

ALLA COMmunicator: October 2023

ALLA COMmunicator

Alabama Library Association | www.allanet.org1

October 2023 | Volume 21, Issue 1

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.



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¹https://www.allanet.org/

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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.



https://youtu.be/ OKwTqYh9XU

From the President

Matt Layne, ALLA President



Dear Librarians, Friends, Supporters, and fellow Alabamians,

Since being sworn in as President of the Alabama Library Association, my mantra has been: "It's a fascinating time to be a librarian in Alabama!"

As ALLA President, it is my mission to stand up in support of libraries, librarians, library workers, volunteers, and our patrons. We are developing new advocacy tools and resources for Alabama libraries, and we will share them with you as soon as we can. I have been so very heartened to see the groundswell of public support that has occurred all over our state as groups seek to tear down the good work that Alabama libraries provide to our citizens. In North Shelby County, in Prattville, in Ozark, Dothan, Fairhope, Foley, Auburn, and in Huntsville, when a group or individual sought to censor the books available in our public libraries, citizens stood up for the freedom to read. Alabamians turned out in droves to library board meetings, city council meetings, and to the libraries themselves to show their support and take a stand for the First Amendment of the US Constitution. Take heart and take note of the great work citizen groups like Read Freely Alabama are doing around our state. We are not in this historic fight for the heart and soul of public libraries alone, and I know in my heart we are on the right side of history.

In other news, save the dates of April 11th-14th for our annual ALLA Conference. We will be meeting in Birmingham, and we will get the details out to you just as soon as we can. To that end, if you feel so moved to serve the Alabama Library Association, we need a Convention Chair, and we are also looking for a new chair of the Alabama Author Awards. We thank Heather Cover for her years of service as head of the Alabama Author Awards. Heather is an inspiration as a librarian and advocate for literature in our state. As always, if you need me, have questions, library triumphs or troubles, reach out, and I'll do my utmost to be there for you and your library. And don't forget to share your library origin story with the ALLA COMmunicator at communicator.alla@gmail.com²! Who was the librarian that made a difference in your life? What was the book or library that inspired you as a kid. Y'all keep on reading and keep on looking out for one another! You make me so proud to be a librarian.

All the very best,

Matt Layne

Alabama Library Association President

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Get Involved:

Executive Council⁴

²mailto:communicator.alla@gmail.com

³mailto:mlayne@oneallibrary.org

⁴https://alla.memberclicks.net/executive-council

- Divisions⁵
- Committees⁶
- Round Tables⁷

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⁵https://alla.memberclicks.net/divisions

⁶https://alla.memberclicks.net/committees

⁷https://alla.memberclicks.net/roundtables

⁸mailto:allibraryassoc@gmail.com







Executive Council

As noted in our statement against recent censorship attempts⁹, ALLA stands in solidarity with all Alabama Libraries. To better help us do that, we have launched the Report Censorship Attempts in Alabama¹⁰, and online form so Alabama library employees, whether ALLA members or not, can report their concerns. The form is kept confidential, but we completely understand choosing to submit it anonymously. We hope that this resource helps us be informed about current problems, provide assistance to embattled libraries, and give a voice to those who feel voiceless.

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⁹https://alla.memberclicks.net/assets/docs/ALLAStatementAgainstCensorship.pdf

¹⁰ https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd2LtOrxXq5tJPW8kLewckxTIZZLj9gFp6Lk3FJmP58t363EA/viewform
?pli=1

GODORT

Government Documents Round Table

Moderator, Tim Dodge



The round table met virtually on October 2. The main order of business was to start generating ideas for a possible webinar to host either later in the Fall or in early 2024. Moderator Tim Dodge is seeking further input from GODORT members by having them send him their rankings for four major topic ideas. Once we have a consensus, GODORT will identify a speaker and date and will coordinate with Association Web Manager Jodi Poe to set up the webinar and accompanying publicity. Please watch the AlaLA-L listserv for future developments.

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

HUMANITARIAN AWARD

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

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

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

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

OUTSTANDING YOUTH SERVICES

presented to an AL Children's, Teen, or School librarian or paralibrarian 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

MERIT AWARD

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

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

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

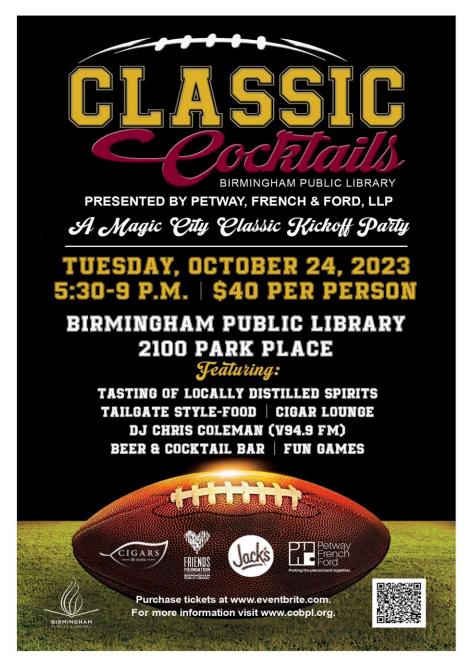
HONORARY MEMBERSHIP

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

Birmingham Public Library: Classic Cocktails Event



Auburn University Libraries Celebrates a Milestone: One Million Interlibrary Loan Transactions Through ILLiad!

The Auburn University Libraries (AUL) Interlibrary Loan (ILL) and Document Delivery office recently celebrated a remarkable milestone of one million transactions processed through ILLiad, the InterLibrary Loan Internet Accessible Database, since its installation here on August 15, 2006, seventeen years ago.

The AUL ILL office celebrated the arrival of the 1,000,000th transaction with tremendous cheering and excitement by those anxiously awaiting to see which location would be the one to mark that one million milestone. The request was the first one ever received from the Idaho College of Osteopathic Medicine in Meridian, Idaho. Of the four current ILL employees, three were employed here in 2006 when ILLiad was installed by Atlas Systems. AU Libraries ILL is very fortunate to have extremely experienced employees with whom many in the state have interacted over the years. The current ILL team includes Christine Black (40+ years), Brenda Ray (35+years), Franzetta Judkins (20+years), and Gail Perkins Barton, Head of the ILL Unit since February 2019, previously at Samford University ILL from 2005 to September 2014, and then the University of Memphis, ILL Librarian from 2014-2019.

On September 1, 2023, the ILL office shared their excitement by hosting a come and go event to commemorate reaching the 1,000,000 transaction milestone. A specially decorated cake and refreshments were enjoyed by over 55 members of the library who came to celebrate. Attendees also viewed the many posters on display that were formerly presented by current and former ILL members at conferences near and far since 2006. Celebratory banners were over the doors and throughout the office as well as a uniquely designed bookmark as a takeaway. No doubt, many of our Alabama ILL partner libraries recently received a loaned book back with our milestone announcement posted on the returning paperwork.

As at many institutions, faculty and graduate students at Auburn are the heaviest users of ILL. The departments of English, History, World Languages & Literatures request the most books and the Colleges of Veterinary Medicine, Pharmacy, and Nursing request the most research articles.

Since 2006, the top five providers to Auburn University in terms of supplying requests for our patrons through ILL Borrowing are the University of Tennessee, University of Kentucky, University of Georgia, Vanderbilt, and Wake Forest. However, the vast majority of the one million transactions, 731,796, are from other libraries seeking content provided through ILL Lending. The top institutions to which we supply the largest number of both books and copies are (in order) Samford University, Mississippi State University, the University of Alabama Birmingham (UAB), University of Louisville, and the University of South Alabama. Since August 2006, the institution with whom we shared the largest number of books is the University of Alabama.

The department of ILL and Document Delivery at Auburn University Libraries thanks each library in the state who through the years have shared from their collections in a generous manner to support the twin pillars of research support and student success here at Auburn University. In coming days, as in those gone by, we commit to robust resource sharing with libraries in the state of Alabama as together, we reach forward to the next one million transactions!

Submitted by Gail Perkins Barton, Head of the ILL Unit

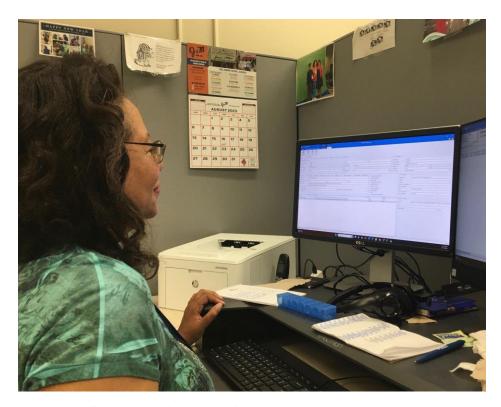
View the slideshow to see more of the celebration! Click the black square in the top left corner of each photo to read the captions.



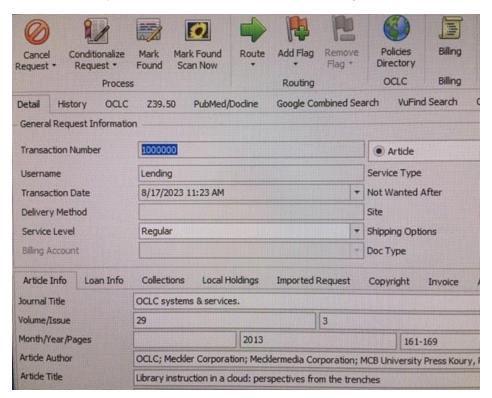
1 - Left to Right: Brenda Ray, Christine Black, Franzetta Judkins, Gail Barton



2 - The Million Team



3 - Franzetta Judkins processes the 1,000,000th transaction received August 15, 2023 at 11:23 a.m.



4 - Screen shot of the transaction from Idaho.



5 - Poster – Then...and Now with statistics from over the years

Left to right: Christine Black, Franzetta Judkins, Gail Barton, Brenda Ray.

Hoover Public Library Welcomes Libby

The Hoover Public Library is excited to introduce its newest librarian: Libby. An apricot standard poodle, Libby began her official duties as a Facility Dog at the library on September 20, 2023. That's right: the library partnered with Fidos Facility Dogs to welcome its first canine employee! A Facility Dog is a type of therapy dog that is trained to work with a handler employed by the facility on a full-time basis. Facility Dogs provide comfort and support to people of various backgrounds and physical conditions. The most important role of a Facility Dog is to motivate and inspire a positive environment. Libby will participate in all types of library programs including story times, study breaks, meet and greets and outreach activities. We are especially excited to offer an afternoon reading club for kids who need a little extra help, as research indicates that dogs can improve academic performance by reducing stress and increasing motivation and focus.

Libby's path to librarianship began in the summer of 2022 when we first met Kelly Schaeffer, Executive Director of Fidos Facility Dogs, a Hoover-based non-profit organization. We spent the remainder of 2022 learning about all the ways a Facility Dog would enhance the Library's current program. In December 2022, we signed a contract with Fidos to officially employ Libby and began handler and co-handler training in January of 2023. Libby began training for her job when she was 10 weeks old, and trained at the library with her handlers nearly nine months. She has successfully been evaluated by an independent canine certified professional dog trainer. In addition, she has been evaluated and named a Canine Good Citizen (CGC) by the American Kennel Club. Libby's handler is Wendy Geist, a librarian who has worked at the library, predominately in the service of children and teens, for 23 years. Libby lives with Wendy full-time. However, Libby has a whole team of staff caregivers which includes co-handlers-Emma Davis and Lindsay Crawford and a host of volunteers. We're excited to see all that Libby accomplishes over the next year!

Submitted by Amanda Borden, Hoover Public Library Director



6 - Libby, Hoover Public Library's newest librarian

Love of Learning at Alabaster Library

Children and their caregivers had fun learning during several story times at the Albert L. Scott Library in Alabaster during the last several weeks. Activities included listening to stories, learning about letters, making crafts, playing finger games, and tasting treats. Children also played songs, danced, and played with toys.

The first stack of photos are from Teeny Tiny Story Time for wee ones to two years old. The second stack of photos are from Small Fry Friday for little ones 3 to 5 years old.













Also older kids were engaged in Fall fun at Alabaster Library. They were involved in a variety of programs including American Girls Club Reader's Theater, 4-H Drama Club, 4-h Scientists Club, and Homeschool Happening.

Click through the slideshows to learn more. And click the black square in the top left corner of each photo to read the captions.



7 - Tweens and teens have fun with fabric and polyfil stuffing during a new program called Explore More. They made no-sew pillows and enjoyed snacks.



8 - American Girl Club members and their families have fun with dolls after reading the play Annoying Annabelle and having cookies and drinks. The session focused on the character Felicity of 1774 and kids talked about the book series.



9 - Students ages 6 to 11-years old learn the sciences of limestone during Homeschool Happening. The mult-media talk was presented by Doyle Hurst, site operations manager, of Carmeuse International Mining Co. Each child received a large gift bag from the company.



10 - Kids ages 9 to 18 years old get into the act during the Shelby 4-H Drama Club. Julie Yocom, Shelby County 4-H Foundation Regional Extension Agent, conducted the meeting giving tips and encouragement.



11 - The monthly STEM club is off to a robust start. The first session of the Shelby 4-H Scientists Club put earthworms in the spotlight. Jessica Evans, 4-H agent assistant 1, guided the young scientists in their research.		



12 - Imagine an upside-down lullaby! That is what more than 110 children and caregivers did when the Birmingham Children's Theatre appeared. The performance of Stay Awake featured Mia and her Dog ready for bed but distracted when her mobile comes to life. Music, movement, and puppetry mesmerized young children in this interactive production.



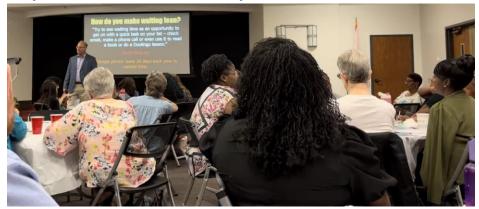
13 - Tweens and teens show off them STEM skills and creativity during the Cardboard Challenge. They figured out how to make functioning grabbers out of cardboard. They had fun decorating their devices and picking up items like pompoms and glue sticks.



14 - Young fans of building with colorful bricks enjoy meeting guests from the Magic City Lego User Group (MCLUG). During the program, kids built imaginative structures with blocks from the library and from MCLUG guests.

Submitted by Francis Smith, Youth Services Librarian

JCPLA Staff Day at Homewood Public Library



On Friday, August 25, 2023, the Jefferson County Public Library Association (JCPLA) had JCPLA Staff Day at Homewood Public Library. This was the first in-person JCPLA Staff Day since 2019. There were about 80 of us in attendance. The first keynote speaker of the morning was Michael Glaze, who is a trainer at the Personnel Board of Jefferson County. He offered ideas for "Doing More with Less." The second keynote speaker was Dr. Donna Sargent who encouraged "Wellness in the Workplace" by "separating work and home." After lunch, the first afternoon session offered the following three options: "Vega," "Career Coach Resources," and "Safety & De-escalation." The second afternoon session offered the following three options: "Pop-ups, Drop-ins, & Community Engagement: Meeting Community Where They Are"; "APLS-Niche;" and "Craft Swap on a Budget." The final afternoon session offered two options: "OverDrive" and "Where Do I Put This Thing?: How to Classify Your Library's Materials."

Current JCPLA Officers:

- President Kenyata Rodgers (North Birmingham)
- Vice President Thomas Kulovitz (O'Neal)
- Treasurer Tobin Cataldo (JCLC)
- Archivist JCLC Office
- Parliamentarian Alisha Johnson (Central)

JCPLA Roundtables:

- Circulation Round Table Moderator, Tamara Hue (Irondale)
- Adult Services Round Table Moderator, Shannon Haddock (Hoover)
- Readers' Advisory Round Table Moderator, Holley Wesley (O'Neal)
- Youth Services Round Table Moderator, Kelly Cummings (Homewood)
- Technology Round Table

Submitted by Emily K. Allee, Member-at-Large, Central

The Library of Things @ Carmichael Library, University of Montevallo



Carmichael Library is excited to announce a Library of Things Collection, an assortment of tools and other non-traditional materials available for checkout to UM students, faculty, and staff. The proposed collection was envisioned as a practical way to reduce the manufacturing footprint of tools and to save students (as well as faculty and staff) time and money. This collection originated from the efforts of Nicole Rich, Circulation Supervisor, with the help of one of the library's fantastic student workers, Near Hollingsworth. They worked together to design an interest survey and write the grant proposal. Ultimately, their work paid off when the library was awarded a \$500 grant from UM's Green Fund¹¹ to purchase tools and other non-traditional materials to circulate. Currently, there are 16 items in the collection including a ladder, dolly, sewing machine, emergency sewing kit, electric drill, multi-piece tool kit, and more. The new tool collection, together with an existing technology collection, has been branded as the Library of Things. And, a website was created to showcase the items in the collection as well as availability and related loan policies. Further, the website includes a form for students, faculty, and staff to suggest other "things" to add in the future. Visit UM's Library of Things¹² website here.

Submitted by Nicole Rich, Circulation Supervisor

¹¹https://www.montevallo.edu/academics/colleges/college-of-arts-sciences/behavioral-social-sciences/programs/environmental-studies/sustainability/green-fund/

¹²https://libguides.montevallo.edu/libraryofthings

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.

E Guidelines for Submission of Articles

- All manuscripts must be submitted to AlabamaLibrariesJournal@gmail.com¹³ 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.

¹³mailto:AlabamaLibrariesJournal@gmail.com

Please visit the *Alabama Libraries*¹⁴ website for more information.

The GODORT Corner



In the wake of the dramatic removal of Kevin McCarthy as Speaker of the U.S, House of Representatives on October 3, I received a telephone call from a retired Auburn University professor asking if it was true that it was possible for the House to nominate and elect a new Speaker who did not necessarily have to be a member of the House or even a Member of Congress. His call was inspired by a National Public Radio broadcast where the commentator had noted that former President Donald J. Trump could, potentially, be elected the new Speaker of the House. After a few minutes of frantic searching through Congress's website and the House of Representatives' website without luck, I informed the patron that I would have to do some more research. He agreed to call me back at his convenience the next day. After finding a few unclear references to this possible scenario in print resources, I finally got a more definitive answer in *The Speaker of the House: House Officer, Party Leader, and Representative*¹⁵, a Congressional Research Service Report prepared by Valerie Heitshusen, Specialist on Congress and the Legislative Process, dated May 16, 2017. The first two pages were especially informative, and Footnote 6 provided some recent examples of people who were former (not then-current) members of the House being nominated and even a couple of former Cabinet members including former Secretary of State Colin Powell, none of whom actually were elected Speaker, of course.

The Congressional Research Service was established in 1914 as the Legislative Reference Unit within the Library of Congress to provide our national legislators with accurate and timely information to help with the drafting of legislation. The Unit was renamed the Congressional Research Service in 1970. Its mission states, "To serve Congress with the highest quality of research, analysis, information and confidential consultation to support the exercise of its legislative, representational and oversight duties in its role as a coequal branch of government." This non-partisan service produces reports on policy topics, but also confidential memoranda and briefings not normally available to the public, and it provides as needed expert testimony during Congressional hearings, among other things. Looking only at the Reports, these have never been part of the Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP) and access, until quite recently, was not easy if one were not a Member of Congress. Over the years, it has been possible to request identified Reports from one's Member of Congress (unless the report was classified) and, at times, these reports (unless classified) have been made available for purchase in print or microfilm format. Thankfully, from about 2017 onward, the Congressional Research Service has made non-classified Reports freely available online via their "Search CRS Reports" website 16. Updated pretty much daily, as of

¹⁴https://www.allanet.org/alabama-libraries

¹⁵https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/RL/97-780

¹⁶https://crsreports.congress.gov/

this writing, this wonderful online archive provides full-text access to at least 11,570 Reports including the one cited above that provided the answer for my reference question verifying that, incredible as it may seem, no, one does not need to be an actual member of the House of Representatives to be elected Speaker.

Submitted by Tim Dodge, GODORT Moderator





15 - Promotional Materials from ALA¹⁷



What will you discover at the library? www.ala.org/yalsa/teentober

16 - Promotional Materials from YALSA¹⁸

¹⁷https://www.ala.org/advocacy/bbooks/bannedbooksweek/ideasandresources/freedownloads

¹⁸https://www.ala.org/yalsa/teentober



17 - Promotional Materials from ALA¹⁹



A Note from the Editor



First, I would like to thank all the contributing libraries, committees, and round tables. Your efforts to inform membership, highlight programs, and advertise events is greatly appreciated. To continue the trend started by Matt Layne, I would like to share my library story. It all began in a public library in Gulf Breeze, Florida, where my parents would take me for summer programs and year-round access to books. The youth reading area had a comfy circular window reading nook that I loved climbing into with a favorite book. Later, my favorite middle school teacher, turned school librarian, served as the inspiration

¹⁹https://games.ala.org/international-games-month/

for entering the librarianship field. I was fortunate enough to complete an internship in her library and go to work in K-12 libraries for many years. We would love to feature your library story. If you have one you would like to share, submit it to communicator.alla@gmail.com²⁰.

I hope you enjoy this issue of the newsletter and consider contributing to it in the future!

Submission Guidelines

Please feel free to submit your library related news to communicator.alla@gmail.com²¹.

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

²⁰mailto:communicator.alla@gmail.com

²¹mailto:communicator.alla@gmail.com