



ALLA COMmunicator: October 2024

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Alabama Library Association | www.allanet.org¹

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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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¹<https://www.allanet.org/>

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From the President

ALLA President



Fellow ALLA Members, Library Professionals, and Library Supporters:

As President of the Alabama Library Association for this year from April, 2024 to April, 2025, I am filled with a profound sense of honor, gratitude and responsibility. I am committed to advancing our shared mission of *promoting and supporting library services and librarianship in Alabama*. Together, we continue to strive to enhance our services, expand our reach, and support the professional growth of all our members.

As I continue to travel around our beautiful state to meet librarians in all settings including public, college and university, special and school libraries, I'm amazed at what I'm learning myself about the work being done including valuable strategies and insights to effectively champion the importance of libraries. The enthusiasm and dedication demonstrated by all those I've met are truly inspiring and I'm confident that these skills and knowledge gained will significantly benefit our advocacy efforts moving forward.

With the challenges that libraries are facing today in the face of extreme ideologies, this year will be a transformative one for us. With the help of ALLA's membership, together we can build upon these key initiatives:

1. **Advocacy and Outreach:** Strengthening our efforts to advocate for libraries at the local, state, and national levels, ensuring that the crucial role of libraries is understood, valued, and supported.

2. **Annual Conference:** Our annual "Be Unconventional" conference will be held next April 9th to the 12th at the Lake Guntersville State Park Lodge and Convention Center and will be a fun and educational gathering of kindred souls, where we will share our knowledge, experiences and form deep connections. Mandy Broadhurst, Convention Chair, and her Convention Planning Committee are doing an outstanding job at lining everything up and you'll be hearing more and more about this exciting event. I hope you'll be able to join us!
3. **Community Engagement:** Fostering deeper connections within our membership with programs, activities and services that meet evolving needs and enrich the lives of library professionals.

I encourage all ALLA members to actively participate in our Association's activities and initiatives. Your ideas, feedback, and collaboration are vital to our collective success. Together, we can build a stronger, more vibrant Alabama library community.

I am here to serve you and to ensure that ALLA continues to thrive and grow. Thank you again for this incredible opportunity. I look forward to working with all of you and achieving remarkable things while standing together...moving forward.

Craig Scott

President, Alabama Library Association (ALLA)

Library Director, Gadsden Public Library

craig@gadsdenlibrary.org²



Get Involved:

- Executive Council³
- Divisions⁴
- Committees⁵
- Round Tables⁶

²<mailto:craig@gadsdenlibrary.org>

³<https://alla.memberclicks.net/executive-council>

⁴<https://alla.memberclicks.net/divisions>

⁵<https://alla.memberclicks.net/committees>

⁶<https://alla.memberclicks.net/roundtables>

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Call for Program Presentations : ALLA Convention 2025



We are excited to announce the Call for Program Presentations for the 2025 Alabama Library Association (ALLA) Convention, which will be held in Guntersville, AL, from April 9-12, 2025.

We are looking for dynamic and engaging presentations that reflect the theme of this year's convention: "Be Unconventional". Our goal is to showcase innovative ideas, share best practices, and spark thoughtful discussions on how libraries can continue to play an integral role in the growth and success of our communities. Applications are due by November 1st and can be submitted by completing this form⁸.

Submitted by Mary Campbell, Director of Pelham Public Library and Rosanna McGinness, Opelika Public Library

College, University, and Special Libraries

(CUS) Division

The ALLA CUS Executive Committee offered its 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.

⁸<https://forms.gle/UqhWwCBjyx4n94Gr9>

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. 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



1 - *Click here to register!*⁹

Scholarly Communication Round Table



⁹<https://alla.memberclicks.net/cusminiregistration#!/>

Come and celebrate International Open Access Week 2024 with a panel discussion featuring three Alabama librarians who are involved with open access initiatives in their libraries. You'll hear about their successful strategies for increasing faculty engagement with open access as well as challenges they face in promoting open access on their campuses.

There will be time for questions from attendees, so come prepared for a lively discussion. Don't miss this chance to hear from your Alabama library colleagues and learn more about open access.

When: Wednesday, October 23, 2024 (1 pm - 2 pm CT)

Where: Online via Zoom

Register Here!¹⁰

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

Discovering the Range of Libraries Found in the DoD: Celebrating Military Library Week (November 10 - 16, 2024)

Communities grow around libraries. Often, one thinks of the public library setting as the quintessential third space, a location that is not home or work, where individuals in a community can come together and interact without a feeling of pressure to perform. It is a place to find answers, rest, and congregate with your peers. The Department of Defense libraries are no exception, with over 340 worldwide providing diverse services, each with its unique focus and purpose. It is concerning this variety that the Military Library community is celebrating Military Libraries Week from November 10 -16, 2024.

In this inaugural year of honoring Military Libraries, we are highlighting the quote by Harry S.Truman, “Not all Readers become leaders. But all Leaders must be readers.” We are emphasizing the importance of libraries across all disciplines and showcasing just how influential these repositories of knowledge are in how they inspire our solid and diverse military leadership, from the humble recruit to the top brass.

Personal Connection

As a military spouse, Ms. Taylor has used my fair share of Morale Welfare and Recreation (MWR) Libraries around the world: Germany, Korea, Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Fort Carson, and the one that holds a special place—Fort Irwin, where she discovered my passion for wanting to become a librarian. When she was moving around the world with the military and was new to a community, it was comforting to know that she could enter her local library with her children—especially before their household goods arrived—on a military installation and know what to expect. Her community at each new duty station was established at the MWR library. It wasn't until Taylor's family moved back to the National Capital Region, where she began working at the Darnall Medical Library at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center that she realized how large and highly diverse the library system is under the Department of Defense(DoD). For starters, hundreds worldwide work to support the over 2.8 million

¹⁰<https://libcal.library.uab.edu/calendar/OSC/OApanel2024>

employees, consisting of active duty, reserve, civilians, and contractors of the DoD. The number served is even greater when including the family members with access to these resources.

Worldwide Connection

What is so special about DoD libraries? Why are we celebrating Military Libraries Week? As most military-connected individuals know, there are the stereotypical MWR libraries found on every base and post, where family story time and active-duty soldiers, airmen, or sailors converge. Nevertheless, there is more to the DoD libraries than the eBooks from Libby or the summer reading programs developed to support literacy. They are a trusted space containing information where individuals can find answers and solve problems. For Army families in Alabama, the MWR libraries at Redstone Arsenal and Ft. Novosel are the hub of education and information resources.

Medical, Academic and Research, oh my!

These libraries include Research and Development libraries, such as the Information Science and Knowledge Management (ISKM) Branch, Information Technology Laboratory at the U. S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center, which began in 1930 to help deliver knowledge to inform and shape new cutting-edge technologies, while supporting and disseminating the resulting knowledge to the rest of the world. They include numerous medical libraries that provide ready, reliable care that supports the providers, staff, and patients at military hospitals worldwide. The Gorgas Memorial Library at the Walter Reed Institute of Research is a powerful example of the combination of medicine and research, providing the space and resources for innovative and ethical solutions for US military health challenges. They include academic libraries at the Military Academies, the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, and four War Colleges. The largest of the DoD libraries is the Air University library serving over 20,000 patrons annually at Maxwell Airforce Base in Montgomery, Alabama.

There are DoD libraries that concentrate on history, like the US Army Center of Military History Library and Archives, founded in 1918 to ensure that primary and secondary sources were not lost to time. They include the 2nd oldest Federal library, the Pentagon Library, which dates to 1795 when the War Department Library was established to help bridge the gap from the past to the present in shaping military and political policy. It doesn't stop! There are special libraries in Engineering, Military Leadership, Infectious Diseases, Technical Information, Ammunition, Acquisition, Security, Intelligence Logistics, Weather. They are found at the Defense Language School, in Museums, in the US Army Corps of Engineers, and in the Institute for Religious Leadership.

Lastly, the most numerous are the MWR libraries with over 60 physical spaces in military communities within seven countries, including the far reaches of the Navy Bases on the islands of Guam and Diego Garcia. While there cannot be a physical library on the over 750 bases in 80 countries for the military, the MWR has a robust online presence to ensure that all have access to reading materials. What began in WW1 with donated books being shipped to soldiers on the front line in Europe is still being utilized today with the Paperback Book Kits, curated to include popular fiction and non-fiction titles and shipped monthly around the world.

With hundreds of libraries under DoD, it was difficult to narrow down which libraries will be highlighted as the "library of the day", but each day we will give a deep dive into the intricacies that make each one

unique. Take time and see all the resources DoD MWR Libraries offer, go online today and see what you can find at <https://www.dodmwrlibraries.org/>.

It takes a dedicated team to run these libraries, and we are fortunate to have these individuals all over the world. To the selfless staff of DoD libraries worldwide, we salute you during Military Libraries Week. Thank you for your tireless efforts in finding articles, assisting researchers, archiving our history, and fostering a love of learning in our children. Military libraries are here to support our military service members, their families, and the civilians who support them. Shaping readers into the next generation of leaders!

By Sarah Walton Taylor, MLIS

Darnall Medical Library, Walter Reed National Military Medical Center

And Paula S.W. Laurita, MLIS

Command Librarian, Army Materiel Command, Redstone Arsenal, Alabama



Summer Adventures @ Alabaster's Albert L. Scott Library

Alabaster's Albert L. Scott Library programming offered the First Fun of Fall, featuring a variety of exciting activities.

- Homeschool Happenings: Skins and Skulls
- Civic Champions Book Club
- Happy Birthday Raggedy Ann: Rag Doll Workshop
- Teen Time
- Shelby 4-H Drama Club
- Science Saturday

- Lego League
- Library-palooza! (in celebration of National Library Card Sign Up Week)

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



2 - Students learn about mammals native to Alabama during Homeschool Happening: Skins & Skulls. During the interesting session on September 9, Julie Yocom, 4-H youth development coordinator, showed and talked about the animal skins and plastic replicas of skulls of carnivores, herbivores, and omnivores.



3 - Students learn about mammals native to Alabama during Homeschool Happening: Skins & Skulls.



4 - Young children answer the call to be 'Civic Champions = Be a Hero in Your Community'! On September 11, they took part in a fun program led by Lauren Lockhart, education coordinator of the David Mathews Center for Civic Life. The interactive program included a game, a special activity, and a good book. The center also gave the children a goody bag and donated books for the library.



5 - Raggedy Ann, the world-famous rag doll, celebrates her 109th birthday this year and kids and adults marked the occasion. They attended a doll making workshop in her honor on September 17. Guests learned about Raggedy Ann's simple beginnings and how she became the inspiration of an empire. They made a one-of-a-kind rag doll, looked at a display of cloth dolls and Raggedy Ann and other doll-related library books.



6 - Who says tweens and teens are too old to play with balloons? During Teen Time folks 12 to 18 years old created balloon smash art and balloon stress balls on September 18. They dressed for mess, enjoyed snacks, and socialized.



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8 - Members of the Shelby 4-H Drama Club honed their improvisational skills during a raucous game of Charades on September 19. The members, ages 9 to 18, were guided by Julie Yocom, 4-H youth department coordinator.



9 - Future scientists have fun marking the first of fall with the science of apples. They made red apple slime during Science Saturday.



10 - Creative young builders are up to a National Library Card Sign Up Week challenge. They built libraries and library-related structures during a challenge by the Magic City Lego Users Group (MCLUG) on September 24. MCLUG brought "zillions" of the special pieces and also gave a gift to kids who helped clean up.



11 - Folks celebrate National Library Card Sign up Week. On September 25, the interactive program included a library story, a scavenger hunt, a craft, library bingo, and more.

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

Voter Registration Drive 2024, University of South Alabama, Marx Library



Marx Library's Student Engagement Committee held its annual Voter Registration Drive for National Voter Registration Day on Tuesday, September 17th. Students were invited to register to vote, check their registration status, and/or ask any questions they might have about the registration process. Also available at the table were pocket Constitutions for Constitution Day, button/stickers, and handouts to a 2024 Presidential Quiz. Committee representatives were able to engage with 55 students during that in-person drive. While registration numbers were lower than last year, this was largely due to an increase in students having already registered! QR codes to relevant voter resources will continue to be available throughout the library through the month of October.

Submission from USA Libraries, October 2024 newsletter¹¹

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 Articles¹² information on the *Alabama Libraries*¹³ website.

The GODORT Corner



Sooner or later, if you work at a reference desk in a library, whether public or academic, you will be approached by a patron seeking patent information. Often, this person is an aspiring (or actual) inventor. They may simply be trying to find out if their invention or something very much like their invention has already been patented by someone else. They also may be seeking information on how to apply for a patent.

A proper in-depth explanation of how to conduct a patent search is beyond the scope of a GODORT Corner column but I would like to alert you to a very helpful and authoritative U.S. government resource,

¹¹<https://conta.cc/47JeY55>

¹²<https://www.allanet.org/alabama-libraries#call>

¹³<https://www.allanet.org/alabama-libraries>

the United States Patent and Trademark Office website¹⁴ and highlight just a few of its major features so you can at least get your library patron started.

First of all, a little background might be helpful. Patents are a form of legal protection that grants the person who successfully applies for a patent exclusive rights to manufacture and license his or her invention. As the USPTO defines it¹⁵, “A U.S. patent gives you, the inventor, the right to ‘exclude others from making, using, offering for sale, or selling’ an invention or ‘importing’ it into the U.S. A plant patent gives you additional rights on the ‘parts’ of plants (e.g., a plant patent on an apple variety would include rights on the apples from the plant variety). *What is granted is not the right to make, use, offer for sale, sell or import the invention, but the right to stop others from doing so.* If someone infringes on your patent, you may initiate legal action. U.S. patents are effective only within the U.S. and its territories and possessions”. The USPTO defines a trademark¹⁶ as “can be any word, phrase, symbol, design, or a combination of these things that identifies your goods or services. It’s how customers recognize you in the marketplace and distinguish you from your competitors”. One example of a trademark is the golden arches of McDonald’s restaurants. Unlike patents, rights to trademarks are exclusive indefinitely, as long as you renew your trademark registration every 10 years. We will look at researching only PATENTS here.

There are three main types of patents: 1) utility (new and useful process, machine, manufacturing process, or “composition of matter”); 2) design (new original or ornamental design for a manufactured item); and 3) plant (an invented or discovered distinct or new variety of plant that has been asexually reproduced). Most of the time, researchers are looking for utility patents.

The main starting point is Patent Public Search¹⁷. It provides two search options: “Basic” and “Advanced.” The Basic search allows one to search by variables such as inventor or publication number. Most aspiring inventors, however, will probably want to look for keywords relating to their interest. *IMPORTANT: keyword searching allows only ONE word per search box*, so if it is a phrase such as “carpet cleaner,” you will need to enter the word “carpet” into the first search box and the word “cleaner” into the second search box. An important thing to bear in mind is that the USPTO has recently made a transition from its U.S. Patent Classification system (USPC) to the Cooperative Patent Classification system (CPC) developed in cooperation with the European Patent Office. There is a “Classification Resources” page¹⁸ to help you identify the classification symbols to use to help make your search more focused.

Confused? This is one reason why any in-depth patent searching really requires a librarian who has training in this area, and this is why the USPTO typically offers such training on a regular basis. However, for the beginner or the curious, just bear in mind that a specialized classification system is in use when you conduct your search. The USPTO provides a helpful Six Step Strategy for conducting a patent search¹⁹. There is a lot more involved in taking a patent search further and going through the patent application process. Just in case your would-be inventor is unaware, there is a complex, lengthy, and potentially expensive application process involved for filing a patent application. It is a good idea to direct him or

¹⁴<https://www.uspto.gov/>

¹⁵<https://www.uspto.gov/patents/basics/essentials#questions>

¹⁶<https://www.uspto.gov/trademarks/basics/what-trademark>

¹⁷<https://www.uspto.gov/patents/search/patent-public-search>

¹⁸<https://www.uspto.gov/web/patents/classification/>

¹⁹<https://www.uspto.gov/patents/search/patent-search-strategy>

her to the "Attorneys, Agents, and Paralegals" page²⁰ found under the "Learning and Resources" link ²¹ at the top center of the screen.

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

Promotions



Mark your calendar!

- **TeenTober**²² (October)
- **Open Access Week**²³ (October 21-27)
- **National Friends of Libraries Week**²⁴ (October 20-26)
- International Games Month²⁵ (November)

²⁰<https://www.uspto.gov/learning-and-resources/attorneys-agents-and-paralegals>

²¹<https://www.uspto.gov/learning-resources>

²²<https://www.ala.org/yalsa/teentober>

²³<https://www.openaccessweek.org/>

²⁴https://www.ala.org/united/events_conferences/folweek

²⁵<https://games.ala.org/international-games-week-2017/>

From the Editor

A Note from the Editor



I enjoyed showcasing a variety of libraries, events, and information in this issue. For all who contributed, thank you! And for those who have not contributed yet, please consider doing so. Whether wanting to advertise an upcoming event, share a success, or provide information, this newsletter is the platform to do it! All library workers at all types of libraries are encouraged to join in the conversation.

ALLA COMMunicator Submissions

Submission Guidelines

Please feel free to submit your library related news to communicator.alla@gmail.com²⁶.

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

²⁶<mailto:communicator.alla@gmail.com>

 **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)
