



# ALLA COMmunicator: January 2024

## ALLA COMmunicator

Alabama Library Association | [www.allanet.org](http://www.allanet.org)<sup>1</sup>

January 2024 | Volume 21, Issue 2

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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<sup>1</sup><https://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](https://youtu.be/_OKwTqYh9XU)

## From the President

**Matt Layne, ALLA President**

Hello ALLA Friends,

After gathering together this holiday season, let us remember the very real struggle that is happening across our great state as librarians fight for the First Amendment and for the rights of Alabama public library patrons to freely choose which books they and their families read without hindrance from the state government. I hope the holiday season was filled with light and happiness for you and your loved ones, and I look forward to spending time with you all at our Annual Conference scheduled for April 11th-14th at The Homewood Library. Don't forget to renew your ALLA membership<sup>2</sup> this month!

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<sup>2</sup><https://www.allanet.org/membership>

And please, take a moment to review this letter from the field<sup>3</sup> from a few of our Alabama librarians on the front lines of this monumental battle for the soul of Alabama's public libraries. Offer them help, comfort, and courage as we continue to stand firm for the freedom for all Alabamians to read.

Be well and be of good cheer. We are on the right side of history,

Matt Layne

Alabama Library Association President

205.445.1411

[mlayne@oneallibrary.org](mailto:mlayne@oneallibrary.org)<sup>4</sup>



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<sup>3</sup>[https://1drv.ms/b/s!AutpCggvaD0igRYexyrB\\_kWLrbTI?e=DOidVZ](https://1drv.ms/b/s!AutpCggvaD0igRYexyrB_kWLrbTI?e=DOidVZ)

<sup>4</sup><mailto:mlayne@oneallibrary.org>



## ALLA Connections

Get Involved:

- Executive Council<sup>5</sup>
- Divisions<sup>6</sup>
- Committees<sup>7</sup>
- Round Tables<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>5</sup><https://alla.memberclicks.net/executive-council>

<sup>6</sup><https://alla.memberclicks.net/divisions>

<sup>7</sup><https://alla.memberclicks.net/committees>

<sup>8</sup><https://alla.memberclicks.net/roundtables>

Contact Us:

Alabama Library Association

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Montgomery, AL 36117

334-414-0133

[allibraryassoc@gmail.com](mailto:allibraryassoc@gmail.com)<sup>9</sup>



**Facebook.com/  
AlabamaLibraryAssociation**



**@ALLibAssoc**

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<sup>9</sup><mailto:allibraryassoc@gmail.com>

## Round Tables

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### *Proposed Scholarly Communications Round Table*

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Are you interested in scholarly communication? Would you like to network with other Alabama librarians with similar interests? Are you an active member of the Alabama Library Association (ALLA)?

Then please sign our petition<sup>10</sup>! We need 25 signatures of active ALLA members to start a new ALLA Scholarly Communication Round Table (SCRT). The new Round Table will be dedicated to promoting and supporting scholarly communication throughout Alabama. The goals of the SCRT are:

- 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.

Not an ALLA member? You can join here<sup>11</sup>!

Thanks for your support! Feel free to contact any of us with questions.

Jeff Graveline, UAB ([jgraveli@uab.edu](mailto:jgraveli@uab.edu))<sup>12</sup>

Charlotte Ford, University of Montevallo ([cford6@montevallo.edu](mailto:cford6@montevallo.edu))<sup>13</sup>

Jen Pate, University of North Alabama ([jpate1@una.edu](mailto:jpate1@una.edu))<sup>14</sup>

## Committees

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### *Association Awards Committee*

*Anna Mary Williford, Chair*

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<sup>10</sup><https://uab.libwizard.com/f/ALLAscholcomm>

<sup>11</sup><https://www.allanet.org/membership>

<sup>12</sup><mailto:jgraveli@uab.edu>

<sup>13</sup><mailto:cford6@montevallo.edu>

<sup>14</sup><mailto:jpate1@una.edu>

The deadline for receiving nominations for the 2023-2024 combined ALLA Awards has been extended to February 15. Please visit <https://www.allanet.org/association-awards> to learn more and fill out the nomination form.

**2023-2024**  
**Alabama Library Association Awards**  
**DO YOU KNOW A DESERVING LIBRARIAN,  
PARALIBRARIAN, OR LIBRARY SUPPORTER?**  
**Nominations Due: February 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](mailto:awillifo@montevallo.edu)

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*Nominating Committee*

*Amanda Melcher, Chair*

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ALLA needs your help nominating individuals for several leadership positions. Nominations can be emailed to Amanda Melcher<sup>15</sup>.

## ALLA CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

DUE: JANUARY 29, 2024

The Alabama Library Association (ALLA) Nominating Committee Needs Your HELP! We are seeking suggestions for nominees for 2024/2025 ALLA officers. Please suggest individuals known personally to you who have shown themselves through service to the ALLA to be qualified for leadership. The following positions are open for nominations:

President-Elect (this year from a College, University, or Special Libraries)  
Secretary  
Member at Large Central Alabama  
Member at Large South Alabama  
CUS Chair Elect (College, University and Special Libraries Division)  
CUS Secretary  
CUS Member-at-Large for Projects  
CUS Member-at-Large for Programs  
PLD Secretary (Public Library Division)  
YSSLD Chair Elect (Youth Services and School Library Division)  
YSSLD Secretary  
ALIRT Moderator Elect (Alabama Library Instruction Round Table)  
ALIRT Secretary-Treasurer  
GODORT Moderator Elect (Government Documents Round Table)  
GODORT Secretary/Treasurer  
MCIRT Moderator Elect (Multicultural Information Round Table)  
MCIRT Secretary/Treasurer  
PART Moderator Elect (Paralibrarian Round Table)  
RASRT Moderator Elect (Reference and Adult Services Round Table)  
TSSRT Moderator Elect (Technical Services and Systems Round Table)  
YASRT Moderator Elect (Young Adult Services Round Table)

Email Nominations to Amanda Melcher:  
[melcheras@montevallo.edu](mailto:melcheras@montevallo.edu)



<sup>15</sup><mailto:melcheras@montevallo.edu>



## Library Happenings

### Save the Date: Library Support Staff Workshop @ Athens State University

In mid-May, Kares Library is hosting a free workshop open to all library support staff members (academic, public, school, military, etc). Check out the flyer for the registration link, or access the registration form here<sup>16</sup>.



1 - Click here to register!<sup>17</sup>

*Submitted by Whitney Berryman, Library Support Specialist (Collections), Athens State University*

### Holiday Fun at Alabaster's Albert L. Scott Library

Hot chocolate, magic, and holiday cheer inspired 160 people enjoy Tuesday Treat at the Albert L. Scott Library in Alabaster on December 5. A hot cocoa stand was set up outside the library's entrance stocked with a variety of flavored hot chocolate and peppermints. Two of the library's junior librarians helped man the stand. An added surprise was snow falling at the front doors thanks to a snow machine. Inside the library, families watched with wonder as the Magic of Christmas was presented by the skillful and amusing Mr. Larry Magic.

Children had fun with a sticky, but tasty holiday activity during the Christmas Crafty Kids Club on December 6 at the Albert L. Scott Library in Alabaster. They used an assortment of candy and green icing to make candied Christmas trees. Some trees made it home, others were devoured upon completion.

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<sup>16</sup><https://forms.office.com/r/NkqkCm5zYw>

<sup>17</sup><https://forms.office.com/r/NkqkCm5zYw>

***Use the arrows to navigate the slideshows. The first slideshow features Tuesday Treat on December 5th; and the second features the Christmas Crafty Kids Club on December 6th.***









The following week, excitement filled the air as youngsters and adults attended the Albert L. Scott Library annual children's Holiday Party on December 13th. They were treated to an old-fashioned horse-drawn carriage ride around the neighborhood driven by Santa Claus, stories and photos with Mrs. Claus, and gingerbread man cookies to decorate. Children also received goody bags with treats and a small stuffed animal.

Santa Claus appeared at the library in Alabaster on the evening of December 14 to hear children's Christmas wishes. They were delighted to talk with him and receive a goody bag as well as having their picture taken with him. Mrs. Claus and members of the Junior Librarians team were on hand to entertain the crowd.

***Use the arrows to navigate the slideshows. The first slideshow features the Holiday Party on the 13th; and the second features Santa Clause visits on December 14th.***







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





My name is Ashley S. McNeill and I began my new life as the STEM Librarian for Engineering at the University of Alabama at Birmingham on August 1, 2023. My journey into (and out of and back into) librarianship has been a bit strange. I was 15 years old when I met chemistry for the first time; it was love at first sight. I knew I wanted to be a chemist and, soon after, I decided I wanted to be an educator. High schoolers and their parents made me nervous, so I set off along the path toward professorship. The plan was clear – bachelors, PhD, tenure, fame and fortune.

For better or worse, it didn't quite proceed as expected. Halfway through my PhD program, I decided I needed to make a change. Luckily, I had a professor at the time who was a champion of non-traditional jobs for chemists. I can vividly recall sitting at my desk in my graduate office in a still-comfortable desk chair that was ten years older than I was, racking my brain for options, which was especially harrowing for a chemist like me who didn't love being in the lab. Then it dawned on me...

Librarianship. As a scientist, I had a skill set and specialized knowledge that could be very useful to others working in STEM. I also saw it as a perfect opportunity to continue pursuing education as a profession with a heaping side of learning something new every day. Unexpectedly, midway through my MLIS, I had a major opportunity offered to me. Would I like to return to my undergraduate alma mater and teach chemistry as an adjunct professor for a few semesters while I finished my library program? And conduct my academic library practicum at the same academic library that raised me? *Absolutely.*

Being in the classroom on the other side of the desk as a chemistry professor reignited my passion for chemistry but working in the academic library and conducting library research with my practicum supervisor also felt great. This left me with a real conundrum. I applied for more permanent post-secondary teaching and librarianship jobs, but my applications never warranted a response. Without a PhD, I felt like I was in a precarious position.

Back to graduate school I went for my PhD in chemistry, this time in the research group of a professor who had hosted me for a summer of undergraduate research several years prior. Rather than return immediately to the library upon the completion of my doctorate, I decided to pursue my original dream of teaching chemistry, but ultimately found that the environment in which I was pursuing tenure was not as nurturing, supportive, and collaborative as I had been promised.

I am lucky to have returned to the library at an institution that values my work and my ideas. I am grateful for the time I spent in chemistry – that experience and those credentials open doors for opportunities for me to teach and participate in parts of academia that I wouldn't have had the same access to if I had found this position immediately out of library school. I wasn't mature enough yet, wasn't ready to be my best in this position as support for the students and for my fellow faculty.

## **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](mailto:AlabamaLibrariesJournal@gmail.com)<sup>18</sup> 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.

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<sup>18</sup><mailto:AlabamaLibrariesJournal@gmail.com>

- 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***<sup>19</sup> website for more information.

## The GODORT Corner

One commonly overlooked government agency is the National Technical Information Service (NTIS), a subdivision of the U.S. Department of Commerce. As the agency's web site says, it "maintain[s] the world's most comprehensive collection of U.S.-sponsored research. We house more than 3 million publications, and our data covers topics that range from aerodynamics to urban development. Our archive spans the Manhattan project to present" (see the **About Us**<sup>20</sup> page for more details). I would like to cover the National Technical Library Reports Library service found via the "Federal Data Products" link located top right side of the screen. There is also a link to "Technical Reports" located near the bottom right side of the screen.

First, a little historical background may be helpful. The origins of NTIS lie in Executive Order 9568 issued by President Harry S. Truman on June 8, 1945. This Executive Order authorized the release of declassified scientific and technical information for the benefit of the public including, especially, business interests. Much of this initial collection consisted of thousands of technical reports captured by U.S. military forces in Germany during World War II. Over time, much more technical information has been produced by federal agencies and contractors. The National Technical Information Service itself was established later, in 1970. Things became more formalized with the National Technical Information Act of 1988; among its provisions was allowing the NTIS to participate in joint ventures with private businesses and to require that the NTIS distribute resulting technical documents via the Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP) in microfiche format. Prior to 1988 such distribution had been haphazard.

Some of you may recall the *Government Reports Announcement and Index* (the title has varied) published from 1965 through 1996, the main way of looking up such these technical reports. It's probably been over 20 years since I last used this now obsolete reference source. I recall it was a bit complex: one needed to look in two separate sections of each issue (I think it was a monthly publication) or each annual volume and then, having the bibliographic information and the NTIS accession number in hand, one then located the desired report within the NTIS microfiche collection. Fortunately, things are a bit easier nowadays.

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<sup>19</sup><https://www.allanet.org/alabama-libraries>

<sup>20</sup><https://www.ntis.gov/about/about-us.xhtml>

The National Technical Reports Library<sup>21</sup> is the latest iteration (having followed the National Technical Reports Server that began around 1997). For several years, payment was required for the full text of many of these reports, but since 2016 full-text access has been free to anyone with an Internet connection. NOTE: not ALL of these reports are freely available, but most are... There are currently over three million titles listed here.

The search screen provides several helpful options for narrowing one's search. For this example, let's say a researcher is interested in technical reports concerning solar power for the home. Typing " 'solar power' and homes" brings up 5913 results. NOTE: using quotation marks around phrases and using Boolean operators helps narrow search results, something to consider when using a database containing more than three million bibliographic records. Refining this to reports available only in full-text format very slightly brings the number down to 5900 reports. Among the other options for narrowing one's search is date of publication. Oddly, the database only allows one to pick an individual year, not a range of years. The most recent year listed is 2022 which brings up 41 results. One could select additional search terms or a different year of publication. One can click on the following facets: Source (*i.e.*, federal agency), Keywords, or Document Type. In turn each of these provides in descending number of results dozens and dozens of further options to consider. Under Keywords I see Climate Change (seven results). Clicking on the hot linked number (7) brings up citations plus links to download each report individually. Admittedly, none of these really looks to be of specific interest, so I will choose at random *Feasibility Analysis of a Mobile Microgrid Design to Support DoD Energy Resilience Goals* by D.W. Varley. This turns out to be a thesis produced for the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, California. The 61-page document appears in full-text including full color charts and graphs.

Out of curiosity, I wanted to see the earliest technical report concerning solar power and homes available. I constructed a basic search which brought up the 5913 results mentioned earlier. I then selected the Date filter. To my surprise, the earliest report listed is from 1953, a good twenty years earlier than I might have expected. It is titled *Energy in the Future: A Series of Three Lectures* and was produced by the Atomic Energy Commission, Department of Energy. Also surprising to me is that this report is available in full-text format. Looking at the document online, I see that these lectures were actually delivered a couple of years earlier, in 1951. In this age of solar panels produced in China and appearing on some rooftops seventy-plus years later, it is interesting to read the prognostications being made in the early 1950's. On page 85, the text says, "A thoroughly insulated house with fairly large south windows to admit sunlight directly into the rooms in winter. A solar collector is built into the roof. It consists of pipes lying against a black surface and enclosed in a system of glass panes separated by gas-filled spaces. The heat collected in the fluid in the pipes is transferred to some system of heat storage in the house."

What does one do if there is no full text available for a technical report? First of all, you can try an interlibrary loan request since it is possible one of these non-digitized reports was acquired by a library at some point in the past. From 1988 to at least 1997 many of these technical reports were distributed in microfiche format to depository libraries. Earlier reports were acquired in print format although not necessarily via the Federal Depository Library Program. NTIS no longer has an online NTIS Sales Desk so one can't place an order to purchase a report anymore. Another possible avenue for locating a copy of a Technical Report not available here full-text is suggested at the top of the search screen: "...may be

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<sup>21</sup><https://ntrl.ntis.gov/NTRL/>

available online for free either from the issuing federal agency, the U.S. Government Publishing Office's Federal Digital System website, or through search engines." I tried the first non-full-text title, *Reinventing the Solar Power Satellite* (2004) by G.A. Landis as a search in Google. I am happy to report this took me to the full-text of that report located on the NASA Technical Report Server (perhaps the subject of a future GODORT Corner).

NTIS is part of the U.S. Department of Commerce and it also offers numerous subscription options and levels both for private individuals, industry, and academic institutions far beyond its service described here offering the National Technical Reports Library. For those who are not NTIS subscribers (most of us, I would assume), you will want to contact NTIS (see the "Contact Us"<sup>22</sup> link for more information).

Although the NTIS Technical Reports Library may seem a bit esoteric or complex, it is an amazing resource and is especially useful to researchers looking for engineering, scientific, and business-related technical information. Nearly all of it is freely available to the public.

*Submitted by Tim Dodge, GODORT Moderator*



## ALA Promotions

- Freedom of Information Day<sup>23</sup> (on/around March 16)
- School Library Month<sup>24</sup> (April)
- Drop Everything and Read<sup>25</sup> (April 12)
- National Library Week<sup>26</sup> (April 7-13)
  - Right to Read Day<sup>27</sup> (Monday, April 8)

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<sup>22</sup><https://www.ntis.gov/contact-us/index.xhtml>

<sup>23</sup><https://www.ala.org/advocacy/FOI-Day>

<sup>24</sup><https://www.ala.org/aasl/advocacy/slm>

<sup>25</sup><https://web.archive.org/web/20170915213532/http://dropeverythingandread.com/>

<sup>26</sup><https://www.ala.org/conferenceevents/celebrationweeks/natlibraryweek>

<sup>27</sup><https://uniteagainstbookbans.org/right-to-read-day/>

- National Library Workers Day<sup>28</sup> (Tuesday, April 9)
- National Library Outreach Day<sup>29</sup> (Wednesday, April 10)
- Take Action for Libraries Day<sup>30</sup> (Thursday, April 11)
- Money Smart Week<sup>31</sup> (April 15-21)
- Preservation Week<sup>32</sup> (April 30 - May 6)
- Dia: Children's Day/Book Day<sup>33</sup> (April 30)

## From the Editor

### A Note from the Editor



First, I wish everyone a wonderful year ahead. I look forward to your contributions throughout 2024, which bring this publication to life.

There are so many ways you can contribute. You can

- publicize events;
- reflect on a successful event, program, or grant; or,

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<sup>28</sup><https://ala-apa.org/nlwd/>

<sup>29</sup><https://www.ala.org/conferenceevents/celebrationweeks/natlibraryweek/national-library-outreach-day>

<sup>30</sup><https://www.ala.org/conferenceevents/take-action-for-libraries-day>

<sup>31</sup><https://www.ala.org/aboutala/offices/money-smart-week>

<sup>32</sup><https://preservationweek.org/>

<sup>33</sup><https://www.ala.org/alsc/initiatives/dia>

- share your library story!

## ALLA COMMunicator Submissions

### Submission Guidelines

Please feel free to submit your library related news to [communicator.alla@gmail.com](mailto:communicator.alla@gmail.com)<sup>34</sup>.

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

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<sup>34</sup><mailto:communicator.alla@gmail.com>