. Many factors influenced this decision, namely it will provide more planning time for the convention committee and encourage more participation from an already busy membership. Another helpful effect will be more flexibility for virtual options, which members expressed that they wanted in the ALLA Convention Survey:

- A large majority (42.6%) of ALLA members indicated that they "attend [convention] sometimes, but not every year."
- The smallest (16.6%) percentage of survey respondents indicated that they attend convention "every year" (16.6% have attended "once or twice", 18.6% have never attended).

- Members identified the four most significant barriers to attending convention are: "cost", "time away from work", "distance", and "lack of funding."

While more members prefer an in-person convention, many respondents indicated a desire for more virtual options and/or less costly options. A convention every other year will meet the needs of both. Following are sample of comments left by survey respondents regarding convention format:

- "Some sort of virtual option"
- "As a VERY small rural library we need virtual options"
- "Offer conference every other year"
- "I don't know that every year is necessary. Would be better to have a GREAT conference every other year. Maybe alternate with a one day learning day."
- "I would like to have convention alternate between online and in-person each year. This would allow folks with financial/time barriers to participate."

This being said, the above change would require changes to our bylaws, which state that ALLA will hold an in-person conference annually. The ALLA executive council is very open to hearing feedback about this change, and later this year, there will necessarily be a vote by the entire ALLA membership related to this change. If the change is voted down, ALLA will continue to have in-person annual meetings. It's important to consider, though, that if you want an in-person annual meeting, each member needs to be ready to help make it happen.

We hope that this change will lead to a more sustainable convention, while still offering value and meaning to membership. There are many ways to you can help ALLA remain a strong organization intent on providing leadership for the development, advocacy, and improvement of library and information services and to promote the profession of librarianship, in order to enhance learning and ensure access to information for all. Please let us know if you would like to volunteer with either creating relevant virtual options(s) in 2026 or with the in-person convention in 2027.

You can always email your thoughts to me at jngilbr@uab.edu, and I welcome any and all feedback.

Thank you for all the hard work you do to support our library users in Alabama!

James Gilbreth

President, Alabama Library Association

Reference Librarian, University of Alabama at Birmingham



Get Involved:

- [Executive Council](#)
- [Divisions](#)
- [Committees](#)
- [Round Tables](#)

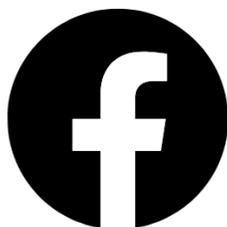
Contact Us:

Alabama Library Association

3966 Atlanta Hwy, PMB 205

Montgomery, AL 36109

allibraryassoc@gmail.com



**Facebook.com/
AlabamaLibraryAssociation**



 **ALLA News**

Public Library Division

Alyx Kim-Yohn, Chair-Elect/Chair 2025-2026



My fellow public library workers, it's been a tumultuous couple years for public libraries in the state, from the Alabama Public Library Service administrative code changes to federal confusion about the fate of the Institute of Museum and Library Services. But perhaps closest to home for many of us was [the passing of Jason Baker](#): our 2025-2026 Public Library Division Chair, director

of Trussville Public Library, exemplary librarian, and all-around good guy. I truly wish I could have assumed the PLD Chair in spring, as we had all anticipated, with Jason still here beside us – but here I am, and here we are, and surely Jason would want us to keep on keeping on. And so, I am writing to you to take care of some business that I hope will unite us under the PLD banner as we continue to defend and uplift our profession in such divisive and uncertain times.

Membership

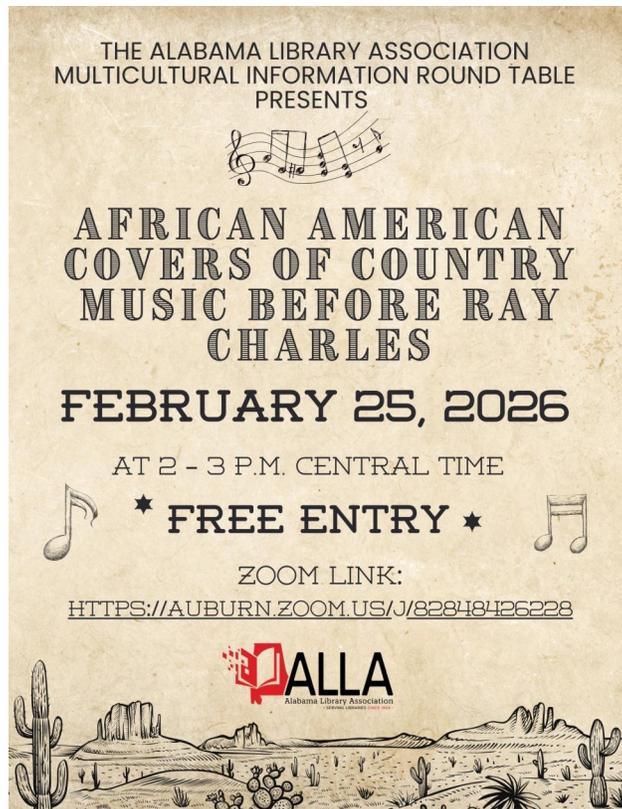
It turns out that many members have not been receiving any correspondence from the division, myself included. I also imagine folks have moved around, changed careers, retired, and so on, rendering their library affiliation outdated. While we won't inundate you with emails, we do think it's important to have a way to communicate with PLD membership between ALLA COMMunicator publications, and so we have created a [Google Group](#) to act as our listserv. If you would like to stay up to date on PLD goings-on, please join!

Midwinter Conference

The 2026 ALLA PLD Midwinter Conference was held on Thursday, January 29, 2026. Members were invited to view the [updated rubrics for the PLD Standards of Achievement Award](#) and present comments at the conference. Debbie Walker of Gadsden Public Library has done a tremendous job leading the Standards Committee through updating these standards, and we hope all of our public libraries find them rigorous yet achievable.

Multicultural Information Round Table

Tim Dodge, Moderator



The Alabama Library Association Multicultural Round Table presents [a webinar](#) celebrating Black History Month: "African American Covers of Country Music BEFORE Ray Charles on Wednesday, February 25 at 2-3pm Central Time. The presenter is Dr. Tim Dodge, History, Political Science, Economics, and Theatre and Dance Librarian, Auburn University.

In early 1962 famed Soul, R&B, and Jazz star, Ray Charles, recorded his "Modern Sounds in Country and Western Music" against the wishes of the record company. The album and several spun-off single releases was a resounding success that, in effect, made it "legitimate" for African Americans to record country music ultimately leading to the success of such artists as Charley Pride and, more recently, Beyoncé and Shaboozey. However, African American interest in and participation in country music long predates Ray Charles's musical and cultural breakthrough.

Library Happenings

Digital Archiving and Preservation of UAH NASA Collections



February 26, Noon - 1pm (CST)

This webinar will highlight digitized NASA films, photographs, technical documents, and oral history recordings from the collections of the University of Alabama in Huntsville (UAH) Archives, Special Collections, and Digital Initiatives. Digital Archivist Charlie Gibbons will also discuss the process of creating digital access to archival collections. Topics will include approaches to digitization, digital content management systems, and collaborative digital projects. This webinar is free and open to the public. [Register](#) for this upcoming webinar.

Submitted by Jennifer R. Taylor, University Archivist, Samford University Library, Special Collections

Homewood Public Library Celebrates Valentine's Season with Two Special Ticketed Events

The Homewood Public Library invites the community to celebrate Valentine's season with two unforgettable ticketed events in February, featuring world-class culinary artistry and a beloved dinner theatre tradition. Both events offer unique opportunities to enjoy culture, creativity, and connection while supporting the library's program and services. See this [press release](#) for dates and details.

Submitted by Laura Tucker, Administration Librarian, Homewood Public Library





Homewood Public Library Honors Outstanding Staff with Employee Awards

The Homewood Public Library proudly celebrated excellence, dedication, and service at its Annual Staff Development Day, recognizing staff members who go above and beyond in serving the Homewood community. Learn more about these awards by reading this [press release](#) and by viewing the slideshow below.

A circular portrait of Aaliyah Taylor, a Black woman with short curly hair and glasses, wearing a black top and a grey skirt. She is smiling and holding a book titled "Blood" in a library setting.

★ HOMEWOOD PUBLIC LIBRARY

**AALIYAH
TAYLOR**

LIBRARY TECH II
CHILDREN'S SERVICES

CONGRATULATIONS!

A circular portrait of Guy Bannister, a man with long brown hair and a beard, wearing a grey sweater and a name tag. He is smiling.

★ HOMEWOOD PUBLIC LIBRARY

**GUY
BANNISTER**

LIBRARY TECH II
ADULT SERVICES

CONGRATULATIONS!

A circular portrait of Kate Etheredge, a woman with grey hair and glasses, wearing a blue patterned shirt. She is smiling and holding an open book titled "The Lion & the Jewel" by Cyprian Ekwensi.

★ HOMEWOOD PUBLIC LIBRARY

**KATE
ETHEREDGE**

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
OF SERVICES

CONGRATULATIONS!



Submitted by Laura Tucker, Administration Librarian, Homewood Public Library

[Homewood Public Library Brings Free Violin Lessons to the Community](#)

The Homewood Public Library is proud to announce the success of its violin education series, offering students in grades 3-5 a unique opportunity to explore music through free, hands-on instruction. The program, which began with Violin 101, expanded last December with Violin 102, allowing students to continue building their skills and confidence. The series culminated in a public Violin Recital on Monday, December 8, 2025.

Students were provided with violins and introduced to the fundamentals of playing, proper technique, and basic musicianship. The recital showcased the pieces students have learned throughout the fall and celebrated their dedication and musical growth.

"We are thrilled to offer free musical instruction at the library," said Mary Eller, Assistant Department Head of Circulation, at Homewood Public Library. "Programs like Violin 101 and 102

help children explore creativity, build confidence, and cover new interests. We're incredibly proud of our students and thankful for their amazing instructor, Eliza Warden."

In addition to these classes, the Homewood Public Library maintains a growing Library of Things, which includes violins available for checkout to patrons interested in continuing their musical journey at home. More information is available at hpl.pub/lot.



Kids Fell into Fall Fun @ Alabaster's Albert L. Scott Library

In December, Albert L. Scott Library in Alabaster offered fun events centered on enjoying the Spirit of The Season.

- Beyond the Screen: Books to Film
- Holiday Fun: Holiday Crafty Kids, Kids' Holiday Party, An Evening with Santa, Snow Globe Teens, Make Your Own Gift Wrap, and a storytelling season in which Dolores Hydock presented *A Plan B Christmas*
- Chess Club

The month concluded with a kid's Noon Year's Eve Party on December 31. Kids 2 to 12 years old had fun at a variety of stations that included crafts, games and refreshments. More than 70 people had fun ringing the the "noon year" while watching international New Year's activity projected on the the big screen.

Use the arrows to navigate the slideshow. Click the box in the top-left corner of the photo for captions.



1 - The relationship of books and movies and other adaptations was explored on December 8 during Beyond the Screen: Books to Film. Jessica Chriesman, director of education and outreach at Birmingham's Sidewalk Film Center & Cinema, conducted the media literacy program. Guests discussed what types of stories translate well to the screen and shared their favorite movies that were books first.



2 - Children had fun getting creative on December 9, making one-of-a-kind ornaments and fleece scarfs.



3 - Youngsters enjoyed a morning of holiday fun on December 10. They visited with Santa Clause and received a goody bag, decorated gingerbread man cookie, and petted animals from the Tuscaloosa Barnyard.



4 - Families created holiday memories when children told Santa Clause their Christmas wishes during An Evening with Santa on December 11. The event, which included cookies and chocolate drinks, was courtesy of the Friends of the Library.



5 - Teenagers gathered on December 19 for a special session of Teen Time. They made snow globes to keep or to give as a gift.



6 - Young chess players turned out on December 12 to improve their skills.



7 - Children who love science and art used both to make their own gift wrap on December 20.



8 - Premier story teller Dolores Hydock mesmerized a standing room only crowd on December 21 with A Plan B Christmas. Guests enjoyed refreshments as she revealed how to keep hope alive even if the holiday doesn't work out quite the way it was planned.



9 - Children work on crafts at the Noon Year's Eve party on December 31.



10 - Children play games at the Noon Year's Eve party on December 31.



11 - Children play games at the Noon Year's Eve party on December 31.



12 - Children play with legos at the Noon Year's Eve party on December 31.

Submitted by Frances Smith, Youth Services Librarian, Albert L. Scott Library

Carmichael Library, at the University of Montevallo, Adds Accessible Resources

Carmichael Library is a grateful recipient of a grant from the [American Library Association's Libraries Transforming Communities program](#), enabling the library to provide targeted, inclusive, and accessible services and resources. With this \$10,000 grant, the library was able to purchase a Nook pod, providing a seating option designed with neurodiversity in mind. The remainder of the grant funded a pilot subscription to a Libby ebook/audiobook collection for popular titles. Since their arrival late in the Fall semester, these resources have been in continuous use!



13 - Carmichael Library was awarded funding from the American Library Association's Libraries Transforming Communities: A Special Grant Small and Rural Libraries.



14 - An information booth at our Grand Floor open house promoted the grant resources (the Nook Pod and Libby/Overdrive) on September 29. Students could leave requests on our Suggest a Book board.



15 - Our Nook pod has found a home on our busy Ground Floor.



16 - Libby promotional posters were placed on the first two floors of the library.

✓ **Eligibility:** Submissions must relate to Alabama’s library community or be authored by individuals with Alabama ties (residents, library workers, or LIS students/graduates).

📧 **Questions or Submissions?** Contact Dr. Laura Pitts, Editor – ✉ lepitts@jsu.edu

📄 The GODORT Corner



Here I would like to briefly introduce you to two important federal government acronyms, SIC and NAICS. This is a way the federal government classifies, in a numerical form or code, industries so as to be able to compile information and understand what is taking place in a standardized logical way. SIC came before NAICS but has not been entirely rendered obsolete, hence, it’s a good idea to have a basic understanding of both classification schemes.

SIC, or the Standard Industrial Classification system, was established in 1937 by the Office of Statistical Standards, Bureau of the Budget (which became the Office of Management and Budget in 1970). SIC features numerical codes for 10 major divisions of industrial activity, for example, Agriculture, Forestry, and Fishing through Public Administration, with Manufacturing being the largest division. Within each division Major Groups subdividing the Division, for example, under the Manufacturing Division, one finds Food and Kindred Products (Major Group Number 20) which, in turn, are further subdivided into Industry Groups. One example under Food and Kindred Products (Major Group Number 20) is Meat Products (Industry Group Number 201). There is one more level of subdivision. Let’s look at Meat Packing Plants (SIC Number 2011). This provides an official definition of what is a meat packing plant and then lists 24 products of a meat packing plant ranging from “Bacon, Slab and Slice – mitse” to “Veal – mitse.” (“Mitse” turns out to mean “made in the same establishment” but this is not obvious to lay people such as me).

The Standard Industrial Classification Manual (PrEx 2.6/2:ln 27) was published irregularly (roughly once a decade) from 1941 through 1987. Likely updated since then, it is [available electronically at a website](#) maintained by Occupational Safety and Health Administration, Department of Labor. In response both to major technological changes affecting industry in general and the implementation of NAFTA (the North American Free Trade Agreement) of 1992, the Office of Management and Budget created NAICS – the North American Industry

Classification System – which went into effect in 1997. You may recall NAFTA more closely integrated the economies of Mexico and Canada with the United States, hence, the need to harmonize or standardize the classification of economic (industrial) activity the same way as had been done via SIC but only on a more international basis. NAICS has been updated and revised approximately every five years since 1997 with the 2022 update available as the most recent version of the system. NAICS is a bit different from SIC although the concept is the same. There are 24 “sectors” or economic activity divisions ranging from Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, and Hunting (all one sector) through Public Administration, and Manufacturing. There are some new sectors that go beyond the divisions within SIC such as Information (Sector 51) and Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services (all Sector 56). Although developed by the Office of Management and Budget, NAICS is [made available online](#) by the Census Bureau.

SIC and NAICS are not directly translatable from one code to the other but, for broadly comparative purposes, let’s take a look at how NAICS classifies Meat Packing. The good news is that there are [online Concordances](#) that can at least help one compare or relate SIC and NAICS. The Concordances appear as Excel files. First step: matching up the 1987 SIC code for Meat Packing Plants (SIC 2011) takes one to the 1997 NAICS code Animal (Except Poultry) Slaughtering with NAICS code number being 311611. Not only is the name of the industrial activity different, the code number is different and longer. With updates being made to NAICS every five years, it’s not a bad idea to check the concordances for each NAICS update to see if anything has changed since 1997. As it turns out the NAICS code for Animal (Except Poultry) Slaughtering has remained the same through the 2022 edition. Now let’s see what the [official NAICS definition](#) says about this industry. It says this industry “comprises establishments primarily engaged in slaughtering animals (except poultry and small game). Establishments that slaughter and prepare meats are included in this industry”. Here NAICS provides 28 products or activities. Pretty much corresponding to SIC’s “Bacon, Slab and Slice – Mitse [made in the same establishment]” is NAICS’s “Bacon, Slab and Sliced, Produced in Slaughtering Plants.” The North American Industry Classification System, United States is available in print 1997-2012 (PREX 2.6/4:) but otherwise one needs to rely on the [online edition](#) (these years are all covered there in addition to 2022).

Very roughly analogous to Library of Congress Subject Headings and call numbers, the definitions found within these codes and the code numbers are a way of describing and standardizing and thus making comparable industrial/economic activity of the United States economy and, since 1997, the economies of Mexico and Canada as well. Find out more about the wonderful world of government documents by joining GODORT when you renew your ALLA membership!

Submitted by Tim Dodge, GODORT Moderator

Promotions



- [Freedom of Information Day](#) (on or near March 16)
- [School Library Month](#) (April)
- [D.E.A.R: Drop Everything and Read](#) (April 12)
- [National Library Week](#) (April 19-25)
- [National Library Workers Day](#) (Tuesday of National Library Week)
- [National Library Outreach Day](#) (Wednesday of National Library Week)
- [Preservation Week](#) (April 27)
- [Children's Day/Book Day](#) - El día de los niños/El día de los libros (Día) (April 30)

From the Editor

A Note from the Editor



We are off to a great start to 2026 with a variety of library stories and happenings. Your contributions are the heart of this newsletter. If you haven't contributed in the past, please consider doing so.

What types of content can I submit?

- upcoming events
- recent past events, accomplishments, and honors recaps
- success stories
- ALLA committee news and events
- "My library story" features

 **What types of files can I submit?** Save yourself time and effort by submitting flyers and press releases that you have already created for use elsewhere. Submissions can be as simple photograph and a paragraph or two or a more detailed feature. You can [browse past issues](#) for ideas. For more information, see the submission guidelines below.

ALLA COMMunicator Submissions

Submission Guidelines

Please feel free to submit your library related news to communicator.alla@gmail.com.

Submissions must include

- Your Name
- Job Title
- Library or organization name
- Contact email or phone
- article in PDF or Word (or via email text)
- .jpg images may be attached
- Description of image
- embeddable YouTube videos

 **Submission Timeline**

Issue	Submission Deadline	Publication Date
July/Aug/Sep	July (Early)	July (Mid/Late)
Oct/Nov/Dec	Oct (Early)	Oct (Mid/Late)
Jan/Feb/Mar	Jan (Early)	Jan (Mid/Late)
Apr/May/June	Apr (Early)	Apr (Mid/Late)
