SGA
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Digital Library of Georgia reaches a historic milestone.

Diversifying Representation at Kennesaw State University

Brittany Newberry shares her favorite objects at AUC Woodruff Library

Welcome the SGA 2018 Board! Reflections from Presidents past and present
Reflections from the Presidents: The Year in Review and the Year Ahead

By Wendy Hagenmaier and Sarah Turner

The Year in Review

By the end of 2017, our first full year of Strategic Plan implementation, the SGA Board Members had completed over 15 of our five-year Strategic Plan Timetable action items and begun making progress on 27 more. The Board collaborated on a revision of the Timetable, editing proposed timelines and adding new items, to ensure that our action plan will remain relevant and guide us efficiently towards our strategic goals. After this year, the Timetable and the Strategic Plan of which it is a part no longer seem like static documents to me; rather, they are invitations for continuous improvement, reflections of the fact that our organization is organic, with roles and relationships always evolving, striving to better serve our members. As much as I believe in SGA—and because I believe in it—I think it’s crucial to ask questions about the organization’s value proposition, to push on where we could be doing better and where we can grow stronger by changing what we’ve always done.

As we move into the next year of SGA adventures, I wanted to thank the outgoing Board Members and the SGA membership for your inspiring work in 2017. I am very proud of the progress we have all made on SGA’s strategic plan, and I feel so much appreciation and gratitude for the time and effort and love you’ve given to SGA. Our organization is very lucky to benefit from your involvement.

SGA is changing and evolving in meaningful and exciting ways, pushing beyond our status quo and defining new ways to bring value to our members. And I know, under Sarah’s leadership and with the incoming Board, 2018 will bring wonderful progress. Our organization has never been stronger. I hope you all can take a moment to feel that strength and to be proud of your essential role in it.

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Throughout the past year, as a country, a profession, and an organization we witnessed many changes, experienced new challenges, and discovered areas for growth. The 2017 SGA Board Members, with the help of a growing and engaged membership, worked hard to meet our Strategic Plan goals with a focus on outreach, education, fiscal sustainability, institutional knowledge management, diversity, and communication. As SGA moves into 2018, it’s 49th year, I look forward to working and collaborating with all of you to ensure that our organization continues to build on all the progress of 2017, which included the development of the Diversity and Inclusion Statement, the incorporation of new technologies to encourage and grow archival education, and the continuation of the Strategic Plan. I’m thankful to be a part of a professional organization that sees the value in collecting, preserving, and making the archival record accessible in the state of Georgia.

In 2018, SGA will continue advocating for archives and archivists, and demonstrating through action our commitments to community, diversity, and the sustainability of the historical record. As Wendy mentioned, it is important to push ourselves as an organization, to ask how we are remaining relevant, how can we better effect change in the archival community, and what are new ways we can successfully fulfill our mission. I’m excited to start this new year with several important changes including, a revamp of our communications position, expanded advocacy and outreach initiatives, new technology to help grow our educational programs, and a plan to remain fiscally sustainable. I can’t thank Wendy and the 2017 SGA Board and members enough for all the hard work accomplished in 2017, and look forward to a productive 2018!

SGA President's Award

The SGA President’s Award recognizes individuals or organizations from outside the archival profession who make significant contributions to it. These supporters -- be they legislators or administrators or researchers or others -- are absolutely vital to the archives field and individual archivists. In an era of uncertain budgets, we need these relationships with allies beyond the archives more than ever. Advocates from other communities, with different perspectives, illuminate our relevance to the wider world and encourage us to question our status quo.

The 2017 President’s Award recipient exemplifies the qualities of a true archival ally. In the words of nominator Angelique Richardson: “Deacon Dennis Dorner has been a fantastic advocate for the Office of Archives and Records since he became Chancellor of the Archdiocese of Atlanta almost 10 years ago. In our corporate structure, the Office of Archives and Records falls under the responsibility of the Chancellor. However, the Chancellor is not usually someone who has any archives or records management experience. (When Deacon Dorner discovered he would be in charge of our office, he actually attended an SAA meeting to learn more about our profession!) He has championed our causes and helped us push through archives and records initiatives that impact our entire Archdiocese. Deacon Dorner wholeheartedly supports the work that our office does and believes in us as professionals. He encourages us to become members of professional organizations, to attend conferences, and to serve on committees. He cares about our careers in general, not just the portion of our career working for the Archdiocese, and inspires us to think long-term about what we want to do with our lives.”

Thank you to Angelique for this thoughtful nomination, and congratulations to Deacon Dennis Dorner.
As the Outreach/Special Collections Archivist in the Department of Museums, Archives and Rare Books at Kennesaw State University (KSU), one of my tasks is to help increase the representation of underrepresented groups within our archives and special collections. One such group is the Native American community. While the northwest Georgia region has a rich history of indigenous life and culture, specifically which regards to the Cherokee Nation, much Cherokee history and ancestry has been lost or fragmented. Much of this fragmentation occurred after the tragic removal of the Cherokee Nation from New Echota (modern-day Calhoun, GA) and other areas of Georgia during the early mid-nineteenth century, also known as The Trail of Tears. At KSU, we have salvaged small pieces of this history within our special collections. A few of our holdings include an issue of the Cherokee Phoenix newspaper from 1830, a translation of the Book of Matthew into the Cherokee language, and a 1832 Cherokee land grant. For quite a while, I felt as though these materials would make a fascinating exhibit. However, I knew that I did not want to create an exhibit about indigenous Americans without first consulting the indigenous community as well as those committed to learning and preserving indigenous history. Hence, thanks to a generous grant from the Society of American Archivists Foundation, I was able to develop and host KSU’s first Native American Community Curation Workshop.

The workshop took place in the Sturgis Library building at KSU from 10:00 am until 2:30 pm on Saturday, December 2, 2017. During this first session, I guided attendees through a discussion about preservation and cultural considerations for indigenous materials based on the book Caring for American Indian Objects edited by Sherelyn Ogden. The discussion was incredibly rich. In particular, we discussed the problems that can result when curators and archivists only display indigenous materials like arrowheads, spears, baskets, and pottery. While these items are important for understanding some aspects of Native American life, creating an exhibit with just these items gives the impression that Native Americans are frozen in time. Instead, archivists and curators should include contemporary Native American art, books, genealogical efforts, newspapers, etc., so audiences can understand that indigenous culture is alive and constantly evolving. After the focus questions, we explored case studies from Ogden’s book and examined the influence of professional and legislative guidelines for handling indigenous archives and artifacts, such as the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) of 1990, and the Protocols for Native American Archival Materials from 2007. Toward the end of session one, attendees enjoyed an excerpt of a video produced by the North Carolina Language and Life Project called First Language: The Race to Save Cherokee.

Next, we had a show-and-tell session. All attendees were encouraged to bring an artifact or archival item to share with the group so they would have the opportunity to demonstrate how they are preserving history at home. Attendees brought arrowheads discovered in nearby Cherokee County, a beautiful piece of Native American pottery, and research about the relationship between Native Americans and Africans during the period of slavery in the United States. After the show-and-tell session, attendees enjoyed a tour of the KSU Archives and a display of Cherokee materials in the KSU Archives reading room. These materials included an 1830 issue of the Cherokee Phoenix newspaper, a Cherokee hymnal from the 1700s, the Book of Matthew translated into Cherokee language in 1850, nineteenth-century Cherokee land documents, an undated map of the Cherokee Nation, and a rare book about the Cherokee Phoenix.

After lunch, our guest speaker was Frank Brannon, a Cherokee printing expert. The title of Brannon’s presentation was “Cherokee Printing: When Ross Landing Became Chattanooga.” During this presentation, Brannon taught attendees about the nuances of the Cherokee language (and spoke Cherokee for us!). He talked about his experiences learning to collaborate with members of North Carolina’s Cherokee Nation in a culturally respectful manner.

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“Georgia's Treasures: Exploring Your Genealogy, History and Culture at Public Libraries” is now available at public libraries across the state. This 16-page, full-color booklet showcases the archives, special collections, genealogy and local history resources found in numerous public libraries in Georgia.

The booklet was inspired by four major public library history and genealogy collections: the Auburn Avenue Research Library on African American Culture and History, part of the Atlanta-Fulton Public Library System; the Ellen Payne Odom Genealogy Library, part of the Moultrie-Colquitt County Library System; the Genealogical and Historical Room and Middle Georgia Archives, located in Macon and part of the Middle Georgia Regional Library System; and the Ladson Genealogy Library, located in Vidalia and part of the Ohoopoe Regional Library System.

Combined, these collections offer nearly 185,000 print volumes and 50,000 reels of microfilm of genealogy, local history and culture, as well as hundreds of original archival collections. An additional six libraries in Athens, Augusta, Brunswick, Savannah, Marietta and Washington are noted for their impressive collections, public programs and reference services.

In addition to physical collections, every public library card holder in the state can access online genealogy tools like HeritageQuest from home through GALILEO – Georgia's Virtual Library – as well as Ancestry Library Edition at their local library branch. Researchers anywhere also have access to the Virtual Vault, a digital collection of resources from the state library's sister organization, the Georgia Archives. Links to these resources, as well as to a PDF version of the booklet, can be found here.

“History Lost? Saving Louisiana's Archival Heritage”

In 2017 the Louisiana Historical Association began this initiative to outline anew the many challenges to archival preservation and to invite broad participation in this renewed effort to save the records of our extraordinary patrimony.

Louisiana's historical archives are endangered assets, imperiled by direct and indirect threats. We have three main areas of concern: first, saving all historical and public records, paper to digital, that are held by organizations and entities; second, the preservation of historical (and other) records created by institutions and organizations that are not housed in archival facilities; and third, the transferring to the appropriate repository of public records that are currently in private hands.

The goals of this initiative are to educate government officials, institutional administrators, and the general public of the threat to Louisiana's archives and the need to preserve them. Our statement of action sets both short-term and long-term objectives and timelines for the effective implementation of these goals. The funding of preservation initiatives is imperative and is among our primary goals.

The Louisiana Historical Association established an Ad Hoc Committee on Preserving Louisiana's Archival Heritage. I serve as Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee and ask you to read the Statement prepared for the initiative. It can be found on the LHA website www.lahistory.org and on my website www.vfphillipsco.com. Please take some time and review the Statement and please send comments, questions, suggestions, etc. to me vfphillipsco@gmail.com.

The Louisiana Manuscripts and Archives Association is a committed supporter. Please feel free to contact people you know who are members of LHA and/or LAMA.

Thank you.

Faye Phillips
VF Phillips Consulting

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The final portion of the workshop was the community curation activity. I gave attendees a short tour of the Athenaeum Gallery, which is the gallery space where I will be curating the Cherokee exhibit in 2019. Once attendees had an idea of the exhibit space, we returned to the archives classroom to begin curatorial planning for the exhibit. The document we created covers a variety of details necessary for planning a robust exhibit, such as exhibition goals, potential artifacts and collections, loans, target audiences, collaborations and partnerships, public programs, etc. We worked through each of these points as a group, and I recorded this information in a digital copy of the document. This document is rich with a variety of viewpoints and considerations, and it will serve as my biggest guide while planning the Cherokee exhibit.

The workshop was an extreme success. Attendees left the workshop knowing that their voices and perspectives matter in the development of our exhibit. As for me, I feel empowered to develop an accurate and culturally sensitive exhibit that documents northwest Georgia's indigenous community.

Don't be afraid to get the community involved in your work, especially when you are documenting a specific group of people. Let outreach inform and influence your role as an archivist!
NATIONAL ARCHIVES BUDGET: Congress has passed two continuing funding resolutions (on December 7th and 21st) which extends the same level of funding for NARA and NHPRC as FY2017—$380.6 million for NARA and $6 million for NHPRC—through January 19, 2018. The funding for NARA in the proposed FY2018 appropriation bills is $364.3 million in the House bill (the amount requested by the President) and $384.9 million in the Senate bill. NHPRC would receive $4 million in the House bill and $6 million in the Senate bill rather than being zeroed out as the President requested.

KENNEDY ASSASSINATION RECORDS: In five separate releases from October-December 2017 the National Archives over 31,000 documents previously withheld under the JFK Assassination Records Collection Act online. Including the July 2017 release, nearly 35,000 documents relating to the assassination have been released in whole or in part. This means that, with the exception of 86 record identification numbers requiring additional research, all documents subject to Section 5 of the Act have been released. Redacted information in the six releases remains subject to further review and additional documents will be released in 2018 based on reviews ordered by President Trump. The agencies represented in the last five releases include the Central Intelligence Agency, the Departments of Defense and Justice, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the House Select Committee on Assassinations.

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS NEWS: The Library of Congress announced on October 10, 2017 that it had placed the papers of Ulysses S. Grant online in their original format. The collection consists of 50,000 items dating from 1819-1974, including the original handwritten manuscript of his memoir as well as correspondence, financial and legal records, military reports, scrapbooks, and speeches. The collection can be found at https://www.loc.gov/collections/ulysses-s-grant-papers/about-this-collection/.

On November 3, 2017 the Library and Boston public broadcaster WGBH announced that they were making gavel-to-gavel coverage of the 1973 Watergate hearings available through the American Archive of Public Broadcasting (AAPB) online exhibit “Gavel-to-Gavel: The Watergate Scandal and Public Television” (http://americanarchive.org/exhibits/watergate). The 352 hours of footage was donated by WETA of Washington, D.C. and was produced by the National Public Affairs Center for Television. It was digitized by the Library and place on the AAPB site, a collaboration between the Library and WGBH.

Also on November 3rd the Library announced it had acquired 2,500 programs of Dick Cavett’s talk show, consisting of nearly 2,000 hours of programming. Guests include Muhammad Ali, Marlon Brando, Duke Ellington, Alfred Hitchcock, John Lennon and Yoko Ono, Toni Morrison, Anthony Perkins, Ronald Reagan, Steven Spielberg, Gore Vidal, and Tennessee Williams, among others.

On November 8, 2017 the Library released a full color version of the Papers of Abraham Lincoln online. More than 20,000 documents have been digitized as high resolution images, refreshing a collection that was first put online in 2001 as scans from microfilm. The updated online collection contains additional features and materials not included in the 2001 online presentation.

The Library announced the newest additions to the National Film Registry on December 13, 2017. Films selected include a 1905 view of the New York subway less than seven months after its opening; the propaganda film The Sinking of the Lusitania (1918); a collection of home movies from the 1920’s and 1930’s that provide the earliest visual record of the Mexican-American community in Texas; the Cary Grant film Only Angels Have Wings (1939); Dumbo (1941); Spartacus (1960); the Hepburn and Tracy classic Guess Who’s Coming to Dinner (1967); Superman (1978); Die Hard (1988); Field of Dreams (1989) Titanic (1997); and the innovative mystery Memento (2000).

On January 3, 2018 the Library announced that it had acquired the archive of the Washington Post’s Pulitzer Prize-winning political satirist Art Buchwald. The 100,000 items in the collection include his books, columns, business and family correspondence, plays, screenplays, and unpublished works. Correspondents include actress Lauren Bacall; journalists Ben Bradlee and Mike Wallace; comedian Bob Hope; the Kennedy and Shriver families; singers Dinah Shore and Carly Simon; and novelist William Styron.

COPYRIGHT: On October 26, 2017 the U.S. Copyright Office published a notice of proposed rule making under the Digital Millennium Copyright Act (DMCA). The Office is recommending the renewal of all existing exemptions to the act that allow circumvention of technological measures to control access to copyrighted works. These include exemptions used by archives, libraries, and museums to preserve digital works such as games.
Brittany received her BA in English from Wake Forest University and MS in LIS from Simmons College in Boston. She’s currently the processing archivist at the AUC Woodruff Library. She’s an avid reader who loves cats and enjoys trying new restaurants.

Q & A

What attracted you to the archives profession?

My love of history and being able to interact with objects of history attracted me to the profession. I first worked in an archives while getting my bachelor’s degree. The reading room at my university looked like something out of Harry Potter, so I immediately wanted to work there. The first collection I worked with contained handwritten letters from an American missionary in China to her family. I enjoyed being able to work with primary source materials such as those letters. While there, I grew to understand the profession and had the opportunity to work with great archivists and librarians. I knew from that experience that I wanted to continue to work in the archives profession.

What’s the most interesting piece that you’ve come across?

It’s hard to say just one. I currently work in an academic archive that focuses on collecting materials on African American history and culture. We have W.E.B. DuBois’s typewriter. I did not come across it, but it makes me happy when I see it. Some things I have come across are letters from W.E.B. DuBois and John F. Kennedy to Grace Towns Hamilton. She was the first African American woman state legislator in Georgia and she seemed to know everyone.

What’s your advice for new members entering the profession?

New members should get various types of experience, volunteer for positions, go to happy hours, and meet new people. I found that by being willing to do more than just my job I have actually learned more and met some great people.
Physician Assistant History Society Celebrates Milestone Year

by Michelle Schabowski, MSIS, Archivist

2017 was a big year for the Physician Assistant History Society! It was the 50th year of the Physician Assistant Profession, and the Society’s 15th anniversary. The PA History Society helped PAs celebrate both milestones in style.

--- We conducted a fundraising campaign for over a year to build the only Veterans Garden dedicated to military and uniformed services PAs
--- We designed and launched a new innovative website to showcase our History Society’s collection and archives: www.pahx.org
--- In cooperation with the National Library of Medicine, we launched a traveling banner exhibit with online learning modules on the PA profession, which features a lot of photographs from our archive – the banners are traveling the United States for 5 years
--- We helped research and supply photographs and supplementary materials for a series of articles in national PA publications that focused on PA history
--- We solicited donations from PA programs and PAs for a time capsule to be opened on the 100th anniversary of the profession in 2067
--- We wrote an 80-page manuscript on the history of the PA History Society, again using photographs from our archives
--- We continued growing our social media presence by posting fun archival finds and Throwback Thursday photographs
--- We gathered and published a collection of comic strips from Gasoline Alley© that feature the adventures of PA Chipper Wallet. The strips follow Chipper through his medic service in Vietnam during the 70s, learning about the “new” PA profession, and highlighted how he celebrated the PA 50th Anniversary as one of the early pioneering PAs.

It was a busy, but fun and exciting year for the Society. We have set the bar high, and now must figure out how we can top ourselves in 2018!

PA Society Veterans Memorial Garden

Thirty-one issues dating from 1977 to 1980 of Image Magazine, one of the Athens-area’s first African American lifestyle magazines, are now freely available online through the DLG at http://dlg.galileo.usg.edu/CollectionsA-Z/immag_search.html.

Published by Dr. Robert Harrison from 1977 through 1980, Image Magazine covered the Athens-area African American community. Harrison and his staff regularly profiled African American businesses, civic leaders, notable students, social organizations, and churches in the region. The magazine also documented the social and artistic life of the area’s African Americans through fiction and features on fashion, music, and art. Of particular note is a 1980 special issue, The 1979-80 Image Maker: A Profile of Black Life in Athens, Georgia.

“We are grateful to Dr. Harrison for sharing this collection, and we truly appreciate the DLG for helping us make it available to everyone,” said Rikki Chesley, Athens Regional Library System Head of Archives and Special Collections. “Magazines like Image provide a unique glimpse into the daily lives of Athens families. This collection is a great way for researchers to learn about our community’s recent past.”

Harrison, an Athens civic leader and graduate of the University of Georgia, is the current Executive Director of the Institute for Community and Organizational Development, Inc., whose mission is “to empower people and communities through advocacy, education, and training.”

DLG News

Digital Library of Georgia Digitizes One Millionth Historic Newspaper Page and Receives Georgia Genealogical Society 2017 Outstanding Achievement in the Field of Genealogy Award

This fall, DLG digitized its one millionth historic newspaper page - the premier issue of The Georgia Gazette, Georgia’s first newspaper, published from 1763-1776 in Savannah. Public libraries around the state were provided with printed materials, including bookmarks, rack cards, and temporary tattoos, as well as a freely downloadable digital press kit to encourage local celebrations of the milestone.

The online press kit, available at https://sites.google.com/view/ghn-presskits, includes:

- A curriculum guide for educational and library programming with Georgia Historic Newspapers (GHN);
- A PowerPoint slide deck template for creating presentations on how to use the GHN website;
- A DLG “Quick Facts” document with information about the DLG, its public library partners, communication channels, and their historic newspaper milestones;
- A selection of prepared GHN-related posts that can be shared on social media; and
- A Millionth Page badge graphic to share within posts on social media

The DLG promoted its millionth page with weekly social media posts that feature items from our digitized newspapers, and conducted a contest with Facebook users who share our millionth page social media posts and tag us. Two winners were awarded a copy of UGA Press’ book For Free Press and Equal Rights by Richard H. Abbott.

In honor of DLG’s efforts to digitize historic Georgia newspapers, the Georgia Genealogical Society has awarded the DLG its 2017 Outstanding Achievement in the Field of Genealogy Award.
DLG Subgrant Awards Program for FY18

To broaden partner participation in the Digital Library of Georgia (DLG), DLG is soliciting proposals for historic digitization projects costing up to $5000. Project metadata will be included in the DLG portal and the Digital Public Library of America (DPLA). DLG is seeking applications for metadata creation or digitization projects from the permanent holders of the original archival content. Projects may include the reformatting of textual materials (not including newspapers), graphic materials, or audio-visual materials. Applicants should have materials prepared for a project start date of July 2, 2018.

Selection of materials or collections to digitize will be made in accordance with the DLG’s Collection Development Policy and will depend on the availability of resources and funding. A committee consisting of DLG and Georgia HomePLACE staff, and representative partner members and stakeholders will determine awards. Awards committee members will recuse themselves from review of a proposal should a conflict of interest exist. Preference will be given to proposals from institutions who have not yet collaborated with the DLG.

For textual and graphic materials, digitization and descriptive services will be performed by DLG staff. In the case of audio-visual collections, digitization will be outsourced to a vendor. Partners are responsible for transporting materials to and from the DLG or for costs associated with shipping to and from vendors.

Nominated materials must have clear rights statements and documentation. Any metadata created will be shared under a Creative Commons License Public Domain License (CC0) through the DLG’s portal and the DPLA.

To apply, submit the following to diglibga@gmail.com by March 16, 2018:
Application form;
One letter of reference from a user of the materials describing their historic value and potential for reuse;
Five sample images of selected content;
A budget that includes conversion costs, metadata services, and hosting fees based on the DLG Digital Services Cost Recovery for Proposal Development and using the application budget form; and
If requesting DLG hosting, proof of rights status for materials (e.g., letter of permissions from copyright holder, donor’s agreement, orphan works status assessment, release form, etc.)

An informational webinar is scheduled for February 13 at 10 am. You can also sign up for a 30-minute phone office hour slot on either February 20 or 21 using the following poll.