

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

A Message From the ALLA President, Daniel Tackett

In case you have not heard, I am now the President of the Alabama Library Association! Traditionally, the Transitional Ceremony of our Association occurs on the last day of our Annual Convention. Your new slate of officers takes over from their predecessors and look to make the upcoming year even more successful than the last. We scheduled our conference this year for April 14-17, 2020 in Birmingham. And as someone who attended most of the Convention Meetings led by Wendy Geist and the amazing team she assembled, I looked forward to experiencing the conference life once more. Unfortunately for the librarians of Alabama, the COVID-19 pandemic precluded us from hosting our convention. Ultimately, we needed to cancel the gathering in order to protect the health of our colleagues and set an example for the rest of the state. This left the Transition Ceremony, as well as many events the Association planned, unrealized. To correct this lapse, we held the ceremony online on Friday, May 1, 2020 and swore in each of the new officers, division chairs, and roundtable moderators.

Thus, here I am, ready to introduce myself. We all have a unique story to tell (Imagine Your Story...Summer Reading, y'all!), and mine falls into a fairly normal range. As with many librarians, my love of reading began as a very young child. My mother vigorously instilled the practice in her children and took advantage of our local library, especially during the summer. The love of reading and the love of the library became synonymous to me. I worked at my high school library and journeyed towards the library profession during my college life, which led to my graduating with a master's degree in 2011. After working my first "real" job at the North

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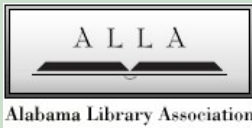
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AlabamaLibraryAssociation



2020/2021 ALLA EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

OFFICERS

Daniel Tackett
President

Laura Pitts
President-Elect

Jessica Hayes
Past President

Paula Webb
Secretary

Karen Preuss
Treasurer

Emily Allee
Member-at-Large: Central AL

Ashley Cummins
Member-at-Large: North AL

Wendy Congiardo
Member-at-Large: South AL

DIVISION CHAIRPERSONS

Jennifer Powell
Youth Services & School Library

Alex Boucher
College, University & Special

Katie Bailey
Public Library

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

Angela Moore
Association Administrator

Jodi W. Poe
Web Administrator

Paula Laurita
ALA Councillor

Margie Calhoun
SELA Representative

OTHER POSITIONS

Jessica Platt
ALLA COMMunicator Editor

Jessica Platt
The Alabama Librarian Editor

Donnelly Walton
Archivist

Ashley Brown
President, Scholarship Fund, Inc.

A Message From the ALLA President

continued

Shelby Library, I landed at the Vestavia Hills Library in the Forest in 2013 as the Teen Services Librarian and, eventually, the Deputy Director. The adult Daniel fulfilled the child's dreams and became one of the elites...a librarian.

My career led to involvement with our professional associations, both national and statewide. Last year I served in the office of President-Elect of the Alabama Library Association, where I learned the procedures of the Association, the immense work that our volunteer members provide to librarians as a whole, and the direction of the organization. I hope that I can provide valuable leadership in the upcoming administrative year and show each librarian the worth that ALLA has in regards to professional development, networking, and legislative advocacy. While much of this may have to occur online for the time being, I strongly believe that we have an invaluable team of leaders on the council who have the desire and will to strengthen us as a family of librarians during this crisis and following it.

I look forward to working with each of you in the upcoming year and welcome input and feedback throughout my time as president.

Please stay safe and work to keep your communities safe.

Daniel Tackett

LIBRARIANS OF NOTE

AT ALABAMA STATE UNIVERSITY

Submitted by Jessica Platt, Education Doctoral Librarian

Levi Watkins Learning Center, Alabama State University



Raegan C. Stearns is ASU's new Associate Archivist and started her tenure in January of this year. ASU has a long, proud history of shaping the history of Montgomery and this nation, and she is honored to have the opportunity to help preserve that legacy. Stearns was previously the archivist of Southern University at Shreveport as well as the owner of Cloud & Clay Cultural Preservation, a research and archival services consulting firm. She received a MLIS from Louisiana State University with an Archives Management concentration and is also a Certified Archivist. She enjoys collecting old photographs and picture frames from thrift stores and is looking forward to exploring and learning more about Montgomery.

LIBRARIANS OF NOTE

continued

Dr. Monica Hodge is an assistant professor and a science reference librarian/subject specialist for the College of Science, Mathematics, & Technology (C-STEM) at ASU's Levi Watkins Learning Center. In her role as a subject specialist, she provides helpful resources for faculty and students in C-STEM and teaches information literacy sessions. Dr. Hodge completed the clinical doctorate program in Occupational Therapy (OTD) at Nova Southeastern University in 2018. She obtained an MLS in Library Science and an HS in Health Studies from Texas Woman's University in May 2012. Her research interests include the role of occupational therapy on the quality of life for cancer patients; accessibility for college students with disabilities; the roles of OT related to mental health; ADD/ADHD; health and wellness; ethics; assistive technology; and sensory integration processing disorders. She serves as a Member-at-Large for the Alabama Health Library Association (ALHeLA) and is a member of the Alabama Occupational Therapy Association (ALOTA). In her spare time, Dr. Hodge enjoys exercising, traveling, spending quality time with family and friends, and listening to various genres of music. She also enjoys watching comedy, horror, and animated shows and movies to relax.



Ericka L. Dudley is currently an Access Services/Humanities Librarian at ASU. Prior to this position, Ms. Dudley held positions as a first grade teacher and library media specialist in a K-5 setting. Ms. Dudley earned her Library Media certification from The University of West Alabama and her MLIS degree from the University of Alabama. Ms. Dudley is truly a lifelong learner, where she is currently pursuing an Archival Studies degree from Clayton State University in Morrow, Georgia. Her future goal is to one day, become a digital archivist. During her spare time, Ms. Dudley's hobbies include cooking, reading, sewing, and taking care of her plants.

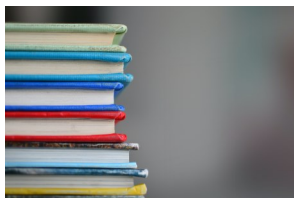


Photo by [Kimberly Farmer](#) on [Unsplash](#)

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>



ALLA'S STATEMENT ON RACISM

In the wake of the recent killings of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and Ahmaud Arbery, along with many others, known and unknown, the Alabama Library Association (ALLA) stands in solidarity with those peacefully protesting the systemic racism that has resulted in these and countless other tragedies resulting in needless loss of life. We express sorrow and support for all Americans who face racial inequality and discrimination, especially our Alabama librarians, library employees and patrons who encounter racism frequently.

Furthermore, we urge Alabama libraries to combat the issues of racism and injustice in our communities in the following ways: 1) continue providing equitable access of information to all people, regardless of race; 2) provide an inclusive, safe environment where communities can gather, discuss, and grow; 3) use available resources to help educate your community on matters that deal with race, racism, and the right for all individuals to have equal protection under the law. To assist Alabama libraries in meeting these goals, we have compiled a list of [resources](#), but, as this is an ever-evolving issue, we eagerly accept any recommendations that might aid in this fight. We urge all Alabama librarians, library employees, patrons, and stakeholders to take a stand with us against racial prejudice in all its forms.

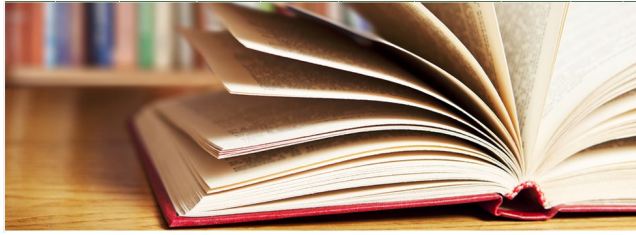
Sincerely,

Alabama Library Association Executive Council

This is a compilation of resources from the American Library Association, social media, and most importantly, Black activists who invested significant amounts of emotional and mental labor to help educate the public.

Without them, this would not exist.

Special thanks to Chantel Hartman who worked with the Alabama Library Association on this project.



ALLA'S STATEMENT ON COVID-19 & LIBRARIES

During this time of uncertainty, stress, and anxiety, the Alabama Library Association expresses their support of the Alabama libraries working hard to balance their commitment to public health and their professional dedication to serving communities. Depending on the local need, some Alabama libraries have altered operating hours and limited personnel numbers, some have closed to the public but continue to provide services like curbside pick-up and virtual information assistance, others have closed, while some are operating as normal.

We recognize the decision to close libraries is a difficult choice and one that must be made at the local government level. We hope that all those involved in making decisions regarding library operations consider the Governor Kay Ivey's recent closure of schools, the declaration of emergency at both the state and national level, and recommendations to limit social gatherings impact on the community's health as well as library personnel. We also encourage decision-makers to review the recent statement from the American Library Association when considering library operations. Regardless of operating status, we hope those working within Alabama libraries will engage in preventative measures as detailed by the CDC, the Alabama Department of Public Health, and other medical experts.

The Alabama Library Association is committed to supporting libraries across the state through this unprecedented crisis. Together we can ensure service to the Alabama citizenry in a time when it is needed the most.

Sincerely,

Alabama Library Association Executive Council

The Alabama Library Association offers a variety of Covid-19 resources [here](#).

CHILDREN FINISH THE IMAGINE YOUR STORY SUMMER CHALLENGE

Submitted by Frances Smith, Youth Services Librarian

Albert L. Scott Library

Youngsters kept their reading skills sharp by reading books during the Imagine Your Story Summer Challenge at the Albert L. Scott Library in Alabaster. Children earned prizes and received a certificate when they finished the challenge. The 7-week program featured more than 50 entertaining and educational programs in person and on the library's Facebook page. There was a Magical Storybook Ending on July 15 that closed the book on the challenge.

We thank our sponsors: Bike Link, Panda Express, and Whataburger.



ALLA & PTA FORM PARTNERSHIP

The Alabama PTA has invited the Alabama Library Association to form a joint committee tasked with sharing information about public library resources. The Covid-19 pandemic has led to a great need for resources for schools, and public libraries offer several resources that many families and educators find helpful. The purpose of this project is to remind parents, students, and teachers of the many resources available through their local library. Though most libraries have adjusted their menu of services, they still play a vital role in enhancing learning and assuring community access to information. This media campaign will be disseminated by both organizations through social media and/or newsletters at both state and local levels.

Joint Committee Members Include:

ALLA Members

Michelle Hamrick, ALLA's PR Committee Chair
Sara Foster
Gena Ward
Laura Pitts
Sara McGough
Jessica Platt

PTA Members

Stephanie Jackson, AL PTA Vice President of Legislation and Advocacy
Pam Berry, AL PTA Awards Chair
Phadra Foster, Montgomery County PTA Council President
Gena Ward, PTA Communications Chair

THE ALABAMA LIBRARIAN: CALL FOR ARTICLES

Submitted by Jessica Platt, Education Doctoral Librarian

Levi Watkins Learning Center, Alabama State University

The Alabama Librarian 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.

All manuscripts must be submitted to thealabamalibrarian@gmail.com as attachment to an email, preferably in MS Word. Manuscripts must be written in APA style and include an abstract and keywords. Although longer or shorter works may be considered, 2,000- to 5,000-word manuscripts are preferred.

A complete list of Guidelines for submissions may be found [here](#).

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/Jun	Mid-March	April

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETINGS SCHEDULE

Friday, September 4, 2020

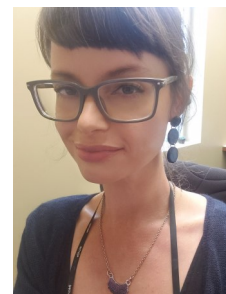
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM CDT

Via GoToMeeting



FROM THE EDITOR

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



What a year this has been!

We began 2020 concerned about bushfires and loss of animal life in Australia. That concern, which still worries many (including myself), was soon overridden by the Covid-19 pandemic. This caused a level of alarm unseen since the polio outbreak of 1955, causing libraries, schools, and businesses to close and upending the lives of people across the globe. As we watched loved ones and strangers fall ill with Covid-19 symptoms, many of us began working and educating our children at home, wearing face masks to buy groceries, and stockpiling Lysol wipes—but 2020 wasn't finished with us yet, not by a long shot. President Trump was impeached, the stock market crashed, protests for civil rights and social justice still abound, and our country seems to have become more divided than ever. But through it all, libraries have been there for our communities.

In our previous issue of the *ALLA COMMunicator*, we revealed that many libraries in our state continued checking out books to patrons despite buildings being closed to the public. Some libraries began to invest more heavily in eBooks; at least half of Alabama's libraries provided online storytimes for children and many of our book clubs began meeting virtually in an effort to prevent transmission of the virus that has killed so many. To protect ourselves and each other, most of us who continued to work in library buildings began wearing masks at work, which can be problematic for those of us with glasses—and let's face it, *most* librarians wear glasses, right? But through it all, libraries have been there for our communities.

Librarians and library staff have continued working together to provide services to the public during the [many] crises of 2020. We did it before and we will continue our work because we are in the business of helping people. I think that most librarians, regardless of where they work, will tell you that we do what we do because it benefits humankind. Since ancient times, libraries have been there to offer resources and services that change with the needs of our patrons and we will continue our important work for the communities we support and love. This year has not been an easy one for any of us but we will carry on by supporting each other and doing the best we can. Even murder hornets can't stop us!

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

"The only thing that you absolutely have to know, is the location of the library."
— Albert Einstein