



ALLA COMmunicator: August 2024

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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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From the President

ALLA President



Fellow ALLA Members, Library Professionals, and Library Friends,

I hope this message finds you well. As we continue our mission to support intellectual freedom and provide diverse resources to communities all across Alabama, I want to address the increasing frequency of book challenges we are experiencing. It's important for us to stay united and proactive in our approach.

Here are some key steps to consider when handling book challenges in your library:

1. **Review and Understand Your Policies:** Ensure your library has a clear, written policy on how to manage book challenges. Familiarize yourself with the procedures outlined in the policy, and make sure all staff members are aware of them. This is especially important for all 225 public libraries as they review and update policies per APLS guidelines regarding recent changes to the Code of Alabama.
2. **Document the Challenge:** Keep detailed records of each challenge, including the title of the book, the nature of the complaint, and the identity of the complainant. This documentation will be crucial for any reviews or discussions that follow.
3. **Respect the Process:** Follow your library's challenge procedures meticulously. This often includes forming a review committee or involving library board members and providing a fair and unbiased review of the challenged material.
4. **Communicate Clearly:** Maintain open and respectful communication with the individual who has issued the challenge. Explain the library's policy and process clearly, and ensure they understand that their challenge is being taken seriously.

5. **Stay Informed:** Keep yourself updated on the latest developments in intellectual freedom and censorship issues. ALA's Office of Intellectual Freedom is the "go to" source:

<https://www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom> .

6. **Support Each Other:** Remember, we are a community. Reach out to fellow librarians for advice, support, and shared experiences. We can learn much from each other and strengthen our responses through collaboration.

7. **Advocate for Intellectual Freedom:** Use these challenges as opportunities to educate your community about the importance of intellectual freedom and the library's role in providing access to a wide range of viewpoints.

Handling objections to books and materials in our libraries can be challenging, but together, we can uphold the values of our profession and ensure our libraries remain places of free access to information. Let's continue to support each other and advocate for the principles we hold dear.

Thank you for the outstanding services you provide to patrons each and every day.

Craig Scott

President, Alabama Library Association (ALLA)

Library Director, Gadsden Public Library

craig@gadsdenlibrary.org



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 **ALLA News**

ALLA Bill of Rights

Fellow ALLA Members,

I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to Laura Pitts and her Special Committee for their dedication and hard work in successfully drafting the Alabama Library Association's official Library Bill of Rights. Their efforts have resulted in a crucial document that will guide us in upholding the values of intellectual freedom, access to information, and the protection of our patrons' rights.

The Alabama Library Bill of Rights is a testament to our commitment to providing diverse and inclusive resources to all members of our community. It serves as a vital tool in defending our collections against censorship and challenges, ensuring that our libraries remain places where knowledge and ideas can

flourish freely. If you have not had the chance to see the document, it can be found on the ALLA website: <https://www.allanet.org/alabama-bill-of-rights>.

Please join me in expressing our gratitude to Laura and her team including Jeff Graveline, Kristie Barnett, Veronica McCoo, Jessica Hayes, and Karlie Johnson for their outstanding contribution. Their work has been invaluable, and it strengthens the foundation of our association and the principles we stand for. Thanks guys for your dedication and for making this significant achievement possible!

Submitted by Craig Scott, President, Alabama Library Association (ALLA) & Library Director, Gadsden Public Library

ALLA's 2025 Annual Convention



1 - Photo from Alabama State Parks, Lake Guntersville State Park: <https://www.alapark.com/parks/lake-guntersville-state-park>

We are excited to announce that the Alabama Library Association's Annual Convention will be held next year in beautiful Guntersville, Alabama, at the Lake Guntersville State Park Lodge and Convention Center! Our 2025 convention will coincide with National Library Week and take place from Wednesday, April 9th to Saturday, April 12th.

Key details:

- **Arrival Day:** Wednesday, April 9th
- **Primary Convention Days:** Thursday, April 10th, and Friday, April 11th
- **ALLA Executive Committee Transition Meeting:** Saturday morning, April 12th

Mandy Broadhurst, Library Director at the Guntersville Public Library, is our 2025 Convention Chair and she has enlisted an "All Star" cast of Convention Committee members. I can assure you that we'll have

an exciting lineup of events, workshops, and speakers planned for the convention, providing valuable opportunities for professional development, networking, and celebrating our shared commitment to library services.

Please mark your calendars and stay tuned for further details regarding registration, lodging, and the convention schedule.

We look forward to seeing you all in Guntersville for a memorable and enriching convention experience!

Submitted by Craig Scott, President, Alabama Library Association and Mandy Broadhurst, 2025 ALLA Convention Chair

College, University, and Special Libraries

(CUS) Division



The ALLA CUS Executive Committee is planning a first (but certainly not the last) one-day mini conference, complete with a luncheon and breakout sessions, poster session, panels, and more.

The day-long event will be held at Jacksonville State University's Houston Cole Library on Friday, October 25, 2024. There will be a minimal cost for lunch, but more details on that will follow later!

This event is designed to kickstart CUS into having their own division mid-year mini conference/networking meeting, much like the Public Libraries Division of ALLA has annually.

So, Save the Date! Additionally, please consider completing [this interest/comment survey](#) so that CUS Executive Council can better prepare the event for all of you. Also, if you would be interested in serving

on the mini-conference planning committee, email Summer Upton at srupton@uab.edu. Volunteers are much appreciated.

Looking forward to a fun day of networking and sharing.

Submitted by Laura Pitts., CUS Chair, Assistant Professor/English Literature Librarian, Houston Cole Library, Jacksonville State University

Scholarly Communication Round Table

Jeff Graveline, Moderator

I am excited to announce the formation of the new ALLA Scholarly Communication Round Table (SCRT). The SCRT will be dedicated to promoting and supporting scholarly communication throughout Alabama. This is the first new ALLA Round Table in more than a decade. The SCRT has three main goals:

- to provide a forum for librarians and others to discuss scholarly communication topics, trends, and best practices with colleagues from around Alabama;
- to explore opportunities for collaboration among ALLA members; and
- to promote scholarly communication through education, communication, advocacy, and collaboration.

The following inaugural officers for the Round Table were elected in April: Moderator - Jeff Graveline, UAB; Moderator-elect – Charlotte Ford, University of Montevallo; Secretary – Tracy Cole, University of South Alabama.

If you are interested in getting more involved with your scholarly communication colleagues around the state, reach out to Jeff Graveline (jgraveli@uab.edu) or complete the [SCRT interest form](#).

Submitted by Jeff Graveline, Scholarly Communications Round Table Moderator; Professor and Associate Dean for Research and Scholarly Communication at the University of Alabama at Birmingham

Library Happenings

Summer Adventures @ Alabaster's Albert L. Scott Library

Throughout the summer, kids have participated in a variety of engaging programming at Alabaster's Albert L. Scott Library, including

- birding
- tea time
- groom & grow (making soap and shower steamers)
- fishing & fish art (fish printing)

- reads & deeds (helping veterans, the hungry, and homeless pets)
- music (drums, instruments, mini-concerts)
- magic shows
- adventures (legos, library exploration, farm animals)
- story times (with dancing, crafting, reading, meeting a service dog and Bernie the Owl)

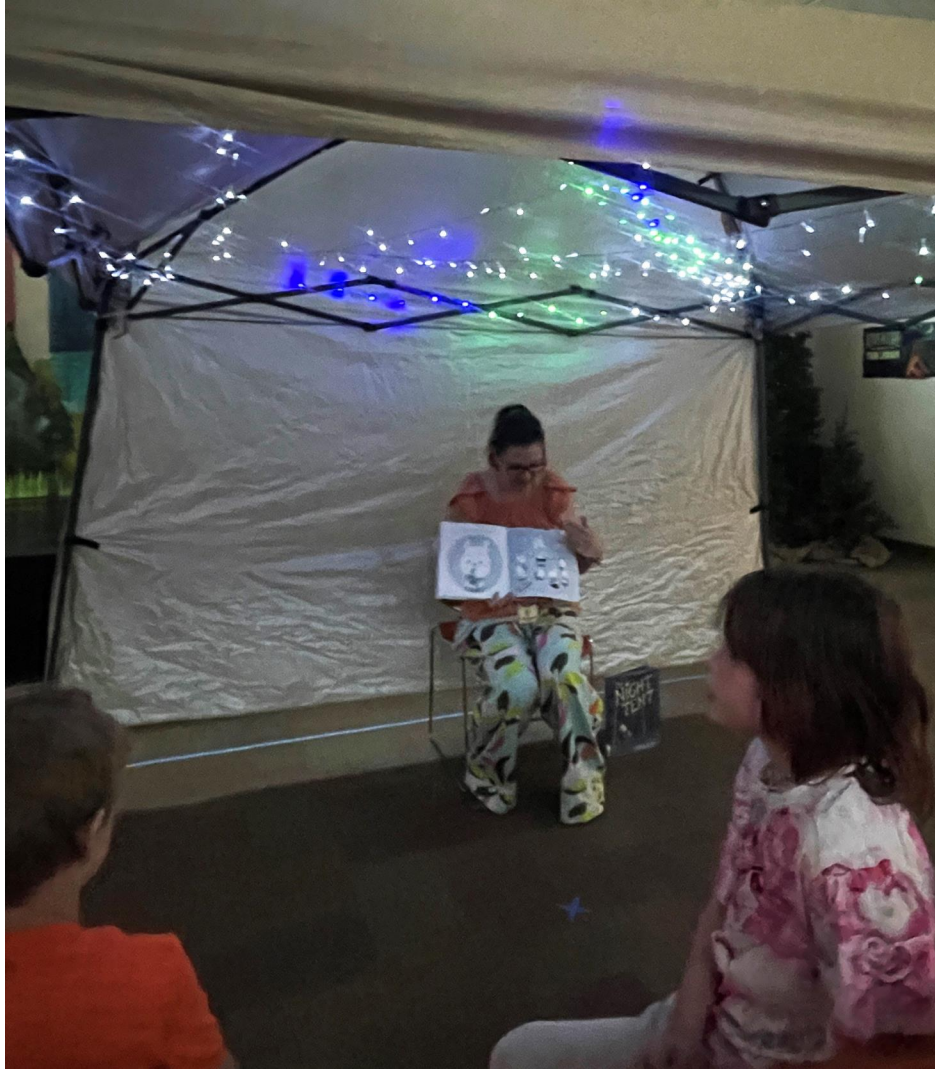
Use the arrows to navigate the slideshow. Click the box in the top-left corner of the photo for captions.



2 - Children of all ages and their care givers have fun during several story times each week. Dancing, crafting, reading, meeting a service dog, and more - it's always an adventure of fun and learning.



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6 - Bird fans gather to discuss birds, listen to books including *Show Bird* by Susan Stockdale, and play "Birdie Says." During this time on June 20 when birds of feather learned together, kids either painted ceramic owls or used markers to color fabric visors. Some guests ventured into the Piney Woods for some advice from a birder, a bird watching expert.



7 - Teens and tweens who are fans of relaxation can make shower steamers, soap, and lotion as part of the Groom and Glow program. They also created journals to document their thoughts and summer journey.



8 - An interactive drum circle enlivens families thanks to Walker Wright of Rejoicing Rhythms. Wright led them on an Adventure in Rhythm with drums from around the world on June 6.



9 - A large crowd enjoys holding hens, chicks, and rooster during Animal Farm Adventures with DART Family Farm. The kids also heard a chicken story, made a chicken craft, and played games.



10 - A guest from the Magic City Lego User Group (MCLUG) leads kids on a Lego Adventure with special blocks and a challenge to build in keeping with the Adventure Begins at Your Library theme. Also, during the June 17 session, each child built a small creation to take home as a surprise.



11 - Children and adults have fun learning about other countries during the Tea Time Adventure program. On June 24, they tasted teas and snacks from six countries and listened to volunteers talk about the cultural and historical highlights of each country.



12 - Kids explored a variety of instruments courtesy of Scrollwork's Music School. During Adventures in Music on June 10th, they also heard musicians play in a mini-concert.

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

Biomedical Librarians at the Annual Conference on Teaching & Learning (CoTL), University of South Alabama



Three faculty librarians from the Biomedical Library were on the program at this year's Annual Conference on Teaching & Learning that took place May 6-8, 2024. Leesha Coleman, Assessment and Collections Librarian, did a presentation about Graphic Novels as Learning Tools. Rachel Fenske, Outreach Librarian, co-presented with Dr. Jo Ann Otts from the College of Nursing about a pilot project titled, "How Can Faculty Incorporate AI to Promote Enquiry Based Learning?" Clista Clanton, Assistant Director for Strategic Initiatives, was a co-author of a research talk, "Conversations to Find One's Truth: Coaching in Medical Student Education." Clista participated in the 2023 Academic Medicine Coach Training program. USA Libraries were well-represented both by these high-quality presentations, and by attendance at the conference by other USA librarians.

Submission from USA Libraries, [June 2024 newsletter](#)

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. The journal accepts four types of articles: Scholarly (peer-reviewed), practical, student research, and guest columns. Submissions by all professionals who work in any type of library are welcome. To review the specific guidelines for each of type of article submission, review the [Call for Articles](#) information on the [Alabama Libraries](#) website.



One of the most controversial topics in American society is immigration. This has been true pretty much from the beginning but there are times when immigration flares up hotter as a point of concern more than others. One such time was in the early 1920's. World War I had very recently ended but was a contributing factor. Another reason for immigration to be of concern was that the United States had just seen several decades of increasingly high immigration, primarily from southern and eastern Europe. As we know, racism too has been a contributing factor and the early twentieth century also saw the rise of eugenics, the "science" of encouraging society to reproduce offspring with "desirable" characteristics while discouraging the reproduction of those with "undesirable" characteristics.

One major consequence of such attitudes was the successful restriction of immigration via the passage of the Immigration Act of 1924, otherwise known as the Johnson-Reed Act. This federal legislation, which remained in effect until 1965, used national origin as a criterion for severely limiting "undesirable" immigrants or even entirely excluding immigrants from certain locations in Asia.

There are hundreds, perhaps, thousands of government documents from this era that provide a window into the thinking behind the Immigration Act of 1924. In the interests of keeping this GODORT Corner update reasonably short, let's take a look at just a few of the Congressional hearings that addressed the issue of immigration in the early 1920's.

Congressional hearings are a real goldmine of information. Often they pertain to legislation but not exclusively. Typically, congressional hearings feature experts or other directly relevant people who are interviewed by the congresspeople serving on a Senate or House committee. Just a few examples from hearings relating to immigration can help us better understand how many white Americans, typically of British and northern and western European descent, felt about the desirability of restricting immigration to our country. Just looking at the years 1920-1924, there are at least two hundred congressional hearings that relate to immigration.

Simply looking at a few of the titles of hearings held by the House Committee on Immigration and Naturalization is already quite revealing: Restriction of Immigration Part 1 (918 pages long, held in December 1923 – January 1924, SuDoc Y4.Im6/1:Im6/16); Alien Seamen – Insane Aliens – Statements on Various Immigration Problems (same committee, held Jan. 30 and Feb. 6, 1923, SuDoc Y4.Im6/1:Al4/11); Biological Aspects of Immigration (same committee, held April 16-17, 1920, [SuDoc Y4.Im6/1:B52](#)); and Contagious Diseases Among Immigrants (Feb. 9, 1921, [SuDoc Y4.Im6/1:D63](#)). There are dozens of similarly titled hearings whose titles alone indicate a skepticism if not hostility toward immigrants and immigration. Let's take a look at a few excerpts of the testimony held at such hearings.

Dr. Spencer L. Dawes of the New York State Hospital Commission, stated, "...The alien seaman is not examined in the same way that the ordinary alien is. As a matter of fact, therefore, he is a greater menace from a eugenic standpoint than the ordinary alien" (p.608, [Alien Seamen – Insane Aliens – Statements on Various Immigration Problems](#)). Senator Samuel M. Shortridge of California, speaking before the Senate Committee on Immigration, declared, "...Of all the races which come to this country,

the yellow and brown races of Asia are the least assimilable. They are those races which are most difficult to amalgamate into American citizenship” (p. 4 of Japanese Immigration Legislation, Senate Committee on Immigration, held March 1924, [SuDocY4.Im6/2:J27/2](#)). Not all opposition to immigration was based on racial or eugenic reasons.

The issue of political affiliation or ideology was also part of the picture as can be seen in Communist Labor Party Deportation Cases (House Committee on Immigration and Naturalization, held March 4 and 6-7, 1920, [SuDoc Y4.Im6/1:D44/4](#)). Carl Miller, age 38, a German citizen (thus unobjectionable on racial and eugenic grounds), entered the United States in October 1907 at Galveston. He was arrested on December 27, 1919 and was subject to deportation because “he is an alien, that he is a member of the Communist Labor Party, and attends the meetings of that organization which are held in Denver, Colo., and that the Communist Labor Party is one more membership in which makes an alien liable to deportation under the act of October 16, 1918.” One thing to bear in mind is that this was an era of labor unrest in the United States and also that the Russian monarchy had been overthrown in 1917 by Communists leading ultimately to the establishment of the union of Soviet Socialist Republics in 1923.

There are many more such examples to be found in congressional hearings of this era. To be fair, there are also some voices opposed to immigration restriction, but not many. Although the specifics are different, some of the basic arguments used a century ago to restrict immigration to the United States are not so very different from some of the arguments being made in the present day. Government documents, in particular, congressional hearings, are one way of exploring this perennial controversy.

Submitted by Tim Dodge, GODORT Moderator; Professor and History, Political Science, Theatre, and Dance Librarian at Auburn University

ALA Promotions



- [Library Card Sign-up Month](#) (September)
- [Banned Books Week](#) (September 22-28)
- [Banned Websites Awareness Day](#) (Wednesday of Banned Books Week)
- [TeenTober](#) (October)
- [National Friends of Libraries Week](#) (October 20-26)

From the Editor

A Note from the Editor



Having completed my first year as editor, I would like to thank those who have contributed to this publication. I enjoy spotlighting librarians, programs, and events from a variety of libraries. So, if you have contributed, thank you! And, for those who have not contributed yet, I encourage you to do so. This is an easy access platform to share successes and communicate with fellow librarians across the state.

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**

Issue	Submission Deadline	Publication Date
July/Aug/Sep	July (Early)	July (Mid/Late)
Oct/Nov/Dec	Oct (Early)	Oct (Mid/Late)
Jan/Feb/Mar	Jan (Early)	Jan (Mid/Late)
Apr/May/June	Apr (Early)	Apr (Mid/Late)
