

*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

## FROM YOUR ALLA PRESIDENT

Daniel Tackett

2020-2021 ALLA President

Hello again!

Unfortunately, our lovely pandemic remains with us and continues to affect libraries in numerous ways. Most obviously, it prevents us from assisting our patrons in the ways that they experienced in the past. However, for as long as I have worked in this profession, I have come to learn that librarians constantly adjust their services and resources to remain relevant to their communities and meet their needs. COVID-19 has not changed this about us, and we embrace this challenge more than anyone else. In my library alone we have instituted a curbside service program, filmed programming videos for our patrons to enjoy, hosted live, virtual events on a variety of platforms, and reallocated our budget to bolster the digital resources that our patrons have utilized more over the course of this trying time. Other libraries have astounded me with their level of innovations, and it has given me great joy to see the work and effort that Alabama librarians have employed to serve each of their diverse populations. You should feel a sense of pride in your efforts so far.

I mention this to also point out the integral role that our Divisions and Roundtables play in the Alabama Library Association and the need for your involvement. Whether your job falls under the Public Library Division, College, University, and Special Libraries, or the Youth Services and School Library Division, know that consummate professionals comprise each of them, and they work under the same difficult circumstances in which you find yourself. Please utilize them and reach out to them for networking, educational, and volunteer opportunities. Learn from other librarians and teach them the many lessons that this pandemic has taught you. Wherever you find your niche, I hope that you will grow stronger in our profession and make a new friend along the way.

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Alabama Library Association

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*College, University & Special*

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and The Alabama Librarian*

Donnelly Walton  
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Ashley Brown  
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## FROM YOUR ALLA PRESIDENT *CONTINUED*

As always, remember that ALLA belongs to you! If the Executive Council or one of the Division or Roundtables can assist you in any way, please let us know so we can best meet your needs.

Continue to stay safe, and continue to be awesome!

Daniel Tackett

ALLA President, 2020-2021

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## IMPORTANT ALLA ANNOUNCEMENTS

### GODORT Webinar on December 7, 2020

During the years 1936-1938 the Federal Writers' Project, an initiative of the Works Progress Administration during the Great Depression, produced over 2300 interviews with the formerly enslaved documenting their lives and getting first-hand accounts of life under slavery. The Library of Congress has made a number of these narratives available online as written transcripts, some photographs, and even some audio recordings.

Dr. Tim Dodge, History and Political Science Librarian at Auburn University, will provide a detailed examination of the project and will provide tips on navigating this fascinating historical resource.

Join ALLA's GODORT for this webinar presented by Tim Dodge. The webinar will be held on December 7, 2020, at 10:00 AM.

Register for this webinar at <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/4262986211418263056>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

Image by [Clker-Free-Vector-Images](#) from [Pixabay](#)

## IMPORTANT ALLA ANNOUNCEMENTS *CONTINUED*

### Infopeople Webinars

**December 8, 2020**

#### **Read with me! Inviting Children into the Reading Experience**

When you read WITH children, rather than to them, you invite children to participate in the experience of reading and create opportunities for language and cognitive growth. Asking questions, making connections, and exploring the pictures are a few ways to invite children to read with you. Modeling this to caregivers at storytime can open up a new world of literacy and language opportunities. (Colorado State Library)

Register at <https://create.coloradovirtuallibrary.org/calendar/>

**December 9, 2020**

#### **Free Online Tools That Are Unique, Fun and Inspiring**

Let's be honest: we could all use some unique and creative ways to help make the internet fun again. In this webinar, we will delve into nooks and crannies of the internet to discover the variety of fun and awe-inspiring creations that are out there. We will be looking at tools related to music and sounds; tools for creating art of varying sorts; games that take little time and are not mainstream; and more than 30 free online tools that are off the beaten path.

Register at <https://infopeople.org/training/view/webinar>

**December 30, 2020**

#### **What Inclusion Means for My Child**

Video tutorials, online story hour, and marketing videos are all the rage right now. They have been for a while. This session will tell you everything you need to know to plan, shoot, edit, and put your videos out into the world. (Nebraska Library Commission)

Register at <http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/scripts/calendar/eventlist.asp?Mode=ALL>

(From *Yakety Yak*, Vol. 4, No. 9)



### 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/  
tS79Dq6YqFbjiS812](https://goo.gl/forms/tS79Dq6YqFbjiS812)

## FALL FUN AT ALABASTER'S LIBRARY

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



The Albert L. Scott Library in Alabaster got the ball rolling for fall fun and learning in September and October. Programs included:

Julie Yocom of Shelby 4H guided guests in a creative service project called Warm Fuzzy, which was offered for onsite and Facebook participants of the Albert L. Scott Library. They heard a story about 'Warm Fuzzies' and made two of them – one for themselves and one to share with a friend. Enjoying the program were a small, masked, socially distant audience and folks watching live on their Facebook page.



Jennie Bunton shared tips and secrets of creating with balloons at a Balloon Sculpting Workshop on September 24. Kids and adults who wanted a fun, new skill that will amaze their friends watched on the library's Facebook page.



TeenTober is a new national literacy initiative created by the Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA), a division of American Library Association (ALA). The Albert F. Scott Library was among the thousands of others that participated in the month-long initiative for kids 11 to 18 years old. During the Facebook livestream TeenTober Event: Craft-o-ween on October 6, viewers learned to make several quick and easy autumn and Halloween decorations with things found around the house! Albert L.

Scott Library Youth Services Librarian Frances Smith guided viewers in making a faux water color keepsake, yarn painting, Halloween jugheads and snakes, and reverse jack-o-lantern cut outs.

Painting Fun Faces and More with Jennie Bunton came just in time for the costume season! During the October 12 session, Bunton shared tips and tricks to turn an ordinary face, hand, or arm into a colorful creation. The program was offered to a small, masked, and socially distant audience at the library as well as being livestreamed on Facebook.

On October 15, they launched the Civic Life Read to Lead Book Club in partnership with the David Mathews Center for Civic Life. The club uses books as tools for civic skill building, and this month's theme was voting. Youth Services Librarian Frances Smith read *Lillian's Right to Vote: A Celebration of the Voting Rights Act of 1965* written by Jonah Winter and illustrated by Shane Evans, and Abby Holcomb from the Mathews Center discussed and demonstrated writing letters to elected officials. The book club was livestreamed on the library's Facebook page for children in grades 4 to 8 to watch. The David Mathews Center for Civic Life is a non-profit and non-partisan organization in Montevallo which strives to build skills, habits, and capacities for more effective civic engagement and innovative decision making.

Spooky Halloween Trivia on October 20 was a fun way for kids age 11 and older to show their knowledge of spooktacular trivia, ranging from history to literary horrors to superstitions. Costumes and prizes added to the fun during the program!

## FALL FUN AT ALABASTER'S LIBRARY *CONTINUED*

Mr. Larry's Hocus Pocus Halloween Magic Show on October 29 was enjoyed by families that love tricks and laughs. The skills, thrills, and puppetry of Mr. Larry Magic was open to a small, masked, socially distant audience and was also livestreamed on the library's Facebook page. Many audience members wore costumes and children received goody bags.

Anticipation of the Thanksgiving holiday was in the air during the November 17 meeting of the Pete the Cat Book Club. Special guest Chef Bert Lindbergh helped everyone get in the mood for gratitude and food. He brought tools of the trade like pots, whisks, and knives. He shared skills including how to safely cut fresh pineapples, pomegranates, and vegetables. He also shared special recipes that could be easily followed for fruit salad and dessert. The program was enjoyed by a small group in the library and many others watching the livestream on the library's Facebook page.



Native American Heritage Month in November was the inspiration for the November 19 session of the Civic Life Read to Lead Book Club. The club, a partnership between the library and the David Mathews Center for Civic Life, uses books as tools for building civic skills. The award-winning book *Fry Bread* written by Kevin Noble Maillard and illustrated by Juana Martinez-Neal was read and discussed. It depicts a modern Native American family and the tradition of cooking and eating fry bread. Abby Holcombe of the Mathews Center presented a Native American game that can be played with a broom and a ball. Holcombe also explained the matrilineal family tree which traces a family through women as the Creek Tribe does.

Youth Services Librarian Frances Smith demonstrated making a storytelling hand puppet and revealed the book display. The program was livestreamed on the library's Facebook page for children in grades 4 to 8.



## USING DIGITAL RESOURCE CURATION TO SUPPORT LEARNING AND LITERACY

*Contributed by Sonya Jordan*

*Library Media Specialist*

*Mountain Brook High School*

With most schools unexpectedly going into a mandatory virtual learning scenario last March, the daily needs of teachers and students changed drastically. At my school, a high school of about 1,100 students in grades 10-12, digital curation of materials for specific assignments suddenly became the primary way my co-librarian and I were collaborating with teachers and assisting students with their research. While our collection of ebooks, digital audiobooks, databases and online subscriptions had been being widely used, there was a 92% increase in the use of our library's econtent over the previous "normal" school year. Thankfully, our library circulation software, Follett Destiny, has a feature, Collections by Destiny, that allows us to create mini collections of resources for specific assignments. We were able to use this feature to help our teachers plan remote lessons in a pinch. Each collection can be accessed from our library webpage, our catalog, or from a direct link that teachers could either email to students or post on their Learning Management System (LMS) pages.

In a conversation with Wendy Geist at Hoover Public Library, we discussed how public librarians are using digital resource lists as a part of their virtual service offerings. She shared with me these examples posted on the Jefferson Library Cooperative's OverDrive platform: Season's Readings/Holiday Books for the Holiday Season, Audiobooks for the Whole Family, and Diverse Reads for Kids and Teens. These lists lean more toward reading for pleasure, which makes sense in the public library setting.

Back on the school library side of things, having these assignment-specific digital collections available has been a hit with our patrons. With the fluid circumstances we are now experiencing with teachers and students going in and out of in-person/virtual learning due to sickness and quarantine requirements, these virtual library services have proven to be a lifesaver for our patrons and for us. Feel free to reach out if you would like more information.



Follett empowers K-12 educators with content, technology and services designed to help schools and districts reach their goals. Learn more at <https://factsmgt.com/partners-affiliation/follett-destiny/>

## INTERLIBRARY PROGRAMMING: COOKIES & COMICS

*Contributed by Laura Tucker  
Head of Children's Services  
Homewood Public Library*

In early September of 2020, Laura Tucker, Homewood Public Library Children's Librarian, received an email from Kelly Campos who is also the Homewood Public Library Children's Librarian . . . in Homewood, Illinois. A few Alabama kids had registered for Kelly's upcoming Cookies & Comics program on Zoom and wouldn't be able to pick up their cookies from Illinois. Kelly was kind enough to get them cookies from Cookie Fix and decided to contact HPL in Alabama to join in on the fun for future meetings. With programming at both libraries moving virtually, it was the perfect time to combine forces!

Cookies & Comics is a popular program at Homewood North for students in grades 3-6, and it is a perfect fit for the comic-loving patrons of Homewood South as well. For the Fall of 2020 each meeting had a theme where kids shared comics that were spooky or all about families or wintery. In the Spring of 2021, each meeting will focus on a specific book. The cookies are definitely a vital part of the program. Kids that register for the program at Homewood North pick up their cookies curbside while Homewood South patrons pick up their cookies at Cookie Fix on 18th Street the day of the program. For years the two libraries have received each other's patron's confused phone calls and emails about programs that were happening in the other state. At least this time there is finally a program happening for both locations at once! Future Cookies & Comics events can be found on both websites, [www.homewoodpubliclibrary.org](http://www.homewoodpubliclibrary.org) (for Alabama) and [www.homewoodlibrary.org](http://www.homewoodlibrary.org) (Illinois). For more information contact Laura Tucker, [laura.tucker@homewoodpubliclibrary.org](mailto:laura.tucker@homewoodpubliclibrary.org) or 205-332-6616.



## 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

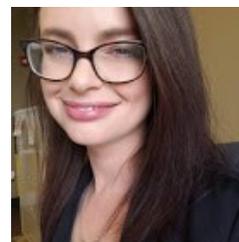
## UPCOMING EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETINGS

Friday, December 4, 2020  
 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM CDT

Friday, March 5, 2021  
 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

## FROM THE EDITOR

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



October marks the beginning of a new fiscal year for many libraries, and this year it has become more necessary than ever before for library professionals to rethink how we can reach our users. The Covid-19 pandemic has caused many libraries to close their physical buildings, but providing resources and services for our users remains of the utmost importance to us.

Has *your* library closed this year? Has it been reopened yet? Are there new programs and services now offered by your library to support the needs of your community? I encourage you to share your library's experience with us by sending an email to [communicator.alla@gmail.com](mailto:communicator.alla@gmail.com). Submission guidelines can be found on the left side of this page.

Thank you for reading the *ALLA COMMunicator*, the official newsletter of the Alabama Library Association.

I'd like to sincerely thank Michelle Hamrick for proofreading this issue.

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 I have always imagined that Paradise will be a kind of a library.  
 —Jorge Luis Borges

## ITEMS OF NOTE

The Alabama Library Association (ALLA) and the Alabama Parent Teacher Association (AL PTA) are partnering on a unique marketing campaign. This Campaign invites Alabama PTA units and libraries throughout the state to remind families of the FREE (publicly funded) resource available to all: Local Libraries. Many families are unaware that library cards are free and of the variety of services that public libraries provide. Share this information widely and often on social media, flyers, newsletters, and however you are able. Libraries and PTA units are encouraged to connect locally to build ongoing relationships. The goals of this campaign are to ease the immediate stressors caused by Covid-19 on families and to foster lifelong learning.

Be sure to use the hashtags **#HowWePTA** **#OnlineLearning** **#AlabamaLibraries** when sharing on Instagram, Twitter, and Facebook.

## LIBRARY CARDS ARE FREE



## CALL YOUR LOCAL LIBRARY

Access books - homework help - research help - and more!

Created in partnership with the Alabama Library Association and the Alabama PTA