FROM YOUR ALLA PRESIDENT

Hello Alabama Librarians! I hope that you are all having a fabulous and busy summer!

As part of my duties as your president, I attended the 2018 ALA Annual Convention in New Orleans, June 21-24. Again, NOLA did not disappoint and I attended many informational, thoughtful and inspiring sessions over the course of three days. The highlight of the convention for me was attending the Opening Session with Librarian of Congress Dr. Carla Hayden and keynote speaker, former First Lady Michelle Obama. Dr. Hayden and Mrs. Obama discussed her childhood growing up in Chicago, her love for her parents who supported her in every endeavor, her time in the White House, and of course, her love of books. Mrs. Obama’s memoir, Becoming, will be published this November.

I also attended the Chapter Leaders Forum, an opportunity for leaders in many state associations to come together to discuss issues our chapters face every day. It was comforting to know that many of the state associations experience the same issues our association faces: dwindling memberships, rising costs of and decreasing attendance at conventions and the importance of local and state advocacy. ALLA President-elect, Jessica Hayes, and Tim Dodge, a former association president and current GODORT Chair, were also in attendance.

The most interesting session that I attended was entitled: The Librarian’s Dilemma: How Would You Respond? The session included a cast role-playing three different situations that could occur in any library: meeting room use policies, difficult patrons and potentially dangerous patrons. After each “scene,” a public and an academic librarian discussed how they would handle the situation in their libraries. It was extremely interesting to see how differently they handled the situations and the questions from the audience were thought provoking. I would like to have a similar session at the next ALLA convention.

Continued on page 4
ASSOCIATION AWARDS 2018

Eminent Librarian Award

Nancy Sanford, the Executive Director of Florence-Lauderdale Public Library for over 13 years, has helped to reinvent the role of public libraries in Alabama. When Nancy began her tenure at FLPL in 2004, the library’s larger, newer building had only been open for two years, and the library’s exact role in the community was uncertain. Nancy defined FLPL as a place of innovation and creativity and as a gathering place for the community. Through Nancy’s forward thinking, FLPL advanced from rarely having events to regularly hosting exhibits, hands-on programs, and notable speakers such as John Lewis, Rhetta Grimsley Johnson, Cassandra King, Frank Stitt, Mary Kay Andrews, Pulitzer Prize winner Hank Klibanoff, and R.L. Stine. In 2017, she led a community committee to host the first book festival in the Shoals, the Reader Riot. Nancy’s library service outside of FLPL has also been marked by leadership and forward thinking. In 2015, she was Chair of the Board for the Alabama Humanities Foundation, a position that allowed her to play a role in shaping educational programs throughout the state. She served as the ALLA Public Library Division Officer, and has served on the APLS LSTA Advisory Board, and the Lauderdale County Regional Library Board. Nancy is a graduate of Leadership Alabama. Nancy’s broader service experience helped her bring innovation to FLPL, leading projects such as the creation of a digital archive and a makerspace. Under her leadership, FLPL became one of the first libraries to check out e-readers, as well as other creative items such as guitars and American Girl Dolls. Nancy retired in January, but her legacy of innovation will continue at FLPL because of the time, effort, and leadership she has invested in the staff of the Florence-Lauderdale Public Library.

Library Roll of Honor Award

Mary S. Stewart, a native of Minnesota, earned her BA in history from Coe College in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. She moved to Alabama to pursue her MA in history with an emphasis on archival administration at Auburn University. One year after completing her degree, she began working as a library assistant in Birmingham Public Library’s (BPL) Tutwiler Collection of Southern History and Literature, Archives and Manuscripts Department. In 1985, Stewart graduated from the University of Alabama with an MLS degree. In her years as a degreed professional, she worked as a librarian in BPL’s Catalog Department, a librarian and technology trainer for the Public Libraries in Jefferson County Library, and as BPL’s Catalog Department head and supervisor of countywide delivery services. Since 1981, she has been a member of the Alabama Library Association (ALLA) where she has served as TSST’s member-at-large, moderator-elect, moderator, and past moderator. She also was an ALLA member of the Publications Committee and served as chair of the committee. Stewart retired after almost forty years of service to the libraries and citizens of Jefferson County.
ASSOCIATION AWARDS 2018 CONTINUED

Distinguished Service Award

Christopher Shaffer is Dean of Troy University Libraries. He has previously served as Director of Troy’s Dothan campus library and was also the social sciences reference librarian on Troy’s main campus for one year. Prior to entering the library field, Shaffer spent 8 years as a history teacher in Georgia and one year teaching English as a second language in Slovakia. He received his MLIS from the University of Alabama in 2005 and his Ed.D in Educational Leadership, Policy, and Law from Alabama State University in 2014. He has been published in several peer reviewed journals, has considerable experience writing and implementing grants, and has presented nationally. In 2015 the Carnegie Corporation, American Library Association, New York Times, and the New York Public Library presented him the I Love My Librarian Award for his work in public outreach.

Humanitarian Award

Laurie Charnigo Heathcock was born in Jackson, Mississippi. She graduated from University of Alabama with a double major in Classics and History and received an MLIS from UA SLIS. She has been working as an education librarian and associate professor at Jacksonville State University for 16 years. Her special research areas include children’s literature, 1960s counterculture, and the alternative press. She loves to read and her favorite novel is *The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier & Clay* by Michael Chabon. She is married to an artist and has three stepchildren.

Paralibrarian Award

Pat Chandler has worked at The Scottsboro Public Library for ten years serving in a wide variety of roles. Pat has served as the front desk clerk checking patrons’ books in and out, assisting with reference questions, and providing quality book recommendations. Pat currently takes care of the financials of the library making monthly bank deposits, working on bank statements, and managing all accounts payable. In recent years she has taken on the additional role of cataloguer, learning from scratch how to catalog Marc records and more. Scottsboro Public Library staff members call her the “Queen of the Library” because of her continued dedication to all areas of library service. Pat is also the resident turtle feeder of the library’s pet turtle Dewey, who specifically enjoys being hand fed by Pat and only Pat. She is the wife of Paul Ray Chandler, mother to Dale Chandler and grandmother to angel Joseph Chandler. She spends her spare time working in her flower gardens and checking the cotton crops of Chandler Farms in Hollywood, Alabama.
FROM YOUR ALLA PRESIDENT  CONTINUED

Speaking of which, mark your calendars for the 2019 ALLA Annual Convention, which will be held April 2-5 at the Grand Hotel in Point Clear. Convention Chair Wendy Congiardo is already working on planning the convention and if you are interested in serving on the convention committee, please contact her at wcongiardo@hotmail.com.

As always, if you have any questions about the association or how you can get involved, please do not hesitate to contact me at carries@bham.lib.al.us.

Enjoy the rest of your summer!

Carrie Steinmehl
2018-2019 ALLA President

ALABAMA AUTHOR AWARDS

JUVENILE

Janice N. Harrington writes poetry and children’s books. She grew up in Alabama and Nebraska, and both those settings, especially rural Alabama, figure largely in her writing. Her first book of poetry, Even the Hollow My Body Made Is Gone (2007), won the A. Poulin, Jr. Poetry Prize from BOA Editions and the Kate Tufts Discovery Award.

Her second book of poetry, The Hands of Strangers: Poems from the Nursing Home, came out in 2011, and her third book, Primitive: The Art and Life of Horace H. Pippin, was released in October of 2016. She is also the winner of a National Endowment for the Arts Literature Fellowship for Poetry and a Rona Jaffe Foundation Writers’ Award for emerging women writers. Her children’s books, The Chicken Chasing Queen of Lamar County (2007) and Going North (2004), both from Farrar, Straus and Giroux, have won many awards and citations, including a listing among TIME Magazine’s top 10 children’s books and the Ezra Jack Keats Award from the New York Public Library. Harrington’s poetry appears regularly in American literary magazines. She has worked as a public librarian and now teaches in the creative writing program at the University of Illinois.

YOUNG ADULT

S.J. Kincaid originally wanted to be an astronaut, but a dearth of mathematical skills turned her interest to science fiction instead. Her debut novel, Insignia, was shortlisted for the Waterstones prize. Its sequels, Vortex and Catalyst, have received starred reviews from Kirkus Reviews and Booklist.

Her most recent book, The Empress, came out in the fall of 2017. She’s chronically restless and has lived in California, Alabama, New Hampshire, Oregon, Chicago, and Scotland with no signs of staying in one place anytime soon. Her debut, Insignia, came out in July of 2012, followed by its sequels Vortex and Catalyst. The Diabolic was released in fall of 2016, and The Empress is its sequel.
FICTION

Bryn Chancellor’s debut novel *Sycamore* (Harper/HarperCollins, May 2017), hailed as “hypnotic” (O: The Oprah Magazine) and “a transporting vision of community, connection, and forgiveness” (Publishers Weekly), was an Indie Next pick, an Amazon Editors’ Best Book of 2017, and among Bustle’s Best Debuts of 2017. Her story collection *When Are You Coming Home?* (University of Nebraska Press, 2015) won the Prairie Schooner Book Prize, and her fiction and nonfiction have appeared in Gulf Coast, Blackbird, Colorado Review, Crazyhorse, Phoebe, The Common, Publishers Weekly, and elsewhere. A recipient of a 2017-18 Artist Fellowship from the North Carolina Arts Council, she also has received fellowships from the Alabama State Council on the Arts and the Arizona Commission on the Arts; the Poets & Writers Maureen Egen Writers Exchange Award; and scholarships from the Bread Loaf and Sewanee writers conferences. She earned her M.F.A. in fiction from Vanderbilt University and is an assistant professor at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. A native of California raised in Arizona, she is married to artist Timothy Winkler.

NONFICTION

Born in 1943, Winston Groom grew up in Mobile, Alabama, where he attended University Military School. In 1965 he graduated from the University of Alabama with an BA in English and was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Army. He served in Vietnam with the Fourth Infantry Division from July 1966 to September 1967 when he was honorably discharged with the rank of Captain. He then spent the next eight years working as a reporter and columnist for the Washington Star before becoming a full-time author. He holds several honorary Ph.D. degrees as a “Doctor of Humane Letters.”

Groom is the author of eighteen books. In addition to *Forrest Gump* and *Gump & Co.*, Groom’s novels include *Better Times Than These, Gone the Sun, Only* and the award-winning *As Summers Die*, which was made into a movie starring Bette Davis. He is also the author of *Conversations with the Enemy*, a non-fiction account of the experience of an American prisoner of war in Vietnam, a brilliantly rendered Pulitzer Prize finalist. His novel *Such a Pretty, Pretty Girl*, was published by Random House in the spring of 1999. He has also written *The Crimson Tide: An Illustrated History of Football at the University of Alabama.*

As well as being a talented novelist, Groom is also a renowned author of history. *The Aviators*, Groom’s book about three great heroes of the American twentieth century: Eddie Rickenbacker, Jimmy Doolittle, and Charles Lindbergh was published to great acclaim in 2013 by the Geographic and his latest work *The Generals: Douglas MacArthur, George Patton and George Marshall and the Crucible of War* was published in 2015. His biography *The Allies: Winston Churchill, Franklin Roosevelt, and Josef Stalin and the Winning of World War II* will be published in November.
Edward O. Wilson was born on June 10, 1929, in Birmingham, Alabama, and grew up in a series of towns in Alabama (principally Mobile) and Florida as well as Washington, D.C. After earning a B.S. and M.S. in biology at the University of Alabama, he earned a Ph.D. at Harvard University in 1955. From 1953 to 1956 he was a Junior Fellow in Harvard’s Society of Fellows. During this period he commenced a series of research field trips that were to take him, in various stages of his career, to many parts of the South Pacific and New World tropics. In 1956 he joined the Harvard faculty, where he is now Pellegrino University Research Professor Emeritus and Honorary Curator in Entomology.

In 1963 this work and his conception of species equilibrium led him to the theory of island biogeography, which he developed with the late Robert H. MacArthur of Princeton University. In the theory, immigration and extinction, the determinants of biodiversity at the species level, were tied to area, distance of islands from source regions, and the basic properties of ecology and demography. The work culminated in their 1967 book *The Theory of Island Biogeography*, which has been a standard reference work ever since.

In 1975 he published *Sociobiology: The New Synthesis*, which extended the subject to vertebrates and united it more closely to evolutionary biology. The Edward O. Wilson foundational discoveries of sociobiology are generally recognized to be the analysis of animal communication and division of labor, in which Wilson played a principal role, and the genetic theory of the origin of social behavior, which he helped to promote and apply in his 1971 and 1975 syntheses, and substantially revise in 2005. *Sociobiology: The New Synthesis* was later ranked in a poll of the officers and fellows of the International Animal Behaviour Society as the most important book on animal behavior of all time, and is regarded today as the founding text of sociobiology and its offshoot, evolutionary psychology.

Wilson published the widely acclaimed *On Human Nature* in 1978, which won the 1979 Pulitzer Prize in General Non-Fiction. With Charles Lumsden, he developed to the same end the first general theory of gene-culture coevolution (and introduced the term) in the 1981 work *Genes, Mind, and Culture*. Wilson’s novel *Anthill*, a conservation epic set in Alabama, was a N.Y. Times bestseller and won the Heartland Prize for fiction from the *Chicago Tribune*.

Throughout his 65 year career he authored 28 books to date and several major papers and theses. He has received more than 100 awards from around the world in science and letters including the National Medal of Science, two Pulitzer Prizes in Non-fiction (for *On Human Nature* and, with Bert Hölldobler, *The Ants*), and the Crafoord Prize of the Royal Swedish Academy of Science to name a few.
YOUR EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Cynthia M. Barnett is the Technical Services Department Head at the Birmingham Public Library. She received her Masters of Library and Information Studies from the University of Alabama in 2010. Cyndi is a member of the American Library Association and the Alabama Library Association. Originally from Iowa, Cyndi has worked primarily in technical services for both public and academic libraries since 2001. She is the current Moderator for the Technical Services and Systems Roundtable.

Margie Calhoun is the Assistant Director for Mobile Public Library, Mobile Alabama. Calhoun received her Master of Library Science from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan. Former employers include University of South Alabama Library and Norfolk State University, Norfolk, VA. Prior to becoming Assistant Director, she had managed five branches including the Ben May Main Library. Prior to serving as (Southeastern Library Association) SELA Representative, Calhoun previously served on the Council as Member-At-Large for the Southern region of the state.

Melanie A. Carden is the Director of Leeds Jane Culbreth Library for the City of Leeds, Alabama. Carden received her Master of Library and Information Studies from The University of Alabama in 2014, after 10 years of employment within the Public Libraries of Jefferson County. Carden’s public library experience spans from being a Circulation Services Supervisor, Information Technology assistant, Social Media Marketer, and co-creator of one of the first Makerspaces in the State of Alabama. As an advocate for library access for all, Carden is thrilled to be elected as Alabama Library Association’s Intellectual Freedom Committee Chair for 2018-2019.

Delores Carlito is the Information Literacy Coordinator and Liaison to the departments of English & Foreign Languages and Literatures at the University of Alabama at Birmingham’s Mervyn H. Sterne Library. She holds an MLIS in Information Studies from the University of Alabama and an MA in English and MA Ed in Secondary English Education from the University of Alabama at Birmingham. She teaches over 1,800 students a year and works closely with faculty to set standards and create templates and in-class exercises. She is the author of several articles on instruction and outreach, and she has published a book on Cuban-American fiction. Her research interests are various literacies including visual, multimodal, and metaliteracy; instruction assessment; information literacy across campus and disciplines; high-impact educational practices; and Cuban-American fiction. Carlito serves as Moderator for the Alabama Library Instruction Roundtable.
Wendy Congiardo is the Library Director at the Thomas B. Norton Public Library in Gulf Shores. She received her MLIS from the University of Alabama, and holds a BS in Criminal Justice from the University of Tennessee at Martin. Wendy spent the first five years of her professional library career as the director of the public library in Hartselle, AL. In 2004, she took over her current position. Under her tenure, the library has been awarded the Gold Star Standards Award twice, as well as being named a Four Star Library in Library Journal in 2009. She served ALLA as Convention Chair in 2005 and is currently acting in that same capacity, as well as taking over her new role as Member-at-Large, South.

Ashley Cummins, Director of Russellville Public Library, is a member of the American Library Association, Public Library Association, Association for Rural and Small Libraries, and the Alabama Library Association. Ashley has worked in the library field for the past ten years and participated in the 2nd cohort of the STAPLE program, before making the decision to return to school in pursuit of her MLIS. Ashley remains active in her chosen library associations and various committees, as well as serving on community boards in the City of Russellville. She is currently serving a two-year term with the Office of Intellectual Freedom for the American Library Association by serving on the Eli M Oboler Book Award Committee. She is the moderator elect for the Multi Cultural Information Round Table of the Alabama Library Association.

Tim Dodge has been employed at the Ralph Brown Draughon Library, Auburn University since 1992 where he currently serves as History and Political Science Subject Specialist in the Reference Department. Prior to his arrival at Auburn, Tim also held positions as Serials and Reference Librarian at Barry University (Miami Shores, Fla.) and Special Collections Librarian and Archivist at the University of New Hampshire. Tim has held many positions with the Alabama Library Association including GODORT Moderator in 1995-1996 and serves as the current GODORT (Government Documents Round Table) Moderator. His interests also include radio broadcasting since 1975. Since May 1998, under the name Dr. Hepcat, Tim has been hosting the Golden Oldies program on WEGL – Auburn FM 91.1.

Jeff Graveline is currently serving as the Member-at-Large, Central. He has served the Association in numerous roles over the year, most recently as Past-President. He has also been Chair of the Education and Bylaws Committees, CUS Member-at-Large for Planning, and Secretary of GODORT. Jeff is the Associate Dean for Research and Instruction in the UAB Libraries where his research interests include the intersection between copyright law and higher education and leadership in academic libraries.
Michelle Hamrick is the Public Services Coordinator at Irondale Public Library in Irondale, AL. Her responsibilities include programming for teens and adults, marketing for the library, and managing the library’s online presence. She has been in the Jefferson County Public Library Cooperative system since 2004 and received her MLIS from UA in 2011. Hamrick serves as the ALLA Public Relations Chair.

Jessica Barton Hayes is the Head of Public Services at the Auburn University at Montgomery Library. Hayes is coauthor of the article, “Generational Stereotypes at Work in Academic Librarianship” (under review), and the forthcoming book chapter, “Getting Things to POP: How Collaboration, Umbrellas, and Popcorn Machines Changed The Relevancy of The Auburn University Montgomery Library” in the book, Expanding Relevancy: Innovation to Meet Changing Needs. Hayes’s research interests includes data leadership, library assessment, academic library’s role in student retention, and much more. She is the current President of the Alabama Association of College & Research Libraries, and was recently elected to serve as the Alabama Library Association President, starting April 2019.

Taylor Gaston Kirby is the Access Services Humanities Librarian at Alabama State University. Prior to academic librarianship, she served as a public librarian for the Montgomery City-County Public Library at the Hampstead Branch Library. She is a member of ALLA, AACRL, and SELA. Kirby also represents the library faculty on the Faculty Senate at ASU, serves on the Mission Action Team at her church, and is working toward a second Masters in Public Administration. She edits the ALLA COMmunicator and is a member of the newly formed Editorial Board for The Alabama Librarian.

Nancy Pack serves as the director of the Alabama Public Library Service, since 2013. Her library experiences include working in various sized public libraries and serving as director of a Military base library and as Branch Chief of the Maryland State Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. As a Library educator, Nancy has served as an adjunct professor at the University of Arkansas and with the University of Alabama School of Library and Information Studies. At the University of West Alabama, she was a professor in the College of Education, and taught the curriculum for school library media certification for Alabama.
Jennifer Powell is the School Library Media Specialist at Tarrant High School in Tarrant, AL. She is entering her 4th year as a school librarian. She graduated with her MLIS in May of 2014. Other library experience includes two years as a reference assistant at the Samford University Library and four years as a library page and reference assistant in Jefferson County Libraries. She loves thinking outside of the box and designing creative and engaging learning opportunities for her students and filling her library shelves with diverse books. She is excited about getting more involved in the state organization and sharing her passions for school librarianship as the CSLD chair-elect.

Karen Preuss is the Assistant Library Director at the Montgomery City-County Public Library. She received her MLS from the University of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and holds a BA in English and History from Westminster College, New Wilmington, PA. Karen spent the early years of her professional library career in youth services, working as a children’s librarian at public libraries in Randolph, New Jersey, and Florence, Oregon, and as the Youth Services Consultant for the New Mexico State Library. She previously worked at MCCPL as the Development Coordinator, from 2002 – 2005, and 30 years ago was Publications Coordinator in the marketing department of the Alabama Shakespeare Festival. She left in Montgomery in 2005 to become the director of the Elisabeth C. Miller Horticultural Library, located on the Center for Urban Horticulture campus at the University of Washington in Seattle, serving both the academic and public horticulture communities. From there, she moved home to New York City, where she worked as Assistant Director of Development at the Queens Botanic Garden, and as Director of Development for Reach Out and Read of Greater New York. Preuss currently serves as the ALLA Treasurer.

Craig L. Scott is a Library Administrator at Gadsden Public Library. He earned his MLS from the University of Michigan in 1976. Scott has been a member of ALA and ALLA since 2007. An active member of ALLA PLD, the Alabama Author Awards Committee, and the current chair of the Strategic Planning Committee, Scott serves in many capacities. In addition to his active involvement in ALLA, he is also actively engaged in his local community, serving on various boards and participating in many outreach organizations. Scott has also been involved as an advisor and member of the Etowah County Historical Society since 2002, and a member of the Northeast Alabama Genealogical Society since 2002. He is married and has two children and two step-children.
A north Alabama native, Dr. Wendy Stephens spent fifteen years as a high school librarian, first at Buckhorn High School and then at Cullman High School. In 2015, Stephens joined the faculty of Jacksonville State University in Jacksonville, Alabama as School Library Program Chair. She earned National Board Certification in Library Media and was the first Google Certified Teacher in Alabama. She is a Past President of the Alabama Library Association and the current moderator of the Multicultural Information Round Table.

Laura Tucker started paging in the children’s department of the Hoover Library in 2005 and has been hooked on children’s librarianship ever since. She is a member of the American Library Association and is active in the Association of Library Services to Children (ALSC). Currently, Laura is serving on the ALSC Managing Children’s Services Committee. Laura has also been involved in the Jefferson County Library Association since 2006 by presenting at conferences and is an active member of the Youth Services Roundtable. As a member of CSLD, Laura has presented at multiple ALLA conferences and enjoys the partnership that CSLD fosters between public and school librarians. Tucker serves as the ALLA CSLD Chair. Currently she is the Head of Children’s Services at the Homewood Public Library where she partners with local schools and local organizations to provide quality services to patrons.

Paula Lenor Webb, Outreach and Communications Librarian at University of South Alabama, Mobile, Alabama, obtained her MLIS from the University of Alabama. Paula is a member of the Southeastern Library Association and Alabama Library Association. Paula received 2011 Mover and Shaker Award and the 2012 ALLA CUS Research Award. In 2016, she decided to try something new. She took a break from working only on academic publications and learned more about the city she was born in: Mobile, Alabama. She has since edited the Mobile Genealogical Society publications, Mobile Mayor’s Court Reports: 1865 & Mobile Mayor’s Court Reports: 1864 and authored the History Press publication, Mobile Under Siege: Surviving the Union Blockade. She has also kept up with her academic publishing and has co-authored the article, “Do Southeastern Public Universities Adhere to the ACRL Tenure and Promotion Standards?” with Mary Duffy, which was published by the Journal of Library Administration. She has also co-authored the book chapter, “The Hunt for the Elusive: Finding and Utilizing the History in Government Documents,” with Leasha Martin, an ALA published book titled, Government Information Essentials. Finally, she has written a book chapter titled, “Travelling Academics: Advanced form of Travel Tourism Writing,” for the book titled, A New Literary Journey: Tourism Writing, which is expected to be published this summer. Webb currently serves as the ALLA Secretary.
This year the exhibitor areas featured premium booths for exhibitors in the front atrium and additional booths for artists and exhibitors in Shoals Ballroom C. There were 37 Exhibitor booths including six Artist tables, eight Premium exhibitors, 23 Standard exhibitors, and three Information tables. Convention sponsors were EBSCO Information Services and Rainbow Book Company.


Exhibit Hours were held Wednesday, April 11 and Thursday, April 12 from 9 A.M.-5 P.M. The Exhibitor’s Reception was held from 1:30 P.M. 2:30 P.M. on Thursday, April 12th.

Books-A-Million, Inc. was this year’s Convention book seller. They assisted with author book signings for Aaron Schmidt, Janice Harrington, Patti Callahan Henry, and Laura Murray.

The Joseph Bloch, the Father of Mobile’s Music: A Traveling Public History Exhibit, was placed in Shoals Ballroom C. The exhibit featured 6 standard panels and described the life of Joseph Bloch, a German-Jewish immigrant to Mobile in 1848. The Bloch project featured archival images and interpretive text to illustrate the history of Mobile’s immigrants, cultural life, and Jewish community in the late 19th century. The exhibit is part of a collaboration supported by the Southern Jewish Historical Society and the University Libraries.

Poster sessions had 17 posters and were presented in the atrium on Wednesday and Thursday.

2018 CONVENTION POSTERS

*Quality Control of Authority Work in Alma*
Irina Stanishevskaya - University of Alabama at Birmingham

*Digital Literacy, Jobless Patrons, and the Public Library*
Sofia M Thomas and Dr. Steven Yates - University of Alabama School of Library and Information Studies

*Finding Your Instructional Voice*
Kim Westbrooks and John Upchurch - Jacksonville State

*The Upsides of Downsizing*
Jennifer L Pate and Karlie Johnson - University of North Alabama and Jacksonville State University

*Let’s Go Live: Does presentation format influence perceived authority regarding social media posts?*
Derek Malone, Caitlin Crawford, Falon Yates and Kristina McMahan - University of North Alabama

*African Roots and the Art of Israel Lewis III: A bridge to campus and community*
Deborah Gurt - Doy Leale McCall Rare Book and Manuscript Library, University of South Alabama
Using eBook Statistics to Make Smarter Choices
Rachel S Hooper, Jeff Simpson, Kelly Wilson and Jana Slay - Troy University

What you’re reading is wrong! A look into exposed authority and its influence on information perception for college students
Derek Malone, Caitlin Crawford, Falon Yates and Kristina McMahan - University of North Alabama

The Graduate Collections Assessment: A Treasure Map to Valuable Resources for Curriculum
Kim Westbrooks and Paula Barnett-Ellis - Jacksonville State

I love it when a plan comes together: teaching undergraduate history students to become systematic and strategic researchers
Alex Boucher and Karlie Johnson - University of Alabama School of Library and Information Studies and Jacksonville State

Rare materials cataloging and MARC21. The Book of Hours and how to bring the beauty of the "whimsical dragon" in coded tags
Anita Kazmierczak - Auburn University Libraries

Data Literacy for College Students
Alicia L Krzton - Auburn University Libraries

Archiving the Online Local Community
Melinda Shelton - Birmingham Public Library

Dealing with the Opioid Crisis: Why the Public Library
Jennifer Hitzke and Catherine James - University of Alabama School of Library and Information Studies

The Internet Strikes Back: How a Virtual Protest Terminated SOPA
A. Blake Denton - University of Alabama School of Library and Information Studies

Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)
Mary J Halozan, Chris Smith and Erin Wages - University of Alabama School of Library and Information Studies

Surprising Information and Library Habits of Millennial Patrons
Kim Westbrooks and Karlie Johnson - Jacksonville State

At right: Melinda Shelton of Birmingham Public Library, poses with her poster, Archiving the Online Local Community.

IMLS and Internet Archive created the Community Webs program to make the collection of local history documentation of library specific regions easier for public libraries by encompassing the ever present digital arena of websites, blogs and social media.
COMMUNICATOR SUBMISSIONS

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 and Phone
- Article in PDF or Word
- .jpg images may be attached
- Description of images

ALLA-COMmunicator Publishing Schedule

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UPCOMING EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETINGS

September 7, 2018
10 AM—12 PM
APLS
6030 Monticello Dr.
Montgomery, AL 36117

December 7, 2018
10 AM—12 PM
APLS
6030 Monticello Dr.
Montgomery, AL 36117

March 8, 2019
10 AM—12 PM
APLS
6030 Monticello Dr.
Montgomery, AL 36117

SUMMER OF EMPATHY: BOOK DISPLAY

Contributed by Craig Scott, Gadsden Public Library

Brittany Yow, Clerk at Gadsden Public Library, created an eye-catching book display in June with the intention of making people step outside their comfort zones. Brittany has always been an outspoken defender of the rights of all people and she especially enjoys helping someone validate who they are. With this display, she was hoping to encourage folks to better understand someone else’s way of life, whether they agreed with the lifestyle or not, and especially in the times we live in today.

After soliciting GPL staff for book recommendations for the display, 30 specific titles were selected. Books were covered in brown paper and labeled with thematic keywords selected by Yow. For instance, *To Kill a Mockingbird* used the keywords: young white girl, racism in the south, lawyer, justice system. Another book on the list, *Mama’s Boy, Preacher’s Son* used keywords: white, CIS male, the south, gay, and teacher.

Once complete, the display was placed at the front of the library next to the Circulation Desk where it was highly visible for everyone to see when entering and exiting the building. Not surprisingly, there was some push-back and a few complaints were logged and discussed, mainly along religious lines. But, there was also some excellent feedback given and some strong positive compliments were heard.

Brittany shared that she was particularly proud of a family who saw the display and talked to her about the idea. The family told her that they appreciated knowing how others felt, especially for “the more quiet ones in society” who stay in the background of life.

Of the 30 books chosen for the display at least two-thirds have been checked out. Surprisingly (or not), when a person checked out one of the wrapped books, none of the books were opened while in the library. Instead, library staffers watched as people would take the book to their car and then unwrap it before leaving.

All in all, the Summer of Empathy book display has really caught some attention here in Gadsden. GPL would like to especially thank Brittany for the fine work she does for our community.