From a small, typewritten, sixteen page document published twice yearly to our professionally appearing quarterlyjournal, The Georgia Librarian is a publication of which we can all be proud. A glimpse at the past twenty-five years of our journal serves as a reflection of Georgia librarians and the larger library world.

In mid-1964 the Executive Board [led by President Walter T. Johnson, Librarian at Abraham Baldwin College] laid the groundwork for your Association to have an official publication. At that meeting the Publications Committee recommended that GLA issue a 16 page, twice-yearly offset-printed publication. Grace Hightower assumed the position of editor. Then, as now, the editor emphasized that The Georgia Librarian is your publication and the success of it depended (and still depends) upon all librarians in Georgia. Miss Hightower encouraged suggestions, news contributions, and criticisms or comments. For the "magnificent sum of $2.00 per year, a librarian not only attained membership in the Georgia Library Association but was entitled to a subscription" to the newly inaugurated journal. The first issues of the mid-sixties reported much library construction in the public library sector as well as in the academic and school library sector. Atlanta Public Library, Albany Public and DeKalb Public all dedicated new libraries or branches. South Georgia College, Middle Georgia College, Mercer University, Emory, Georgia Tech, and University of Georgia Science Library all either had plans for a new building, an addition, or were in the process of completing the actual buildings. Funds from the Library Services and Construction Act and other federal sources seemed to be plentiful. In fact, the conference held in Augusta in October, 1965 featured a program and display of new buildings and plans. At that same conference the program of the Special Library Section was prophetically titled "Automation — Monster or Master?"

Following the conference the Executive Board voted for GLA to become a chapter of the American Library Association. ALA approved the action in January 1966. The Georgia Librarian had its budget increased and the March 1966 issue was twice its usual size. It included the proceedings of the convention with minutes of all meetings and committee reports. The Membership Committee reported the highest membership which the association had ever had—a grand total of 534! Individual membership dues remained at $2.00; institutional subscriptions were only one dollar.

Planning for the 1980s seems to have begun as early as 1966. GLA received a grant from the Southeastern Library Association for the purpose of holding an institute on systems planning for library automation. Jointly sponsored by GLA, Georgia Tech, Atlanta University, and Emory University, a series of lectures were given which presented the systems methods of library automation planning. Librarians were beginning to think and act on cooperative projects. The South Georgia College librarians formed an organization to explore mutual problems and solutions and to work toward improving library service in South Georgia. In 1967 the group changed its name to South Georgia Academic Librarians and proposed a union list of serials. Education for librarianship was promoted as a real need. Recognizing that need, GLA sponsored and awarded the Hubbard Scholarship to Valeria J. Hitt in 1967. At the same time the Higher Education Act of 1965, Title II "College Library Assistance, Training, and Research" made possible funds for libraries and library education. Construction grants continued for public library buildings and The Georgia Librarian dutifully noted all new buildings from construction to dedication and the moves in between.

Membership topped 1000 in 1968 by the end of the Jekyll Island Conference, and a decision was made by the Executive Board to appoint an Executive Secretary for GLA. Ann Cobb accepted the position. Need was also expressed for a GLA handbook which would define the duties and responsibilities of the officers and committee chairs. David Estes headed the committee to develop a handbook.

The October 1968 issue of The Georgia Librarian was dedicated to "Nix and Jones, Inc., two who devoted many years to guiding library development in Georgia and throughout the nation." Lucille Nix had served for twenty-three years as Head of Public Library Services of the State Department of Education while Sarah Jones was Director of the School Library Services Unit of the State Department of Education. Over 250 persons attended a special luncheon honoring the two women; donations of $3,000 to the Hubbard Scholarship were received to honor the two long serving professionals. With the untimely death of Lucile Nix in December 1968, a new award, the Nix-Jones Award for Distinction in Library Service, was established.

Automation remained a topic in the late sixties. The headlines of "Telefacsimile equipment installed in four libraries in South Georgia in an attempt to expand information coverage from periodical holdings" seems as appropriate for 1989 as it did for 1968. A year later a report of the directors of the project libraries seemed "guardedly optimistic about the role of telefax in small libraries." Other cooperative projects received funding in 1969 and included the Union Catalog of the Atlanta-Atens area and the Georgia Library Information Network (GLIN).

With the theme "Libraries Meet the Seventies" The Georgia Librarian ushered in a new decade. Inflation raised its ugly head, and dues increased to $4.00 per calendar year. Librarians of the 80's would only echo the challenges articulated by Ray Rowland in an article on the growth of college libraries in Georgia which concluded that "the greatest challenges which face college librarians in the decade ahead are securing continued support for libraries to meet the rising cost of materials and searching for methods to more effectively bring faculty and students and library resources together." Sunbelt community growth and the expansion of higher education remain challenges for the 90's.

In 1971 Ann Morton succeeded Ann Cobb as the Executive Secretary. The first Gubernatorial Candidates luncheon was sponsored by GLA, and a brief GLA history was prepared for inclusion in the Encyclopedia of Library and Information Science. Margaret Kerr became president of GLA in 1971 and immediately named an ad hoc committee to develop a plan for Georgia libraries. Governor Carter made available $10,000 to the committee for their work. The Junior Members Round Table (JMR) held its first official meeting, and the Reference Services Division voted to affiliate with the Reference Services Division of ALA. Libraries of all types were involved in automation to some degree. Joanne Rhea as GLA president, an increase in membership dues to $8.00, and it was the year in which "Goals for Georgia Libraries" reached fruition. The Intellectual Freedom Committee was active as it distributed copies of the Intellectual Freedom Policy Statement of GLA to all personnel working in libraries in Georgia. Another very active committee was the Librarianship as a Career Committee which sent 1,800 packets of information to guidance counselors in high schools across the state. The Education for Librarianship...
Committee apparently suffered from an unclear purpose and lack of direction. In November Joanne Harrar and Linda Beaty published a telling article entitled "Georgia Librarians' Concerns in the Seventies," which led to the ad hoc committee on Goals continuing its work by receiving a $35,000 grant which would be used by the Battelle Memorial Institute to complete an ongoing survey. Findings were to include the current status of libraries and librarianship in Georgia, an assessment of current library development, a report of economic and demographic trends as they affect the profession, and priorities and objectives for future library development in the state. A Georgia Interlibrary Loan Code patterned after the ALA Model Code was proposed, and in the same issue it was reported that Emory University became the first SOLINET member to catalog titles through OCLC on-line cataloging system.

In 1975 Ray Rowland became president of GLA, and the following year Charles Beard became editor of The Georgia Librarian, an expanded journal twice the size of the original sixteenth-page publication. In May 1976 the first issue was published with advertisements. Other changes included an expansion of the size of each regular issue from 32 to 56 pages, an application of the income toward the cost of the journal, the adoption of a budget of $3,000, the publication of the journal on a quarterly basis, and finally the naming of an associate editor. When the first issue of Beard's editorship appeared in May, the changes were apparent. Three major articles written by Georgia librarians were featured. Sections on "College Libraries," "Public Libraries," "School Media Centers," "Special Libraries," and "People" became regular features. In 1977 GLA adopted a logo designed by Joyce King of the Middle Georgia Regional Library after sponsoring a contest for the selection of a logo to be used on The Georgia Librarian and on other official correspondence.

In Atlanta in September 1976 the Governor's Conference on Libraries and Information Services, a pre-white House Conference, was held with 1,015 laymen, educators, and librarians in attendance. Speeches were given by Major Owens, Hugh Carter, George Busbee, Gerald Shields, and others known to the profession. President Rowland, outgoing GLA President, acknowledged that the conference was "a success." The attendance by so many notables gave Georgia librarians "the profession a boost.

Dues increased during the early seventies and were now determined on a sliding scale related to salary; again in 1978 a proposal for a $2.00 increase was made. The new categories of Supporting — $25.00 and Sustaining — $50.00 memberships were also proposed. In a rare departure from usual agendas a resolution urging the Georgia General Assembly to prohibit ERA at the upcoming assembly in 1978 came to a vote at the biennial meeting but was defeated 125-68. Only 522 were in attendance at that conference after a high 762 attendees in 1974.

James Dorsey initiated "Off the Shelf" as a regular book review feature of The Georgia Librarian during 1978. Also during that year more articles and features appeared. The physical size of the journal increased to its current size. At the end of 1978 over 1,100 persons belonged to CIA. One of the attractions for the members was the monthly workshops being conducted by sections and divisions throughout the state. In 1979 membership dropped to 963 persons. Dues increases were proposed and passed. The eighties began with the installation of Carlton Thaxton as President of GLA and Wanda Calhoun as editor of The Georgia Librarian. Sarah Jones retired from her duties as Parliamentarian and Virginia McJenkins retired as Advisor to the President. Mary Louise Rheay was the winner of the second Allie Beth Martin Award for her contributions to public librarianship, sponsored by the Public Library Association and the Baker and Taylor Co.

Area consortia became more active in cooperative projects during the eighties. The first joint meeting of three area consortia, Northeast Georgia Associated Libraries, Central Georgia Associated Libraries, and South Georgia Associated Libraries, was held at Mercer University in Macon. The discussion topic of the day was a combined Union List of Serials. Ten years later an update is planned.

In August 1980 the "Editorial Page" made its first appearance in The Georgia Librarian. The stated purpose was to focus attention on current issues of concern to Georgia librarians. Extreme concern was expressed over the decline in membership from 1,085 in 1979 to 628 in 1980; concern was also expressed over the dues increase from a minimum of $10.00 to $25.00.

News items reported that Joe Forsee was named Director of the Division of Public Services, State Department of Education. The Georgia Chapter of the Association of College and Research Libraries had its first meeting in October, 1980 in Macon. In 1981 a recommendation was made and passed that the Hubbard Scholarship be awarded on an annual basis. A new award was established named the McJenkins-Rheay Award. To be awarded on a biennial basis, the purpose was to recognize leadership of a young librarian who had made an outstanding contribution to GLA, the library profession in Georgia, and had potential for national leadership. Of note too was the fact that Georgia's own, Dorothy Blake, was chosen President-elect of the American Association of School Librarians.

During the mid-eighties GLA held a "constitutional convention" under the leadership of Jane Morgan during which a new constitution was adopted. The organization reported that it was on firm financial footing. A legislative consultant, Lasa Joiner, was employed by the Georgia Council of Public Libraries and GLA. Membership remained below highs of the 1970s and totaled 800 in 1984. An ad hoc committee was named to oversee the preparation of a twenty year index to The Georgia Librarian. Readers of our journal eagerly await the work of this committee. During 1985 a new dues category was established for para-professionals and membership rose to 904.

The headlines of The Georgia Librarian screamed "Emory Library School Threatened" in November 1985. In February 1987 the news that the closing of Emory Library School was imminent was announced. The last class graduated in August of the following year. An atrocity was reported. The Georgia Librarian reported that a "significant body of material was stolen from Special Collections of the University of Georgia Libraries, possibly by a former library employee." Two later headlines verified the gossip: "Rare Items Missing from UGA Libraries" and "Emory Closing Finalized." But amidst the bad, some good did come about in 1988. The first ever GaCOMO conference was held on Jekyll Island and was deemed a rousing success. GaCOMO consisted of Georgia Library Media Division (GLMD), Georgia Association of Instructional Technology (GAIT), Georgia Library Media Association (GLMA), and Georgia Library Association (GLA). The school librarians, the school media personnel, the instructional technologists, and academic, public, special, and all other librarians jointly met together for the first time. Joint conferences were predicted to become regular occurrences.

As The Georgia Librarian looks beyond the late 1980s to the 1990s, membership is again increasing to a goal of 1,000 by the end of 1989. Recent legislative action funded new public libraries; and Middle Georgia College, South Georgia College, Georgia State University, and Mercer University all built new or added significantly to existing facilities. Plans are for the goals of GLA to be presented at the 1989 meeting. Another White House conference will be held in 1991. The Georgia Librarian has served as witness to twenty-five years of growing professional development in Georgia even as the numbers attracted to the profession seem to waver. Public support of libraries remains solid although librarians must sustain their role as providers of information for the general public while responding to the technological revolution that affects us all. The Winter 1988 issue carried James Dorsey's "From the President" column in which he said: "We are looking to the 21st century and how GLA can continue to represent the interests of libraries and librarianship in Georgia." His forward looking comments echo those of President Rowland in the 1970s and remind us of the reasons why GLA was founded and why our journal must remain a force for and voice of the library professional.

Extra Copies Available

Extra copies of this special 25th anniversary issue are available while they last for five dollars each. Copies should be requested from the editor.

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