

Peach State Update

The Newsletter of the Georgia Chapter of the Special Libraries Association

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President's Letter

In my position with the Graduate Education Program at Dialog, I work closely with library and information science students and faculty across North America. While the programs are all accredited by the American Library Association, course requirements and class offerings vary widely and thus the knowledge and skills of graduates vary as well. I find it fascinating to hear about what students are learning and the exciting projects they undertake. On the other hand, it can also be disheartening to discover that many students think that all information is free and can be found simply by searching Google. Gone are the days when one could count on every student knowing how to catalog or being a competent online searcher.

What is happening with library education in Georgia now that the library school at Clark Atlanta University has closed? To find out, please come to our January program (details to follow). Wally Koehler, director of the Library and Information Science program at Valdosta State University, will speak to the chapter about issues of particular concern to SLA members such as the curriculum at VSU, what employers can expect from graduates, and offerings for non-degree students. Valdosta State was granted candidacy status by the Committee on Accreditation of the American Library Association in November 2004, and the comprehensive review is scheduled for spring 2007.

We plan to invite members of other library associations in Georgia to attend the January meeting as well as other programs that might be of interest to their members. In the fall we issued joint invitations with MALA (Metropolitan Atlanta Library Association) to programs held at the Georgia Archives and the National Archives Southeast Region in Morrow. Increasing opportunities to meet other information professionals is a goal for our chapter this year. Although information professionals work in many different settings, I believe that we have much in common and can benefit from the chance to meet each other. If you have contacts at area organizations, please let me know so that I can more easily get in touch with them.

We kicked off the year with a networking meeting at La Madeleine restaurant in Buckhead. Twenty of us gathered to chat and catch up with developments over the summer. The October archives program was thought-provoking. If you were not able to attend, I encourage you to visit on your own - both archives are open on Saturdays. Where else can you see both Al Capone's draft registration card and the police report for the arrest of Rosa Parks on that Montgomery bus?

Best regards,

Allison Evatt

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Peach State Update

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of the Special Libraries Association

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Chapter Dozen Parties with Archivists: Georgia Archives and Southeast Regional Archive, Morrow, GA October 5, 2005

This year, the Society of Georgia Archivists celebrated Georgia Archives Week (October 2-8) with the theme, "Discover Hidden Treasures." At this event, SLA/Georgia chapter members and guests viewed some interesting materials during their visit to the Georgia and Southeast Regional Archives in Morrow, Georgia. (Morrow is home to Clayton State University and is located just outside Atlanta's southern perimeter.)

Our group of twelve spent the afternoon learning about the work and facilities at both archives and taking insiders' tours. Valerie Frey, the Georgia Archives' Education Coordinator, shared the following information about her institution:

- > The Georgia Archives is administered by the Secretary of State's office;
- > The Archives was established in 1918, one year after Lucian Lamar Knight was appointed as the first Georgia Archivist;
- > The Archives' current building, its fourth facility, was completed in 2003 at a cost \$23 million;
- > The Archives contains four floors of stacks and is operated by a staff of forty.

In line with the Archives Week theme, we learned about these "hidden treasures" at the Archives:

- > Its oldest document is the Georgia charter dating back to 1732;
- > Button Gwinnett was one of three Georgians who signed the Declaration of Independence;
- > The Archives' Conservation Laboratory contains a snorkel fan for ventilating its work area.

Other invited guests joined us for our visit of the Southeast Regional Archives which was completed in April this year. After Regional Administrator Jim McSweeney introduced the facility to us, Zina Rhone, Mary Ladner and Mary Evelyn Tomlin led tours of public and work areas whose space can accommodate up to 200,000 cubic feet of archival materials. During our visit, we learned that the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) administers our presidential libraries. The Federal Archives' collection featured such diverse holdings as sheet music from Elvis Presley and Patsy Cline, an advertisement for the Louisville Slugger baseball bat and draft registration records for Louis Armstrong, Fred Astaire and Babe Ruth. Our visit ended with a small reception to acknowledge the role that informa-

tion professionals played in promoting the work of the Archives.

The distance traveled to Clayton County was well worth the time of program attendees who included staff from Georgia Tech, Turner Broadcasting System, Beulah Heights Bible College, Thomson Dialog and the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta. For those who couldn't join us, you may want to check out these sources for more information:

Georgia Archives:
<http://www.sos.state.ga.us/archives/>

Southeast Regional Archives:
<http://www.archives.gov/southeast/>

Atlanta Magazine article on archives:
"Paper Trail," July 2005, pages 94 - 105.

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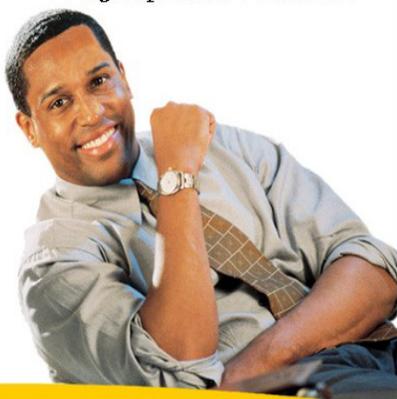
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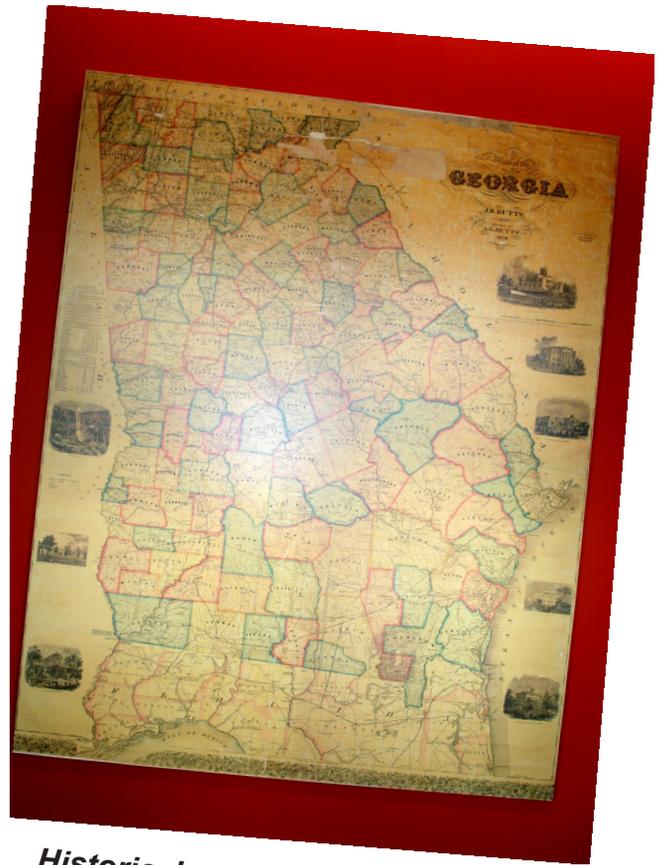
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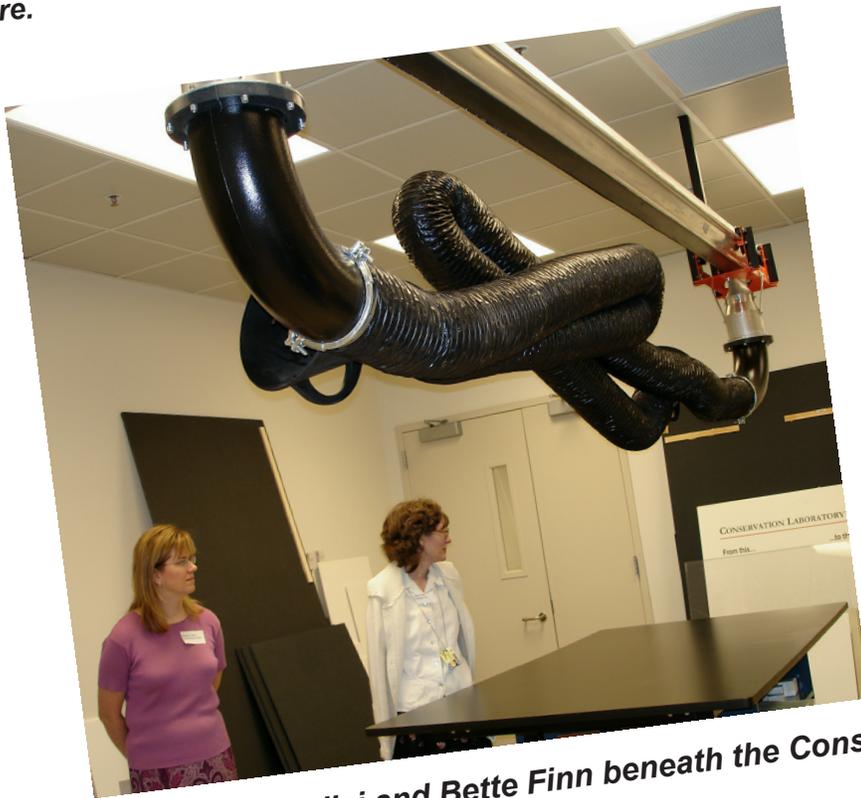
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Allison Evatt (left) and Melissa Jacobson (right) look on as Mary Ladner and Jim McSweeney (center) describe an Archives' treasure.



Historical map of the Peach State at the Georgia Archives.



Marietta Carlisi and Bette Finn beneath the Conservation Lab's snorkel.



Chapter members and guests get comfortable while waiting for Southeast Regional Archives Director Jim McSweeney. (Front row: left to right - Irv Koch, Irene McMorland, Annie Tilden, and Marietta Carlisi; Back row: (left to right) - Pradeep Das, Melissa Jacobson, John and Patty Phipps



Mary Evelyn Tomlin describes an exhibit during a tour. Dean Richard (left) and others look on

South Atlantic Regional Conference (SARC) III: Experience a Timeless Information Journey - Revolution and Evolution Continue - Woodlands Conference Center, Williamsburg, VA Sept. 28-Oct. 1, 2005 www.sla.org/conf_sar



SARC III attracted over two hundred librarians and vendors to Williamsburg to “experience a timeless information journey” in a magical location. The event, held September 28 -- October 1, drew the largest attendance at a SARC conference to date. The conference kicked off with a lovely outdoor reception, Wednesday evening on the patio of the Woodlands Conference Center. This was a great opportunity for attendees to network and reconnect with old friends

The sessions on Thursday and Friday followed topical tracks. Thursday offered Content Connections, People Connections and Technology Connections. The Georgia Chapter was well-represented on Thursday by our program speakers: Ernie Evangelista who spoke on Knowledge Management in Practice: The FEDFAQ; and Ilene Strongin-Garry and Susan Wells Parham who spoke on Adopting DSpace (in both the corporate and academic environments.) Thursday’s keynote speaker was David Seaman, Executive Director of the Digital Library Federation who gave a lively talk at lunch time. His speech was filled with amazing examples of the impact digitization has on the distribution of publications, particularly older literature and academic journals

Friday’s tracks were Past Connections, Present Connections & Future Connections. The surprise luncheon speaker was none other than Thomas Jefferson who brought us up to date on his life in Virginia in 1776. He also spent about 45 minutes fielding questions about both his political and personal life. The discussions became heated when he was questioned about voting rights for women and separation of church and state (neither of which existed in the summer of 1776). We were blessed with mild weather for the conference and both lunches were held under a large party tent outside.

My personal leanings led me to some interesting sessions in Content Connections and Past Connections. However, other attendees have agreed to share some of their SARC experiences, so I will leave space for them to cover their observations below.

Sara June McDavid

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SARC III continue

Huzzah for SARC III!

In the weeks before SLA's South Atlantic Regional Conference (SARC) began, I felt like Patrick Henry, Thomas Jefferson, or John Murray, fourth Earl of Dunmore, in 18th century Virginia. Incited and inspired by their comrades in New England, Henry, Jefferson and other Virginians met in Williamsburg to decide their fate. Lord Dunmore, the Royal Governor, knew that his future would be determined by the Virginians' decision. Although Dunmore issued a proclamation against Henry in May 1775, within one month, he fled from his palace vowing never to return.

As a Budget Committee member for SARC III, I shared my group's concern that this SLA meeting might not attract enough exhibitors or participants and lead to financial loss for the contributing chapters of Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia and Florida. Thankfully, these worries were relieved as we drew closer to the conference's kickoff on September 28.

Williamsburg was an appropriate location for SARC III. In a setting that preserved the traditions of colonial America and recreated those times, I learned a great deal about the past, present and future of the information industry. I began the conference by presenting on a knowledge management application developed at the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta, the FedFAQ. And when I wasn't staffing the registration table, I attended conference sessions such as:

- “ Open Access - The Perfect Storm? Policy, History and Use;
- “ Library Uses of XML;
- “ Added Value: Defining, Creating and Promoting Value to Our Users;
- “ Content, Not Containers: Information Format Trends.

As with other SLA meetings, SARC III was a forum for sharing ideas with colleagues. I learned about some new services and discussed conference sessions with Federal Reserve colleagues from Richmond and Washington DC. I also reconnected with North Carolina chapter members, including SLA President-Elect Rebecca Vargha, whom I had known from my graduate school days at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

And then, there was Williamsburg itself. I last visited this colonial site as a child. While I remembered the Governor's Palace, the grounds seemed much better preserved now. The site's shuttle bus system facilitated travel and alleviated concerns about parking. My introduction to this historic site began by watching the 1957 film, "Williamsburg: The Story of a Patriot," starring Jack Lord. (Remember him from Hawaii Five-O?). My visit's highlights included tours of the Governor's Palace and the Capitol, a light dinner at Shields Tavern and watching and listening to the fife and drum corps that wound its way around the colonial village.

Though final budget figures are not yet available, I felt that the conference was a rousing success. As I reflected on the efforts of fellow event planners, I allowed myself to think like Henry, Jefferson, or even Dunmore and exclaimed, "Huzzah!"

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VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Ever thought you'd like to volunteer to help with SLA Georgia Chapter events, but weren't sure what was needed - and didn't want to over-commit???

There are lots of tasks that don't require lots of time - such as:

- **Take photos at a meeting**
- **Write a summary of a program**
- **Suggest a topic or speaker**
- **Help to organize a program**
 - **Speak at a program**
 - **Host a program**

Yes, successful SLA programs need lots of people - but just a little time from each one.

Contact Allison Evatt 404-352-8053 if you would like to know more.



Special Libraries Association

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Atlanta, Georgia