



ALLA COMMunicator: August 2023

ALLA COMMunicator

Alabama Library Association | www.allanet.org

August 2023 | Volume 20, Issue 4


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.



In this Issue

- From the President
- ALLA Connections
- ALLA News
- Library Happenings
- *About Alabama Libraries*

- The GODORT Corner
- ALA Promotions
- From the Editor

 ***To read this newsletter, keep scrolling. To go to a section, click the Table of Contents button in the bottom right corner. Then, click on a section. And watch the video to learn about navigation and other features of this new format.***



From the President

Matt Layne, ALLA President

Hello friends, colleagues, and fellow Alabama Library Association members,

I am so excited to be leading the Alabama Library Association for this next year. With an unparalleled interest in Alabama's libraries, we have a unique opportunity to showcase all of the fantastic programs, services, and work we do as academic, public, school, medical, legal, and professional librarians. To that end, I hope to forge new partnerships, and create and provide opportunities for professional development for librarians and library workers across our great state.

Here's a little bit of my library story: As a young child, I remember walking up the stairs to the Houston Love Memorial Library in Dothan. It seemed like nothing less than a magical place. No lie, there was even a magic mirror on the wall behind their circulation desk. The library workers could see out, but looking into it, I only saw my reflection. I remember watching the librarians there load the old 16 mm film projector to show cartoons and feature films. There is no way in the Dewey Decimals I could even begin to thread one of those machines, and yet they made it look so effortless. The electric hum of their date due stamper forever buzzes in my heart.

What's your library story? Who was your first librarian? What book made a difference in your life? Share your library journey with the ALLA Communicator at communicator.alla@gmail.com, and we'll publish them throughout the year.

In the meantime, thank you for all you do for our state and our communities. You make me proud to be a librarian.

Matt Layne

Alabama Library Association President

205.445.1411

mlayne@oneallibrary.org



Amanda Melcher, ALLA Past President



ALLA Members and friends,

Hello and congratulations to the new ALLA officers for 2023-2024. I can't wait to see what great things Matt Layne and our new EC and ALLA leaders will accomplish this year! I also want to express my appreciation for your support and kindness during my time as ALLA President. I'm so proud of all that we accomplished! We hit the ground running last July with a return to an in-person convention. The programs were stellar, relevant, and very interesting. We've had two great issues of ALLA's peer-reviewed journal *Alabama Libraries* published and it's wonderful to read articles from our peers across the state. Four excellent issues of the *ALLA Communicator* newsletter have kept us abreast of library news across the state. We had another excellent slate of new Alabama author award winners, awarded annually since 1957! Our divisions and roundtables offered a number of informative and interesting webinars and educational opportunities. Finally, ALLA held a thought-provoking, instructive, and timely day-long event that celebrated diversity, inclusion, and social justice in April. None of these accomplishments would have been possible without YOU!

As I transition to the role of past-president, I want to encourage everyone to consider serving in some capacity for ALLA. This is an awesome group of people and there's truly no greater calling than to serve (as library personnel, you all have already proven that you have a heart for service). If there is any committee, roundtable, or division that piques your interest, reach out! I'd be happy to connect you to the right person to begin your ALLA journey!

To close, I want to speak directly to any librarian and paraprofessional that has experienced a book challenge, book ban, or censorship attempt or attack in the state. I am so sorry for what you are going through and I want you to know that ALLA appreciates every action you've taken to defend intellectual freedom and inclusion in your collections. We stand beside you and will offer any help we can to assist you during this troubling time. It is one of my deepest hopes that this wave will soon crest and we can get back to what we all do best, offer every person his, her, or their book, and every book its reader. Stay strong and keep up the important work.

Sincerely and respectfully,

Amanda Melcher

ALLA Past President



Get Involved:

- [Executive Council](#)
- [Divisions](#)
- [Committees](#)
- [Round Tables](#)

Contact Us:

Alabama Library Association

6030 Monticello Drive

Montgomery, AL 36117

334-414-0133

allibraryassoc@gmail.com

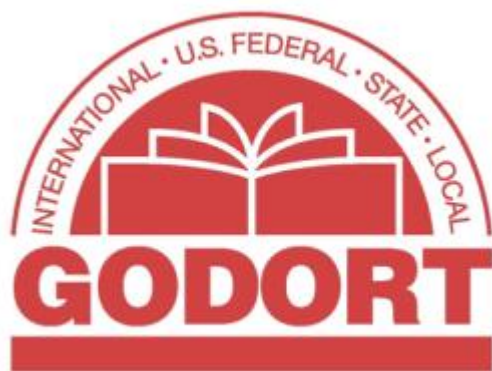


**Facebook.com/
AlabamaLibraryAssociation**



@ALLibAssoc

*GODORT**Government Documents Round Table**Moderator, Tim Dodge*



From paying one's taxes to locating census statistical data to the indictment of former President Donald Trump for mishandling of classified government documents, the world of government documents is truly all-encompassing and relevant to our lives as both librarians and citizens. To help us make sense of this important information resource, we have the Government Documents Round Table (GODORT). The round table's [bylaws](#) state our objective which is "to provide a forum for librarians working with government documents, to provide the availability, use and bibliographic control of documents, and to promote communication between documents librarians and other librarians." As recurring Moderator, I feel it is especially important to focus on the latter part of GODORT's objectives: to promote communication between documents librarians and other librarians. To that end, I am happy to report that in recent years GODORT has hosted at least one webinar a year and has hosted a program at the ALLA annual convention. In our efforts to promote communication between documents librarians and other librarians, I would like to re-emphasize a point made previously that you do not have to have a government documents background to become a member of GODORT, so I encourage all readers of this column to consider joining the round table the next time they renew their ALLA membership. If you have any interest in government documents, this is the round table for you!

I hope you were able to attend the April 27 virtual online event concerning *Serving Diverse Populations: Strategies and Concrete Ideas for Reaching Everyone*. There was a variety of quite interesting programs,

and I am happy to report GODORT participated with a program on “Government Documents in the Time of the Civil Rights Movement.” Following a necessarily brief and selective outline of significant events between the 1954 Brown v. Board of Education U.S. Supreme Court decision and the 1968 assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., the presentation focused on providing several examples relevant government documents including U.S. Supreme Court decisions, federal legislation, Congressional documents, Presidential documents, and a category loosely described as “other/miscellaneous.” As the 2023-2024 membership year gets underway, please watch for future webinars and a possible program at the next Alabama library Association Annual Convention, not to mention future updates via the GODORT Corner in The ALLA COMMunicator.

MCIRT

Multicultural Information Round Table

Moderator, Tim Dodge

As we look forward to the 2023-2024 membership year, I’d like to remind you that the [purpose of the Multicultural Information Round Table \(MCIRT\)](#) is “to provide a forum for exchanging information concerning race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, physical ability, age and more”. If you have any interest in engaging in such service, please be sure to join the MCIRT the next time you renew your Alabama Library Association membership!

I hope you were able to attend the April 27 ALLA online event concerning *Serving Diverse Populations: Strategies and Concrete Ideas for Reaching Everyone*. This was a stimulating series of online presentations, and I am happy to report that the MCIRT participated. Dr. Deidre Suwanee Dees, Director/Tribal Archivist, and Ms. Leasha Martin, Assistant Archivist of the Poarch Band of Creek Indians, gave a great presentation concerning “Tribal Libraries Are for Everyone.” This was a fascinating and informative presentation and highlighted the unique collections held there and services provided to researchers. I look forward to the forthcoming second issue of *Southern Spectrum*, the round table’s online newsletter. [The first issue appeared in March](#). Paula Webb (University of South Alabama) will serve as MCIRT Moderator and Dr. Wendy Stephens (Jacksonville State University) will serve as Secretary-Treasurer starting with the Leadership Transition meeting scheduled for July 20. (I will serve simultaneously as Past-Moderator and Moderator-Elect). Please watch for future news and projects as the Multicultural Information Round Table continues its work into the 2023-2024 membership year and beyond.



Committees

Association Awards Committee

Anna Mary Williford, Chair

We are accepting nominations for the 2023-2024 combined ALLA Awards. Please visit <https://www.allanet.org/association-awards> for more information and to fill out the nomination form.

2023-2024
Alabama Library Association Awards

**DO YOU KNOW A DESERVING LIBRARIAN,
PARALIBRARIAN, OR LIBRARY SUPPORTER?**

Nominations Due: December 15, 2023

LIBRARY ROLL OF HONOR

recognizes and honors librarians native to or closely associated with the State of Alabama (AL) who have made significant contributions to librarianship in AL.

For a person to be honored, he or she must have been a practicing librarian in AL. The award is made primarily on the basis of contributions made to librarianship in AL but the overall career should also be considered

OUTSTANDING YOUTH SERVICES

presented to an AL Children's, Teen, or School librarian or paraprofessional who has gone above and beyond in providing patrons with an innovative, creative, and diverse library program that supports learning and growth. This individual demonstrated an investment in their library program through leadership, collection development, and programming

HUMANITARIAN AWARD

presented to a person or an organization that has made a substantial contribution toward the development or improvement of library or libraries within AL

MERIT AWARD

presented to an organization, group, or body of persons, which has made a significant contribution toward the development of library service within AL

PARALIBRARIAN AWARD

presented to an outstanding library employee in a support staff role who has not obtained a professional library degree and has contributed to the advancement of a library, libraries, or library service within AL

PUBLIC SERVANT AWARD

presented to a person who is or has been a duly elected or appointed public official and who has made a significant contribution toward the development of library services within AL during the exercise of said party's service

EMINENT LIBRARIAN AWARD

presented to a librarian or an individual in a related field who has been in AL for a minimum of ten years and who, during this time, has made an exceptional and enduring contribution toward the development of library service within AL

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

presented to a librarian or an individual in a related field in recognition of leadership in a specific and noteworthy project that has resulted in a significant contribution toward the development of library service within AL

INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM AWARD

presented to an individual or group who exemplify the spirit of intellectual freedom (IF).

Evidence of such spirit might include documentation of their having written policies or procedures supporting IF, having conducted educational programs on the subject in their locale, or otherwise having made an impact in opposing censorship and supporting IF

HONORARY MEMBERSHIP

may be conferred on a living person whose contribution to librarianship or a closely related field in AL is so outstanding that it is of lasting importance to the advancement of the whole field of library science. It is intended to reflect honor upon the Association as well as upon the individual. Nominees shall be living, may be active or retired, and may be nominated by any member of the Association

Nomination Forms: <https://www.allanet.org/association-awards>
Send to Anna Mary Williford, Association Awards Chair
awillifo@montevallo.edu

Library Happenings

Summer Children's Programs at Alabaster's Albert L. Scott Library

Hundreds of children have an advantage when their new school year starts because they have read library books and attended more than six dozen programs during the *All Together Now Summer Challenge* at the Albert L. Scott Library. Nearly 500 children were registered from babies through seniors in high school. They selected a reading goal, earned prizes, and received a certificate and more when they reached their goal. The challenge ran from May 31 to July 12. The Summer Reading Program is

supported in whole or in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provision of the Library Services and Technology Act as administered by the Alabama Public Library Service. We also thank our business sponsors for their contributions: Birmingham Legion, Dairy Queen Restaurant, McWane Science Center, Snow Biz, Vulcan Park and Museum, and Whataburger.

Submitted by Francis Smith, Youth Services Librarian at Albert L. Scott Library

The first image is from the kick-off. Click the photo stack to see snapshots from events like the Buenos Book Club, Reads & Deeds Club, Drama Club, and more.



1 - Sugar Plum Fairy/Gingy from the Red Mountain Theatre's production of Shrek the Musical kicks off the kid's Summer Challenge.



2 - On Small Fry Friday, little ones have fun learning about food from around the world while making a colorful craft.



3 - During Buenos Book Buddies, children hear Miguel Vilchez read *Paletero Man* by Lucky Diaz.



4 - Professional actors Darrell Revel and Meredith Revel lead the Drama Workshop for children ages 8 to 15.



5 - Youngsters learned the science of propellants with film canisters and paint and created unique works of art at the same time during Science Saturday.



6 - The Albert L. Scott Library's Summer Challenge ended with an All Together Now finale on July 12. More than 100 people enjoyed magician Tommy Jones and his Let's Be Friends Magic Show, Toro the mascot from the Birmingham Bulls, and face painter Jennie Bunton.

JSU College for Kids Program: Houston Cole Library at Jacksonville State University

Houston Cole Library at Jacksonville State University held their annual *JSU College for Kids* program throughout the summer of 2023. This program provided children an opportunity to engage in a wide range of educational activities. The program was organized by Assistant Professors Laura Pitts and Laurie Heathcock. Numerous Houston Cole Librarians served as volunteers. Programs were taught by JSU

faculty and presented children between the ages of 6 and 12 with learning centered around astronomy, biology, kinesiology, nursing, writing and more. As students attend programs, they earn stickers for their “honors” and attended a special graduation ceremony with Cocky, the JSU mascot. This year, the program held a weekly pre-k literacy program that provided children with interactive story time and craft. *JSU College for Kids* averaged over 1,000 attendees for the 2023 summer. The program was funded by a grant with the Dollar General Literacy Foundation.

Submitted by Laura Pitts, English/Literature/General Works Librarian, Houston Cole Library, Jacksonville State University

Click the photo stack to see the program in action!







About *Alabama Libraries*



Alabama Libraries 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.

Guidelines for Submission of Articles

- All manuscripts must be submitted to AlabamaLibrariesJournal@gmail.com as an 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.
- 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 author's affiliation. Following the review, a decision will be communicated to the writer. Upon acceptance, publication can be expected within six months.

Please visit the [Alabama Libraries](#) website for more information.

The GODORT Corner

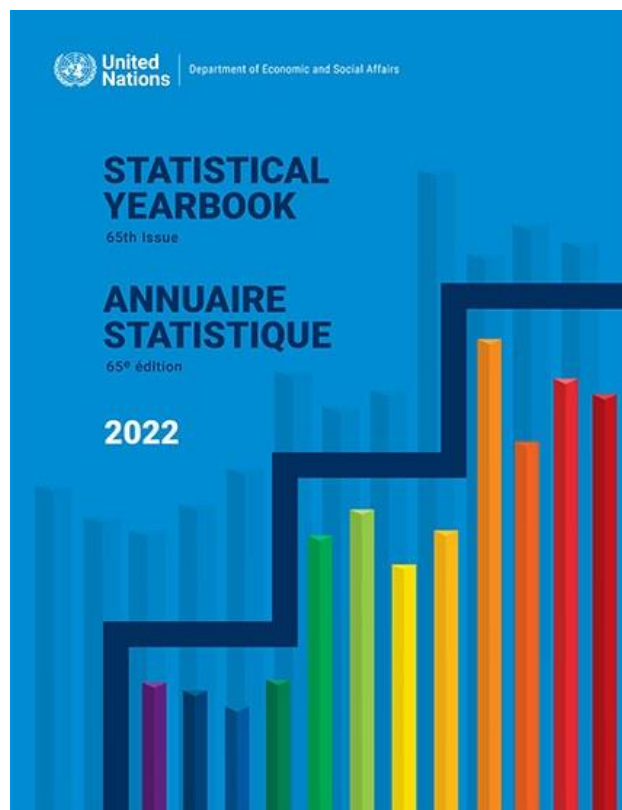
While the primary focus of this round table is on U.S. federal government documents, both state and international documents are of interest as well. This time I'd like to focus on a major international resource, the *Statistical Yearbook/Annuaire Statistique*, published by the United Nations. The United Nations was established in 1945 in the aftermath of World War II as an international body whose purpose was to prevent war. In the 78 years since, this has been done via numerous initiatives concerning humanitarian aid, human rights, sustainable development, and agreements concerning international law. Nearly all nations in the world are affiliated with the United Nations. Among the many publications produced by the United Nations, one of the most important is the *Statistical Yearbook/Annuaire Statistique*. As the title indicates, this work is published simultaneously in two languages with both appearing in the same volume. I will refer to it as *Statistical Yearbook* from this point on. The first volume, covering 1948, was published in 1949 and it has been issued continuously ever since. The United Nations is a vast organization; the Statistical Office (no surprise) Department of Economic and Social Affairs publishes this yearbook as well as other statistical resources.

What does the *Statistical Yearbook* provide? Loosely speaking, the yearbook provides information concerning population/demographics, economics, and energy. The specifics and some of the terminology, of course, has changed over the decades. The latest volume as of this writing (2022) has three basic sections: 1) Population and Social Statistics, 2) Economic Activity, and 3) Energy, Environment, and Infrastructure. Sounds simple but this actually represents 544 pages of statistical tables! (In part, this great length is a function of publishing the same information in the two languages of English and French). The way to use this resource is to first consult the table of contents to identify the broad general area of interest and then the more specific or focused area of interest. Unfortunately, there is no index such as one finds with the *Statistical Abstract of the United States* (alas, no longer a freely available US. government document after 2012, thanks to misguided Congressional budget-cutters; it is currently published by ProQuest). Depending on the topic, these statistics cover the entire world, individual continents, sections of continents (for example, northern Africa, western Africa, etc.), and individual countries. Some statistics cover a period of several years which can be helpful for seeing trends or making comparisons. Some statistics are not available for individual countries but the vast

majority of compiled statistics are listed for all countries. The Preface to the 2022 volume states the source of this information is “mainly from official national and international sources as these are more authoritative and comprehensive, more generally available as time series and more comparable among countries than other sources” (p. iii).

Just to give a taste of the type of information you can find in the *Statistical Yearbook*, let’s take a look at Table 30 Internet Usage. Internet usage statistics vary considerably with a wider range than is typical of public expenditure on education. The most recent year listed for all countries is 2020. The percentage of the population using the Internet ranges from a low of 10.4% in both the Central African Republic and neighboring Chad to a high of 99.7% in the tiny Persian Gulf state of Bahrain (p. 465). The time series go back to 2000 so one can see that 20 years ago Bahrain’s Internet usage was only 6.2% and that for the Central African Republic a miniscule 0.1% while that listed for Chad is 0.0% (p. 465). Of course, factors to consider are not only wealth and level of education but geography and size of population. The United States, while quite high, is not a world leader in Internet usage by population: 90.9% in 2020 starting with a base of 43.1% in 2000 (p. 468). How one interprets these numbers depends on the context and factors mentioned above. Of three peer countries used for comparison of Internet usage, two display higher rates of Internet usage than the United States and one slightly less: Canada (97.0%), Germany (89.8%), and the United Kingdom (94.8%) (pp. 466 and 468). [All editions of the Statistical Yearbook from 1948 onward are freely available online](#) .

Submitted by Tim Dodge, GODORT Moderator



ALA Promotions



8 - [Promotional Materials from ALA](#)



9 - [Promotional Materials from ALA](#)



10 - [Promotional Materials from YALSA](#)

From the Editor

A Note from the Editor



As a first time editor, I appreciate your patience with this slightly delayed issue. First, I would like to thank all the contributing libraries. Your words, images, and ideas are what brings this publication to life. You may have noticed that the ALLA COMmunicator has a very different look. Because the newsletter is primarily read online, the decision was made to switch to an online-first platform. The benefits to this approach include

- a responsive design that allows optimized reading experience based on screen size,
- an easier platform to update,
- a modern design and layout aligned with the ALLA logo and website,
- the ability to easily integrate various types of multimedia (embeds, video, and more)
- built-in accessibility features

You can scroll to read the publication in full or click the table of contents button in the bottom right corner of the screen to navigate between sections. And you can [watch a brief video](#) highlighting the platform's navigation and features. I hope you enjoy this new version of the newsletter and consider contributing to it!

ALLA COMmunicator Submissions

Submission Guidelines

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 or phone
- Article in PDF or Word
- .jpg images may be attached
- Description of image



Submission Timeline

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