

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.

ALLA COMMUNICATOR

FROM YOUR ALLA PRESIDENT

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Alabama librarians and library professionals' commitment to serving the public is a longtime tradition. This commitment is obvious in their daily interactions with patrons in libraries of all forms, shapes, and sizes. Each of us knows the importance of investing in our profession to ensure that citizens continue to have free and open access to information and resources via libraries. Numerous individuals throughout the state exemplify this service ideal, not only on the local level but also on the national scene. Assistant Professor and Coordinator of the University of Alabama's School of Library and Information Studies, Dr. Steven D. Yates exhibits a tireless work ethic and is currently serving as President of the American Association of School Librarians (AASL). LeeAnna Mills, Library Media Specialist at Northside Middle School in Tuscaloosa County, is a dedicated professional who serves her students daily and also manages to find time to be a part of the AASL National Conference 2017 Committee. Emmet O'Neal's Teen Librarian, Matthew Layne, not only provides exceptional programming for his patrons, but he also serves on the Young Adult Library Services Association's 2018 Best Fiction for Young Adults Committee, all while representing librarians from Central Alabama as ALLA's Member-At-Large. And, of course, these names also come to mind: Zenobia Blackmon, Deborah Fout, Laura Pitts, Pat Scales, and Chris Schaffer. As winners of our Association Awards in 2017, they are models of putting service into action as a part of their daily responsibilities. I wish I could name and thank every librarian who demonstrates a commitment to service, but please join me in making an effort to thank those with whom we come in contact.



As I think about service, I must address the recent devastation caused by Hurricanes Harvey and Irma. Thankfully, our state was spared much of the major damage with which our friends in nearby states are dealing. Many libraries in these areas will be recovering and rebuilding in the coming months and years. The Alabama Library Association's (ALLA) Disaster Relief Fund is in place for such times of need within our own state. On the national level, the American Library Association (ALA) has resources available to libraries who may be facing a disaster and for citizens who wish to serve and assist libraries facing disasters. Please visit ALA's Helping Libraries page for more information, and always know that your library can reach out to ALLA in times of need.

Regards,

Sonya Jordan
Alabama Library Association
President, 2017-2018

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Alabama Library Association

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CALL FOR NOMINATIONS: ALABAMA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION AWARDS

Do you know a librarian, paraprofessional, or library supporter in the state of Alabama who has done something great this year? Nominate him or her for an Alabama Library Association Award! The deadline for nominations for this year's awards will be **DECEMBER 15th, 2017**. Please fill out the attached nomination form and return it to melcheras@montevallo.edu. The form may also be found on the Alabama Library Association website at <http://www.allanet.org/association-awards>.

The Paraprofessional Award

The Paraprofessional Award shall be 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 Alabama.

Eminent Librarian Award

The Eminent Librarian Award shall be presented to a librarian or an individual in a related field who has been in Alabama for a minimum of ten (10) years and who, during this time, has made an exceptional and enduring contribution toward the development of library service within Alabama.

Merit Award

The Merit Award shall be presented to an organization, group, or body of persons, which has made a significant contribution toward the development of library service within Alabama.

Distinguished Service Award

The Distinguished Service Award shall be 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 Alabama.

Humanitarian Award

The Humanitarian Award shall be presented to a person or an organization that has made a substantial contribution toward the development or improvement of a library or libraries within Alabama.

ALABAMA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION AWARDS *CONTINUED*

Public Servant Award

The Public Servant Award shall be 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 Alabama during the exercise of said party's service.

Library Roll of Honor

The Library Roll of Honor recognizes and honors librarians native to or closely associated with the State of Alabama who have made significant contributions to librarianship in Alabama. For a person to be so honored, he or she must have been a practicing librarian in Alabama. The award is made primarily on the basis of contributions made to librarianship in Alabama but the overall career should also be considered.

Intellectual Freedom Award

The Intellectual Freedom Award shall be presented to an individual or group who exemplify the spirit of intellectual freedom. Evidence of such spirit might include documentation of their having written policies or procedures supporting intellectual freedom, having conducted educational programs on the subject in their locale, or otherwise having made an impact in opposing censorship and supporting intellectual freedom.

ALLA CONVENTION PROPOSALS

Submitted by Gloria Repolesk

We are excited to put out the request for the ALLA Annual Convention 2018 "Play by Ear" program proposals. If you are doing something fun, exciting, or innovative, we would love for you to submit a proposal. The Convention will be on April 10-13.

Please submit your proposal by December 15th. Proposals can be submitted through the following link: <https://goo.gl/forms/TKPYcRKJQhaCTKq93>

If you have any questions, please contact Gloria Repolesk at grepolesk@gmail.com.

GET INVOLVED

ALLA Divisions:

CSLD
*Children's and School Library
Division*

CUS
*College, University and Special
Libraries*

PLD
Public Library Division

ALLA Roundtables:

ALIRT
Alabama Library Instruction

CDMRT
*Collection Development and
Management*

GODORT
Government Documents

MCRT
Multicultural Information

PART
Paraprofessional

RASRT
Reference and Adult Services

TSSRT
Technical Services & Systems

YASRT
Young Adult Services

ALLA Committees:

Association Awards
Authors Awards
Bibliographic
Budget & Finance
Bylaws
Convention
Education
Emeritus Council
(Formerly Past Presidents)
Employee Evaluation
Handbook
Intellectual Freedom
Legislative Development
Membership
Nominating
Planning
Public Relations
Publications

To get involved with an ALLA Committee, fill out the Committee Interest form at:

<https://goo.gl/forms/tS79Dq6YqFbjjS812>

TSSRT SEEKS PROGRAM PROPOSALS

Submitted by Emily K. Allee, Moderator TSSRT

The Technical Services & Systems Round Table (TSSRT) is seeking proposals for one of our two programs to be held at the 2018 Alabama Library Association Annual Convention in Florence, AL on April 10-13, 2018.

We are looking for presenters and/or panelists who are willing to share their experiences or innovations in technical services and systems work.

Possible presentation topics include:

- Using new controlled vocabularies or metadata schemes to serve your unique users.
- Fostering greater understanding and cooperation between technical and public services.
- Utilizing a variety of cataloging resources, tools, and shortcuts.
- Training para-professionals.

Not sure if your project / idea / experience is applicable? Submit it anyway!

Submit your proposal by December 5th, at <https://goo.gl/forms/M3m9VzVRxHWUGzdS2>.

If you have any questions, please email me at ekallee@bham.lib.al.us.

Thanks,
Emily K. Allee, Moderator, TSSRT

MEMBER-AT-LARGE, CENTRAL ALABAMA

Submitted by Matt Layne

Matt Layne is your ALLA Member at Large representative for the central region of the state. Matt is the young adult librarian at The Emmet O'Neal Library in Mountain Brook. He started his library career as a storyteller for the Birmingham Public Library system, and he is in his 10th year as a teen librarian. Matt has served on the Morris Awards Committee for debut authors for YALSA, and he is in his second year of service on the Best Fiction for Young Adults Committee for YALSA.



In his spare time, Matt serves as the chair of Bare Hands Gallery, Board of Directors which creates Birmingham's Day of the Dead Festival each year, and he is a passionate advocate for poetry and spoken word in the Birmingham arts community. If you have any concerns, comments, or questions, you would like to be brought before the ALLA Executive Council and you live in the central region, you can reach Matt at mlayne@bham.lib.al.us.

PLD 2018 MINI-CONFERENCE KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Submitted by Heather Cover, Special Projects Librarian, Homewood Public Library

Catherine Hakala-Ausperk has been confirmed as the keynote speaker for the 2018 PLD Winter Mini-Conference. Hakala-Ausperk is the author of *Renew Yourself: A Six-Step Plan for More Meaningful Work* (ALA Editions, 2017) and has over 30 years of experience in public and academic libraries. She is currently the owner operator of Libraries Thrive Consulting



(librariesthrive.com), through which she works "with libraries around the country on strategic planning, leadership development, team building, communication skills, exceptional services and more." As a consultant and trainer, Hakala-Ausperk's goal "is to facilitate growth, motivation, and success."

Hakala-Ausperk started her library career at the Cuyhoga County Public Library in Ohio, where she worked as a circulation clerk, in reference, and finally as the Regional Adult Services Manager during her nineteen years there. She moved on to the Cleveland Heights – University Heights Public Library, where she served as Deputy Director for eight years, then to Northeast Ohio Regional Library System, where she spent almost five years as the Executive Director (Director of Success). In 2007 she started Libraries Thrive Consulting and became an Adjunct Instructor for Kent State University School of Information, a position she still holds. Hakala-Ausperk is also an instructor for the American Library Association's Certified Public Library Administrator (CPLA) program, where she teaches both "Organization & Personnel Administration" and "Current Issues" courses.

Winter Mini-Conference breakout sessions are in the planning stages and more information will be released in the coming months. The 2018 PLD Winter Mini-Conference will be held on Friday, January 26, 2018. Registration information will be distributed in December, 2017. This annual training and networking event, hosted by Homewood Public Library, is well known for having first-rate keynote speakers and timely, informative breakout sessions. With the addition of Catherine Hakala-Ausperk, the 2018 PLD Winter Mini-Conference is on track to once again present a day of enjoyable, high quality training for librarians across the state.

ALABAMA ACRL REQUESTS YOUR FEEDBACK

Submitted by Jessica Hayes, Head of Public Services Librarian, AUM Library

The Alabama Association of College & Research Libraries needs your feedback on the type continuing education/training opportunities you would like to have offered from our organization. These are usually inexpensive (if not free!) and open to all types of libraries. Please let us know what you would like to see available through [our survey!](#)

Questions? Contact Jessica Hayes: Phone: [334-244-3814](tel:334-244-3814) Email: jhayes11@aum.edu

SNAPSHOT DAY 2017

#SnapShotDayAL17

Submitted by Stephanie Taylor, Library Consultant, APLS

Snapshot Day Alabama is a way for libraries to capture a day in the life of a public library and show how essential they are to their communities. Participating libraries collect photos, statistics, and patron comments to use in their advocacy efforts and raise awareness. Fifty-three public libraries shared their day with APLS. Here is a snippet of what they shared:

53 libraries informed us of their participation in Snapshot Day Alabama 2017. Those libraries reported the following statistics:

Total Visits – 13,888

Number of people that received job assistance – 606

Reference questions answered – 1,772

Items circulated – 13,817

Program attendees – 1,294

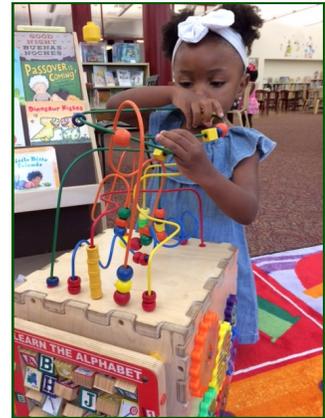
Number of people that used a computer – 3,893

Patrons were asked to fill out comment cards that asked “Why is the library important to you?” Here are some of my favorite comments:

Ashville Public Library: It has allowed me the opportunity to have a volunteer position that teaches me a new trade to better myself.

Columbiana Public Library: Place to explore, learn, and gain new friends – young or old doesn’t matter.

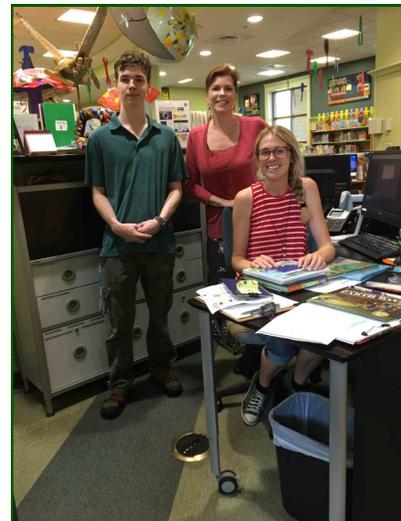
Enterprise Public Library: The personnel are always welcoming and knowledgeable. Even as directors change, the library has stayed consistent and the staff always go the extra mile. Although Enterprise is a small town, we have a great library with great selection, which, as a reader, I appreciate. Being able to check out movies is also a great service.



Mobile Public Library



Above: Cherokee Public Library. Snorkeling at the Selfie Station. Right: Fairhope Public Library.



SNAPSHOT DAY 2017 *CONTINUED*

Fairhope Public Library: "...We are fortunate in Fairhope to have such a high quality – well run library. To all the people who work in the library thank you for all you do to make our library the most outstanding."

Foley Public Library: "This is my favorite place in Foley. Everyone is so friendly and helpful."

Oneonta Public Library: The library is important to me because I am in my vehicle 4-6 hours a day and I check out audio books to listen to. So far this year I have saved almost \$4,000 yes four thousand dollars by checking out audio books from the library rather than buying them!

Spanish Fort Public Library: Literacy is one of the most important assets people possess. Printed books are special – you can shut out distraction as you turn the page.

Slocomb Public Library: It is important because it serves as a resource in the community that many individuals can't afford to purchase in their own homes. And it shows that our community has a heart for those people.

HOOVER LIBRARY HOSTS 3RD ANNUAL SCIFI/FANTASY FEST

By Krysten Griffin, Librarian in the Fiction Department

3,015 people attended the 3rd Annual SciFi/Fantasy Fest at Hoover Library, July 28-30, 2017. The weekend's special guests included actor John Anderson and D&D podcasters Sneak Attack. Also on offer were scores of panels on a variety of fan favorites from comics and movies to cosplay and gaming. Dozens of local artists, artisans and authors had their wares for sale and the Fest offered a Hoover Library-exclusive breakout room for attendees to try and beat. Once again, the costume contest was a big hit, and authors, artists, and professional cosplayers from around the region came to showcase their work.



Left: Attendees browse tables at the SciFi/Fantasy Fest held at Hoover Library. Right: Actor John Anderson poses for a photo with the giant T-rex.

JINA DUVERNAY RECEIVES BCALA TRAVEL GRANT

Submitted by Taylor Gaston Kirby

Access Services Humanities Librarian, Alabama State University



DuVernay posing with her poster, "My First Year as an Academic Librarian."

highlighted activities included a showing of the documentary *13th* at the Capri Theatre in Montgomery, with a panel presentation in partnership with the Equal Justice Initiative, a poetry reading and book signing event for Dr. Jacqueline Trimble, a panel discussion of the film *Birth of a Nation*, as well as the development of a Special Collections Book Club meeting once a semester.

This was DuVernay's first time attending a library conference. The opportunity "to listen to everybody's stories about how they fell into the profession was really interesting." She also enjoyed looking at the research of others in the field.

The keynote was preceded by an all female African drum ensemble, followed by the singing of the Negro National Anthem. Tom Joyner, a nationally syndicated radio host of the Tom Joyner Morning Show, as well as the founder of Reach Media, Inc., The Tom Joyner Foundation, BlackAmericaWeb.com served as the event's keynote speaker.

DuVernay described the overall experience as "culturally specific" and "warm."

Jina DuVernay, Special Collections Librarian at Alabama State University, earned one of five \$1,000 travel grants for librarians early in the profession awarded by the Black Caucus of the American Library Association, to attend the 10th National Conference of African American Libraries held in Atlanta, Georgia, August 9-13.

DuVernay presented a poster session on Friday of the conference entitled, "My First Year as an Academic Librarian," as well as a power point presentation on the same topic.

DuVernay earned her grant by presenting on how her work as a librarian "addressed an identified community need, provided an innovative approach to service and had a measurable impact or improvement in service." Her



DuVernay presenting at the 10th National Conference of African American Libraries.

ALBERT L. SCOTT LIBRARY HOSTS CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

Submitted by Frances Smith, Youth Services Librarian

Lego® League, Homeschool Happenings , Pete the Cat Book Club, American Girls Club, and *Magic Tree House Passport* are some of the fantastic events hosted by the Albert L. Scott Library in Alabaster this fall.



Homeschool students with APT director Roger Reid.

Writing about Science" is easier for several students who attended Homeschool Happening featuring award winning writer and television producer Roger Reid on September 11 at the Albert L. Scott Library in Alabaster. Reid is the three-time Emmy award winning writer, producer, and director of the Alabama Public Television series *Discovering Alabama* and the author of the young adult novels *Longleaf*, *Space*, and *Time*. He gave writing tips, showed his personal sixth grade writing journal (advising to never throw away writing), and read from one of his novels.



Above Left: Creativity and imagination on the loose at Lego® League. Right: Participants dancing the "Cool Cat Boogie" at the Pete the Cat Book Club. Below Left: Young pirates pose at the Magic Treehouse Passport to Adventure program. Below Right: American Girls Club performing "Annoying Annabelle: A Play 1774."



COMMUNICATOR SUBMISSIONS

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 and Phone
- Article in PDF or Word
- .jpg images may be attached
- Description of images

ALLA-COMMunicator Publishing Schedule

| Edition | Submission Deadline | Publication Date |
|--------------|---------------------|------------------|
| Jul/Aug/Sep | June 16 | July |
| Oct/Nov/Dec | Sep. 15 | October |
| Jan/Feb/Mar | Dec. 15 | January |
| Apr/May/June | March 16 | April |

UPCOMING EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETINGS

December 8, 2017
10 AM—12 PM
APLS
6030 Monticello Dr.
Montgomery, AL 36117

March 9, 2018
10 AM—12 PM
APLS
6030 Monticello Dr.
Montgomery, AL 36117

2018 CONVENTION

April 10-13, 2018

“Play by Ear”
Muscle Shoals, AL

FROM THE EDITOR

My apologies for the delayed second issue! Unfortunately life got in the way. The upcoming issue is already in progress, so here’s to timely publications in future.



Thank you for your submissions. Please keep them coming! If you include pictures with your submissions, please also provide a description. I will do my best to incorporate as much as possible into each quarterly issue of the ALLA-COMMunicator.

What exciting things are happening at your libraries? Who stands out amongst your employees? What issues are you confronted with that need addressed? What solutions to common issues would you like to share? Has someone won an award? Presented at a conference? Earned a promotion or tenure?

The Alabama Library Association wants to hear from you! Submission guidelines can be found in the left-hand sidebar.

ITEMS OF NOTE

- The ALLA Website Migration is complete! Thanks to Jodi Poe and Angela Moore for a smooth transition.
- Alabama Library Association Government Documents Roundtable has a new newsletter, the [GODART Connection](#). Be sure to check it out!
- ALLA Membership Renewal time is coming soon. For more information, please visit the [ALLA Membership](#) page.
- ALA Midwinter Meeting, Denver, CO: February 9-13, 2018
- Legislative Day
- 2018 ALLA Convention, “Play by Ear” April 10-13, Muscle Shoals, Alabama.

