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GLA GLQ  
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# GLO

GEORGIA LIBRARY QUARTERLY



VOLUME 58 NUMBER 4 FALL 2021

# GLA SPOTLIGHT

## Hall County Library System Gainesville Library

The [Gainesville Library](#) serves as the headquarters for the [Hall County Library System](#) and consists of approximately 37,500 square feet on two levels. This building was originally constructed in 1969 at 28,900 square feet and was intended to serve as a tornado shelter after a historically tragic category 5 tornado destroyed most of downtown Gainesville in 1936.

In 2016, Special Local Operation Sales Tax (SPLOST) funds were allocated to begin the renovation and expansion of the Gainesville Library. The state of Georgia later matched this with a \$2 million grant and supplements from local impact fees. This \$5 million renovation and new addition consisted of redesigning the entire building to accommodate the exponential amount of growth in the local community and surrounding areas. During the planning phase of the project, community focus groups and stakeholders were surveyed on their top priorities for the new



renovation. Their most frequently requested changes and improvements were more space for youth services, places for meetings and small group work, better lighting, and a more secure local history room.

The biggest challenge of the project was figuring out how to add the necessary square footage. The Gainesville Library is landlocked just off the downtown square. Parking in the vibrant downtown area is a struggle, so no parking areas could be sacrificed. The solution was to build out in the airspace behind the back of the building, which also created a nice, covered parking area.



Additions to the building include five new study rooms, a dedicated children's programming room named for Georgia's former first lady Sandra Deal, a more spacious youth services area, a 14-seat conference room, and a large community room. Energy efficiency was improved by replacing 50-year-old glass throughout the building with thick and efficient window panes. LED lighting was also installed to replace old fluorescent fixtures. Existing

shelving was repainted and renovated to decrease waste.

One feature that was not removed was the beloved signature spiral staircase; the Hall County community demanded that it remain in place. This beautiful piece of the original architecture received a much-needed facelift but is still the heart of the library. In addition, the original aged and dated exterior of the library has now been covered with a state-of-the-art Alucobond metal panel system featuring a combination of metal and wood-look finishes to ensure that it stands the test of time. These panels are broken up by large-scale glass fully

surrounding the building to allow for an increase in natural light throughout. New landscaping and exterior lighting were also added to the façade for a complete transformation and beautiful addition to the Hall County community that is nestled in the popular downtown square.

The architects for the Gainesville Library project were BCA Studios with interior design by Vivre Interiors. The project was constructed by Scroggs & Grizzle Contracting, Inc. For more information about the Gainesville Library, visit [www.hallcountylibrary.org](http://www.hallcountylibrary.org).



## GLA SPOTLIGHT

### Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine Library Hotspot Lending Program

There is no doubt that the COVID-19 Pandemic has hit students hard. The Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine (PCOM) Georgia student community experienced sudden lifestyle adjustments such as reduced income sources, which affected the acquisition of necessities like food, housing, and transportation. During this unique period, many students suddenly found themselves in need of stable and affordable internet access to attend classes. The PCOM Library decided to tackle this item by implementing a hotspot lending program with the goal of removing a barrier to student success during this difficult time.

In August of 2020, the PCOM Library applied for and received a \$15,000 grant from the National Library of Medicine (NLM) to purchase the initial batch of hotspots. In September of 2020, the library acquired 11 hotspot devices through

Mobile Beacon, a service that specializes in providing hotspots to nonprofit organizations such as libraries. A team of library staff, led by Barbara Wood, MLIS, administered the hotspot lending program across their three campus libraries. Interested students were invited to fill out a survey to determine need, and hotspots

were distributed to students based on those results. Each hotspot loan lasted for one term in the hope that as many students as possible would be able to take advantage of the program.

The response from the student community to this initiative was enthusiastic. By the end of fall term 2020, the PCOM Library already had a waiting list of students hoping to participate in the spring; for both fall and spring terms, all hotspots were checked out. The PCOM Library plans to expand the program for

the upcoming academic year by adding seven hotspots to the collection.

To learn more about the library and its programs, visit the library website at <https://library.pcom.edu/>



# GLA SPOTLIGHT

## University of West Georgia Ingram Library's LibraryDen

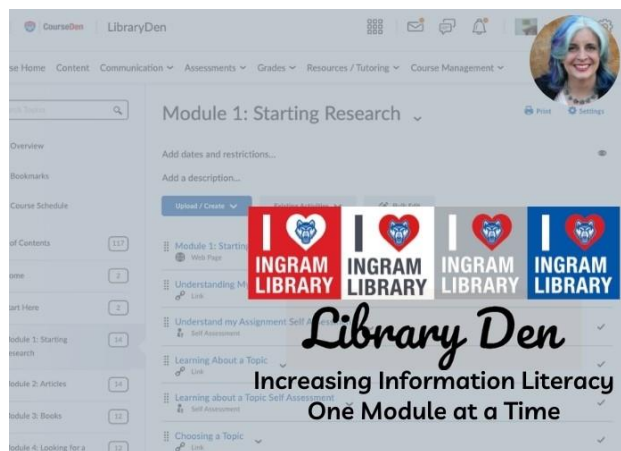
The University of West Georgia (UWG) Ingram Library is the winner of the 2021 American Library Association Library Instruction Roundtable (ALA-LIRT) Innovation in Instruction Award. The award was in recognition of LibraryDen, an online asynchronous information literacy course, created by a small team from Ingram Library and led by Anne Barnhart.

In March 2020 when all University System of Georgia (USG) schools moved online due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, libraries worked to critically examine how they could address the needs of students via online resources. While the University of West Georgia had an existing array of offerings for students seeking real-time help, students needed more asynchronous online options besides the Library DIY tutorials that had been recently adapted for Ingram Library's website. With that in mind, a small team from the library set out to fill the gap. They organized a subset of Library DIY content focusing on basic research skills and grouped it thematically into modules with self-assessments and module-level quizzes using the Desire2Learn Learning Management System (LMS) platform. Employees from various library departments wrote the assessment questions, and student workers (who during COVID were dispersed across the globe—including one who was back home in Spain) were employed as testers to provide feedback on content flow,

question clarity, and the amount of time necessary to complete the different sections. When these students finished testing LibraryDen, they also unanimously agreed on the utility of the course for UWG students. In less than four months, LibraryDen was being promoted to faculty, and was piloted in several courses in the fall.

Assessment data from fall 2020 show a mean

increase of 11.99% in students' scores from the pre-test to the post-test, with a median of 13.59%. In spring 2021, both the mean and median showed a 26% increase, demonstrating that LibraryDen is a valuable pedagogical tool. Anonymous student feedback indicated that students also see the



value in completing LibraryDen; 86.29% in fall 2020 and 81.39% in spring 2021 agreed or strongly agreed with the statement, "LibraryDen is useful to me as a UWG student." Furthermore, 75.8% in fall and 70.69% in spring said that they would recommend it to friends and classmates.

Ingram Library licensed LibraryDen with a Creative Commons license (CC BY-NC-SA 4.0) in hopes that other libraries will build upon this work. Anne Barnhart, the project's team leader, discussed the project when she received the award during the ALA 2021 annual conference. She is also in dialog with academic librarians in Mexico about collaborating on crowdsourcing linguistic and cultural translations of both Library DIY and LibraryDen to create a template for libraries throughout Latin America.

ALA Press Release:

<http://www.ala.org/news/press-releases/2021/04/ingram-library-university-west-georgia-chosen-lirt-2021-innovation>

You can learn more about the LibraryDen at

<https://libguides.westga.edu/LibraryDen>.



## *From the* PRESIDENT

Thanks to all of you who were able to attend the 2021 Georgia Libraries Conference (GLC)! It was truly a wonderful event, expertly produced by the GLC Conference Committee. My appreciation to that entire team, led by Kara Rumble, for making it a success! As we look forward to seeing you in Macon on October 12–14, 2022, the goal is to keep the best parts of the virtual experience as we transition back to in-person conferences next year.

At the conference, I was able to present the Presidential Commendation to two of our association's shining stars: Benjamin Bryson and Angela Glowcheski. Given annually at the discretion of the Georgia Library Association (GLA) president, the commendation is a way to recognize excellent service to the association over the previous year. In both cases, these individuals have demonstrated great commitment to GLA over several years.

Benjamin Bryson has served as treasurer of the Georgia Library Association since 2019. When he was first elected to the role in 2018, none of us knew what the world would look like three years later. He has deftly navigated these changes, making sure the budgets stayed up to date even when the conference was switched from in-person to virtual last year. He has been such a great support to each of the presidents he has served; Ben's calm demeanor and clear understanding of the financial picture of GLA gave us all a great deal of confidence in the future of our association.

Angela Glowcheski has served as chair of the Advocacy Committee for the last two years and is also serving the first of three years as American Library Association (ALA) chapter

councilor. Her advocacy work has built bridges with our sister association, the Georgia Library Media Association (GLMA) and led to several inroads with other state and national organizations. In a world where our combined voices make a stronger case, Angela has forged a path for strategic collaboration. She'll continue to make us proud as she represents GLA on the ALA Council.

Congratulations to our newly elected 2022 officers! Michele Bennet-Copeland will be the vice-president/president elect, with Rebecca Ballard stepping up for a two-year term as vice president of membership, Justin Nobles will begin his three-year term as treasurer, and Kelly Williams will be the next secretary for GLA.

Starting January 1, 2022, they join our incoming President Karen Manning and vice president of marketing and branding Marquita Gooch-Voyd on the GLA Executive Board.

Rotating off the Executive Board are Janice Shipp, the current vice president of membership, and secretary, Jean Mead. Janice has overseen one of the largest increases in GLA membership, thanks in no small part to her tireless efforts. I can only hope that she'll stay involved with GLA in the coming years. Jean Mead has been a great help as secretary this year, and I wish her the best in her future endeavors.

ALA Councilor Tamika Barnes is also completing her second term in that role for GLA, with the thanks of several GLA presidents. Angela Glowcheski will be taking over these duties next year, after shadowing Tamika this year.



We're also saying goodbye to the long-time editor of this publication: Virginia (Ginny) Feher. Ginny has decided to retire from both her fulfilling library career and her *Georgia Library Quarterly (GLQ)* role. She has molded and shaped the *Georgia Library Quarterly* for the better part of a decade, having served in every capacity, starting as associate editor and peer-review coordinator and quickly moving into the editor role. In an age of dwindling association publications, her tireless work has kept *GLQ*

relevant and timely. We wish Ginny all the best in her next chapter!

GLA is strengthened by the efforts, time, and attention of its volunteers. This association works because they do!

Wendy Cornelisen  
President, Georgia Library Association 2021  
[president@georgialibraryassociation.org](mailto:president@georgialibraryassociation.org)



## *From the* EDITOR

I am honored to have had the opportunity to serve as editor of the *Georgia Library Quarterly* (GLQ) since the fall 2013 issue, but I have retired from the workforce, and it is time to hand off the GLQ editorship. (And, yes, I am one of those boomer pandemic early retirees.) This is my final issue as editor of GLQ. I will serve as editor emeritus for a short while to help in the transition.

Ashley Hoffman of Kennesaw State University Library System will take over as editor with the winter 2022 issue. Ashley has been a member of the editorial board since 2017 and the associate editor since 2018. I am grateful to Ashley for taking on this responsibility and know that I leave the journal in good hands.

This past year, Ashley and I have worked to expand the editorial board to include a peer review board and have worked on creating documentation with other editorial board members to ensure continuity and stability. In addition, we have focused on building a diverse and capable editorial staff that represents all of Georgia.

Publishing a journal is truly a group effort, and I greatly appreciated the hard work and dedication of the GLQ editorial staff over the years, as well as the contributions of our authors.

I am grateful to everyone who has served on the GLQ editorial board during my term, too many to list them all. But I would like to single

out my former supervisor and mentor, Fay Verburg. Fay was one of our longest-serving members of the editorial board, both as the book review editor and as a copy editor. Fay's professionalism, along with her depth of knowledge and experience, helped me greatly early in my career as a librarian, and as a newly minted editor.

While I will no longer be working in libraries or be involved in the Georgia Library Association, you may see me some time at a Georgia Libraries Conference. Not at a session, nor at a speaker event, but instead spending time with the dear and wonderful friends that I have made while involved in the Georgia Library Association.

I hope that if you are not already involved, you will consider getting involved in the Georgia Library Association. Without GLA, my library career would have been lacking. In particular, GLQ kept me grounded and provided me with a haven of creativity that sustained me during both good and challenging times. There are many ways to be involved in GLA, and I encourage you to attend the GLA Midwinter conference to explore opportunities or check the website at <https://gla.georgialibraries.org/>.

And, like the cover of this issue says, please read the *Georgia Library Quarterly*!

Thank you,  
Virginia Feher  
Editor, *Georgia Library Quarterly*

## *My Own* PRIVATE LIBRARY

After focusing on cataloging during my MLIS degree, one would probably assume that I'm a diehard Dewey fan and a stickler for the meticulous organization of my shelves. Certainly, in the library I'm a firm adherent to organization, but as for my personal shelves, things are a bit more...chaotic. My secret is that I have absolutely no method of where to place my books. If I'm being honest, I don't even orient them all the same way. Regency romance mingles with Appalachian Trail guides; feminist theory works press up against adventure sci-fi; pristine hardbacks are thrown together with ratty flea market paperbacks. And if things weren't chaotic enough for you yet, all 14 of Robert Jordan's *Wheel of Time* series are sprinkled randomly throughout. I've been "reading" this series for the past nine years, promising myself every January that this would be the year to finish—yet they continue to languish on my shelves.



My sister recently asked me, "why on Earth do you do this to your books?" Despite the confusion it entails, I truly love the mess that is my shelves. To cram them all in, my single-level shelf actually has a second row of books behind the first. Bookception, if you will. Not knowing where anything is means I must sort through my books every time I'm looking for something, which sounds annoying, but actually keeps me in touch with all of my books. Without fail, I'll always find something I forgot I owned, or a book that fits my mood perfectly, or a book that sparks a good memory. Speaking of memories, one of the few children's books I have is a

signed copy of Avi's *The End of the Beginning*. My mom took me to a signing of his when I was around 10 years old, the first book event I ever attended. My mom passed away a while ago, and just looking at this book reminds me so strongly of her. If I had to choose just one, this would probably be the book I would keep.

Somewhere on the shelf (no telling where) is my one poetry book, Pablo Neruda's *Love Poems*. My adoration for it is clear from the dog-eared pages, marked-up stanzas, and severely broken spine. Rarely is it that I find a book that moves me enough to write in the pages, but I could not resist writing down all my thoughts about these gorgeous words. My love for these poems grew even further when my boyfriend read his favorites out loud to me in the original Spanish. It's safe to say that I find this book even more romantic than my actual romance novels. Despite romance being my favorite

genre, I have surprisingly little of it on my shelves. My one romance title is Amalie Howard's *The Rakehell of Roth*, a trade paperback with, in my opinion, a beautiful cover, but that my hairdresser called "smutty" when she saw me reading it while having my hair dyed.

The one thing I keep organized is the stack I call my excitement pile. I keep this stack on the top of my bookcase for easier access, keeping the books that top my to-read list in easy reach. The most recent addition to this pile is Richard Gilman-Opalsky's *The Communism of Love: An*

*Inquiry into the Poverty of Exchange Value*, a gem I found at my favorite feminist bookstore in Atlanta.

I have to admit, I have an obscene number of *Gone with the Wind* copies dominating my limited space. Even after a major book culling earlier this year, I have a whopping seven copies: four in English, a German edition sent from a friend after they returned home from their study abroad, an Icelandic edition my mother purchased for me at a flea market in Iceland, and a Hungarian edition from an old coworker from her trips back home to Budapest. I first read *Gone with the Wind* at age 12 and tore through all 1,037 pages in three days. Needless to say, I was in love with the story. Scarlett's bullheaded tenacity and the descriptions of beautiful ball gowns drew me back to the story over and over and over—I've read this book at least 200 times. But looking back on these copies today, especially given our current social climate, I can't help but cringe. This is less my guilty pleasure book and more



my book of shame. The extreme racism and classism Mitchell tosses about so casually is painful to read now, but I am still captivated by the exceptional storytelling. Despite the feeling of unease and disappointment this shelf brings me, it also reminds me of how far I've come, both as a reader and as a person. When I first fell in love with this story, I was a kid who wanted Scarlett to run after Rhett. But as I learned more about the world and my feminist values, I now can recognize this book for what it is: a product of its time that revolves around inexcusable hate and prejudice. Can I still love it? Absolutely! That's why all those books are still on my shelf, even if I do occasionally give them the side-eye. But the more important reason those books remain in my library is the reminder they serve: I have grown as a person and my days of mindlessly consuming media are, shall we say, gone with the wind.

*Brooke West is Library Associate at Gwinnett County Public Library*

## PEER REVIEWED

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### The Inked Experience: Professionalism and Body Modifications in Libraries

By Manda Sexton, Samantha Reardon, Jennifer Carter, and Matthew Foley

Several librarians gathered at the lunch table on an average Wednesday. The conversation drifted to an earlier meeting in which one staff member delivered a new software instruction. “But did you see all her tattoos?” one librarian noted, curiously. “Isn’t it funny how that has become acceptable over such a short amount of time?” The table, however, was divided on this statement. Are visible tattoos considered professional in American culture?

The existence of tattoos, piercings, and dyed hair have become more and more commonplace in modern, Western society. While the Pew Research Institute reported 23% of Americans had at least one tattoo in 2010 (Pew Research Center, 2010), that number had almost doubled to 44% by 2019 (Statista, 2019). The acceptance of a tattooed, pierced, or otherwise body-modified individual within the customer service fields has been of great controversy. For example, Marie Ozanne, Michael Tews, and Anna Mattila’s article, “Are tattoos still a taboo?” (2019) looked closely at the impact of customer perceptions regarding tattoos within the workplace, particularly restaurant servers.

Despite the relatively healthy amount of literature regarding customer service-oriented fields, research involving libraries has been historically underrepresented. To grow this body of research, our research team set out to examine the perception of the professionalism of body modifications, particularly visible tattoos, facial piercings—aside from ears—and hair dyed an unnatural color, among those who work in the different types of libraries. We

initially divided our research participants into three user groups: library users, library practitioners, and library administrators. After investigating the perceptions of the individual groups, we then looked toward the relationship between the role of the participant and their acceptance of the professionalism of these body modifications, dividing the groups of practitioners and administrators by their affiliated groups, including academic, public, special, government, and other libraries. To this extent, we will dive deeper not only into the general sense of body modification acceptance of professional librarianship, but also the reasons people may feel body modifications may be appropriate or inappropriate given the many circumstances.

#### Literature Review

##### *Tattoos in the Workplace*

While the process of tattooing has been around for centuries and in nearly every human culture, the amount of professional literature on tattoos has been limited—though steadily growing—since the 1980s and 90s in Western-focused scholarly conversations. Some of the first instances of the scholarly conversation regarding tattoos and the workplace included psychologists, medical doctors, and sociologists discussing the effects prison tattoos could have on the future employment of the ex-prisoner. The researchers focused their time on creating coping methodologies and possible removal techniques as it was an understood—and unsaid—“truth” that tattoos would be considered a problem in the workplace



(Ferguson-Rayport, et al., 1955; Newman, 1982; Anderson, 1992; Armstrong & Gabriel, 1993).

The idea of tattoos and piercings being a natural antithesis to success in the workplace began to be challenged around the mid-1990s, most notably in the healthcare fields. Bekhor, Bekhor, and Gandrabur (1995) questioned employers' attitudes toward tattooed employees. Their study asked employers (n=308) whether they would favor an untattooed potential employee over a tattooed one. With some fluctuation depending on the industry, the study confirmed the hiring bias against those with visible tattoos, though not to the degree the discussion of the article may have intended. In fact, four of their eight industries concluded hiring managers would not favor an untattooed individual over a tattooed one. Those industries that did, however, weighted the findings towards the unacceptance of tattooed potential employees due to their extreme differences in answers. Though the study did find potential hiring bias, it also demonstrated a change in the hiring landscape during the 90s era.

With some relevant exceptions (Miller, et.al., 2009; Swanger, 2006; Dean, 2010), the study of visible body modifications in the workplace or employment slowed in the scholarly field until a revival in the mid-2010s. By this point in Western history, authors began to question the previously understated discrimination against those with tattoos and other body modifications. Flanagan and Lewis (2018) explored this shift. With a healthy sample of participants (n=446), the researchers sought the opinions of tattooed professionals in the four industries of food service, education, medical, and professional athletics, as well as two employee workplace categories, coworkers and supervisors. Their study found:

Many industries are becoming much more tolerant, and expectations for what is taboo in certain roles are changing ... Visible tattoos are becoming more common in the workplace than ever

before; attitudes are shifting, stigmas are changing and acceptance of differences in the workplace dynamics and what is deemed workplace norms are being established. (p. 102)

Some of the latest literature has begun to look less at the overall acceptance of tattoos, piercings, and dyed hair, and focus on times in which one may be more appropriate over another. For instance, Tews and Stafford (2020) found that the employees with "dark" tattoo content—such as threatening in nature—received less favorable treatment than their fellow tattooed employees. Likewise, tattoo number was related to increased perceived discrimination. However, strangely, the tattoo number was also related to increased annual earnings, signaling a possible benefit despite the perceived discrimination. Though the history of tattoos and other body modifications in the workplace has a long list of scholarly literature, studies of the librarianship industry have been few and far between.

#### *A Nod to the Librarian Stereotype & Professionalism*

In 2007, Paula Seeger asked those of us in the profession, "How Should Libraries Regulate Tattoos, Piercing and Other Creative Body Expressions?" Though this article premiered over ten years ago, it marks a change in attitudes possessed by librarians and the changing stereotype the general public may face. As librarians have changed from the bun-headed, bespectacled "Marian" type to a more edgy librarian celebrated in blogs across the interwebs—the Anarchist Librarian, the Belly Dancing Librarian, and the Tattooed Librarian being a few examples—we cannot help but ask ourselves why the library profession is so interested in its own image.

This sentiment shines brightly in Deirdre Dupre's 2009 blog post entitled, "The Perception of Image and Status in the Library Profession." Dupre's research centers on the

many unsuccessful and self-belittling ways librarians consistently obsess over their professional image. This opinion is seen more consistently in academia, where librarians often struggle with their status of faculty versus staff, leading to professional anxiety over less than satisfactory status and a preoccupation with the professional image much more than the users' perceptions of library personnel warrants.

Since Dupre's blog post in 2009, librarian researchers produced ample literature surrounding the librarian stereotype and professionalism for library students, library paraprofessionals, and librarians to investigate (Pagowsky & Rigby, 2014; Pagowsky & DeFrain, 2014; Jennings, 2016; Seminelli, 2016; Garcia & Barbour, 2018; Klein & Lenart, 2020). Lately, the trend of the professional librarian stereotype continues into a new persona McClellan and Beggan (2019) called the "Ironic Librarian," which they defined as a "contradiction between wanting to be helpful and yet perceived as being unapproachable" (p. 254). Their study held a semistructured interview of 26 librarians about their experiences at a reference desk. They found that librarian participants described other librarians as possessing traits that could contribute to being perceived as authoritarian and, in turn, difficult to approach for assistance (similar to the findings of Pagowsky and Rigby, 2014). In addressing possible strategies to appear more approachable, the tattooed librarian persona inevitably came up in the discussions:

In a conversation with nonlibrarian friends, [participant] noted that one of his friends compared the more modern image of librarians with 'hipsters.' [Participant] said that his friend described the traits of 'vintage fashion, tattooed, [with] bangs' as a 'new archetype' for librarians.' (p. 266)

While the tattooed librarian stereotype was mentioned in the study, the authors never addressed whether tattoos on a librarian would

improve approachability or impede approachability. Indeed, the many different librarian personas mentioned throughout the study are glossed over completely in favor of strategies to become more approachable as individual librarians.

These librarian researchers concluded that the mere presence of a librarian stereotype, no matter to which you profess, is damning to the profession as a whole. This is most loudly expressed by Jennings (2016) who called for an end to our obsession with our own stereotypes in order to remain professionals. This controversial paper, however, spurred response from many in the profession in the defense of the stereotype. A group of librarians from many academic institutions wrote a scathing reader's response published in *College & Undergraduate Libraries* in 2016 (DeFrain, et al.). In this letter, DeFrain, et al. claimed Jennings "oversimplifies and dismisses a rich and important body of research regarding occupational stereotyping and its effect on inclusion and diversity within the library profession" (para. 1). To them, our jobs as librarians extend beyond that of a lifeless body at a reference desk that should "smile more," but expands to busy and intellectual professionals with lives, creativity, and diversity far beyond the stereotype.

### *Engagement and Policies*

Discussions about tattoos, specifically in the field of librarianship, have been vastly underrepresented in the scholarly discussion of body art and employment. Perhaps ahead of its time, Seeger's (2007) research stressed the need for user-driven policy creation or changes regarding dress code, tattoos, and other body modifications. Undergraduate students who were polled actually responded favorably to the idea of library staff bearing tattoos and acknowledged them as a more relatable cultural mirror. As a natural progression, Seeger sought similar acceptance from fellow library practitioners. According to Seeger, "if the patron doesn't mind seeing a tattoo or pink

hair, why should a colleague?" (para. 15). Yet, unsurprisingly, the younger library staff who were polled equated tattoos with a more progressive, "hip" environment, while those library workers over the age of 50 or who had worked in the library for 15-plus years "were significantly more likely to argue that tattoos should not be seen and were damaging to the professional image of the library" (para. 13).

Tattoos, and other body modifications, have now surpassed mere acceptance in librarianship and transitioned into a celebrated culture of self-expression and, in some cases, patron engagement. Morehart (2018) examined a collection of public libraries who used tattoos as a form of patron outreach. A team of library staff made book recommendations based on the artwork and text of patron tattoos.

Similarly, Ballengee, et al. (2019) wrote about a tattoo design competition held by Texas State University's Alkek Library to increase student engagement. While researchers can debate the importance of the librarian stereotype or the growing need to stop the constant analysis of our own image, we decided to focus our study on simply asking library users, practitioners, and administrators their opinions of the professionalism of the librarians who choose to partake in body modifications.

## **Methodology**

### *Participants*

After reviewing the literature and discussing the parameters, we decided to allow anyone in the United States over the age of 18 to participate in the study. After Institutional Review Board approval, the survey questionnaire went live in January of 2020 and stayed open for four weeks.

We advertised the study through various sources, including library LISTSERVs, social media platforms such as Facebook and Reddit, and by word of mouth. We were particularly interested in hearing from library

administrators; thus, we chose to post to LISTSERVs to boost visibility by these library personnel. By the close of the survey on February 14, 2020, the study had 863 partial and completed survey responses.

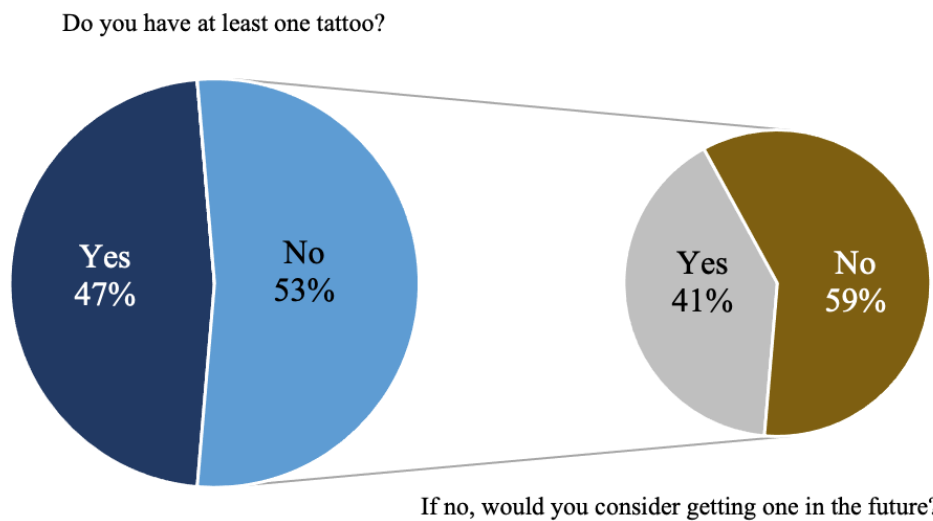
We grouped the participants into three categories for study: library users, those who make use of library services; library practitioners, including faculty and staff who work in libraries; and finally, library administrators, those who are typically in charge of making hiring decisions, dress code regulations, and other decisions that may affect library employee livelihood or advancement. As the survey questions did not influence or build upon each other, we coded partially completed surveys based only on the answers that participants completed.

### *Survey Questionnaire*

The survey questionnaire created and distributed in the Qualtrics application included three branched logical paths based on the user group of the participant. After a few initial demographic questions typical of surveys, the questionnaire requested a few extra demographic questions. These questions included "Do you have any tattoos?"; "Are you considering getting any tattoos in the future?"; "In the last three (3) years, have you dyed your hair an unnatural color, such as green, blue, or purple?"; and other questions which prompted participants to identify their initial experiences with tattoos, unnaturally dyed hair, and facial piercings.

Each group was shown images of library staff members who had modifications including dyed hair, piercings, and tattoos and was then asked to rate possible descriptive terms relating to the people in the images as it related to professionalism and approachability. From there, participants were asked a few open-

**Figure 1:** Those who have at least one tattoo, those who will consider one in the future



**Table 1:** Those who have tattoos by group

Group	Do you have a tattoo?		If yes, is it visible in regular work attire?		If no, will you consider getting one in the future?	
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
Library Administrator	83	86	49	34	29	57
Library Practitioner	216	246	152	63	97	149
Library User	87	98	42	45	49	49

ended questions of their opinions of those working in the library with body modifications.

*Coding and Analysis*

Once the surveys were gathered via the Qualtrics application, we uploaded the data into a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet for further analysis and breakdown. We completed a post hoc analysis of the open-ended answers provided by questionnaire participants and transformed them into simple yes/no answers

for coding purposes. While coding, we defined common terms to fit into the coding schema for each category of modification. For dyed hair, we coded for “juvenile”; for tattoos, we coded for survey participants that mentioned “offensive,” explicitly “graphic,” curse words, crime affiliation, or content that showed alliance with a hate group or ideology. Additionally, we coded for placement in the tattoo category, including mention of tattoos on the face, neck, hands, or wrists. We also coded

for potential quotes from participants for later use in published results and presentations.

**Results and Discussion**

*Tattoos and Professionalism*

Before asking participants whether they believed visible tattoos were or were not appropriate for a professional environment, we first asked whether the participants themselves had tattoos. Of those participants who answered (n=816), 47% percent stated that they currently have at least one tattoo. Fifty-three percent of participants stated that they do not currently have visible tattoos, but of those who do not have tattoos, 41% (n=430) of participants declared their consideration in getting a tattoo in the future.

When asked if visible tattoos can be viewed as professional in the workplace, participants (n=569) overwhelmingly said yes, with 93% agreeing that tattoos can now be considered professional. Things change only slightly when we examine the different user groups. Of those who said no (7% of the total), 29% of the participants were over the age of 45 years old.

**Table 2:** Are tattoos professional in the workplace by age group

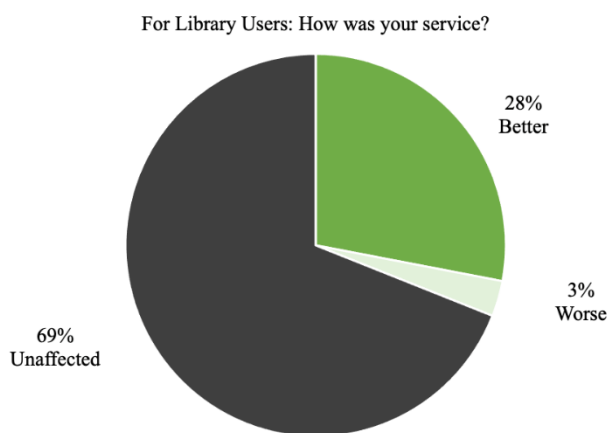
Age Group	Yes	No
18-34	309	18
35-54	184	12
55+	36	8

Meanwhile, the most significant user group represented in the “no, I do not believe tattoos to be professional” was the library users group at 53%. While library users did make up the largest percentage of those who view tattoos as unprofessional, this does not reflect the opinion of the user group. Those library users who answered the question (n=156) had 87% agreement that tattoos can be professional and 13% disagreement on the professionalism of tattoos. One library user went so far as to say,

“Visible lack of adherence to professional appearance standards makes me question about non-visible lack of adherence on other metrics of professionalism (quality of work, detail orientation, rigor of analysis, etc).”

Of the library administrators who responded, only one individual stated no, that tattoos were not professional. However, the library administrator group represented our smallest sample with only 21 participants represented. As seen in Table 3, library practitioners made up the largest percentage of the population for the question with 403 respondents. Of those who responded in the practitioner group, only 4% believed tattoos to be unprofessional. One library practitioner suggested that tattoos were a benefit to their work, stating, “I work with professionals daily who have visible tattoos. In our work environment this may make them more approachable to young adults who are the primary demographic we serve.”

The library user group was specifically asked, “Do you feel as if the service you receive from an individual is better or worse if they have tattoos, unnatural hair colors, or facial piercings?” Of those who answered (n=146), 69% said their service experience would be



**Figure 2:** “Do you feel as if the service you receive from an individual is better or worse if they have tattoos, unnatural hair colors, or facial piercings?”



unaffected by the body modifications of the library personnel. Three percent of participants stated the service would be worse, while a surprising 28% said their service would be better from those with body modifications. These users claimed those with tattoos, piercings, or dyed hair were less judgmental, more open-minded, and more understanding.

*Placement*

After our inquiring about the participants' views of professionalism regarding tattoos, we asked about the specifics of the placement of tattoos and whether it affects their perception of professionalism. Of those participants who answered (n=684), 70% stated that placement did matter and would affect their perception of professionalism, while the other 30% stated that it would not.

While most participants did say the placement of the tattoos mattered, the reasons for their decision differed across the user groups. As seen in Table 4, the different groups noted three areas of the body which would be considered unprofessional: the face, the hands, and the entire arm ("full sleeves"). Notably, 411

Group	Yes	No	No Answer	Total
Library Administrator	19	1	1	21
Library Practitioner	376	17	10	403
Library User	136	20	29	185

**Table 3:** Are tattoos professional in the workplace by group

participants (60%) focused on tattoos above the collarbone or on the face and claimed those tattoos to be unprofessional. One user noted, "I associate face and neck tattoos

with violent histories even though I know that's not necessarily true nor a reflection of the person's current reality." To a lesser extent, 43 participants noted the unprofessional placement of hand and wrist tattoos, and 10 individuals mentioned the inclusion of a full sleeve as something to be avoided. Many also noted the allusion of criminality of tattoos. Twenty-nine of the participants associated a criminal past, prison, or violence associated with tattoo placement, mainly with tattoos on the face and neck. Exceptions were given for cultural or religious reasons for the tattoo. For example, one participant stated, "I would find tattoos on the face or front part of the neck distracting and not generally considered professional. If I knew the facial tattoos were for cultural or tribal reasons, then I may see them in a more professional way."

*Content*

Like our probe into the placement of tattoos, we also intended to discuss the actual content of the tattoos in question. Participants were

Group	Yes	No	No Answer	Face	Hands	Sleeve	Crime
Library Administrator	108	38	23	83	9	2	5
Library Practitioner	266	125	12	241	26	7	22
Library User	105	44	33	88	9	1	3

**Table 4:** Does the placement of the tattoo matter regarding professionalism?

Group	Yes	No	No Answer	Offensive	Graphic	Cursing
Library Administrator	121	19	25	77	29	12
Library Practitioner	353	37	14	188	101	45
Library User	133	19	34	57	49	28

**Table 5:** Does the content of the tattoo affect the perception of professionalism of an individual?

asked, “Does the content of the tattoo affect your perception of the professionalism of an individual?” Eighty-nine percent of those surveyed (n=681) stated yes, the content of the tattoo does affect the perception of professionalism in libraries. Of those who answered yes (n=606), 53% explained their aversion to content that includes offensive features, including: harassing, racist, homophobic, swastikas, Pepe, HH, and other prejudiced imagery. Thirty percent mentioned the graphic nature of the content or those with nude, obscene, vulgar, or violent imagery. Meanwhile, 14% noted the use of cursing or “bad words” in the tattoos. The breakdown of the number of participants are shown in Table 5.

Other content-related aversions included cartoons, political affiliations, and symbols not widely known. One participant explained, “I don't know sci-fi that well—so I don't know if the graphic is an homage to a favorite movie hero or if it's the ‘logo’ of an extremist/radical organization.”

Another participant stated:

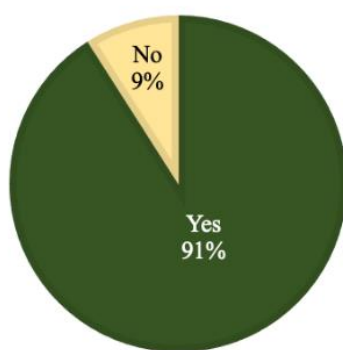
Whatever the reason for the tattoo, whether vanity or identification with a cause or interest, the tattooed person is communicating something about themselves. In the professional setting our interactions are not about personal communication. We should be seen as neutral as possible when assisting others with their information/learning inquiries.

*Hair Colors and Professionalism*

While we addressed two common forms of body modifications including tattoos and piercings, we found it important to include another form of modification: dyed hair. For the purpose of our research, we defined dyed hair

to include hair dyed unnatural colors, such as green, purple, or blue. We first asked participants if they had dyed their hair in the past three years; of those participants who answered (n=754), 24% stated that they had dyed their hair in the past

Can an individual be perceived as professional with unnatural hair colors?



**Figure 3:** “Do you believe an individual can be viewed as professional with unnatural hair colors, such as green, blue, or purple?”

three years, while 76% answered that they had not. We then asked participants if they were considering dying their hair in the future; of those who answered (n=753), 41% said that they would consider dying their hair in the next three years.

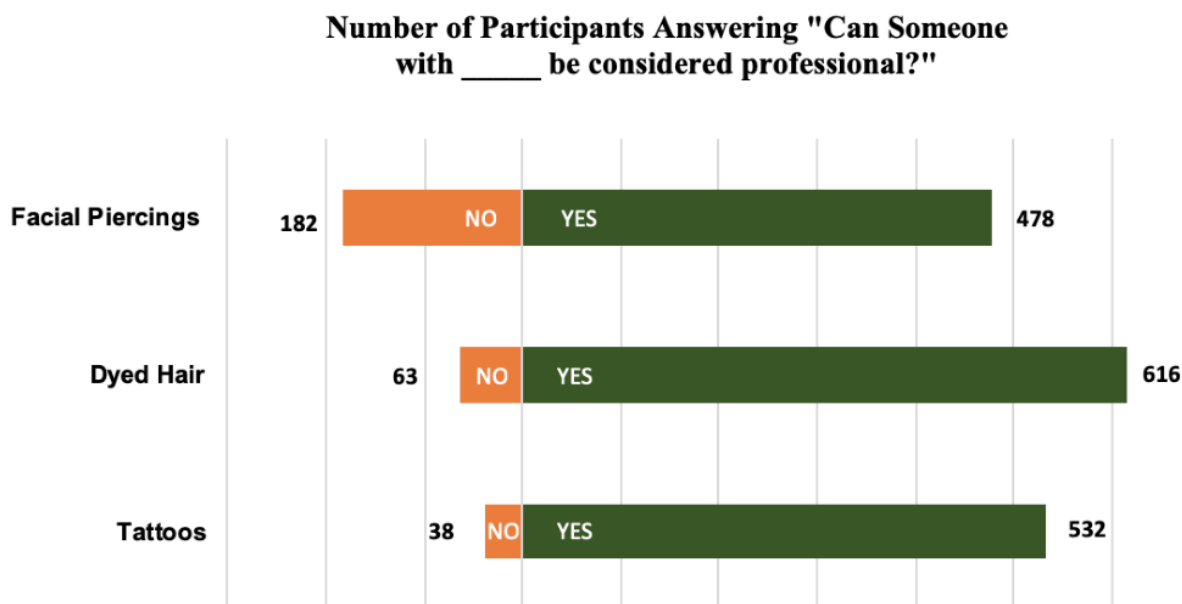
In a similar fashion to our questions regarding professionalism with tattoos, we asked our participants, “Do you believe an individual can be viewed as professional with unnatural hair colors, such as green, blue, or purple?” Noted in Figure 3, of those participants who answered (n=679), 91% said yes, those with unnatural hair colors can be viewed as professional.

Those who disagreed with the professionalism of unnatural hair colors trended towards those above age 45 (36%) and library practitioners (54%). One library practitioner at an academic library noted the differences in lower-level versus management-level positions when differentiating the acceptability of unnaturally dyed hair, stating, “There are levels of professional acceptability. I think it could lower their advancement. I do not think it would be professional for a management-level job.”

Of those who stated no (n=63), 29% noted that dyed hair is a feature that makes an individual appear young, immature, or juvenile. One library administrator stated that yes, having dyed hair likely makes it more difficult for the individual with regards to the perception of others, stating, “Coloring your hair that way seems a bit adolescent to me and—although, more power to them, I guess—they’d have to prove themselves that much more in the workplace than someone else.” While most of the participants said that unnaturally dyed hair can be viewed as professional, those who disagreed noted the “look at me” attitude and the distractions it could cause during transactions.

*Facial Piercings, Stretched Earlobes, and Professionalism*

Facial piercings and stretched earlobes proved to be a more polarizing topic within the context of professionalism. Nearly three-fourths (72%) of the participants (n=660) stated that facial piercings could be professional. According to one library user, “an individual’s capabilities and values are neither impacted by nor discernible through body modifications, facial piercings,



**Figure 4:** “Can Someone with \_\_\_\_\_ be considered professional?”

and stretched earlobes—or otherwise.” However, cases were also made by the opposition (n=182) that argued otherwise. The most prevalent reason noted by participants was the difficulty in interacting with library personnel due to the “distraction” presented by their facial piercings or stretched earlobes. One particular respondent noted that “piercings are unnatural and impede approachability.”

### *Policies*

When we asked the library practitioner group whether they already had policies related to tattoos, dyed hair, or facial piercings, only 54 of 382 respondents knew of any policies regarding them, with 14 including no visible tattoos. We also asked this group whether they had been asked (either officially or unofficially) to change their appearance. While only 18 respondents out of 229 stated they had been asked, their stories suggested facial piercings to be the most requested body modification to be removed.

### **Discussion**

As demonstrated, tattoos in the library are no longer the professional taboo they once were. When Seeger (2007) posed the question, “How Should Libraries Regulate Tattoos, Piercing and Other Creative Body Expressions?” our team poses the question: should we?

All three user groups, library administrators, library practitioners, and library users, upheld the professionalism of visible tattoos in the workplace. Many participants of the survey shared anecdotal evidence to support their feelings, including the professional nature of those they have worked alongside or been served by, in the case of library users. This was not to say, however, that distinct lines were not drawn on the appropriateness of certain tattoos in the library. Like Tews and Stafford (2020), our study found some disagreement with the professionalism of dark, threatening, and poorly done tattoos. Content of a harassing nature was also discouraged, including Nazi symbols, curse

words, and, in some cases, religious iconography. There was also a clear distinction in placement of tattoos, with face and neck tattoos being unfavorable in a professional environment.

Practitioners and patrons were widely supportive of unnaturally dyed hair colors on library employees in general. As Pappas (2014) stated, employees use tattoos, as well as, in our instance, hair color or facial piercings, as a mode of self-expression donned to liberate the self from one’s position in a service role.

Respondents who reported that unnatural hair color was unprofessional were typically working in libraries as administrators. Of this group, many mentioned that the professional working in the library with an unnaturally dyed hairstyle would be a lower-level staff member or a student worker; no respondents mentioned that this professional would be a dean, for example. A common refrain among these respondents was that they saw it as an impossibility that the library professional with unnaturally dyed hair was a fellow administrator.

There are few, if any, other studies examining the relationship between unnaturally dyed hair colors, such as blue, green, and purple, and professionalism in the workplace. Because of this limitation, it is difficult for us to compare our findings to existing literature; however, this is a clear area of need for research for any field such as libraries, academic institutions, or other professional settings that can further examine attitudes toward individuals with dyed hair and prevailing stereotypes and limitations that may be placed inadvertently because of a person’s outward appearance in the workplace.

### *Barriers and Challenges*

We faced challenges representing a greater scope in potential attitudes toward body modifications of library employees during this study. For example, in the age demographic,

respondents were largely under the age of 50. This could be due in part to the marketing of our survey through social media and email. Our aim was to examine attitudes from a wider range of groups, and the lack of respondents over 50 did not allow us to greater understand the insights of this demographic. A future growth to the study could target the library user group over the age of 50 through the inclusion of paper surveys and active public library participation.

We also garnered fewer respondents in the library administrator category. If part of our goal is to understand and gauge interest in the policy creation surrounding workplace regulation of visible tattoos and other body modifications, it would benefit our work to understand the perspectives of those who likely will have a hand in approving the existence—or lack thereof—of such policies. Researchers interested in this topic could select to distribute the survey using different methods and may have better results from the demographics our study did not adequately reach.

Some of those who viewed stretched earlobes and facial piercings as professional also noted the importance of the cultural significance of those body modifications. Due to the limitations of this study and our Western perspective, we were unable to dive too deep into the cultural significance of body modifications. We implore others to build on our research internationally and add other cultures' attitudes towards body modifications to the scholarly communication.

#### *Takeaways*

As noted in the introduction, the number of adults with tattoos has more than doubled in the last ten years, with nearly half of the United States population sporting at least one tattoo. As the library field continues to shift and grow,

more and more new library science graduates and hires will be a part of this growing demographic. Though there has been clear discussion since the early 1990s about how tattoos should be handled and regulated by administrative policy, little to no regard has been placed on how most of the population feels about the professionalism of tattoos within a library context. Though some individuals may feel tattoos, dyed hair, and facial piercings are still unprofessional in the library environment, those individuals are in the minority. Within the context of a library workspace, the overly abundant use of policy creation and monitoring of the worker's attire and professional presence does not necessarily condemn the presence of tattoos. There is, however, ample feedback on adjusting current workplace attire policies to limit the content and placement of tattoos for library employees.

Likewise, the need to police hair color and facial piercings may no longer be necessary. However, those with dyed hair should note the perception of unprofessionalism by their peers and users if they do not maintain the color or allow fading to occur. Similarly, those with dyed hair should note a slight, but significant perception of immaturity which may impact promotion within library administration.

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## Georgia Library Association 2021 GLA Awards

### Library Support Services Award

The Library Support Services Award is given each year to recognize someone employed in a library support profession who has furthered



library development or who has made outstanding contributions to Georgia libraries as part of his or her job or business. The award winner could be a vendor employee, an employee of an office or department that supports library

services, or an employee of an individual institution.

This year's winner is Daniel Zeiger, director of Information Technology with Georgia Public Library Service.

Daniel's nomination noted his assistance to the Georgia Library Association (GLA) last year in setting up and administering Google Workspace for the organization, which was invaluable. Daniel saved the organization time and money and delivered a perfect technology platform for GLA's evolving needs.

Before moving to Google Groups for GLA's listserv, Daniel backed-up all of the lists GPLS was hosting for GLA to ensure continuity. He has also volunteered to stay on as a super administrator and consultant to assist GLA in Google Workspace.

### Charles Beard Library Advocacy Award

The Charles Beard Library Advocacy Award was originally called the Library Advocacy Award. It was renamed in 2003 to honor Charles Beard, Georgia's strongest library advocate. The Charles Beard Library Advocacy Award is given each year to recognize someone not employed in or by a library who has made outstanding contributions to libraries.

This year's winner is the late Honorable John Lewis.



Photo Credit: Steve Eberhardt

Rep. John Lewis served the 5th Georgia Congressional District in the United States House of Representatives from 1987 till his death in 2020. He is also well known for his tireless work in the civil rights movement from helping to organize several marches to Selma, the 1963 March on Washington, and serving as chair of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, and he was one of the first Freedom Riders. Mr. Lewis used his experiences in the civil rights movement to author the *New York Times* Best Selling graphic novel trilogy *March*. The trilogy won several awards including the Georgia Teen Peach Award, the Coretta Scott King Book Award, Printz Award, Sibert Medal, and the National Book Award. He also authored *Run* (2018), *Walking with the*

*Wind: A Memoir of the Movement*, and *John Lewis: From Freedom Rider to Congressman*. Mr. Lewis was a true advocate for America’s public libraries. He spoke numerous times at American Library Association (ALA) conferences and joined with other librarians in Atlanta to march for social justice and women. He always advocated for the support of libraries in the work he did as a US Congressman. His late wife, Lilian, was a librarian and educator at Atlanta University and Clark Atlanta University. Even after being denied a library card at the age of 16 due to racial segregation of public libraries in the 1950s, he made “good trouble” over his lifetime, persevered, and became a champion for public libraries.

**Bob Richardson Memorial Award**

The Bob Richardson Memorial Award was established by the GLA Executive Board in 1999 in recognition of Bob Richardson’s dedicated



service to the Georgia Library Association (GLA). It honors those who have given outstanding service to the Georgia Library Association.

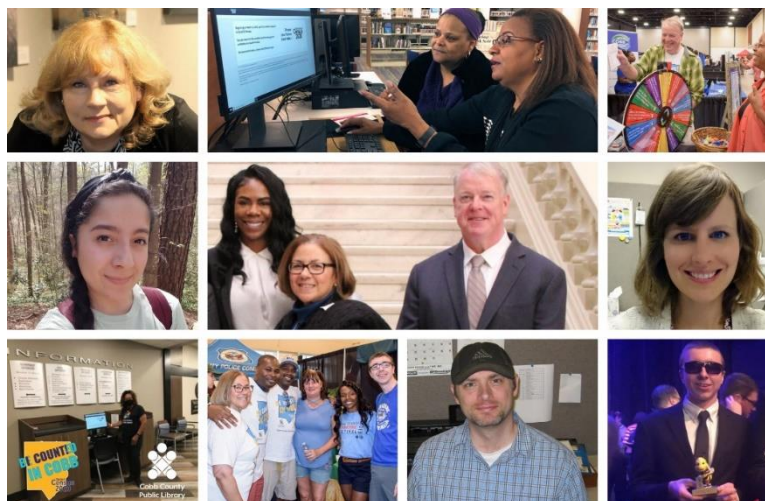
This year’s winner is Tamika

Barnes, associate dean at Perimeter Library Services. Tamika has served two terms as GLA’s ALA Council member at large. She has served on ALA’s Executive Board, the Council representative to the Planning and Budget Committee, and numerous ALA organizations and committees. In 2019, she co-founded the Black Caucus Group for the Georgia Library Association. In 2016 and 2017, she served as chair of the Special Library and Information Services Division of

GLA. After moving to Georgia, she served in this role because of her previous experience working in a special library environment and leading North Carolina’s Special Library Association. As the chair, she was responsible for planning and leading meetings at both the midwinter and annual GLA conferences. She also guaranteed there would be at least one program sponsored by the division during the two years that she was chair. She submitted conference proposals and organized field trips to specialized libraries during the conference in Athens (University of Georgia Special Collections) and Augusta (Augusta Museum of History—tour of museum and behind the scenes archive). She also partnered with the Georgia Chapter of Special Libraries and had joint happy hours and networking events at MODA in Atlanta. In this role, Tamika also had a seat on the Georgia Library Association’s Executive Board, which met quarterly to discuss the business of the association. Tamika is known throughout GLA as a role model and mentor to numerous members of the Georgia Library Association.

**GLA Team Award**

The GLA Team Award was established by the Executive Board in 2012. This award honors a team that has excelled in the past year by offering innovative programming or services, performing or acting on assessment activities,





undertaking a successful outreach or promotion effort, or providing outstanding support of an individual Georgia library or Georgia libraries as a whole.

This year's winners are the staff members on the Cobb County Public Library's Census 2020 Committee. Members include Helen Poyer, library director; Slone T. Williams, communications manager (team lead); Thomas Brooks, communications specialist; Patricia Ball, branch manager; Timothy Steggall, library services supervisor; Raymond Goslow, senior library assistant for periodicals; Katherine Zavala, library assistant; Shannon Tyner, virtual librarian; Mary Wood, community engagement manager; Wanda Dallas, support analyst II; and Dinah Bonesteel, library support assistant.

Cobb County Public Library (CCPL) was asked to join Cobb County's Complete Count Committee, a committee formed to promote the 2020 Decennial Census.

CCPL's main goal for this project was a high overall participation rate for the 2020 Census in Cobb County, with a focus on undercounted areas to help achieve that goal. Geographic Information System (GIS) technology was used to divide the county into service areas, or areas of influence, for each branch as determined by circulation of physical materials and in-library computer usage. Knowing the areas of the county in which each branch served, or had the most influence, combined with historical participation rates, and demographics that are historically undercounted, allowed branch managers, regional managers, and other decision makers to know if an area at risk of being undercounted is within their area of influence.

The county's response rate in March 2020 (following the COVID-19 Pandemic) was 33.8%, and due to the marketing efforts performed by Cobb County Libraries, the Cobb Complete Count Committee, and community partners, on October 15th, Cobb reached 70.4%—which

surpassed the 2010 rate of 66.7%. CCPL met their goal! Successful elements of their plan included utilizing GIS tracking, collaborating with community partners, providing a strong virtual presence throughout their social media platforms, website, and email marketing, and most importantly, purchasing kiosks and laptops that provided access for safe and secure Census submissions. CCPL's target audience never shifted, but the COVID-19 Pandemic was an obstacle for them to overcome. CCPL persevered and continued in developing innovative marketing strategies to attract their target audience in spreading the message: Everyone Counts.

### **McJenkin-Rheay Award**

The McJenkin-Rheay Award was established by an anonymous donor and approved by the Executive Board on July 17, 1981. It is given to recognize a librarian early in his/her career who has made outstanding contributions to the Georgia Library Association (GLA), to leadership as exemplified by the careers of Virginia McJenkin (school libraries) and Mary Louise Rheay (public libraries).

This year's winner is John Mack Freeman, head of public services at the Georgia Institute of Technology.

Mack has been working in Georgia libraries for 10 years. He has been a member of GLA for that entire time, and, since 2016, he has made outstanding contributions to GLA and to the profession. GLA has been able to advocate for significant steps in intellectual



freedom because of Mack's leadership and passion for intellectual freedom and privacy in libraries. In 2016, Mack worked to re-establish the GLA Intellectual Freedom Interest Group (IFIG) that had gone on hiatus and led the group in co-hosting a Carterette webinar ("Censorship: It's Not Just For Books") in August 2017. Mack has served as the chair of the IFIG since 2016. Under his leadership, the IFIG has provided information to GLA Members and Georgia libraries (and presented at several conferences) on topics such as censorship, fake news and information literacy, library services to marginalized groups, and the tough challenges involved in the intersection between library beliefs and emerging concerns. Since 2020, Mack has been a part of the Library Freedom Project, a group devoted to providing libraries with the skills and advocacy to ensure privacy. Most recently, he worked with the Advocacy Committee to create a GLA resolution affirming broadband as a human right. He led the GLA Scholarship Committee to moving applications online and offering auctions and donations by credit card. He has developed the GLA Mid-Career Award and the GLA Presidential Commendation Award. He is also a founding member of Black Caucus of GLA and the Gender and Sexuality Diversities Interest Group. His professional recognitions and professional work include a list of notable awards and positions, including American Library Association Emerging Leader, Georgia PINNACLE graduate, and he has served as a member of the GLA Executive Board since 2016.

### **GLA Mid-Career Award**

The GLA Mid-Career Award was established by the GLA Executive Board in 2018 to honor significant and ongoing contributions to the library profession, Georgia's libraries, and the Georgia Library Association by individuals who are in the middle of their library careers. This award honors the accomplishments of recipients while also denoting GLA's belief in the ongoing potential of the recipients.

This year's winner is Teneka Jones Williams, former outreach librarian with Georgia Public Library Service and owner of Royal Petals ATL.



Teneka is a 2009 American Library Association (ALA) Spectrum Scholar and

has always been passionate about libraries and her communities. Her work revolved around diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility. She was recognized by GLA's Library Services for Persons with Disabilities Interest Group in their 2021 "Spotlight on Accessibility Services." She has helped facilitate diversity training at GPLS's staff development day. She also co-planned the Elements of Empowerment Conference in March 2021, which addressed cyberbullying. She has published several articles in *American Libraries* and *Library Trends*. She was also a member of the 2015–2016 PINNACLE Class. Teneka was instrumental in having LeRoy Childs, Georgia's first black library director, honored at the Georgia Capitol building as part of a March 2019 celebration of the state's librarians. She understands the value of our untold library stories, particularly those about people of color, and she knows that we all benefit from learning about our diverse professional history.

### **Nix-Jones Award**

The Nix-Jones Award is given to a practicing librarian for distinguished service to Georgia librarianship. It recognizes substantial contributions to the library profession, such as stimulation of library development, leadership in library programs, unusual and imaginative

services, and outstanding support of Georgia's libraries.

This year's winner is Wendy Cornelisen, assistant state librarian for library innovation and collaboration with Georgia Public Library Service (GPLS).

Since joining GPLS in 2014, Wendy has made a profound impact on libraries in Georgia with her numerous projects, work with other public libraries in Georgia, and professional development to librarians in the state of Georgia and nationwide. She was integral in the development and execution of the PINNACLE Leadership program. Furthermore, she currently serves as president of the Georgia Library Association. Working with the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), Wendy was instrumental in bringing e-book access to millions of Georgians through the eRead Kids e-book service and SimpleE free e-reader app. Wendy was the 2020 Association of Specialized Government and Cooperative Library Agencies (ASGCLA) Leadership & Professional Development Award winner for her consistent work on behalf of libraries and for building a

statewide e-book service for Georgia's youngest readers. Additionally, she received the Alumni

Innovator Award from the University of Tennessee School of Information Sciences. In 2017, she was named by Georgia Governor Nathan Deal to the board of the Georgia Center for Early Language and Literacy at

Georgia College and State University. She is also a current member of the Georgia Department of Education Connectivity and Devices Working Group. In 2018, she served as the chair of the Georgia Library Association Advocacy Committee. Wendy is most known for her incisive intellect and warm spirit when working with other Georgia library workers and advocates.





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## **Georgia Library Association Academic Library Division**

### **Elections**

This year, elections for the Georgia Library Association (GLA) Academic Library Division (ALD) 2022 positions will be held from November 8th to November 28th, 2021 with the interest group and other division officer elections. So please vote! Thank you to those who have agreed to run this year, and ALD looks forward to announcing the names of the new vice-chair/chair-elect and secretary. The new officers will join the incoming chair, Catherine Mancini from the Georgia Institute of Technology, and the current ACRL Chapters Council representative, Lamonica Sanford from Georgia College & State University, as the ALD officers for 2022.

### **Academic Research Paper Contest**

Sheeji Kathuria is the 2021 recipient of the GLA ALD Research Paper Award for "[Library Support in Times of Crisis: An Analysis of Chat Transcripts during COVID.](#)" Sheeji is the reference and instruction librarian and the honors librarian for Perimeter College at Georgia State University (GSU). In her duties, Sheeji coordinates instruction for the GSU Perimeter College Alpharetta campus and serves as the Honors College librarian for GSU Perimeter College. In both of these roles, she works closely with faculty and students on their research and teaching, as well as developing instructional objects on finding, using, and citing scholarly sources. Additionally, she serves as the assessment coordinator for GSU Library, where she assists the dean in collecting and submitting library data to external agencies.

Sheeji is an active member of the Georgia Library Association (GLA), Asian Pacific American Librarians Association (APALA), and the American Library Association (ALA). Sheeji noted that she has always had an interest in overall reference assessment, the use of social media in library services, and better understanding why patrons approach the library in virtual reference environments. Her research interests also include an emerging interest in using machine learning in the textual analysis of chat and social media data.



Reflecting on her win, Sheeji said that "embarking on a research project and writing a scholarly paper completely by myself has been a huge professional goal of mine. I also coded this large dataset and wrote much of this paper in the thick of Spring semester busyness which was at times very challenging. Winning this award is an honor, and I am very thankful to the GLA Academic Library Division for this special distinction."

Congratulations to Sheeji on her winning paper!

### **ALD 2021 Annual Meeting**

Like last year, the Georgia Libraries Conference was held virtually and the ALD business meeting was held via Zoom on September 28, 2021. During the meeting, the ALD executive committee provided a recap of the year, announced the ALD Research Paper Award winner, and shared links for freely available resources for professional development and learning from the Association for College & Research Libraries (ACRL). This included the August 2021 ACRL Report, *COVID-19 Protocols in Academic Libraries in Canada and the United States* (<https://www.ala.org/acrl/issues/value>).

Virginia (Ginny) Feher, editor of the *Georgia Library Quarterly (GLQ)*, also spoke and encouraged members to submit articles and news items to *GLQ*. This will be Ginny's last year as editor and Ashley Hoffman will be taking up the reins in 2022.

### **ACRL Virtual Webinar Series**

ALD offered a free ACRL webinar to its members entitled "Navigating New Routes to Sharing & Evaluating Scholarly Work" on May 6, 2021. This session offered an overview of current practices and emerging possibilities for the sharing, publication, and evaluation of scholarly work. This webinar looked at the range of options available for sharing scholarship, especially through digital platforms, the potential benefits and challenges of Open Access publication, and some of the latest methods and controversies in measuring scholarly impact. On May 14, 2021,

ALD held a virtual post-webinar debrief with members. Laura Burtle, associate dean of the University Library at Georgia State University, led the debrief conversation. Burtle is the library's scholarly communication expert and provides guidance and support in copyright, fair use, publishing, open access, author rights, and related areas.

On July 8, 2021, ALD offered another ACRL webinar to its members. The ACRL webinar entitled "Online Library Instruction: Best Practices for Live Synchronous Teaching" was presented by Jason Puckett, the online learning librarian and associate professor at Georgia State University Library. Puckett is also the author of *Modern Pathfinders: Creating Better Research Guides* and *Zotero: A Guide for Librarians, Researchers & Educators*.

The webinar offered participants suggestions on how to take advantage of the synchronous online classroom environment and addressed some of its advantages and limitations. As a follow-up to the webinar, on July 29, 2021, ALD and the Reference & Instructional Services Interest Group (RISIG) co-sponsored a virtual meeting that focused on ideas, experiences, and suggestions related to teaching and providing reference online.

ALD would like to thank Laura Burtle (Georgia State University) and Catherine Bowers (Valdosta State University) for, respectively, hosting and co-hosting the follow-ups to the ACRL webinars.

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## Georgia Library Association 2021 GLA Scholarship Winners

The Georgia Library Association (GLA) Scholarship Committee is excited to announce the 2021 recipients of the Hubbard and Beard scholarships.

### The Hubbard Scholarship

Vidhya Jagannathan is this year's C.S. Hubbard Scholarship winner. Vidhya is a senior library assistant at the North Cobb Regional Library, a branch of the

Cobb County Public Library System. Since 2019, she has been the Creative Space (makerspace) coordinator at the branch. Vidhya is in a newly created position at her branch which focuses

on programming that incorporates STEAM learning at all levels. In addition to her four years of experience in Cobb County libraries, Vidhya was previously a library assistant at the DeKalb County Public Library System and a substitute teacher.

Vidhya believes strongly in outreach and partnering with community organizations to provide quality programming and services. Vidhya has received grants to support initiatives that match her passions and benefit her community, including the American Library



Association's (ALA) Libraries Ready to Code program to support her work in teaching digital skills and a grant from the Atlanta Food Well Alliance to fund a community garden. She is an advocate for women's participation in STEM fields. To support that advocacy, Vidhya recently started a chapter of Girls Who Code (GWC) at her branch. In addition to her library work, Vidhya is an active community volunteer, gardener, and home chef.

Vidhya's educational background includes a BS in chemistry from the University of Madras and a post-baccalaureate teacher's prep certificate in early childhood education from Western Governors University. Vidhya is pursuing her MLIS at Florida State University. She hopes to become the first makerspace librarian in the Cobb County Library System.

Vidhya is honored to receive the Hubbard Scholarship and said that she is "very thankful that a cohort of my peers deemed me worthy. To be recognized gives me the much-needed confidence to pursue an MLIS and pioneer as a makerspace librarian in my system. I believe that libraries are for everyone, and public libraries have to provide equitable access to resources and services with minimal barriers."

### The Beard Scholarship

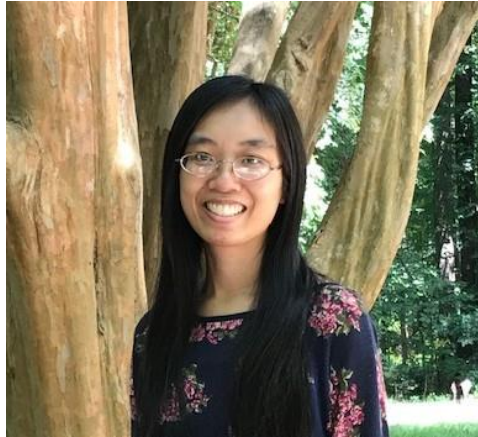
Jillian Speck is this year's Charles Beard Scholarship recipient. Jillian has worked in a range of library types: academic, public, and school. She is currently working at the Clayton County Public Library Headquarters and has a part-time position at Clayton State University Library. She was also the media specialist for a private high school in Fayetteville, Georgia.

Jillian is pursuing her MSI at Florida State University. Jillian holds a BA in history from

Agnes Scott College where she worked in her first library job as a research assistant. She is interested in pursuing a career in academic libraries, preferably managing electronic resources.

Throughout her seven years working in libraries, Jillian has sought a variety of experiences and has worked with a variety of patron populations from creating virtual programs and videos to engage adult learners during the COVID-19 Pandemic to developing LibGuides for college students.

Jillian wrote, “receiving the Beard Scholarship is a huge honor for me. Paying for college has



been a significant point of worry for me, and this scholarship lets me focus more on my studies than on my financial concerns. I've applied for the GLA Scholarships for three years and to receive one means that my perseverance paid off and the work and time put into it was worth it. I'm incredibly grateful to be a recipient and motivated to keep learning about librarianship.”

Complete information about the scholarships, including application information and how to donate to the scholarship fund, is available on [GLA's website](#).

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## **Georgia Library Association 2021 Georgia Libraries Conference Scholarship Raffle**

October 8, 2021 was the scholarship raffle for the Georgia Library Association (GLA). It was held at the end of the second virtual Georgia Libraries Conference (GLC).

This was the second entirely online raffle, facilitated by the GLA Scholarship Committee using the online platform RallyUp. The goal of the raffle is to earn funds for the C.S. Hubbard and the Charles Beard Scholarships. This year \$5,286 was raised for the scholarships. This included \$4,986 from raffle ticket sales and an additional \$300 donation.

The Scholarship Committee would like to thank everyone who contributed, making this year's raffle a success. This includes everyone who bought tickets, made monetary donations for the fund, and promoted the raffle to others. Thank you all for continuing to support future Georgia librarians!



The Committee extends a special thank you to those who contributed items to be bid on during the raffle. Everything from gift cards to prize baskets were donated, and it is thanks to such generosity that GLA was able to continue having this event with exciting prizes for raffle participants.



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## Georgia Library Association Advocacy Committee

Representing all Georgia libraries, the primary charge of the Georgia Library Association (GLA) Advocacy Committee is to maintain and grow the relationship between libraries and statewide legislative efforts. This involves working to understand the needs of legislators and legislative groups, as well as discovering ways to effectively communicate the goals and needs of libraries to these legislative groups and individuals.

This summer and fall, 2021, the Advocacy Committee has been coordinating advocacy efforts with other organizations and groups. Working with the Georgia Library Media Association (GLMA), the committee crafted a Freedom to Read Resolution, which kicked off a Freedom to Read Georgia campaign. Freedom to Read Georgia is a joint effort of the GLMA, GLA, the Georgia Council of Teachers of English, the Georgia Association for Instructional Technology, and the Georgia Council for the Social Studies. The launch date corresponded with Banned Books Week (September 26–October 2, 2021). In the spirit of Banned Books Week, the Freedom to Read Campaign seeks to bring the community together in shared support of the freedom to seek and to express ideas. The campaign is meant to increase awareness of protecting freedom in reading choices and equitable access for all Georgians. Freedom to Read Georgia features a corresponding writing and video contest for K–12 students. This contest concluded October 31, 2021.



It is imperative that everyone increases awareness around the freedom to read. Last year, during the legislative session, the Advocacy Committee worked with GLMA in the “Vote No on SB 226” awareness campaign. SB 226 is a bill which sought to enact a penalty for the distribution of harmful materials in school libraries and called for an oversight committee in the review of materials in a school library. It aimed to create a new law for a process which is currently implemented in school districts across the state under a Georgia Department of Education (DOE) rule and with which very few problems have been reported. This bill would create state-level mandates rather than afford this local control of parties involved, time frame limits for responses, and appeals processes.

Additional information about Freedom to Read Georgia, including resources and guidelines for the writing and video contest, can be found at <https://bit.ly/freedomtoreadga>.

Working with the Intellectual Freedom Interest Group, the committee has drafted a Resolution in Support of Broadband as a Human Right (approved by the GLA Executive Board in April 2021). The committee has shared the resolution with other memberships, asking them to sign on to this as well. Many of them are in discussion with their executive boards. For the groups that sign up, the plan is to have a joint release of the statement later in October 2021.

The Advocacy Committee is always looking for engaged committee members. To learn more about how to get involved, please contact the committee chair at [advocacy@georgialibraryassociation.org](mailto:advocacy@georgialibraryassociation.org).

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## Georgia Library Association Special Libraries and Information Services Division

The [Special Libraries and Information Services \(SLIS\) Division](#) of the Georgia Library Association is dedicated to advancing the interests of special libraries through professional contacts and promoting the improvement of existing special collections in the state.

In August 2021, the SLIS Division hosted a tour of the Savannah College of Art and Design (SCAD) [FASH Museum of Fashion + Film](#). The museum

focuses on the future of fashion design, connecting conceptual to historical principles of dress, whether ceremonial, celebratory, or casual. Part of the SCAD Atlanta campus, the museum serves as a teaching resource for students, and its rotating exhibitions are a frequent subject of research and programming at the institution. SCAD FASH also hosts a permanent collection with pieces from Stephen Burrows, Pierre Cardin, Tom Ford, Diane von

Furstenburg, Karl Lagerfeld, Ulyana Sergeenko, and more.

Participants were treated to a guided tour of two temporary exhibitions featuring the works of costume designer Ruth E. Carter and photographer Albert Watson. Carter created costumes for such iconic films as *Do the Right*

*Thing*, *Malcolm X*, *Selma*, and *Black Panther*. Her exhibition, *Afrofuturism in Costume Design*, showcases pieces from four decades of her work and demonstrates how she brings vibrancy, nuance, color, and texture to each of her culture-shifting characters. *Albert Watson: The Light*



*Behind the Lens* explores the photographer's prolific body of work, including portraits of many well-known celebrities.

Following the tour, the group was joined by SCAD Atlanta's head librarian, Teresa Burk, who spoke about the institution's library and research services. Burk provided an overview of the diverse materials in SCAD's library collections and described how library staff support student projects and coursework.



## Digital Library of Georgia

### Two Mid-20th Century Collections Recall Atlanta Neighborhoods Lost to Urban Renewal, and Georgia's Growing Catholic Community

Two new collections of digitized [films](#) and [slides](#) documenting the growth of Georgia's Catholic community between 1938–1979 are now available freely online from the Digital Library of Georgia (DLG). With these materials from Marist School educators Reverend Michael Kerwick, SM, (1912–1990) and Reverend Vincent Brennan, SM, (1912–1993), researchers are able to piece together the history of the Marist School's campus, community, and activities at its former location (as Marist College) in downtown Atlanta and its Brookhaven home (as Marist School) on Ashford-Dunwoody Road in DeKalb County.

The time periods of Father Kerwick's and Father Brennan's collections coincide with the exponential growth of the city's Catholic community. During the mid-20th century, Atlanta claimed 30,000 Catholic residents. By the end of the century, that number grew to nearly 300,000.

These materials also show portions of downtown Atlanta that were lost through development in the 1950s and early 1960s. A major reason for Marist School's relocation to suburban Brookhaven was the encroaching development of the interstate system and the use of eminent domain to acquire portions of the original campus. Scenes from the original campus and downtown street scenes have captured buildings and streetscapes that were lost to urban renewal.

Dr. Michael Bieze and Dr. Louisa Moffitt, archivists at the Marist School said:



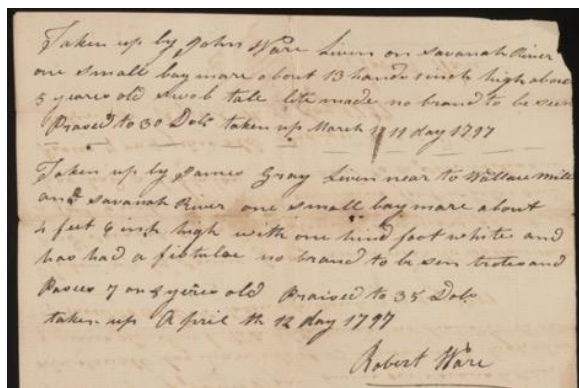
The [digitized] images were taken by Father Vincent Brennan during those years before Marist School was moved to its suburban location in the mid-1960s and includes images from both the old campus on Ivy Street, as well as images of the new campus on Ashford-Dunwoody Road.

Some additional themes covered in these collections include school commencements, athletics programs, formal events such as promenades, and visits to Marist parishes throughout Georgia. Dr. Bieze and Dr. Moffitt both added: "In addition, there are images of Brunswick, Saint Simons Island, Darien, and Jekyll Island during those years."

### Two New Digital Collections Provide Genealogical Coverage to Underrepresented East Central Georgia

As recipients of a service grant awarded earlier in 2021, the Greater Clarks Hill Regional Library System has worked in partnership with the Digital Library of Georgia (DLG) to release [court records dating back to the 1700s](#) and [funeral home records from the mid-20th century](#) available online.

These courthouse and funeral home records will serve genealogical researchers looking for information about ancestors from east-central Georgia, a historically under-documented region of the state, and will provide information about Lincoln County residents dating back to the 18th century, and as far forward as the mid-20th century.



The first collection, Lincoln County Courthouse Records, includes court documents that cover a variety of areas such as court cases, assault charges, writs of fieri facias (FIFAs), cases against the state of Georgia, power of attorney documents (POAs), bench warrants, petitions, summons, slander charges, illegitimate children cases, affidavits, animal appraisals, court appointed special advocates (CASAs), debt collections, evictions, and plats, dating from 1700–2020.

The next collection, Rees Funeral Home Records, includes obituaries and other funeral arrangement details for some residents or former residents of Lincoln County, with dates ranging from the 1940s to the 1960s. Mallory Harris, a librarian at the Columbia County Library, described the importance of these collections to Georgia residents:

The Rees Funeral Home Funeral Records collection contains obituaries from a Lincoln County funeral home. We selected these obituaries because they contain family background and general information about people with ties to the

Lincoln County area and can especially help genealogists with discovering research leads.

The Lincoln County Courthouse Records contain legal information from affidavits to summons dating back to the 1700s. We also chose to include the courthouse records because they are excellent primary sources that discuss many kinds of legal proceedings which took place in Lincoln County history and could serve as great evidence in historical research for that area.

Kathleen Reichl, the staff coordinator for the Columbia County Library Genealogy Club emphasized that “as a genealogist myself, I have personally used these records, as have many of my patrons and genealogy club members. We find them invaluable.”

### Urban Planning, Civil Rights, and Trends in Landscape Design in Savannah Highlighted

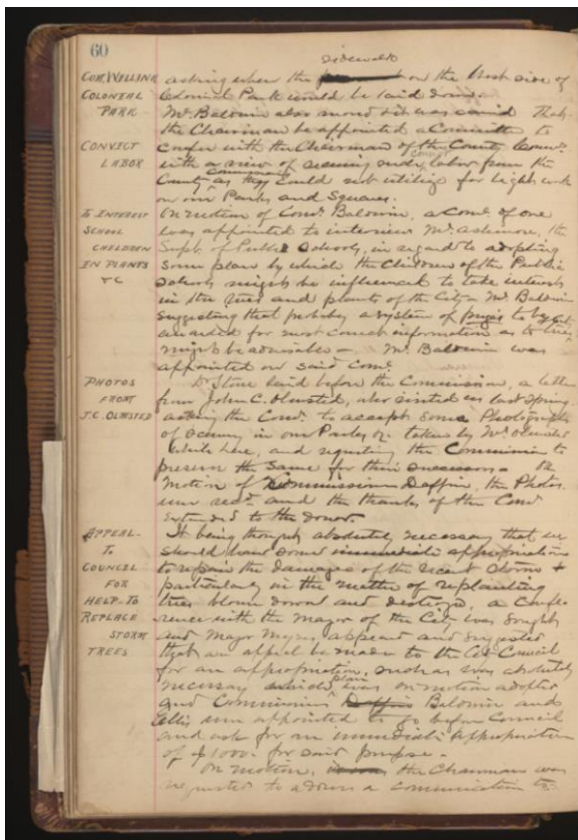
In partnership with the City of Savannah Municipal Archives, the Digital Library of Georgia (DLG) has made [the minutes of the Park and Tree Commission 1896–1929](#) available freely online.

The historical significance of the collection may not be obvious at first, but Luciana Spracher, director for the City of Savannah Municipal Archives, described its importance to contemporary research:

While on the surface the Park and Tree Commission Minutes might seem mundane, upon closer inspection they contain important information that reflects the intersections of urban planning and civil rights, trends in landscape design, development of Savannah’s cemeteries (both African American and white, since Savannah’s cemeteries were originally segregated), and details such as the use of convict

labor in city infrastructure projects; all topics that draw on current socio-political trends and that are largely underrepresented in scholarship.

Minutes from the early 20th-century discuss issues surrounding segregation of public facilities, such as public pools and park benches. These records offer insider perspectives into the decision-making process related to these Jim Crow-era policies that are not often found in governmental records.



Spracher also described the importance of digitizing the collection for accessibility:

Currently this collection is underutilized by researchers because it is available only on site in our research facility in Savannah and is often overlooked as researchers are likely to believe it contains information limited to topics

such as tree planting, parks, and playgrounds. By digitizing the collection and sharing it through the Digital Library of Georgia (and thereby through the Digital Public Library of America), it will become more widely accessible to researchers in broad geographic locations.

Daves Rossell, professor of architectural history at the Savannah College of Art and Design added:

Having a doctorate in American architectural and urban history, with a specialty in vernacular architecture and cultural landscape, I have had call to use the Municipal Archives on many occasions, including in preparation for historic district nominations, historic landscape recordation, and a variety of research on individual buildings. Without the Park and Tree Commission’s records, such fundamental aspects of our civic heritage would be as good as lost. The Park and Tree Commission records are among the most diverse and valuable resources available on many such topics.

**Birth Registers from Historically Endangered Georgia Nursing Home for Expectant African American Mothers**

The Georgia B. Williams Nursing Home in Camilla, Georgia, and the Digital Library of Georgia (DLG) have worked together to digitize and present online the [birth registers](#) of the mothers and babies born at the Georgia B. Williams Nursing Home between 1949–1971. This nursing home, located at the home of state-certified midwife Mrs. Beatrice ("Miss Bea") Borders (1892–1971), was the first and only professional birthing center in the rural South where African American women were allowed by local doctors to receive midwife delivery for their newborns during segregation, Jim Crow depression, and medical deprivation in the 20th century.

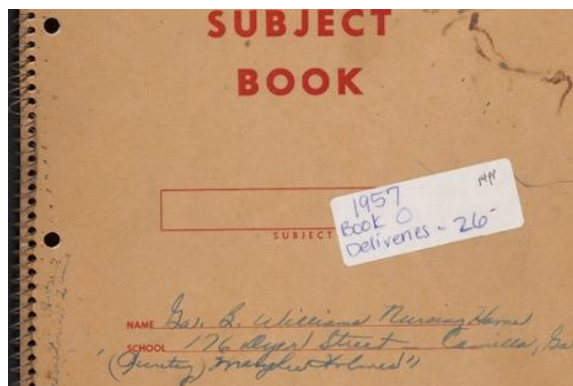
“Miss Bea” and her assistants oversaw over 6,000 births and provided a safe place for African American mothers who had nowhere else to go.

These birth records were recorded in mid-century composition notebooks and contain essential genealogical information.

Depending on the volume, some entries include the mother's name, the date she entered the facility, the time of the birth, the baby's weight, the baby's gender, and whether there were any complications such as stillbirths. Some entries include additional genealogical information such as occupation, age, address, birthplace, number of children in the family, and the name of the father.

Melissa Jest, program coordinator for African American Programs at the Georgia Historic Preservation division of the Georgia Department of Community Affairs said:

The digitization and cataloging of the records from this Black-owned/operated business presents an opportunity for students and researchers to learn about this historically significant place and the people who entered its doors.



It is our hope that this project will bring awareness to Mrs. Borders and will build support for the physical preservation of where she did her work.

The Georgia B. Williams Nursing Home in Camilla, Georgia survives as a very rare example of a professional birthing center run by Mrs. Borders, a state-certified midwife. Increased access to the business records and related documents generated between 1941 and 1971 will assist hundreds of people researching their genealogy and roots in Mitchell County, Georgia.



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## IN THE NEWS

### Oglethorpe University

The Philip Weltner Library at Oglethorpe University in Atlanta is proud to announce two new faculty members who joined the team this summer: Chamyre Hynson, a reference and instruction librarian, and Derek Harootune Otis, an instructional technology librarian.



Derek Harootune Otis and Chamyre Hynson

The library has also hired a library Sunday worker, Abdullah Zain. Zain is the inaugural worker for the library's recent efforts to offer those who have little to no experience the chance to work in the MLIS field. The library hopes to encourage other institutions to offer this opportunity to budding librarians.

Chamyre, an HBCU alumni, graduated from University of Maryland Eastern Shore, where she received her degree in English with a minor in telecommunications. After graduation, Chamyre decided to transfer her media skills into the library, which led her to the completion

of her MLIS degree at Valdosta State University in 2021. At Oglethorpe, Chamyre supports students, faculty, and staff by providing library research assistance and workshops every semester.

Derek earned a degree in Chinese language in culture at New College of Florida, where they defended a thesis titled *To Float Above Water: Mapping Modernity & Identity in Recent Chinese Ecocinema*. They went on to earn their MSLS at the University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign in 2021, where they worked in multiple library positions. At Oglethorpe, they support the purposeful integration of technology with teaching and learning.

Zain graduated from Georgia State University with a journalism degree and a minor in film and media. He is currently pursuing his MLIS at Valdosta State University. He is interested in reference and instruction and wants to learn ways to apply the theoretical aspects of librarianship to real-world situations. In his spare time, he loves to read comic books.



Abdullah Zain

"I am very excited that Chamyre, Derek, and Zain have joined our team and are helping to ensure we serve our mission to support the academic programs here at Oglethorpe," University Librarian Eli Arnold shared. "We are proud that the Weltner Library is a place where we can train new paraprofessionals and professionals to become leaders in the field."

## Off the SHELF

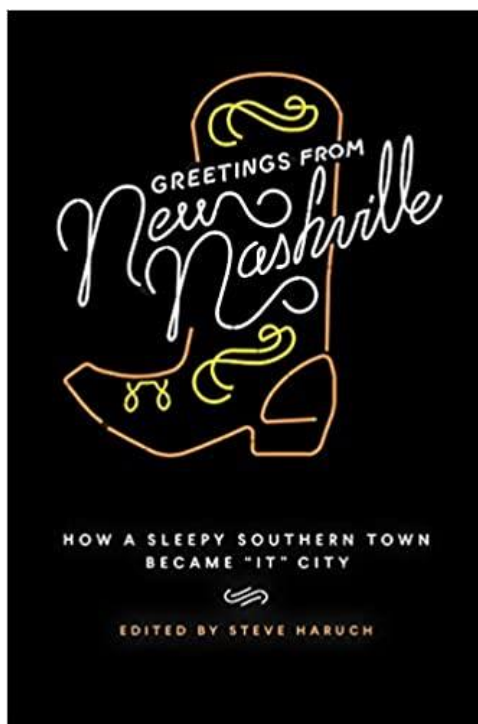
**Greetings from New Nashville: How a Sleepy Southern Town Became “It” City** edited by Steve Haruch (Vanderbilt University Press, 2020: ISBN 9780826500274, \$24.95)

Steve Haruch knows Nashville. In his second published book, *Greetings from New Nashville: How a Sleepy Southern Town Became “It” City*, he takes a deeper dive into matters he had previously covered for NPR and the *New York Times*—honky-tonks, the Grand Ole Opry, and all manner of things synonymous with Nashville.

Right out of the gate, the introduction acknowledges that “it’s hard to pinpoint the exact moment the sleepy town of Nashville became a real city.” What follows is an account—almost a litany—of Nashvillian musicians, celebrities, scandals, and even weather events that led up to the once sleepy town being dubbed an “It City” in 2013 by a journalist for the *New York Times*. And that’s just the introduction.

The content that follows dissects the conundrum at the heart of the book—Nashville is no longer an idyllic, sleepy town, and she has enjoyed some development and progress, but just what monstrous thing was stirred awake? Each chapter—essays and excerpts from other published authors—offers musings on some aspect of Nashville, from sports teams and hot chicken (their signature dish) to historic music landmarks and desegregation.

The book starts with lighter fare, like the acquisition of an NHL team and the hot chicken phenomenon, and wends its way to heavier topics, like the “second wave gentrification” impacting the lower-middle class and the police shooting and subsequent slandering of Jocques Clemmons, a Black man, following a traffic infraction.



Haruch doesn’t shy away from the examination of race within the context of Nashville’s history. There’s the inclusion of a poem by Tiana Clark entitled “Nashville,” which corrals so many issues central to the problem of racism, including gerrymandering, gentrification, and statues and icons of the Confederacy.

Betsy Phillips’s essay “Perverse Incentives” closes out the book with a sentiment that captures the overarching tone of the editor and many of the contributors. Phillips addressed a “simmering resentment” regarding all the money the

city manages to proffer for development incentives “but not for schools.” Phillips wrote, “and now with all the new buildings and the downtown packed with tourists—all the money pouring into the city that isn’t making the lives of ordinary Nashvillians better—that resentment is beginning to boil over.”

A book this packed with historic events, social commentary, and the like could easily be a boring, labor intensive read, but *Greetings* manages to avoid that, offering a mélange of

voices and writing styles. It would be a great addition to the 900s (history & geography) section of any library and, were it not for the omission of an index, it could almost function as

a textbook for a course on the ill effects of becoming a tourist destination.

*Asha Hagood is Outreach Librarian at Georgia Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled*



## Off the SHELF

**Modeling Entradas: Sixteenth-Century Assemblages in North America** edited by Clay Mathers (University of Florida Press, 2020: ISBN 9781683401582, \$95)

The University of Florida Press's Ripley P. Bullen series, named after the Florida Museum of Natural History's former curator and "dean of Florida archaeology," has produced dozens of academic titles about archaeology in the southeastern United States. With *Modeling Entradas*, editor Clay Mathers has contributed a compendium of important new archaeological scholarship that is characteristic of this series.

In the early- to mid-16th century, the conquistadors Francisco Vazquez de Coronado, Hernando de Soto, Tristan de Luna y Arellano, and Juan Pardo began to lead entradas, or expeditions, into the North American interior. Archaeologists are interested in this era because these conquests left behind some of the earliest traces of material evidence of contact between indigenous North Americans and Europeans.

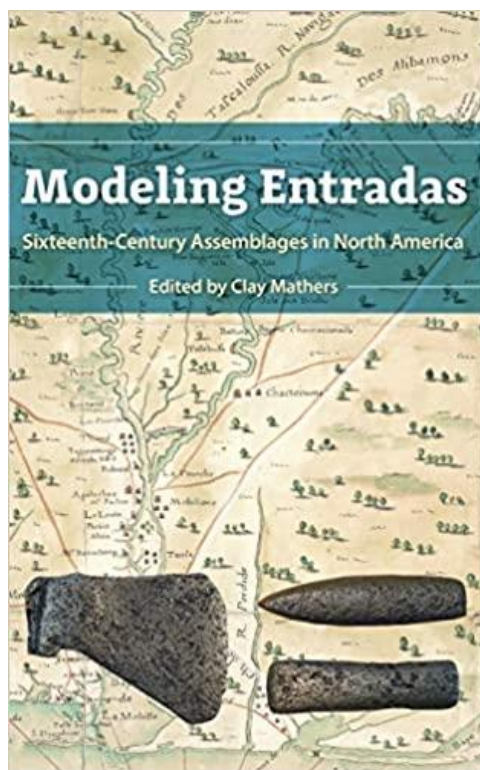
Concentrating mostly on the southeastern United States, contributors discuss many types of excavation sites, including a farm in eastern Mississippi, a fort in western North Carolina, and evidence of a shipwreck in Pensacola Bay, Florida. One author posits that a region of northeast Alabama and northwest Georgia may contain the largest collection of 16th century European artifacts in the Southeast. Artifacts

found in the region vary widely, including nailed timber fragments, horseshoes, iron chisels, and even something as small as a glass bead. New techniques such as lead isotope analysis and X-ray fluorescence, which measures elemental composition, are minimally invasive to the physical integrity of the artifact and can help archaeologists discriminate bead types from specific periods and entradas.

As Mathers writes in the introduction, a profound challenge for archaeological scholarship around the 16th century entradas and the study of early colonialism and globalization is "connecting a fine-grained understanding of individual objects to wider patterns of cultural activity and long-term historical trajectories." In addition to technological advances, new models are presented from quantitative, spatial, and cartographic analysis. These essays detail how new applications of interdisciplinary methods of inquiry, like primary source historical research and ethnohistorical data, provide insight into the travel routes taken by traveling entradas

and the complex interactions between the entradas and Native Americans. This contact included gift-giving, material exchange and reuse, and of course, disease and immense violence brought by Spanish conquest.

Maps, tables, and graphs accompany each chapter and provide helpful context and data, but photographs and illustrations of the actual



sites and excavated artifacts are too scarce. More visual content could boost readers' understanding and interest and may serve to break up sometimes-tedious academic writing.

This book is decidedly written by and for archaeologists who are interested in new technologies and modeling methods. However, the topics explored in *Modeling Entradas* may

also be compelling to enthusiasts of archeology, anthropology, the history of Georgia and the southeastern United States, and the history of the Spanish entradas and early North American colonialism.

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**Queering the South on Screen** edited by Tison Pugh (University of Georgia Press, 2020: ISBN 9780820356723, paperback, \$34.95; ISBN 9780820356532, hardcover, \$99.95)

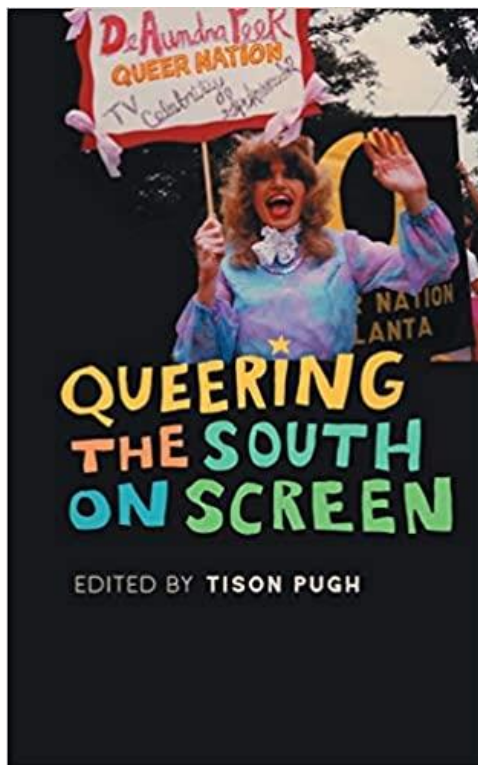
An engaging and substantive collection of essays, *Queering the South on Screen* takes a deep dive into the role of visual media in queer identity development throughout the American South. Here, readers take a tour of the reflexive nature of relationships between queer southerners and the portrayal of masculinity, femininity, and sexuality in films, plays, and other visual media in southern settings. This book is a crucial conversation in queer film theory, engaging in an inquiry into “five narrative and thematic modes of queerness - adaptation, gothic, homosocial anxiety, kinship, and camp.”

The authors dissect individual films to show the juxtaposition of queer characters’ presumed personalities, desires, and fantasies to the realities of life in the South as a queer person. These five narrative tropes point to intersections of queerness, regionalism, and identity. *Queering the South on Screen* proposes that homosocial relationships, fluid masculinity, and emboldened femininity are all explorative representations of what queer culture represents for the American South.

As the contributors to *Queering the South on Screen* clarify, the American South has a deeply

layered relationship with heteronormative values and expectations. Part one, titled “Queer Adaptations of Southern Authors,” follows early adaptations of southern authors on screen. The evolving dynamics between men and women during that time are highlighted through displays of multifaceted masculine identities alongside women who step into their own sexual power. One author even posits, “queered southern masculinities... give rise to female agency.” This text gives a riveting review of how empowered women brought validation to queer identities.

The rise of southern Gothicism illustrates social perceptions of depravity through sexual salaciousness, pervasive alcoholism, and general degeneracy. In the eyes of the public, queerness evoked assumptions of degeneracy, coinciding with later tropes of queer antisociality. However, further scrutiny of queer Gothicism in southern horror delineates the true monstrosity of the heteronormative, while establishing the fundamental normativity of homosexuality.



In the book’s final chapters, more modern examples of queer media are explored. The iconic drag queens of Atlanta on public access television are lauded as examples of using queerness as a means of challenging the traditional southern ideologies of conservatism, whiteness, elitism, and heteronormativity. Contributors to the book go on to explain how drag performers like DeAundra Peek used their

platforms in media to revolutionize what it means to enjoy being gay in your community, no matter where that community may be.

The analysis of films in this text provides a patchwork portrait of the evolution of queer acceptance and celebration. *Queering the South on Screen* reads as an introduction into queer

film studies, a vital segment of LGBTQIA+ history. This book is highly recommended for academic and public libraries, especially those with a focus on diverse and inclusive collections.

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