

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 THE PRESIDENT:

Libraries are the hearts of the communities, institutions, patrons, students and more that they serve. It is an honor and privilege to serve as the Alabama Library Association (ALLA) President for the next administrative year. While the past year has not been as pleasant as many of us had hoped for, we all managed to push through and find slivers of hope in the darkness. We never stopped serving our communities, our students, our fellow staff members – everyone who might need us as librarians and library advocates in so many different ways. We have continued to fill gaps in services for our communities, helping to show our relevance to those who may not have realized just how indispensable libraries are to the world. I am proud of all of you.

For those of you who do not know me, I am the Director of the Scottsboro Public Library in Scottsboro, Alabama. I have served in this role for the past eight and a half years – a journey that has seen a library rebuilt from the bottom up in terms of programming, grant funding, staff buy-in, and community relevance. I have a bachelor's degree in Journalism and English from the University of Alabama, a master's degree in English from UAB, and a MLIS from the University of Alabama. I am currently pursuing a PhD in Communication—with an emphasis in libraries – from The University of Alabama. (You can tell where my collegiate roots run deep!)

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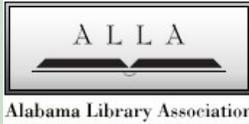
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2021/2022

ALLA EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OFFICERS

Laura Pitts—President
Amanda Melcher —President-Elect
Daniel Tackett —Past President
Paula Webb—Secretary
Karen Preuss—Treasurer
Emily Allee—Member-at-Large:
Central AL
Craig Scott —Member-at-Large:
North AL
Wendy Congiardo—Member-at-Large:
South AL

DIVISION CHAIRPERSONS

Caitlin Rogers—Youth Services &
School Library
Wendy Stephens —College, University &
Special Libraries
Rosanna McGinnis —Public Library

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

Angela Moore—Association Administrator
Jodi W. Poe—Web Administrator
Paula Laurita—ALA Councilor
Chris Shaffer —SELA Representative

OTHER POSITIONS

Jessica Platt—Editor of the ALLA COMMUNICATOR and The Alabama Librarian
Donnelly Walton—Archivist
VACANT —President, Scholarship Fund, Inc.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Continued

I believe in the power of libraries for each institution they represent – from communities to public schools to institutions of higher learning. Each one is significant in the opportunities they provide. Their worth is beyond their years. As president, I will continue to promote the ideals and mission of this organization, while making sure that voices and concerns are heard, no matter the topic. This organization is here to serve you, so please, let us know how ALLA can be of assistance. My goal this year is to help us become more relevant to the people we serve.

ALLA is here to be your voice and your advocate – so please let me know what needs to be done and how we can improve that effort. Please take a look at [ALLA’s website](#), discuss needs and ideas with leaders of divisions and roundtables and reach out to me if you have any questions, concerns or ideas you would like to see implemented. Contact me at laurap@scottsboro.org. I am always here to listen to the needs you may have as we move forward into 2021. Don’t forget just how wonderful you all are in your respective roles. Without you, none of this would be possible. You matter tremendously to your libraries and your patrons, students, colleagues and staff members. And most of all, you matter to me.

Laura Pitts

ALLA President, 2021-2022

OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENTS

Submitted by Jessica Platt, Education Doctoral Librarian

Alabama State University

Two members of *The Alabama Librarian’s* Editorial Board were presented with awards at the ALLA Annual Convention in April 2021.

Congratulations to Kelly Wilson, winner of the Intellectual Freedom Award and to Tim Dodge, winner of the Eminent Librarian Award!



Image by [Memed Nurrohmadi](#) from [Pixabay](#)

THANK YOU, JOYCE THOMAS, FOR 41 YEARS OF SERVICE!

Retrieved from USA Libraries Newsletter (June 2021)

University of South Alabama

After 41 years of service to the University of South Alabama, Joyce Thomas will retire on June 30, 2021. On March 3, 1980, Joyce began her career as a Library Assistant in the Cataloging Department of the University Library which is now the Marx Library. Several years later, Joyce was promoted to Library Technical Assistant II and supervised the student workers for the department. Along with these supervisory duties, she took the lead on the quality control check for cataloged books and media before these materials went to the Circulation Department. Joyce attended numerous professional development activities as well as volunteered for University-sponsored campus and community activities. Some other highlights of her years in the department include: cataloging the rare book collection before it was combined with the Archives collection, assisting in bringing up the first in-house online library system (NOTIS), and heading the Effective Operations Team to brainstorm ideas to make cataloging operations more efficient with NOTIS. She has been an invaluable member of the Cataloging Department and USA Libraries and her work ethic and expertise will be missed.

MCCALL LIBRARY INTERIM DIRECTOR DEBORAH GURT INVITED TO PRESENT ON ARCHIVES AND AFRICATOWN



McCall Library Interim Director, Deborah Gurt, was invited to give a presentation to educators as part of the NEH Landmarks Virtual Educators Workshop at Spring Hill College. Educators from across the country will participate in this week-long learning encounter with the story of the Clotilda, and the autonomous community built by the survivors of that ordeal.

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 Paralibrarian Roundtable

Join us and discover wonderful and insightful networking opportunities with people in your profession. ALLA and ALA offer discounted rates on conferences and hotels with membership.

Are you working in the Library and you're not quite sure where or how you fit in? ALLA has a Paraprofessional Certification program that allows you to take courses from home at your convenience. Want to try your hand at Cataloging? There's a class for that. How about becoming a Reference Librarian? There's a class for that. Love working with children? We've got you covered. Are you interested in purchasing materials for the Library? There's an Acquisitions certification available. Take a look at the link below and discover these and many more class available to you online at:

<https://libraries.idaho.gov/continuing-education/able/>



Are you having issues that you would like to discuss as a group to find a solution or do you have ideas that you would like to see implemented for the furthering of information intellect? The Paralibrarian Roundtable provides a platform for your thoughts and concerns. We will actively advocate together so that our patrons, clients and communities win and are better served.



Would you like to be a part of the Paralibrarian Roundtable? Contact me.

Veronica McCoo, MLIS
Paralibrarian Roundtable, Moderator

GODORT has had a busy year and we also have a program at the forthcoming convention on April 28. The convention program is “Census 2020: Census Data Information Resources” featuring Marilyn Stephens, Partnership Coordinator, U.S. Census Bureau, Atlanta Region. The program is scheduled to take place 3:00 – 3:50 p.m.

The rountable has hosted two webinars in recent months:

- 1) “Library of Congress Slave Narratives” on December 7, 2020 presented by Tim Dodge (Auburn University)
- 2) “Census and Sensibility: Using and Interpreting U.S. Census Records” on January 27, 2021 presented by Mary Beth Newbill (Birmingham Public Library).

In addition, GODORT produces an online newsletter, the *GODORT Connection*, that appears three times a year. Here is a link to the November 2020 issue: https://issuu.com/allacommunicator/docs/alla_godort_november_2020 . A new issue should be appearing any day now and a link will be sent, as usual, to the AlaLA-L listserv.

On May 17 we distributed the round table’s electronic newsletter, the GODORT Connection (Volume 4, Issue 1, March 2021), via the AlaLA-L listserv. See https://issuu.com/allacommunicator/docs/alla_godort_march_2021 .

GODORT met virtually on June 21 to discuss plans for the 2021-2022 membership year. Plans include the continued publication of the *GODORT Connection* (three issues per year); hosting one, possibly two, webinars Fall 2021 and/or early Spring 2022; making plans for a program for the 2022 ALLA annual convention, possibly concerning Alabama state government documents; and resuming production of the GODORT Note started in July 2020 after a hiatus of three months. Note: this latter endeavor was resumed in July 2021 with GODORT Note #18 (July 7) introducing SIC (Standard Industrial Classification) and its successor NAICS (North American Industry Classification System) and GODORT Note #19 (July 25) providing a basic introduction to the topic of Copyright.

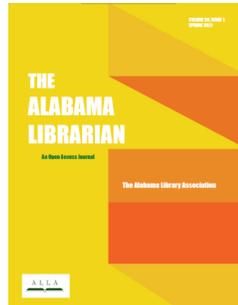
Government Documents Roundtable (GODORT)

GODORT promotes the availability, use and bibliographic control of documents. We also promote communication between documents librarians and other librarians.



CALL FOR ARTICLES:

SCHOLARLY ARTICLES WANTED FOR ALLA'S JOURNAL



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.

GUIDELINES FOR SUBMISSIONS OF ARTICLES:

- 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.
- The name, position, and professional email address of the author should appear in the bottom left-hand corner of a separate title page. The author's name should not appear anywhere else in the document.
- Submissions will undergo a double blind peer review process.
- Photographs and other images relevant to the submission will be accepted for consideration but cannot be returned. Digital images are preferred.
- No other publisher should be simultaneously considering a manuscript submitted to *The Alabama Librarian*.
- If the manuscript includes analyses of survey results, please acknowledge approval by the appropriate Institutional Review Board either through direct reference in the manuscript or acknowledgement as part of the manuscript submission.
- Upon receipt, manuscripts will be acknowledged by the Editor-in-Chief, who will then assign manuscripts to two reviewers. The reviewers who receive the manuscript will have no direct information on the author or the author's affiliation. Following the review, a decision will be communicated to the writer.

CALL FOR ARTICLES

Continued

GUIDELINES FOR SUBMISSIONS OF BOOK REVIEWS:

- Titles should have been published within the past 3 years.
- Titles must relate to librarianship (academic, public, special, etc.)
- Book reviews should be 400-800 words, although submissions of other lengths will be considered.
- Reviews must be written in APA style.
- Reviews must contain a brief summary, an explanation of how the book relates to librarianship in the state, and a recommendation of the appropriate audience.
- Reviews must be typed in Microsoft Word or Google Docs, and must contain the title, author/editor, publisher, date, ISBN, and price. Reviews must also contain the reviewer's name and organizational affiliation.

GUIDELINES FOR SUBMISSIONS OF E-RESOURCES REVIEWS:

- Reviews of e-Resources should be limited to 3,000 words.
- Reviews must be written in APA style.
- Reviews should include:
 1. a description of the resource and its purpose
 2. the intended or recommended audience
 3. good and bad points
 4. major features, scope, and organization
 5. accessibility and usability
 6. the quality of the search results
 7. technical requirements or installation issues
 8. a brief comparison to other similar products
 9. recommendation (or not)
- Reviews must also contain the reviewer's name and organization.

Submission guidelines and current issues of *The Alabama Librarian* can be found at

<https://www.allanet.org/alabama-librarian>.

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 |

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[Click here to donate to ALLA.](#)

FROM THE EDITOR

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



As always, thank you for reading—and/or submitting content to—the *ALLA COMMunicator*, the official newsletter of the Alabama Library Association. If you have any questions or comments, please send them to

communicator.alla@gmail.com.

Special thanks to Savannah Kitchens for contributing to this issue and to Charlotte Daniel Carr for her proofreading services.

I count myself as one of millions of Americans whose life simply would not be the same without the libraries that supported my learning.



2022 ALA Annual Conference & Exhibition

Washington, DC

June 23-28, 2022

For a limited time, you can get on-demand access to the full 7 days of Annual Conference content, including 200+ education sessions featuring all the information you'll need to move your career and library forward in a post-COVID-19 world, the full lineup of amazing featured speakers, 140+ author talks, and more.

Register here:

<https://2021.alaannual.org/registration/register-now>