

November 2005



Thanksgiving trivia

There are enough calories in the average Thanksgiving dinner to power a 27" TV for 49 minutes.

Wild turkeys can fly for short distances at up to 55 mph.

The heaviest turkey ever raised weighed 86 pounds.

Issue Topics

CUS candidates for	2
Metadata Beginnings Workshop	1
Confessions of a New Librarian	2
CUS Words	2
Library news	3
CUS contacts	4
In every issue: Links/Contacts	4



CUSodian

Newsletter of the College, University, Special Libraries Division of the Alabama Library Association

From the Editor

I am thankful!

It took a lot of help from our friends but we finally worked out those pesky formatting details that had us scratching our heads with the inaugural issue. And, as I hope you have noticed, we have chosen a title.

This seems so important to me that I considered calling this issue "issue 1" again but serials catalogers tend to get really testy about things like that. So rather than upset anyone in our readership, this remains issue 2.

So why CUSodian? Well, I am a hopeless punster and really wanted to incorporate our acronym into the title. Unfortunately, there are precious few words in the English language that begin with *cus*.

But, as they say, "enough is as good as a feast" and all it took was this one word. CUSodian seems perfect to me; we are, after all, entrusted with preserving and handing on to the next generation a great heritage: our libraries. It is a privilege and a responsibility to play the role we do in our nation's intellectual life.

In this season of Thanksgiving, I am thankful that I play a small role in this amazing enterprise. I am thankful for all the technological advances that have put a veritable world of knowledge at our finger tips day and night.

I am thankful for all of my colleagues, who work to make ALLA a success.

I am thankful for my wonderful colleagues at AUM just as you

are for yours. Really, it is a privilege to work with terrific people everyday in a job that is intrinsically worth doing, even if I do someday win the lottery.

Here's wishing you a Happy



Thankful for family, friends, and colleagues.

Thanksgiving with just the right amount of leftovers!

Colleen Valente, Editor & Chair, Public Relations Committee

METADATA BEGINNINGS Workshop

An introductory workshop on metadata, sponsored by CUS, is planned for November 7th at UAB's Sterne Library. Librarians now know that much of the delay with digitization surrounds crafting and developing detailed records to describe each digital item. The workshop will address issues from planning to quality control. Topics include: standards and principles, developing local policies and procedures, metadata record modeling, producing records and linking, testing and statistics.

Mary Alexander (Metadata Coordinator for the University of Alabama) will lead the seminar. Most recently, Ms. Alexander has assisted with two digital collections funded by grants from the Institute of Museum and Library Services: *Publisher's Bindings Online 1815-1930: the Art of Books and Alabama Mosaic*.

For more information on this workshop or CUS programs, please contact Paula Barnett-Ellis (pbarnett@jsu.edu).

If you have a great idea for a workshop, would like for your library to host an event, or have a particular expertise and interest in teaching a seminar, please let us know. We can't imagine a future in libraries without you.





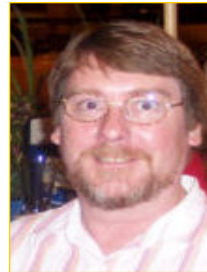
Auburn University

Meet the CUS Candidates for ALLA President

This year the candidates for ALLA president are Theresa Trawick and Jack Fitzpatrick. The candidates for ALLA president have been drawn from a CUS. Jack Fitzpatrick is the Information Technology Specialist at the Auburn University Libraries where he has been employed since the fall of 1992 when he graduated from Auburn with a B.S. In Mathematics.

He has been a member of the Alabama Library Association and its Paraprofessional and Technical

Services [& Systems] Round Tables since 1994 and has served as a moderator of each of those Round Tables.



Jack Fitzpatrick

He has been a member of the American Library Association since 1997 and is currently serving as a member of the Steering Committee of the Library Support Staff Interests Round Table by virtue of his position as Moderator-at-Large of that body. He is currently pursuing his MLIS as a Distance Ed. Student in the University of Alabama's Master's of Library Science and Information Studies Program.

(continued on p. 3)

Confessions of a New Librarian by Natasha Jenkins



Natasha Jenkins survived her first Information Literacy

Her first experience teaching library instruction was much anticipated, yet feared at the same time. She was to prepare and then deliver a series of sessions that would accomplish the goals of the Alabama State University library's Information Literacy Program: to enable students, faculty and staff to locate, evaluate, and use information effectively and ethically. She was certain she could achieve this, but there was one major hurdle she would have to overcome to get it accom-

plished.

Due to her inexplicable stage fright (she is a musician and loves to perform), she was extremely nervous as her first teaching session drew nearer. She was prepared as far as handouts and delivery of information were concerned. She knew exactly what examples she would use for each session, which databases she

would introduce to the classes, and she even knew what she was

going to wear. However, she had not prepared her mind to stand before a group of people her own age and convince them that she knew the information she was attempting to introduce to the

When the day and time arrived for the first session, a nervous, yet

well-prepared, first-time librarian stood before a class of twenty-five students to deliver an information literacy session

(continued on p.3)

CUS Words from the Chair—"Neighbors" by Ron Dial

I want to applaud the ALLA executive board for extending an invitation to the Mississippi Library Association to attend the annual convention. To those libraries around the state who tailored work and offered jobs to the disaster victims, one word seems appropriate: "Wow".

While witnessing the awesome power of Katrina and the courage of those affected by it, one theme kept surfacing; the concern of those people impacted for their neighbors. Statements like: 'My neighbors and I are going to stay

here and pick up the pieces' or 'The flood waters came and I broke into my neighbor's house; they had a second storey and that saved us.' Or 'I lost everything. I can rebuild, but I'm concerned about my neighbor.'

My mind wandered to the library community and the information arena. Media specialist, stewards of our public libraries, the information brokers, archives, book lovers, trustees, networks and liaisons, special practitioners, and my academic peers are first of all neighbors. We can't allow other

interests to fracture and lessen our common bond and make it seem like we have different local goals. In times of trouble, your Alabama library neighbors will be the ones to rally to your aid. You don't have to avoid involvement in national and international library associations to have a strong state library association. All we have to do is work together to be more than just pieces of a library puzzle. We have to envision all the types of librarians strengthened by the community boundary called Alabama. Join ALLA today!

"You don't have to avoid involvement in national and international library associations to have a strong state library association."

Library News

The **ALLA Board** has approved a motion to allow Mississippi Library Association members to attend the April conference at ALLA member registration cost

Kent Snowden has been named Director, Rosa Parks Library at Troy University-Montgomery campus. His first day will be Nov. 14. He is returning to his native Alabama after nearly 6 years as Head of Access Services at the Rod Library at the University of Northern Iowa.

Confessions (Continued from p. 2)

By the end of this first teaching experience, the nervousness was replaced with confidence. The students were receptive and appeared grateful for the learning experience. And little did they know, so did she.

Teaching my first Information Literacy session at Alabama

State University provided me

with a challenge. Although this experience began with anxiety, it went well and proved to be very calming and reassuring.

Surviving the challenges of this first teaching experience has given me the confidence I will need to achieve the goals of the program in my second, and my

future Information Literacy Instruction experiences.

Natasha Jenkins is a 2005 graduate and the Assistant Circulation Librarian at **Alabama State University**.

CUS candidates (Continued from p. 2)

While work and graduate study leave him little leisure, Mr. Fitzpatrick fills his free hours by reading science fiction on his porch while rescuing the local fauna from his cat.

Theresa C. Trawick is administrative coordinator of Lurleen B. Wallace Community College (LBWCC). She has had a richly diverse career in librarianship. Before coming to LBWCC, Mrs. Trawick served as a library technology consultant for the Alabama Public Library Service in Montgomery for five years. Over her nearly 20 years with Troy State University in Troy, Ala Mrs. Trawick held several positions, including Head of Reference and Collection Management. It is interesting to note that she was the first librarian

within the TSU system to be awarded tenure.

Her love of libraries began early with her childhood love of her local public library.



Theresa Trawick

Mrs. Trawick received her MLS from the University of Alabama in 1981 and started her career as a school librarian. She received her MLS from the University of Alabama in 1981 and started her career as a school

librarian.

Mrs. Trawick has been deeply involved with ALLA in various capacities. She has served as Executive Secretary (2005/2006), TSSRT Moderator (2005/2006) and CUS Public Relations (2004/2005) among many others. She has long been a member of ALA .

On a personal note, Mrs. Trawick and her husband, Lenny, who were married thirty-five years ago, are also the parents of Amanda and Zachary.



“.... [T]he goals of Alabama State University Library’s Information Literacy Program: to enable students, faculty and staff to locate, evaluate, and use information effectively and ethically.”



Lurleen B. Wallace Community College

Alabama Library Association

CUS Division

The CUS Division promotes library services and librarianship among ALLA and constituent association groups.

The mission of the CUS Division is to support its member libraries' needs for ongoing information in four critical areas; information resources, education, leadership and innovative practices.

CUS Division members represent committed library and information professionals and technical staffs at approximately thirty-nine (39) universities and colleges, sixty (60) two-year and technical colleges, and numerous special libraries with interests in business, science, medicine, energy, art, sports, and more!

Any member of ALLA is welcome [to become a member!](#)

Useful Links

[Free digital imaging tutorial](#)

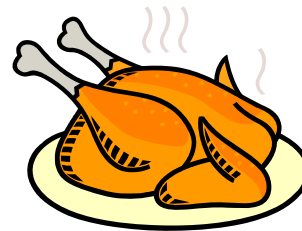
[Alabama's free online homework help](#)

[AVL News](#)

[Librarian's Date Book](#) (Conferences)

[ResourceShelf](#) (Information!)

Happy Thanksgiving



Your ALLA / CUS Division Officers



Chair: Ron Dial — Air University

Chair/Elect: Tyrone Webb— Bevill State Community College

Secretary: Bethany Skaggs— Jacksonville State University

Immediate Past Chair:

Robert Burkhardt— Athens State University

Member-at-Large for Projects: Jodi Poe — Jacksonville State University

Member-at-Large for Bylaws:

Jeffrey Luzius— Gadsden State Community College

Member-at-Large for Planning :

Margaret Alexander— Tuskegee University

Member-at-Large for Programs:

Paula Barnett-Ellis— Jacksonville State University

Committee Chairs:

[Colleen Valente](#), **Public Relations**

Bill Hubbard, **Publications**

Amy Prendergast, **Research**

Donna Chow, **Legislative Development**