



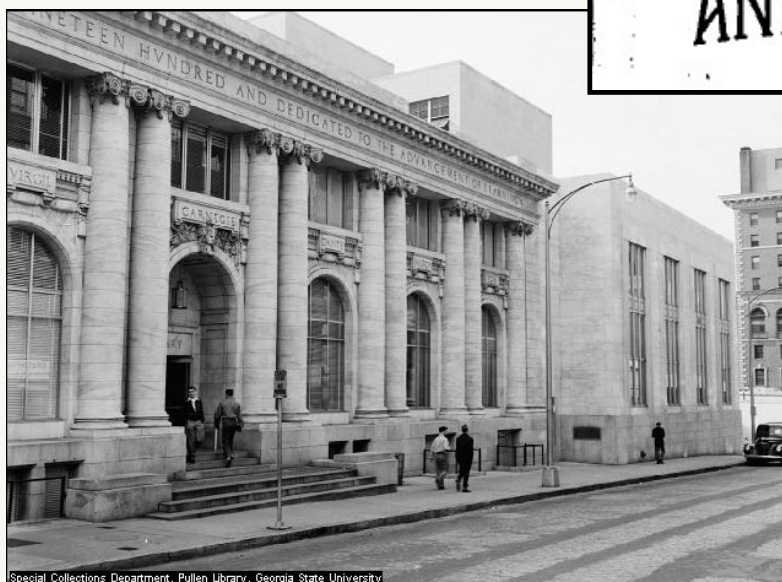
**Anne Wallace**, 1<sup>st</sup> GLA President  
Photo from Hale & Richards, *American Libraries*, 1991.

# Georgia Library Association History Timeline

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GEORGIA LIBRARIANS MEET  
AND FORM A STATE CLUB

*Atlanta Constitution* June 1, 1897



Special Collections Department, Pullen Library, Georgia State University

**Atlanta Carnegie Library**, opened 1902  
(demolished 1970s). Photo: Special Collections,  
Pullen Library, Georgia State Univ. LGBPF3-055n

## 1890s GLA Founded 1897

Progressive Era. Associations in GA: Young Men's Libraries, Georgia Women's Clubs.

- For **cooperation** of librarians in Georgia
- To advocate for **city and state funding** for public libraries
- To work toward **developing library services** in GA
- **Anne Wallace** is first president

**“The association library has reached that state in its development when the city must reimburse it for the work it is doing for its citizens free of charge.”**

-- Anne Wallace, *Atlanta Constitution* Nov 3, 1897

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**1897:** June. GLA founded at Young Men's Library in Atlanta

**1897:** October. First meeting of GLA after formation was in Macon

**1897:** Georgia Library Commission formed (not funded until 1919)

**1899:** ALA meets in Atlanta

**GEORGIA LIBRARIANS MEET AND FORM A STATE CLUB**

*The Atlanta Constitution (1881-1945); Jun 1, 1897;*

ProQuest Historical Newspapers: The Atlanta Constitution (1868-1945)

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**GEORGIA LIBRARIANS MEET AND FORM A STATE CLUB**

Yesterday was a great day for the librarians who came from the different cities of the state, and the movement to develop and expand library work in Georgia received great encouragement. The librarians were here, and they were enthusiastic. They were ready for work, and had in their minds the development and the increasing of their number.

The three meetings of yesterday were unusually successful, and the interest in them was greater than had been expected. The first meeting occurred in the Young Men's Library building yesterday morning, and was attended by all of the leading librarians.

The purpose of this meeting was to form a Georgia library club. The object of this club, as stated by Miss Annie Wallace, was to secure the mutual co-operation of the librarians of the state.

Miss Wallace, the librarian of the Young Men's Library, of this city, has long felt the need of an organization of this kind, and has been one of the leaders in the formation of the one which was completed yesterday.

When the librarians met together yesterday morning they were enthusiastic over the work before them. They all realized that a permanent organization should be formed, and after a few preliminary remarks by the leading librarians present, the work of organizing was entered into in earnest.

The design of officers resulted as follows: President, Miss Annie Wallace, Atlanta; vice presidents, Mrs. Moses Wadley, Augusta; Mrs. J. K. Ottley, Atlanta; Judge William Hardin, Savannah; Hon. L. A. Mason, Macon; Hon. Felix Gilbert, Columbus; Mrs. John Printup, Rome; Professor Charles Chancellor Hoggis, Athens; secretary and treasurer, Miss L. A. Field.

All those who were elected as officers of the new club are well-known library workers, and take a deep interest in the club and its purpose. The first meeting of the club will be in Macon in the third week in October. This meeting will be one of great importance, and an excellent plan of work will be mapped out.

**Met at Woman's Club.**

The librarians and those interested in library work met yesterday afternoon at the Woman's Club, in the Grand building, and they were delightfully entertained by the club.

The meeting yesterday afternoon was for the purpose of discussing libraries and

informed that few large fortunes have been amassed and few bequests have been made to endow libraries. Another cause that militates against library growth in this section is climatic. A people that live out of doors nine months of the year do not demand literary diversion like people of a colder climate.

"The absence of all library legislation in the south makes it necessary that some steps be taken to overcome this difficulty. At the last session of the legislature, through the efforts of the directors of the Young Men's Library Association of Atlanta, a bill was introduced by Mr. Clarence Knowles, of Fulton, providing for the appointment of a state library commission, to consist of five commissioners, whose duty it would be to care for the library interests and to develop the modern library idea, providing free public libraries for the state. The bill came up for the

as the case is of \$5 covers the cost of the book is from \$10 to \$15. Books is not sold with each library and a box with slips. In a word in miniature."

She then gave libraries in the adopted, mention contain, the city Ohio. She then library as an

"Now let us as applied to we? A state districts and deal are the library Mason, Rome, dozen towns like libraries are or subscription books have lib

"When this there is no state books would diligent people than in our own Empire State. All that is lacking is an impetus. Given this, town and school districts, libraries will naturally follow. Traveling will unquestionably give the needed impetus. Let

**"The field of library work in the south is such a broad one and so undeveloped... The cause of this state of affairs is traceable to a lack of public commitment in supporting the idea of taxation for educational purposes." –Anne Wallace, *The Atlanta Constitution*, June 1, 1897**

Too much can scarcely be said of the women of this Free Kindergarten Association, and the success with which they have managed their institution. Mrs. Nellie Pe-

**TWO PROMINENT GEORGIA LIBRARIANS.**



MRS. NORA L. BARBREY, Macon's Popular Librarian.



MISS M. R. CAMPBELL, Augusta's Gifted Librarian.

## 1900-1920s

**1900-1920:** Carnegie funds building and expanding 26 Georgia libraries: 20 public libraries and 6 college libraries, along with Southern Library School (later moved to Emory)

**1906:** Free Public Library for Negroes opens in Savannah. Paid for by city funds and subscription fees. (Hardy 2008)

**1919:** Georgia Library Commission funded, moved to state capitol

**1920:** SELA formed

**1921:** Auburn Branch of Carnegie Library opens in Atlanta to serve African Americans (later, added University Homes Reading Room 1942 & West Hunter Branch 1949)

**1920s:** GLA first forms Divisions: Public Library Division, Academic Library Division, Children and Young People's Division

**1928:** The (Julius) Rosenwald Fund is established nationally to provide library books for black schools; significant grants were made to schools in Georgia

## 1930s

**1933-34:** Some Depression relief (CWA, GERA) for GA public/school libraries

**1934-5:** Library Planning Committee GA. Goals: increase state support for libraries, appoint school library supervisor, develop county & regional libraries, and certify GA librarians

**1935:** “County Library Law” passes, allowing counties to support public libraries, extend services countywide

**1936-43:** WPA (Works Progress Administration) provides assistance to more than 100 libraries in GA: librarian and staff salaries, bookmobiles, books.

**1936:** Georgia Department of Education establishes a School Library Division within Division of Textbook Services

**1937:** Free Textbook Bill, 1st state funds for school libraries. School library supervisor appointed to help establish library service in schools

**1937:** Law passes for certification of librarians in GA

**1939:** Technical Services Interest Group begins

## 1940s

**1940-43:** Georgia's 1st regional library systems form, with WPA & GA Library Commission guidance

**1941:** Atlanta University School of Library Service opens

**1943:** WPA ends. Some local funding continues; many libraries have to curtail services (Hardy 2008)

**1944-60:** Faith Cabin libraries (many in schools) established in GA to serve African Americans (Lee, 1991)

**1945:** All public and school library services consolidated under the state Department of Education

**1945:** GA Constitution allows taxation by counties for public libraries (Hardy 2008)

**1945-:** State funding increases for public libraries, as part of Department of Education. In 1944, \$100,000... By 1951, \$261,000 (Hardy 2008)

**1947:** Southeastern States Cooperative Library Survey, by SELA. State aid to GA libraries .30 per capita; nat'l standard \$1.00 per capita (Hardy 2008)

## 1950s

**1956:** Federal Library Services Act. Annual \$7.5 million for improvement of rural public library service

**1958:** National Defense Education Act, Title III, provides support to school libraries

**1959: Atlanta Public Library's Board votes to allow African-Americans to use the Central Library and its branches.** Timing is result of prominent citizen Irene Dobbs Jackson's request for library card, along with social and legal pressures for desegregation (AFPLS 100 years)

## 1960s

**1961:** ALA adds to Library Bill of Rights: “The rights of an individual to the use of a library should not be denied or abridged because of his race, religion, national origins or political views.”

**1963:** Carnegie Library in Albany integrated after closing to resist integration

**1964:** Library Services and Construction Act (later LSTA) passes providing funds for construction, land, equipment. Matching funds at state/local level req'd  
(Williams 2002)

**1964:** *The Georgia Librarian*, precursor to *Georgia Library Quarterly*, official journal of GLA, begins

**1965:** E. J. Josey (Librarian at Savannah State College) is 1st African-American librarian to receive membership in GLA

**1969:** Cooperative College Library Center, the 1st consortium of black academic libraries, opens in Atlanta

**1969:** Georgia Library Information Network (GLIN) founded to help coordinate interlibrary loans in GA (Hardy 2008)



## 1970s

**1970:** Black Caucus of ALA is formed, headed by E.J. Josey

**1970:** Records Committee formed

**1971:** New Members Round Table begins

**1975:** DPLS becomes member of Solinet (Southeastern Library Network) & OCLC (Online Computer Library Center)

**1976:** GA Student Media Festival Committee begins

**1976:** Clara Jones elected 1st African American ALA president

## 1980s

**1980:** Interlibrary Cooperation Round Table formed

**1981:** 1st Library Legislative Day held by GA Council of Public Libraries (Hardy 2008)

**1983:** Information Technology Interest Group formed

**1984:** GA constitutional amendment allows sale of bonds to fund public library buildings

**1984:** Revision of GA library law allows public libraries to be tax-exempt

**1984-85:** Administrative reorganization of many GLA structures

**1986:** Georgia COMO begins, with representatives from GLA, GA Assn for Instructional Technology (GAIT), & GA Library Media Assn (GLMA). First COMO conference 1991

**1987:** Gov't Information Interest Group formed

**1988:** Georgia OnLine Database (GOLD) starts, facilitates GA interlibrary loan

**1988:** Emory Univ library science program ends

## 1990s

**1991:** Support Staff & Paraprofessional Resources Interest Group forms; becomes Paraprofessional Division, 1997

**1992:** GA state lottery. Benefits education, libraries

**1995-6: GALILEO** begins: **GeorgiA Library LEarning Online**. Supported by USG

**1996:** Telecommunications Act of 1996 expands Internet & technology for public libraries & schools

**1998:** A telecommunication network for high-speed access for public libraries is established (Hardy 2008)

**1999:** Gates Library Foundation awards GA public libraries \$7 million for technology (Hardy 2008)

**1999:** PINES (Public Information Network for Electronic Services), an automation and lending network for public libraries, starts

**1999:** GALILEO available at all public libraries

## 2000s

**2000:** Public libraries and Office of Public Library Service come under admin of Univ System of GA. OPLS named GPLS, 2001

**2001:** Valdosta State University library science program begins

**2003:** Friends of Georgia Libraries (FOGL) is established

**2004:** GIL Express & GIL Universal Catalog operational in USG

**2005:** Clark Atlanta University ends library school program

**2006:** PINES libraries begin using open-source Evergreen for circulation, cataloging and catalog

**2006:** GA public libraries receive \$1.499 million from Gates Foundation Public Access Computing Hardware Upgrade Grant

**2008:** Assessment Interest Group formed

## 2010s

**2008-2012:** Recession budget cuts force many public libraries to cut hours, close branches, and/or institute staff furloughs

**2010:** Carterette educational webinar series begins (GLA & GPLS)

**2012-14:** Consolidation of several GA colleges and universities

**2013:** GA Archives moved from Secretary of State Office to USG

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### Overarching GLA Themes

- Advocacy for funding for public and school libraries
- Promoting librarians' professional development
- Support for development of technology and systems in libraries

# Sources

Extensive bibliography at **Georgia Library History Project**,  
<http://www.libsci.sc.edu/histories/georgia/>.

Thank you to David Wilson, Robert V. Williams, and many who gathered the information for that site.

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