



ALLA COMmunicator: May 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 Librarians, Library Staff Members, and Library Friends,

It is with great pleasure and a profound sense of honor that I stand before you today as the newly elected President of the Alabama Library Association. My name is Craig Scott, and I have dedicated 47 years of my life to the noble profession of librarianship.

Hailing from the heart of Alabama, I have served as the Library Director in Gadsden, Alabama, a role that has allowed me to witness firsthand the transformative power of libraries within our communities. Throughout my career, I have seen libraries evolve from quiet repositories of knowledge to dynamic hubs of innovation, education, and social engagement.

I am deeply committed to the core values that libraries represent: equal access to information, intellectual freedom, and lifelong learning. These principles have guided my work, shaping every decision I have made in service to my community and our profession.

As President of the Alabama Library Association, I am eager to collaborate with each of you in advancing our shared mission. Together, we will champion the vital role that libraries play in fostering literacy, promoting inclusivity, and strengthening the fabric of our society.

I am honored to embark on this journey with you, and I look forward to the incredible opportunities that lie ahead as we work together to empower individuals, enrich communities, and ensure a vibrant future for libraries across our great state.

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

Craig Scott

President, Alabama Library Association (ALLA)

craig@gadsdenlibrary.org

ALLA Past President



Dear Friends,

I believe it is safe to say my tenure as President of The Alabama Library Association has been unlike any other before me. When I was sworn into office in July, there were little fires already erupting around our state. Our friends in Prattville and Ozark and Fairhope and North Shelby were already bearing the brunt of book challenges, even though Moms for Liberty and Clean Up Prattville were still in the early stages of manufacturing their outrage.

Thanks to the good counsel and encouragement of Jessica Hayes, Craig Scott, and Amanda Melcher, we were able to mobilize quickly. We have shown up and spoken up at each APLS meeting and at state house hearings. We have done our utmost to represent all that is best about our profession. At every turn, we remind the leaders of our state of all the good which librarians are doing across our great state: Summer Reading programs, early literacy initiatives, ACT & SAT prep, homework help, tutoring, foreign language education, resume writing workshops, computer skills training, workforce readiness training, job search assistance, providing mobile WIFI, and so much more, and while so much focus has necessarily been on public school and public librarians due to the unprecedented number of attacks on our profession, I want to reiterate that the entirety of our profession is worthy of praise. We are professionals. We serve our communities, we do it despite those who besmirch our good name. We do the work. We know our patrons, and they know us, and no amount of name-calling will change that. We know who we are. We are librarians, and we are Alabama.

Thank you for trusting me to lead this year.

Sincerely,

Matt Layne

Alabama Library Association President

mlayne@oneallibrary.org



Get Involved:

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- [Divisions](#)
- [Committees](#)

- [Round Tables](#)

Contact Us:

Alabama Library Association

6030 Monticello Drive

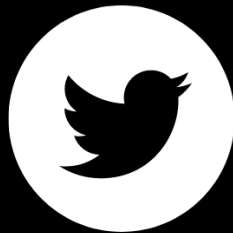
Montgomery, AL 36117

334-414-0133

allibraryassoc@gmail.com



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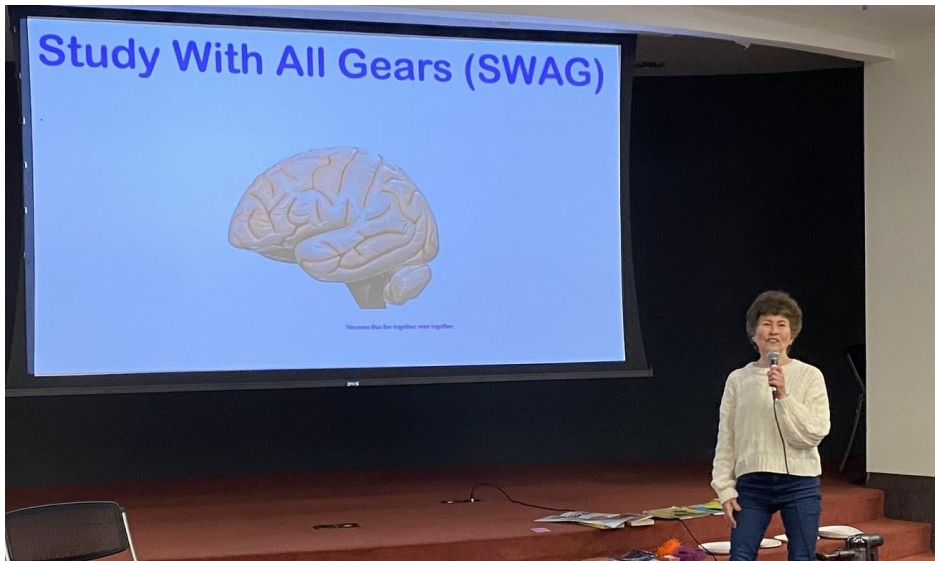


@ALLibAssoc





1 - Craig Scott, ALLA President & Matt Layne, ALLA Past President



2 - Friday's Keynote Speaker, Hettie Johnson, Spring Valley School



3 - Magic City Acceptance Center Presenters, Lauren Jacobs and Amanda Keller



4 - Janice Harrington, Alabama Author and Poet in conjunction with the Magic City Poetry Festival



5 - Association Awards Chair, Anna Mary Williford



6 - Nonfiction Book Award Winner, Imani Perry (South to America: A Journey Below the Mason-Dixon to Understand the Soul of a Nation)



7 - Alabama Authors Award Committee Co-Chair, Wendy Stephens



8 - Intellectual Freedom Award Winner, Jessica Hayes, with Merit Award Winners, Read Freely Alabama



9 - Merit Award Winners, Read Freely Alabama, with Veritas Et Scientia Award Winners



Scholarly Communication Round Table

Jeff Graveline, Moderator

The ALLA Scholarly Communication Round Table has been approved. The election results have been certified and the winners of the special election for the inaugural officers can be announced!

- Moderator: Jeff Graveline, UAB
- Moderator-Elect: Charlotte Ford, Univ of Montevallo
- Secretary: Tracy Cole, USA

We look forward to a productive year ahead and encourage members to join us.

Association Awards Committee

Anna Mary Williford, Chair

The [2024 Association Awards](#) were announced at the ALLA Conference. Congratulations to these deserving individuals and organizations.

Author Awards Committee

Wendy Stephens and Debbie Walker, Co-Chairs

Over the course of 2023, the Alabama Authors Awards Committee, made up of more than two dozen librarians from academic, public, and school library settings, read and discussed titles written by Alabama authors. Literary merit and readability were considered, and dozens of titles were whittled down to a few top choices. A final committee vote in December chose the titles below as the top titles by Alabama authors for 2024. The committee also unanimously agreed on an author who, in our estimation, deserved special recognition for their significant body of work. All of the [2024 ALLA Authors Awards recipients](#) were honored a luncheon at the Alabama Library Association Annual Convention held in Homewood, Alabama on Saturday, April 13th.

Library Happenings

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

On May 17th, 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](#).



10 - [Click here to register!](#)

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

Kids Marched into Fun Activities at Alabaster's Albert L. Scott Library

Kids engaged in a variety reading and creating activities, as well as special visits, throughout the March.

- Read Across America Day
- Lego League
- Explore More (Button Making)
- American Girl's Club
- Shelby 4-H Drama Club
- Homeschool Happenings (Greenhouse Challenge)
- Science Saturday
- Hippity-Hoppity Tales & More
- An Hour with James Spann
- Story Time Fun

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



11 - Kids who like to build with colorful bricks enjoy meeting guests from the Magic City Lego User Group (MCLUG) during the Lego League on March 5.



12 - Tweens and teens have fun making buttons with a button maker on March 6 during Explore More.



13 - Girls make bedding for their dolls including no-sew pillows and blankets at the March 8 session of the American Girls Club.



14 - Students at Homeschool Happenings potted plants and filled them with soil and seeds during the March 11 session.



15 - Students at Homeschool Happenings potted plants and filled them with soil and seeds during the March 11 session.



16 - Students at Homeschool Happenings encountered chickens and a baby pig during the March 11 session.



17 - Kids get ready for the April 8 total lunar eclipse by making pocket sun clocks during Science Saturday on March 16th.



18 - The Hippiity-Hoppity Tales & More event, held on March 20th, included storytelling and a parade through the library.



19 - The Hippiity-Hoppity Tales & More event, held on March 20th, including storytelling and parade through the library.



20 - Having photos taken with live rabbits from the DART Family Farm was the highlight of the Hippiity-Hoppity Tales & More event on March 20.



21 - Having photos taken with live rabbits from the DART Family Farm was the highlight of the Hippy-Hoppity Tales & More event on March 20.



22 - The Shelby 4-H Scientist Club on March 21.



23 - James Spann shares his knowledge about weather hazards, safety, and more.



24 - Kids take photos with James Spann.



25 - Families take photos with James Spann.



26 - Children have fun getting creative during Teeny Tiny Time and Small Fry Friday in March.

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

English 104 + Digital Media Lab = Research Posters @ Carmichael Library, University of Montevallo

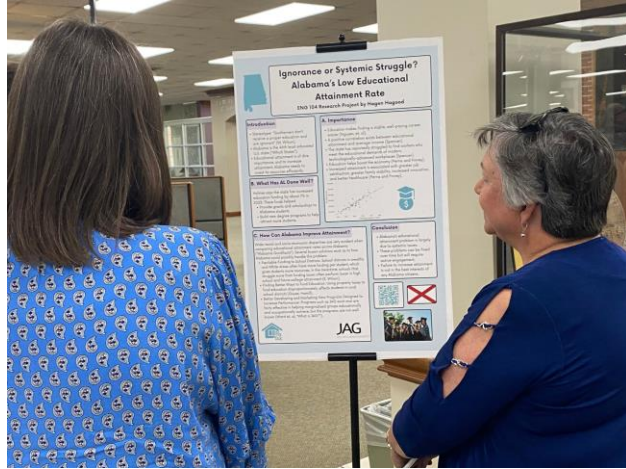
In Spring 2024, Michael Price spearheaded an instructional workshop for English 104 at the Carmichael Digital Media Lab at the University of Montevallo, focusing on harnessing the power of Canva for crafting research posters. To enhance accessibility, a campus wide Canva account was established for both students and faculty, empowering them to utilize its versatile tools across various projects and research endeavors.

In early April, Professor Price adeptly guided the class through the process of accessing and leveraging Canva to design impactful research posters. Throughout the month, he maintained an ongoing engagement with students, conducting additional sessions and offering personalized assistance, culminating in a collaborative effort that saw the library printing the posters and providing new stands for the research presentation day.

On April 22nd, the eagerly awaited poster presentation took place, drawing a sizable crowd that eagerly supported the students and their scholarly endeavors. [Click here to view their posters!](#)

Submitted by Michael Price, Digital Media & Emerging Technologies Librarian, Carmichael Library @ the University of Montevallo







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 article submission, review the [Call for Articles](#) information on the [Alabama Libraries](#) website.

The GODORT Corner

One federal agency people often simply take for granted is the United States Postal Service (USPS). It is one of the oldest agencies dating back to 1775 when, during the Second Continental Congress, Benjamin Franklin was appointed the first Postmaster General. This is even before the July 4, 1776 Declaration of Independence! It was more formally established as a federal agency in 1792. In 1970, following a massive strike involving hundreds of thousands of postal employees, the Post Office was reorganized as an independent agency. For the past 54 years the Post Office has had to be run not just as a crucial government agency but, in effect, as a commercial business. A major consequence of the 1970 reorganization act is that the Post Office receives no taxpayer funding. In addition, the Post Office is required to fund the cost of pensions for its retirees for 75 years into the future. Its sole source of income is postage and services. Barring the occasional recession, etc., such a self-reliant and somewhat commercial arrangement worked well for many years. The population of the country has been growing and economic expansion has resulted in a growing demand for the shipment of packages. However, the vast technological changes arising out of the computer revolution has had a drastic impact on Post Office operations over the past 25 years or so. E-mail has replaced most forms of communication that would have been sent via postal mail; many (perhaps most) people pay their bills electronically rather than through the mail; the rise of electronic banking means that banks no longer send out cancelled checks with paper statements (and many people no longer receive paper bank statements); more purchasing is being done via e-mail or online ordering than via printed catalogs with order forms, etc. On top of this, strong competition from completely commercial firms such as the United Parcel Service and Amazon, among others, has seriously cut into Post Office revenues too.

Consequences of these developments include everything from constantly rising postal rates to cuts in services such as longer delivery times and the closing of some financially unviable local post offices, and the reduction of hours of operation in others. I used to be able to take care of things such as mailing off a large envelope or package or buying stamps on my way to work stopping off at either of two small rural post offices that opened up at 7:00 a.m. No longer. Both now open up at 8:30 a.m. or 9 a.m. and so, if it's a weekday when I need to do this, I need to use up some of my lunch hour and go to the Auburn Post Office (city not university). Of course, there usually is a long line of other postal patrons doing the same thing. Both because of personal preference and out of a desire to keep the Post Office in operation, I still pay my bills by a check through the mail and I even still write real letters to family members. Of course, my actions as one person probably make no difference, but we do need to think about what can be done to save the Post Office in the face of these ongoing technological and economic pressures. In response, the Post Office has gone online and it is possible to still support this vital agency to some extent. The [USPS web site](#) provides a lot of online service options. It is possible to track the progress of a package. If one has sent something important via priority or overnight mail, one can track its progress too. Particularly helpful are the links such as "Find USPS Locations" and "Look Up a Zip Code." This is, admittedly, more convenient than using the massive National Five Digit Zip Code and Post Office Directory (SuDoc P 1.10/8:) one had to consult in the not so distant past. Being a business as well as a federal agency, the Post Office provides online options for buying stamps, shipping supplies, and more. It has links for "Business" and for "International." In case you had not noticed, the URL for the

Post Office web site ends in .com rather than .gov, further emphasizing the commercial business identity of the USPS since 1970.

The United States Postal Service has made some amazing adjustments to the increasingly online world in which we now live. There are those who think there is no real need for the Post Office and who may not care if it disappears. Even with so much now that can be (and often must be) done online, there still is a real need for a Post Office to deliver important communications that still appear in paper (everything from college diplomas to legal documents to birthday cards to, sadly, eviction notices, for example). While UPS and others have made large inroads, the USPS still has a significant role to play in delivering packages. For several decades, there have been occasional proposals to make the Post Office entirely a private enterprise. There are potential problems with this, though, such as if the USPS were entirely a commercial operation not connected at all to the federal government, it is quite likely that rural and less-than-affluent urban areas would be cut off from postal service entirely. Also, even though I am unhappy with frequently rising rates for stamps, if the USPS were entirely commercial, who is to say that the cost of a stamp might not become truly exorbitant? Sixty-eight cents is a lot but much easier to accept than, say, one or two dollars or more just to mail off an envelope. I am unqualified to propose a solution to the dilemmas facing the Post Office but in answer to those who think it should either become privatized or simply left to wither and die, I would reply that having a reliably functioning national postal service is essential to having a reliably functioning nation.

Find out more about the wonderful world of government documents by joining GODORT when you renew your ALLA membership!

Submitted by Tim Dodge, GODORT Moderator



27 - Photo by [Sam LaRussa](#) on [Unsplash](#)

ALA Promotions



- [Preservation Week](#) (April 30 - May 6)
- [Dia: Children's Day/Book Day](#) (April 30)
- [Rainbow Book Month](#) (June)

From the Editor

A Note from the Editor



As you may have noticed, this issue features information and photos from the 2024 Annual ALLA Conference. At this year's event, Laura Pitts, the Alabama Libraries editor, and I teamed up to present, [Opportunities to Publish: Alabama Libraries and ALLA Communicator](#). Both publications welcome submissions from all library workers and libraries! You can review our presentation for guidelines and information about submitting to one (or both!) of ALLA's publications.

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)
