



# ALLA COMmunicator: October 2025

## ALLA COMmunicator

Alabama Library Association | [www.allanet.org](http://www.allanet.org)<sup>1</sup>

October 2025 | Volume 23, Issue 1

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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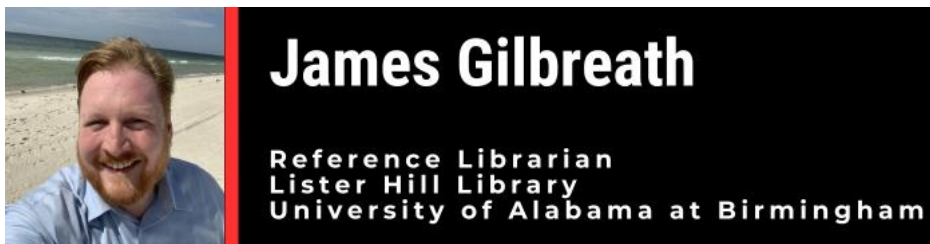
<sup>1</sup><https://www.allanet.org/>

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## From the President

ALLA President



Greetings everyone!

I am relieved that we've put the summer heat behind us, and fall is now truly upon us. Leaves are changing, temperatures are dropping, and the wheel of the year turns on. This newsletter is going up the Monday of Halloween week, my favorite time of year. I'm finding it difficult, though, to celebrate and embrace the joy of horror and scary things when the world is bringing so many frightening changes upon us.

However, this time of year can also be a time of remembrance. Though it's not my cultural or faith tradition, I recognize the importance of Día de los Muertos, a holiday that has been publicly celebrated in Birmingham for over twenty years now. Whether associated with a holiday or not, I think it's an important time of year to remember family, friends, and colleagues who have loved, supported, and influenced us.

On October 11th, we all experienced a tremendous loss with the death of Jason Baker, the library director of Trussville Public Library. Jason loved and fought for his library, his employees, and his community. He was active in the fight against extremist groups waging war on libraries

in Alabama. He was a tremendous colleague as well. To my great regret, I didn't know Jason very well myself, and I was getting to know him through working in the Association. My condolences go out to all those who loved and knew Jason.

While Jason is our latest loss, a loss particularly painful for its recency, there are many other great library workers, friends of the library, supporters, and loved ones who have passed on. I would encourage everyone to take some time to remember and thank those who have gone before us, in whatever way you feel is appropriate. We have a Library Roll of Honor, and I encourage folks to submit nominations to it. But also, if you like, I would love to hear your stories myself. Feel free to email any stories you would like to share to [jngilbreath@gmail.com](mailto:jngilbreath@gmail.com).

Wishing all of you the best. If I or the Association can help, please let us know.

James Gilbreth

President, Alabama Library Association

Reference Librarian, University of Alabama at Birmingham



Get Involved:

- Executive Council<sup>2</sup>
- Divisions<sup>3</sup>
- Committees<sup>4</sup>
- Round Tables<sup>5</sup>

Contact Us:

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<sup>2</sup><https://alla.memberclicks.net/executive-council>

<sup>3</sup><https://alla.memberclicks.net/divisions>

<sup>4</sup><https://alla.memberclicks.net/committees>

<sup>5</sup><https://alla.memberclicks.net/roundtables>

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 **ALLA News**

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*College, University, and Special Libraries Division*

*Summer Upton, CUS Conference Committee Chair*

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<sup>6</sup><mailto:allibraryassoc@gmail.com>



Join us on Halloween to celebrate *No Fear in Our Libraries: Surviving Scary Days Together!* Registration for the 2nd Annual CUS Fall mini-Conference is OPEN! The College, University, and Special Libraries Division of the Alabama Library Association is thrilled to welcome faculty, staff, and students via Zoom on **Friday, October 31, 2025**, for this **FREE, VIRTUAL** conference. We have an exciting keynote planned as well as concurrent sessions. You DO NOT have to be a member of CUS to attend.

**REGISTER TODAY!<sup>7</sup> We hope to see you there! (in costume if you celebrate)**

More information about the conference schedule and keynote can be found here<sup>8</sup>. A tentative concurrent session schedule can be found here<sup>9</sup>. Please direct any questions to the CUS Conference Committee Chair, Summer Upton ([srupton@uab.edu](mailto:srupton@uab.edu)<sup>10</sup>); the CUS Chair, Tracy M. Cole ([tmcole@southalabama.edu](mailto:tmcole@southalabama.edu)<sup>11</sup>); or the CUS Chair-Elect, Jason Byrd ([jbyrd@uab.edu](mailto:jbyrd@uab.edu)<sup>12</sup>).

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### *Library Instruction Roundtable*

*Sydney Orason, Moderator*

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<sup>7</sup><https://uab.zoom.us/meeting/register/PVsUfjxpRV2tvXVZ7GPihQ>

<sup>8</sup>[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1wa172AH7V\\_78QVBNBO3pA77qYtHCBwKK/view?usp=drive\\_link](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1wa172AH7V_78QVBNBO3pA77qYtHCBwKK/view?usp=drive_link)

<sup>9</sup><https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/10K0K2RQqHhPekCAAYeEbYDpBmerjIzeLFnaemgn3EcY/edit?usp=sharing>

<sup>10</sup><mailto:srupton@uab.edu>

<sup>11</sup><mailto:tmcole@southalabama.edu>

<sup>12</sup><mailto:jbyrd@uab.edu>

Please join ALLA's Library Instruction Roundtable for a webinar titled "**Strategies for Marketing Information Literacy Instruction in Higher Education**," presented by panelists Jessica Platt (MLIS, MEd) and Leslie Rewis (MLIS, MA).

This webinar will be held on **Wednesday, November 12th at 11AM CST**. Register here<sup>13</sup> for this professional development opportunity.

From freshman to graduate students, Leslie and Jessica will discuss strategies for marketing information literacy instruction in higher education. Studies have shown the crucial role of IL instruction in students' academic success. Leslie will explore how she has successfully promoted IL instruction from a community college perspective, focusing on freshman and sophomore classes with targeted outreach for disciplines which require students to do research. Jessica will offer marketing strategies for promoting IL instruction to upperclassmen and graduate students. Her tips will cover creating student resources like tutorials and LibGuides, as well as conducting faculty outreach by speaking at faculty events and analyzing syllabi to address specific needs.

Our panelists:

- **Jessica Platt**, MLIS, MEd, is the Associate Coordinator of Research, Instruction, and Engagement at Alabama State University. In her role, she focuses on providing research assistance and increasing the information literacy skills of both faculty and students. Her passion lies in helping others navigate the world of information to become more confident and capable researchers.
- **Leslie Rewis** is the Librarian for Central Alabama Community College's four campuses. She has a MA in English and a MLIS in Library and Information Studies. She was previously an Outreach Librarian at a large community college in Arkansas. She is passionate about connecting with students and teachers to promote libraries as the center of academic activity and events at any college.

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### *ALLA Advocacy Task Force*

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The following is a summary of survey completed by Public Library Directors in response to APLS code changes. If the embedded document does not work properly on your device, you can access it with this link<sup>14</sup>.

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<sup>13</sup><https://uab.zoom.us/meeting/register/AO47NBZ9TpO8SAKOsGTPWQ>

<sup>14</sup><https://1drv.ms/b/c/223d682f080a69eb/ESyAnktbr25Ks4fH-6vZ0l8Bcle1PkdZnd8BPjuasKjig?e=IHdTIW>

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## Library Happenings

### Book Signing @ Homewood Public Library: #1 New York Times Best Selling Author, Alan Gratz



The Homewood Library Foundation is proud to present a special author event with #1 New York Times bestselling author Alan Gratz on Saturday, November 8, from 4:00–5:30 p.m. in the Library's Large Auditorium. Known for his gripping and thought-provoking novels for young readers, including *Refugee*, *Ground Zero*, *Allies*, and *Two Degrees*, Gratz has captivated millions with his unique blend of historical depth and emotional storytelling. During his 45-minute presentation, Alan will share behind-the-scenes insights, his creative process, and inspiration drawn from real-world events. The talk will be followed by a book signing, with titles available for purchase from Little Professor Bookshop. Rebecca Smith of the Homewood Library Foundation expressed her enthusiasm for the event, saying: "The Homewood Library Foundation is thrilled to welcome the engaging author Alan Gratz to our library. It is so important that people, particularly youth, get to have firsthand experiences with authors—learning their craft and appreciating the talents they share with others. As a middle grade teacher, I greatly appreciate his writing. He has found a way to write historical fiction novels that keep the active brains of youth (and adults!) utterly fascinated. His novels have taught me (and my students) about important historical events and have moved me to tears. I cannot wait to hear him speak!" This free community event is sponsored by the Homewood Library Foundation.



For more information or to explore Alan Gratz's books, visit [hpl.pub/catalog](https://hpl.pub/catalog)<sup>15</sup> or [homewoodpubliclibrary.org](https://www.hooverlibrary.org)<sup>16</sup>.

*hpSubmitted by Laura Tucker, Administration Librarian, Homewood Public Library*

### **Homewood Public Library Hosts Spooktacular Halloween Events for Kids and Teens**

The Homewood Public Library is brewing up a month full of fun for children and teens this October! From creative contests to family-friendly celebrations, there's something spooky for everyone.



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<sup>15</sup><https://hpl.pub/catalog>

<sup>16</sup><https://www.hooverlibrary.org>





*Submitted by Laura Tucker, Administration Librarian, Homewood Public Library*

### **Homewood's Michelle Hamrick Honored as JCPLA Librarian of the Year**



The Jefferson County Public Library Association (JCPLA) has named Michelle Hamrick, Assistant Director of Operations at the Homewood Public Library, as the 2025 Librarian of the Year. The award was presented during JCPLA Staff Day on October 3, 2025, and recognizes outstanding contributions to library service, leadership, and community engagement. Since joining

Homewood Public Library in 2022, Hamrick has made a lasting impact by implementing innovative staff development initiatives. She designed a comprehensive training and onboarding program that sets a high standard for new employees, complete with guides, glossaries, and detailed timelines to ensure smooth transitions. Through staff focus groups and cross-training initiatives, she has fostered collaboration across departments, empowered staff with new skills, and created a culture of teamwork and resilience. Hamrick also strengthened the Library's role in preserving Homewood's history. She served as Project Manager on an LSTA grant to digitize the Library's local history collection and now represents the Library on the City of Homewood Historical Preservation Committee.

Her leadership extends far beyond Homewood. Hamrick spent more than a decade at the Irondale Public Library, where she served as Teen Librarian and Assistant Director, creating programs that enriched her community. She has held leadership roles within JCPLA—including serving as President in 2016—and has contributed to numerous JCLC committees. "Michelle Hamrick exemplifies excellence in library leadership and professional development," said Judith Wright, Director of Homewood Public Library. "Her vision, mentorship, and dedication inspire both staff and colleagues across Jefferson County." The JCPLA Librarian of the Year Award honors individuals whose work demonstrates exceptional service, leadership, and innovation in librarianship. Hamrick's contributions—ranging from staff mentorship to historical preservation and community engagement—reflect the values of this prestigious recognition.

*Submitted by Laura Tucker, Administration Librarian, Homewood Public Library*

### **The Repair Café at Tuscaloosa Public Library**





We've all been there. A torn pair of pants, a busted coffeemaker, a bike with a broken chain—something gathering dust in a corner. We tell ourselves we'll fix it, but the convenience of online shopping and the lure of cheap replacements often win out. Once the box with the new item appears on our doorstep, the old item goes to the landfill. The growing international Repair Café movement offers a dynamic solution to this dilemma. By fostering practical skills, promoting self-sufficiency, saving money, building community, and protecting the environment, Repair Cafés address the throw away culture that pervades our society. At the Tuscaloosa Public Library, we found this program appealed to everyone from young children to college students to retirees, bringing our patrons together across the usual boundaries of age.

The Tuscaloosa Public Library proudly hosted the first Repair Café in the state of Alabama on January 25, 2025. This inaugural event brought together thirty-five volunteers and welcomed 145 participants who learned to repair electronics, small appliances, clothing, jewelry, furniture, bicycles, and more. Volunteers included retired mechanics and engineers, local university students, and a preteen who assisted teaching younger children at the "Take It Apart" table. Families came together to learn something new, making this a true multigenerational event. Volunteers generously shared their time and repair skills, diagnosing and fixing broken household items while teaching patrons valuable repair techniques. Rather than sending trash

to landfills and giving more money to corporations, community members learned to repair items, becoming part of the circular economy. Out of fifty attempted repairs, 85% were successful or partially successful. Weighing the repaired items, we discovered that 166.2 pounds of trash was diverted from the landfill. Through cash and Venmo donations, we raised \$190 to support future Repair Café events. The first item repaired was a child's scooter, carefully restored by a university engineering student. The range of items showcased the diverse needs of the community: a cherished lamp, a cuckoo clock, a vintage 1930s radio, an oven door, a snow globe, two typewriters, a Playstation II, and more. One patron who was unfamiliar with his new computer was lucky to get a quick repair, when our preteen volunteer at the Take it Apart table recognized immediately that a quick keyboard shortcut (no dismantling required!) would fix the issue. Since our initial Repair Café, we have hosted three additional repair events. In total, we've saved 448 pounds of trash from the landfill, partially or fully repaired 139 items, and assisted 310 patrons! On average, we fully repaired 55% of items and partially repaired 25%.

The Repair Cafés are a true community effort. We recruit volunteers from the community, including high school and university students, local churches, and service clubs. Our group of several electronics repairers are all young men from local high schools, a group that can be difficult to reach with library programming. We advertise on social media and local news outlets to expand our reach. We partner with organizations like our local community college, Habitat for Humanity, and Alabama Public Radio to provide valuable resources and expertise. We also create a dedicated table featuring relevant library materials for checkout and encourage hands-on exploration with a "Take It Apart" table. The allure of the Take it Apart table, scattered with the parts to broken coffee makers and laptops, drew in every child that passed by. A recent graduate of the doctoral physics program at the university used his years of professional knowledge to explain technological concepts to children as young as five. The community response to the event has been overwhelmingly positive and supportive. Survey feedback included enthusiastic comments such as "I am impressed by the wealth of repair knowledge," "Please do it again!" and "This program was amazing for the community." Many patrons who visited the library for other reasons were drawn to the event and expressed excitement about attending future Repair Cafés. And we hope to bring this successful program to other public libraries in Alabama!

If you want to start your own Repair Café at your library, you can do it! They are successful on a smaller scale too- most first Repair Café events are smaller and less labor intensive than this one. Our library's success in repeating the event proves that Repair Cafés can be a sustainable, transformative program for your library. For more information about starting your own Repair



Café, reach out to the author [atsikes@tuscaloosa-library.org](mailto:atsikes@tuscaloosa-library.org)<sup>17</sup> or join the Alabama Repair Cafe Network<sup>18</sup> .

*Submitted by Kayla Sikes, Library Associate / Volunteer Coordinator, Tuscaloosa Public Library*

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

The Albert L. Scott Library provided engaging programs for kids in September!

- Shelby 4-H Creative and Expressive Arts Club
- Homeschool Happening Kickoff! Brick Challenge
- Shelby 4-H Science Club
- Chess Club
- Lego Day & Slime Sunday
- Story Squad & Story Time Fun

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



*1 - Budding actors, writers, set designers, and others have fun playing theatre games during the Shelby 4-H Creative & Expressive Arts Club.*

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<sup>17</sup><mailto:aksikes@tuscaloosa-library.org>

<sup>18</sup><https://www.facebook.com/groups/930003909348902>



2 - Homeschool Happenings kicked off on September 8 with a special event. Students started the new school year with a Brick Challenge conducted by Young Engineers Over the Mountain. During the interactive workshop, the students explored the worlds of engineering, mechanics, robotics, and coding by building with specially designed bricks. Each child also received small gifts to take home.



3 - The environment will be in the spotlight during this year's Shelby 4-H Science Club. On September 9, members turned out for Skins and Skulls and learned about animals native to Alabama.



*4 - Young people gathered on September 12th and September 26 for the inaugural meetings of the Chess Club. They played each other to improve their skills and have met friends in the process.*





5 - To mark September as Library Card Sign up Month, dozens of folks turned out for Lego Day on September 16. Many of the kids took up the challenge to build libraries or library cards using the colorful bricks.



6 - Children had fun during Slime Sunday on September 21 making fluffy white slime with shaving cream.



7 - On September 24, a new series was launched, the Story Squad, a reading buddy program. The Story Squad pairs young readers in Kindergarten through 3rd grade (Little Buddies) with enthusiastic older students in 3rd through 6th grade (Big Buddies) for one-on-one reading sessions. The meetings are designed to help build reading confidence, fluency, and a love for books. Once a month, fur buddies Keegan and Skye, two very friendly corgis, come for students to read.

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

## **Carmichael Library, at the University of Montevallo, Gets a Ground Floor Renewal**

We are so excited to announce the completion of a major renovation of the library's ground floor. With funding from an EBSCO Community Impact grant and matching funding from the University, the space has been renovated in furnishings and functions. Most important, the addition of the Falcon Success Center (FSC) offices brings tutoring, success coaching, advising, and first year experience services under one roof. The reenvisioned space includes renewed spaces for computer use and studying, and has a variety of updated features.

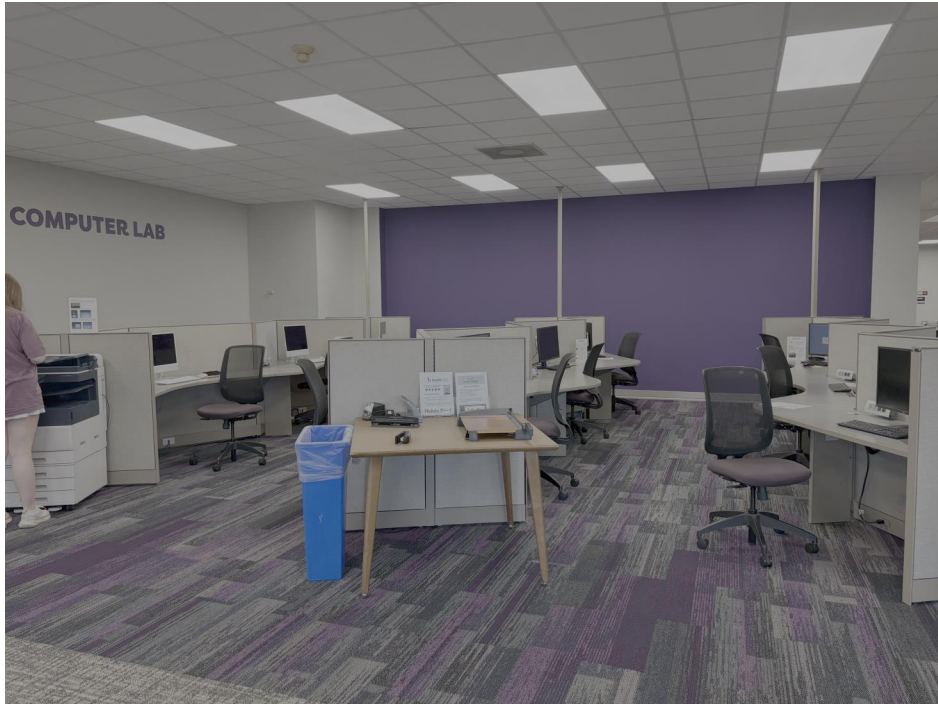
- Three new open study rooms serve a dual purpose. When not occupied with success coaching, these rooms can be used by students for group and individual study. They are equipped with large monitors and new tables, secured by Randi Tubbs, Director of the FSC, through a UM Foundation mini-grant.
- The ground floor includes new carpeting, seating, paint, and lighting. The new floors and walls refresh the space. New modern lighting adds a touch design. Kayla Johnson, Instruction and User Experience Librarian, and Randi Tubbs, acquired new modern seating through a UM Foundation mini-grant, supplemented by additional foundation funding.
- The tutoring center has new monitors and chairs to enhance the instructional sessions.
- The computer area has been moved to the front of the floor and features a striking purple wall.
- A falcon statute, by UM alum Nelson Grice, greets visitors near the ground floor entrance.
- New signage orients visitors to the offices, resources, and services that be found on the ground floor.

Two open house events, held in late September and early October, provided an opportunity to celebrate the new space with students, faculty, staff, and community members. They also served as an opportunities to thank everyone who made the renovations a success, including our wonderful Physical Plant team, the UM Foundation, the University administration, and EBSCO.





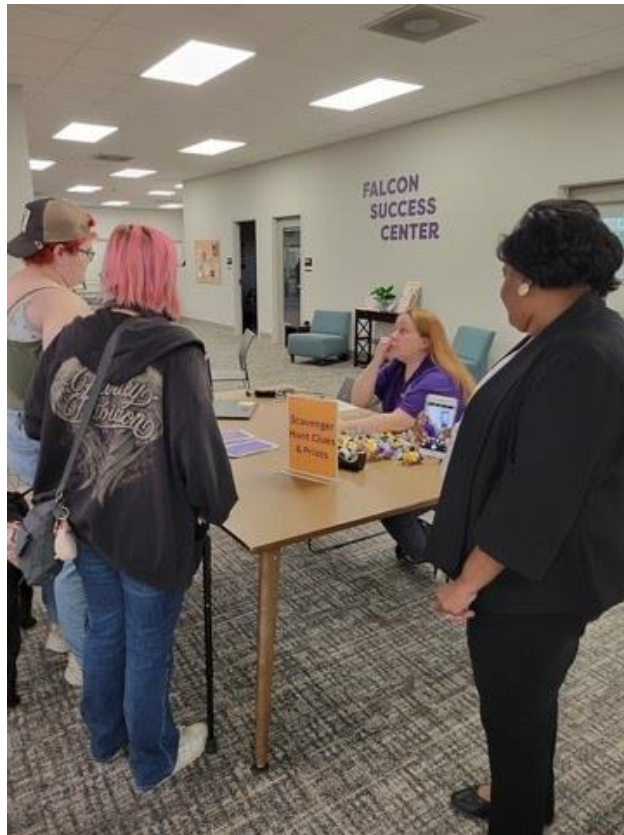
*8 - new welcome desk at front entrance*



*9 - computer area with new carpeting & paint*



*10 - Falcon Success Center offices and new seating, carpeting, and lighting*



*11 - Students meet the Falcon Success Center staff and play games at the Open House on September 29th.*



12 - Students play Spin the Wheel at the Open House on September 29th.



13 - Students left name suggestions for the Falcon, created by UM Nelson Grice, at the floors entrance.



Submitted by Sheila Brandt, Systems and Digital Services Librarian, University of Montevallo

## In Memoriam





ALLA is deeply saddened by the passing of Jason Baker, Director of the Trussville Public Library.

Jason devoted 16 years of service to the Trussville community, leading with compassion, creativity, and an unwavering belief in the power of libraries. A proud graduate of Auburn University and the University of Alabama's School of Library & Information Studies, Jason was a steadfast defender of the right to read and a mentor to colleagues across the state. His legacy will live on in the readers he inspired, the staff he supported, and the community he so deeply loved. Our hearts are with his family, friends, and the entire Trussville Public Library team during this difficult time

## About *Alabama Libraries*



**Now accepting articles for an upcoming special issue:**

 **AI and Libraries** – Focus: AI technologies & library services  Deadline: Feb. 1, 2026



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

📄 **Details & Guidelines:** <https://www.allanet.org/alabama-libraries> - All submissions will undergo double-blind peer review.

🗉 **Questions or Submissions?** Contact Dr. Laura Pitts, Editor – ✉ [lepitts@jsu.edu](mailto:lepitts@jsu.edu)

*Alabama Libraries* is seeking articles relevant to librarianship in Alabama. The Alabama Library Association's peer-reviewed journal publishes scholarly articles biannually in an open access format. The journal accepts four types of articles: Scholarly (peer-reviewed), practical, student research, and guest columns. Submissions by all professionals who work in any type of library are welcome. To review the specific guidelines for each of type of article submission, review the Call for Articles<sup>19</sup> information on the **Alabama Libraries**<sup>20</sup> website.

## 📖 The GODORT Corner



Agriculture is an important part of Alabama’s economy. The success or failure of agricultural enterprises depends on a variety of factors, for example, the presence or absence of water, climate, type of terrain, etc. with type of soil being one of the most important of all. Not surprisingly, there is a government document produced by the U.S. Department of Agriculture that can prove to be very useful in this regard: soil surveys (SuDoc A 57.38: ). These irregularly published documents have been around since 1899. Like almost everything else, soil surveys have moved online including many of the very old ones. What, exactly, is a soil survey? In some ways, the name says it all, but, essentially, these are published reports, sometimes hundreds of pages long, that provide detailed information about the soils found in a given geographic area, normally, a county within a state. You will typically find maps showing soil type boundaries, detailed descriptions, color photographs, and tables of soil properties. I first became aware of soil surveys when I started working in the now defunct Microforms and Documents Department at the Ralph Brown Draughon Library at Auburn University in 1992. As you may know, one of

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<sup>19</sup><https://alla.memberclicks.net/alabama-libraries-call-for-articles>

<sup>20</sup><https://www.allanet.org/alabama-libraries>

Auburn's strengths as a land grant university is its College of Agriculture, so encountering students and professors seeking soil surveys was not surprising.

However, it is not only land grant institutions or schools of agriculture that may find soil surveys to be of use. Everyone from farmers to city planners to engineers to real estate agents to real estate developers will find soil surveys to be a very valuable resource. To start, you'll want to visit the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Services Soil Science web site<sup>21</sup>. Click on the Soil Survey link, Soil Surveys by State sounds like a logical starting point but it turns out to be somewhat of a dead end for now. It does provide some historical links to surveys available through the Internet Archive but as one quickly discovers, things get complex and access is not very easy at all. As of this writing you can see a link labelled "Historical soil surveys are being moved to archive.gov." This takes one to a page labelled USDA Soil Surveys with what appears to be an arbitrarily arranged set of links for various states but not Alabama on display. There is a search box. Entering "Alabama" brings up 139 soil surveys for various Alabama counties in no discernible order. Upon entering "Tallapoosa" (my county of residence) I finally have access to two soil surveys, one published in 1909 and the other published in 2007. I will use the 2007 survey since soil conditions can't have changed that much in 18 years and, also, because in 2007 I was living at the same address as now. The 449-page survey document comes up just fine but there is no particular advantage over the print survey as far as locating information on my own specific portion of Tallapoosa County. There are some nice maps in the final pages but it is hard to actually determine the specific soil information for my specific location. To find out soil survey information about my own property I will instead use the Web Soil Survey page<sup>22</sup> (and which is also referred to on the Soil Surveys by State page). As an example, I will use my own property in Camp Hill to see what a soil survey says about my garden plot. Scrolling halfway down the page, I see a prominent green box and link labelled "Web Soil Survey" instructing me to "Start Web Soil Survey." This, in turn, takes me to a newpage featuring a color map of the United States

The quickest and easiest option for me is to click on "Address" and to then enter my street address into the available box. Clicking on "View" I now see a color aerial photograph taken from perhaps a couple of thousand feet up. I keep clicking on the photo and am able to zoom in and, literally, view my garden plot near my house. Next step: click on the "Area of Interest" option. There are three main options but the simplest is to click on "Import AOI." The AOI is Area of Interest and this directly corresponds to what you see on the Interactive Map. The next step is not really intuitive: one needs to then click on one of two icons located under the heading "Area of Interest Interactive Map." Using the mouse-over, I see an option covered by each icon. The better one for me is "Define AO by Rectangle" because the smallest geographic

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<sup>21</sup><https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/conservation-basics/natural-resource-concerns/soil/soil-science>

<sup>22</sup><https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/resources/data-and-reports/web-soil-survey>

unit available is half an acre. This is a bit bigger than my 1000-square foot garden plot but not a problem since I can include the garden plot plus a little adjoining land. The remaining step is to click on “Soil Map.” Finally, I see some actual soil information: the U.S. Department of Agriculture soil symbol for my garden area is CeC2 and the “Map Unit Name” is described as “Cecil sandy loam, 6 to 10 percent slope, moderately eroded.” This is actually a hot link and it takes me to a brief summary report that ultimately is similar to most of the information I can find in the 2007 Tallapoosa County Soil Survey but, perhaps, in a more convenient and detailed format down to a specific half-acre. Without going into full detail, I can say I find out that the first four inches of depth for this soil is sandy loam with the next four inches of depth consisting of clay loam. The report provides details down to a depth of 80 inches! Much deeper than a gardener like me would ever go but potentially useful to a real estate developer or city planner. I was a little dismayed to see the general description as “Not prime farmland” although, generally, I have had success growing a variety of vegetables and fruits except for when there are drought conditions. It turns out there is still more detailed scientific information available in the full-length soil survey for Tallapoosa County itself as well as can be found via the “Web Soil Survey” option described above but I won’t go into that here since I suspect most of you, like me, are not actual soil scientists. 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



- International Games Month<sup>23</sup> (November)
- Native American Heritage Month<sup>24</sup> (November)
- Read a New Book Month<sup>25</sup> (December)
- Human Rights Day<sup>26</sup> (December 10)
- National Book Blitz Month<sup>27</sup> (January)
- National Science Fiction Day<sup>28</sup> (January 2)

## From the Editor

### A Note from the Editor



It was so much fun editing this issue! It is always a great experience when a variety of submissions from libraries, committees, and roundtables are received. Your stories and contributions are the heart of this newsletter. If you haven't contributed in the past, please consider doing so.

<sup>23</sup><https://games.ala.org/international-games-month/>

<sup>24</sup><https://www.archives.gov/news/topics/native-american-heritage-month>

<sup>25</sup>[https://www.worldbook.com/wbblog/Read-a-New-Book-Month?srsItd=AfmBOogj5XYRZCipNkdwDftDUmlUScl3to8fUNwr3UjA\\_LMJcR72srXI](https://www.worldbook.com/wbblog/Read-a-New-Book-Month?srsItd=AfmBOogj5XYRZCipNkdwDftDUmlUScl3to8fUNwr3UjA_LMJcR72srXI)


<sup>26</sup><https://www.un.org/en/observances/human-rights-day>

<sup>27</sup><https://www.facebook.com/ReadtoGrowCT/posts/-january-is-national-book-blitz-montha-time-to-celebrate-the-joy-of-reading-and-/999956838833901/>

<sup>28</sup>[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National\\_Science\\_Fiction\\_Day](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Science_Fiction_Day)

## 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<sup>29</sup> 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](mailto:communicator.alla@gmail.com)<sup>30</sup>.

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

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<sup>29</sup><https://alla.memberclicks.net/alla-communicator-back-issues>

<sup>30</sup><mailto:communicator.alla@gmail.com>

<b>Issue</b>	<b>Submission Deadline</b>	<b>Publication Date</b>
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)

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