

*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.*

# ALLA COMMUNICATOR

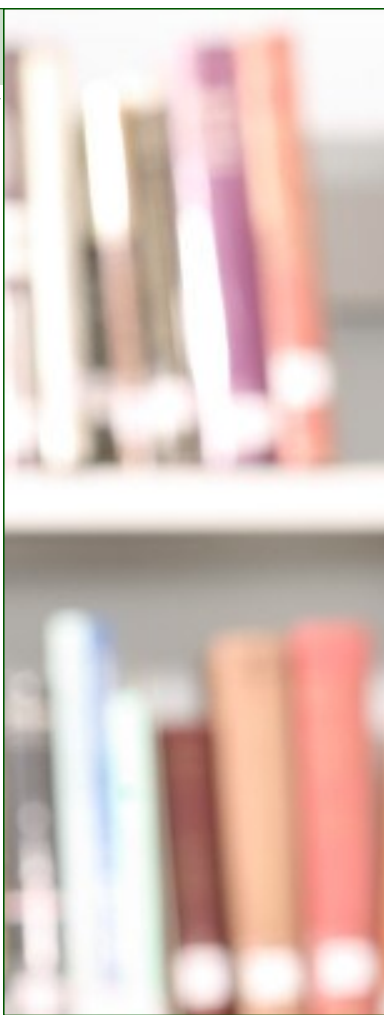
SPECIAL ISSUE:

## COVID-19 and Alabama's Libraries

April was a big month for libraries. The event that most of us look forward to for networking and presenting research, the Alabama Library Association Convention, was scheduled for April 14-17. Librarianship is always celebrated in April during National Library Week, when fun programs and displays pop up in libraries across the country. Beyond that, librarians across the state had plans to hold business meetings and host events for Summer Reading Programs. April was supposed to be the time when we did all of these things, and it was also supposed to be time for making plans to advocate for libraries at the Alabama State House on ALLA Legislative Day on May 1.

But COVID-19 had other plans for us. As it became evident that the pandemic was headed our way, library faculty and staff everywhere scrambled to find trustworthy answers to patrons' questions about the virus while also canceling long-awaited programs in our communities. Some libraries remained open while others closed to the public but continued providing resources and services.

Librarians throughout the state were surveyed to learn how Alabama's libraries reacted to the crisis. In this special issue, we take a look at how our libraries have handled the unexpected while continuing to support our communities.



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Alabama Library Association

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# SURVEY RESULTS

*Submitted by Jessica Platt, ALLA COMMunicator Editor  
and Education Doctoral Librarian, Alabama State University*

In Spring 2020, an electronic survey was sent to faculty and staff at Alabama's libraries via a listserv (alala-l@samford.edu). The following is a summary of those survey responses.

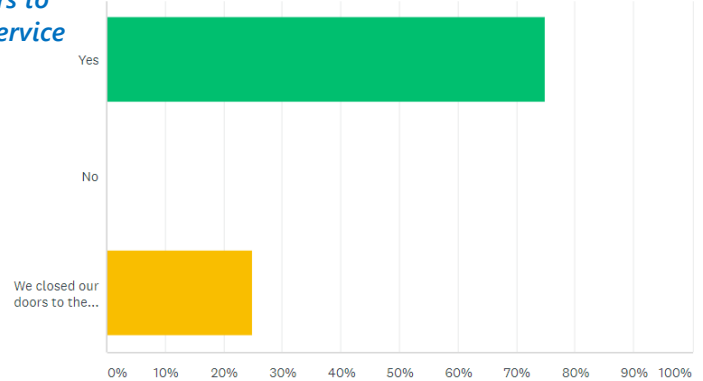
## Q1

Did your library close because of COVID-19?

75% Yes

0% No

25% We closed our doors to the public but offered service in other (or new) ways



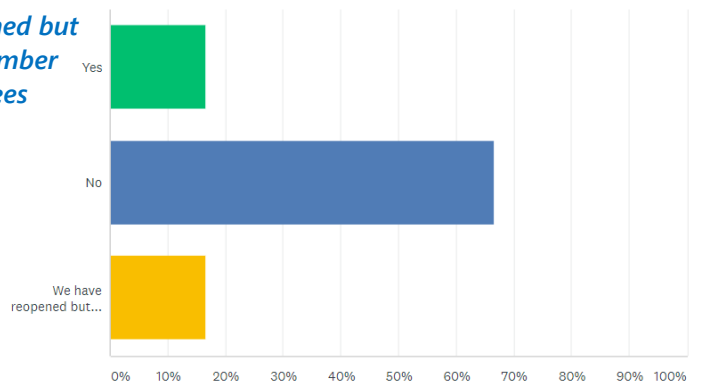
## Q2

If your library closed, has it reopened yet?

16.67% Yes

66.67% No

16.67% We have reopened but we're restricting the number of patrons and employees allowed inside.



# SURVEY RESULTS

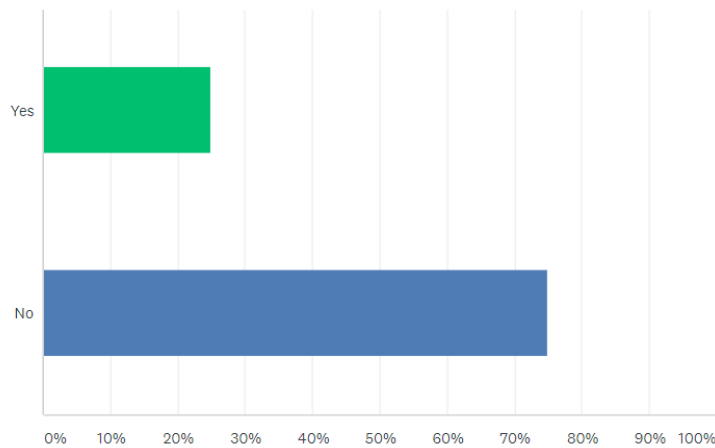
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## Q3

Has your library laid off or furloughed any employees due to the COVID-19 pandemic?

72% Yes

75% No



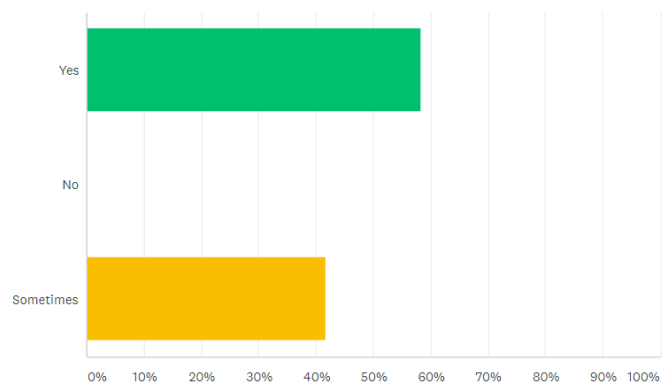
## Q4

Do employees at your library wear masks while at work?

58.33% Yes

0% No

41.67% Sometimes



## GET INVOLVED

### ALLA Divisions:

YSSLD  
Youth Services & School Librarians  
Division

CUS  
College, University and Special  
Libraries

PLD  
Public Library Division

### ALLA Roundtables:

ALIRT  
Alabama Library Instruction

CDMRT  
Collection Development and  
Management

GODORT  
Government Documents

MCRT  
Multicultural Information

PART  
Paraprofessional

RASRT  
Reference and Adult Services

TSSRT  
Technical Services & Systems

YASRT  
Young Adult Services

### ALLA Committees:

Association Awards  
Authors Awards  
Bibliographic  
Budget & Finance  
Bylaws  
Convention  
Education  
Emeritus Council  
(Formerly Past Presidents)  
Employee Evaluation  
Handbook  
Intellectual Freedom  
Legislative Development  
Membership  
Nominating  
Planning  
Public Relations  
Publications

To get involved with an ALLA  
Committee, fill out the Committee  
Interest form at:  
[https://goo.gl/forms/  
tS79Dg6YqFbjiS812](https://goo.gl/forms/tS79Dg6YqFbjiS812)

## SURVEY RESULTS

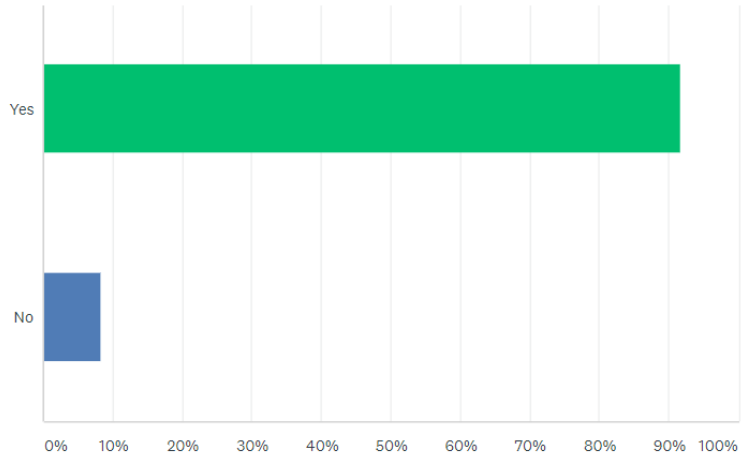
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Q5

Did your library cancel planned programs due to the COVID-19 pandemic?

91.67% Yes

8.33% No



Q6

Approximately how many programs have been canceled at your library due to the pandemic?

0-200

25

50 or more monthly

None yet, but we had none planned during April and May.

Perhaps 10.

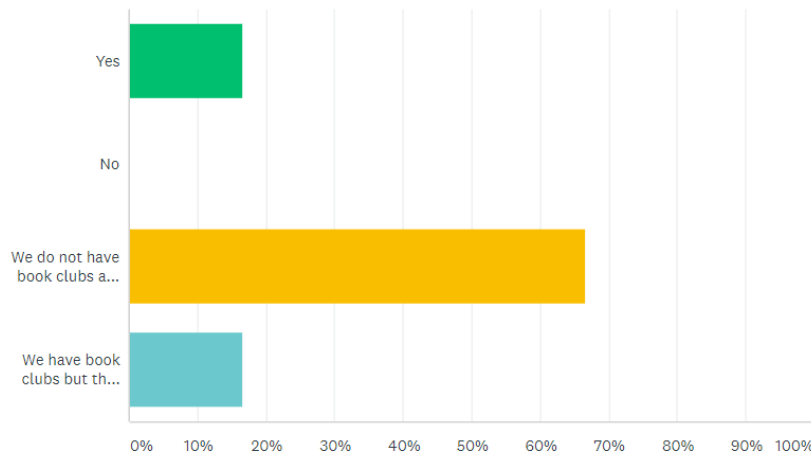
200

not sure

90

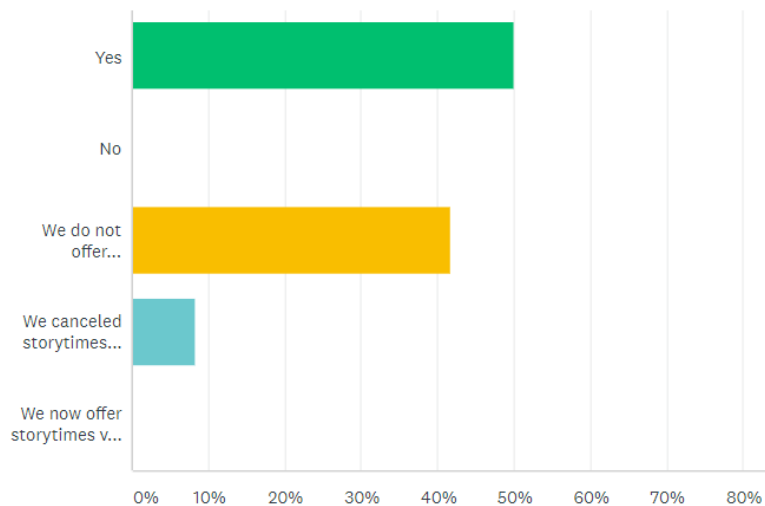
**Q7**  
**Did book clubs at your library begin meeting online?**

16.67% Yes  
 0% No  
 66.67% We do not have book clubs at my library.  
 16.67% We have book clubs but they have not met since the pandemic began.



**Q8**  
**Did storytimes for children go virtual at your library?**

50% Yes  
 0% No  
 41.67% We do not offer storytimes for children.  
 8.33% We canceled storytimes until the pandemic is over.  
 0% We now offer storytimes via recorded phone calls.



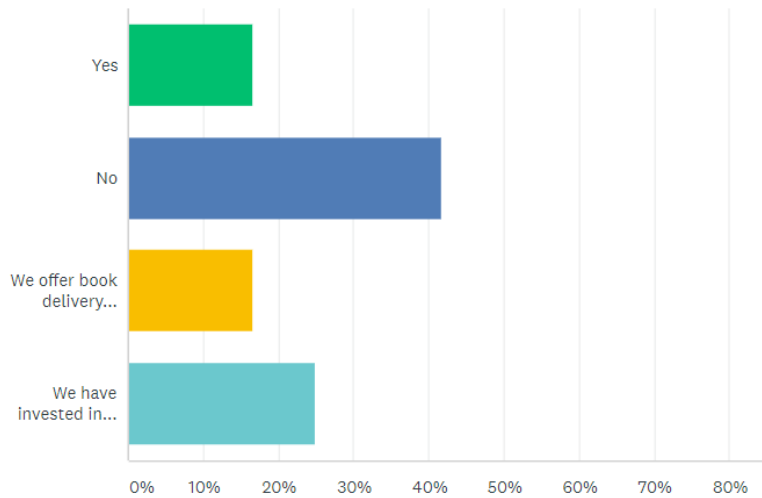
**Q9**  
Has your library stopped checking out books?

16.67% Yes

41.67% No

16.67% We offer book delivery services.

25% We have invested in more eBooks and publicize them more heavily now.



The [Alabama Public Library Service](#) has provided helpful information to be used by libraries as they provide services during this time. Please feel free to use the following list of COVID-19 resources as we navigate the unfamiliar territory of a worldwide pandemic:

- [Family Quarantine Resource Guide](#)
- [Resources Available When Your Library Is Closed](#)
  - [How To Use Homework Alabama](#)
  - [Library Re-opening Tip Kit](#)



## PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE



When asked if their library had made any plans for summer programming, the following responses were given:

- *We have not decided what to do about summer programming. Our community has a couple of other organizations that also do summer programs and we sometimes coordinate with them. We will have to see if that is still possible or if we can do something electronically.*
- *We are an academic location and assistance has been provided through chat, email, and individual consultation using Zoom.*
- *We are offering online storytimes, SLP challenges, reading suggestions, and online escape rooms.*
- *Young adult and children's summer reading will be held virtually. Announcements went out just this morning from our Teen Department regarding their Summer Reading registration.*

## ALLA COMMUNICATOR SUBMISSIONS

Please feel free to submit your library-related news to:  
**communicator.alla@gmail.com**  
Submissions must include:

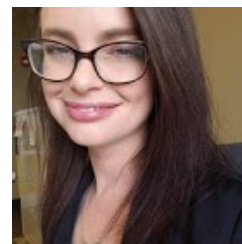
- Your Name
- Job Title
- Library or organization name
- Contact Email and Phone
- Article in PDF or Word
- .jpg images may be attached
- Description of images

## ALLA COMMUNICATOR PUBLISHING SCHEDULE

Edition	Submission Deadline	Publication Date
Jul/Aug/Sep	Mid-June	July
Oct/Nov/Dec	Mid-Sept.	October
Jan/Feb/Mar	Mid-Dec.	January
Apr/May/June	Mid-March	April

## FROM THE EDITOR

*Contributed by Jessica Platt,  
Education Doctoral Librarian  
Alabama State University*



Thank you for reading the *ALLA COMMunicator*. In order to increase awareness of successful library programs and those who are making a difference across the state of Alabama, the *ALLA COMMunicator* needs YOU! If your organization would like news or accomplishments published in a future issue, please submit your contributions following the guidelines listed to the left. If you have any questions or comments, please send them to

[communicator.alla@gmail.com](mailto:communicator.alla@gmail.com).

As always, thank you for reading—and/or submitting content to—the *ALLA COMMunicator*, the official newsletter of the Alabama Library Association.

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Bad libraries build collections, good libraries build services, great libraries build communities.

—R. David Lankes

## SUPPORTING LIBRARIES DURING COVID-19

### **United for Libraries to present free May 7 webinar on ‘How Foundations and Friends Can Support Their Libraries During COVID-19’**

United for Libraries will host the webinar “How Foundations and Friends Can Support Their Libraries During COVID-19” on Thurs., May 7, at 1 p.m. Eastern. Featured presenters will be Jonna Ward, CEO, Seattle Public Library Foundation; Michelle Jeske, City Librarian, Denver Public Library; Nanci Morrison, President, Friends of the Palm Springs Library Board of Directors, and Karen Pierce, Director, Slippery Rock Community Library. Deborah Doyle, Chair of United for Libraries’ Legislative Committee and President of California Public Library Advocates, will moderate. Registration is open and free to all; to register, visit [https://ala-events.zoom.us/webinar/register/8015863640163/WN\\_FMuwzLQPRi2YE-TRgPzcwQ](https://ala-events.zoom.us/webinar/register/8015863640163/WN_FMuwzLQPRi2YE-TRgPzcwQ).

The COVID-19 pandemic is having a major impact on public library budgets and spending. How can library Foundations and Friends of the Library groups best support their libraries during this time? Hear from library directors, a library Foundation director, and a Friends Board President on how their organization’s priorities are shifting, and what initiatives they are planning to meet their library’s changing needs.

Registration is open and free to all regardless of United for Libraries membership. Register for the webinar at [https://ala-events.zoom.us/webinar/register/8015863640163/WN\\_FMuwzLQPRi2YE-TRgPzcwQ](https://ala-events.zoom.us/webinar/register/8015863640163/WN_FMuwzLQPRi2YE-TRgPzcwQ). Can’t join live? Register anyway and you will receive a link to the recording.