

DISCO with the DLG: Designing Collaborative Outreach Events for Homeschool Database Discovery

Growing with the
DLG x GALILEO x Georgia homeschool community

Mandy Mastrovita,
MLIS, MFA, CDMP, PCM
Digital Projects Librarian
Digital Library of Georgia

Rachel Evans, MLIS
Metadata Services &
Special Collections Librarian
Alexander Campbell King School of Law

Outreach with the Firefly Homeschool Community



OUR MISSION

To work together to build a safe, respectful and nurturing homeschool community focused on maximizing each child's sense of well-being and acquisition of skills for life and learning.



OUR VISION

- To prepare all students to become lifelong learners and responsible citizens ready to meet the challenges of the future. In partnership with families and community, our goal is to create relevant learning opportunities for students – both inside and outside the classroom.
- To strengthen parent commitment and investment in order to reach the full potential of our community
- To evolve to meet the expanding needs of our community.



OUR CLASSES

Firefly Homeschool Community (FHC) is a non-profit, secular learning community for homeschoolers, located in Athens, GA.

We meet twice weekly: Tuesdays for academic centered classes and Thursdays for enrichment centered classes. Students in grades K-12 are welcome to take classes on one or both days.

<https://www.fireflyhomeschoolcommunity.org/>



Digital Library of Georgia
Sharing Georgia's History & Culture Online

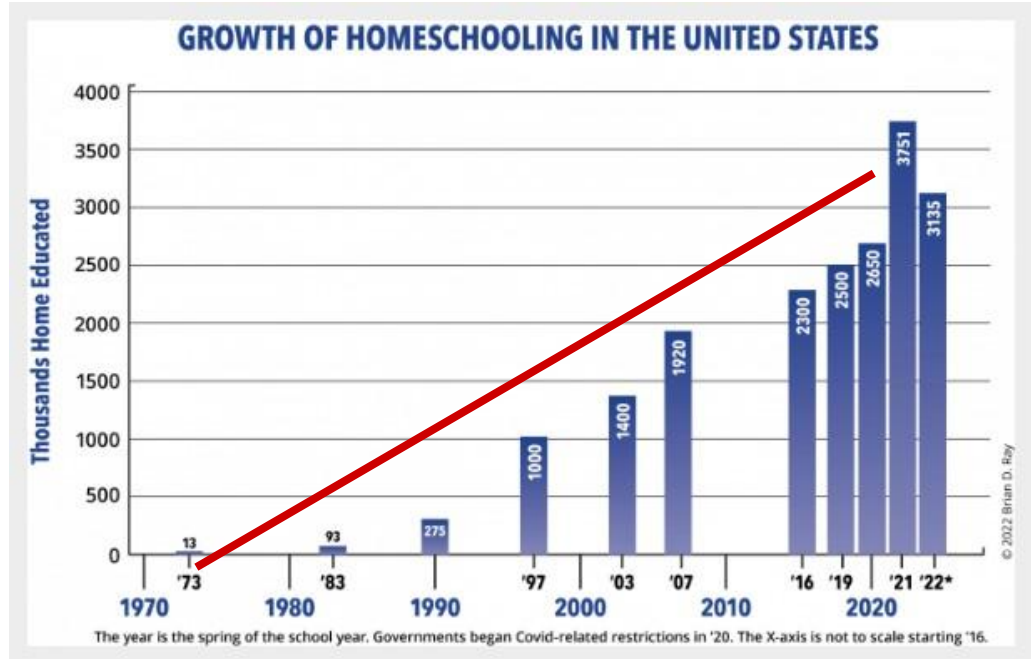


School of Law
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA



**13,000 (1973) >
3,751,000 (2021)**

**National trend
of growth of
homeschooling
in the USA**



<https://www.nheri.org/how-many-homeschool-students-are-there-in-the-united-states-during-the-2021-2022-school-year/>

Takeaways from first event Jan 2023

HOMESCHOOLING

- supports **neurodivergent** kids (and parents!)
- provides **flexibility** when travel is part of a parent's career.
- Instructors find it **difficult to determine if paid or free services/resources offer the best quality/value**
- Students respond well to **hands-on/active learning**.
- Instructors looking for resources that are **rigorous, secular, and authoritative**.
- Books are sought first, then primary sources, then articles (this may depend on grade level).
- Instructors are looking for **fun and engaging content**.
- Content must be **responsive** to our child's/children's needs.
- **Most families were not aware of GALILEO and DLG resources**



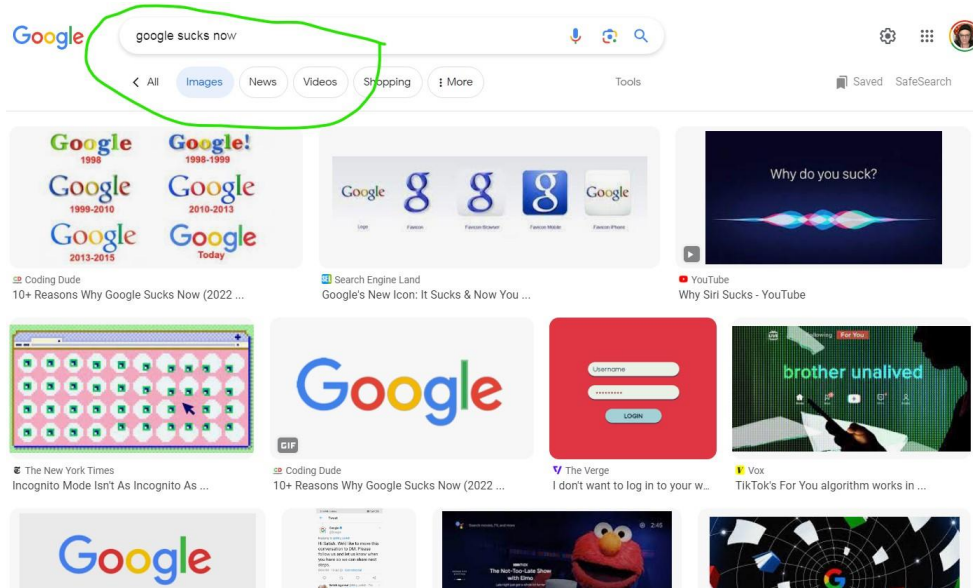
Homeschool kids don't have embedded media specialists!

Homeschool parents struggle with staying engaged in online searching for easy, convenient, and accurate answers, we as librarians need to direct them how to seek and identify authoritative resources that are easily accessible, and how to engage in accurate information ecospheres, which, in the age of increased AI-generated garbage, is a challenge.

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/forbestechcouncil/2021/12/03/addressing-the-digital-divide-in-education-technology-and-internet-access-for-students-in-underserved-communities/?sh=b9a2d975cec3>



Better Search Options for Instructional Content (why GALILEO > Google)



Marketing tip and explanation to homeschool families:

Google searches are based on advertising keywords, and will **always** skew to who pays the most to put those words in front of you.

They're also more than likely to drive you to a place where you **have to buy something.**



GALILEO Bento Search

Athens Regional Library System | Full

Welcome, User

TOUR

FAQ

SUPPORT

Georgia's Virtual Library
GALILEO
An Initiative of the University System of Georgia

ALL DATABASES

ALL JOURNALS

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Imagine. Discover. Explore.

Bento Search

Classic Search

Search GALILEO

Search

Full Text Only

Advanced Search

How to use this page

Using DLG materials

Reusable materials (copyright-free)

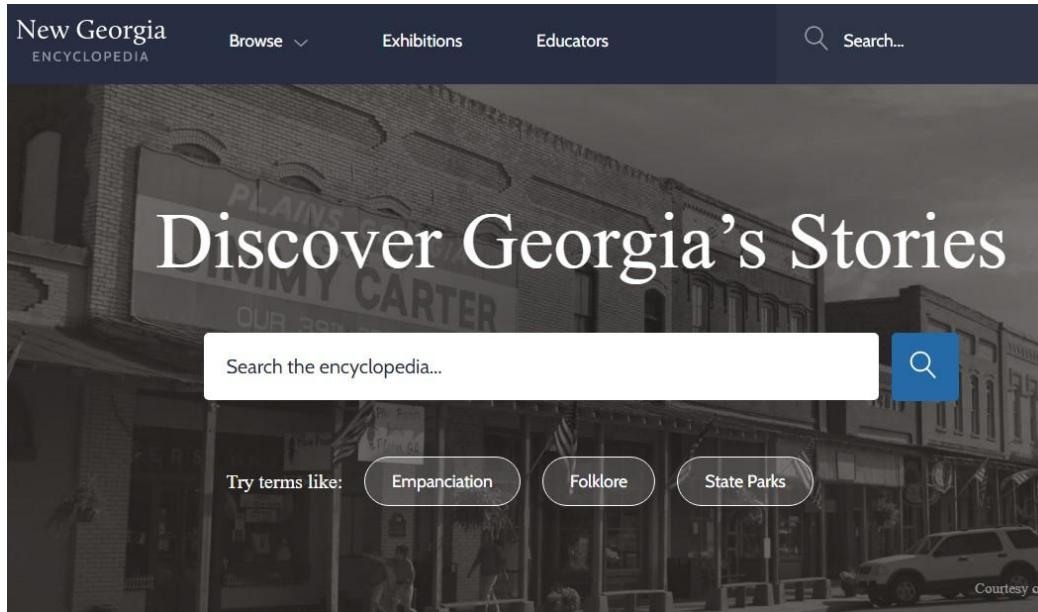
Content in the public domain or otherwise unencumbered by rights [is always available here.](#)

Using DLG materials (citing materials)

Instructions on proper educational/scholarly use of materials for research [are available here.](#)

New Georgia Encyclopedia

<https://www.georgiaencyclopedia.org/>



- Drills down to Georgia-specific topics and figures.
- Articles written by scholars/subject specialists.
- Authoritative and reliable.



Digital Library of Georgia
Sharing Georgia's History & Culture Online



School of Law
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA



Georgia Exhibits

<https://georgia-exhibits.galileo.usg.edu/>

Georgia Exhibits

Contact Us

Stories of Life in Georgia

A Project of the Digital Library of Georgia and the New Georgia Encyclopedia

- Partnership between NGE and DLG
- Use materials drawn from 25 Georgia libraries, archival institutions, and museums, whose collections are available through the DLG.
- Shed new light on understudied corners of the state's history



"Covers Dixie Like the Dew"



On Stage and Off



The New South and the New Slavery



Digital Library of Georgia
Sharing Georgia's History & Culture Online



School of Law
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

Georgia's Virtual Library
GALILEO
An Initiative of the University System of Georgia

DLG educator resources (Grades 2, 3, 4, 5, and 8)

<https://sites.google.com/view/dlg-educator-resources>



ABOUT DLG EDUCATOR RESOURCES

Our Educator Resource social studies support modules are based on the [Social Studies Georgia Standards of Excellence \(GSE\) teaching units](#) developed by the [Georgia Department of Education](#).

These resources provide high-quality, standards-aligned materials related to Georgia history and culture that help teachers meet the varying academic interests and needs of their students.



Georgia in the 18th century. Digitized by the University of Georgia. Digitized by the University of Georgia.

SS8 H2 ANALYZE THE COLONIAL PERIOD OF GEORGIA'S HISTORY

1. Explain the importance of the Charter of 1732, including the reasons for settlement (geography, economics, and defense).
2. Analyze the relationship between James Oglethorpe, Tomochichi, and Mary Musgrove in establishing the city of Savannah as "Georgia's birth."
3. Evaluate the role of diverse groups (Irish, Scotch-Irish, Highland Scots, and Malenians) in settling Georgia during the Trustee Period.
4. Explain the transition of Georgia into a royal colony with regard to land ownership, slavery, alcohol, and government.
5. Give examples of the kinds of goods and services produced and traded in colonial Georgia.

Suggested Collections

- [Colonial Settlements](#) (Georgia Archives)
- [Colonial Settlements](#) (Georgia Archives)
- [Colonial Newspapers \(ca. 1770\) in Georgia History: Settlements](#) (Digital Library of Georgia)
- [Colonial Ships and Voyages](#) (Georgia Archives)
- [Colonial Site Maps](#) (Georgia Archives)
- [Colonial Sites](#) (Georgia Archives)
- [South Road Collection](#) (Hargrett Library)

Include topical coverage from:

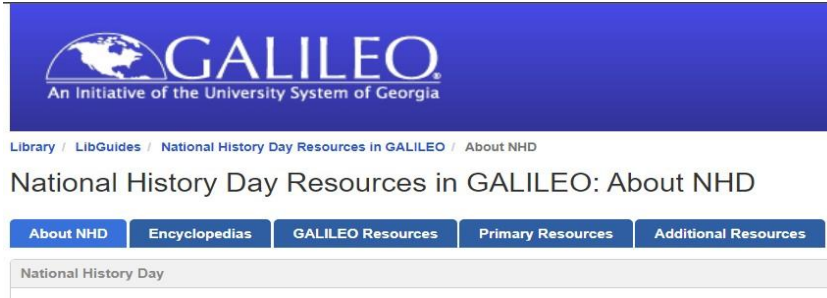
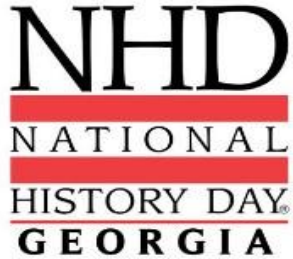
- Suggested DLG collections (Georgia)
- Suggested DLG searches (Georgia)
- Georgia Historical Society resources (Georgia)
- Suggested DPLA searches (national)
- Suggested DPLA primary resource sets and exhibits (national)
- Georgia historic newspapers (Georgia)
- Chronicling America newspapers (national)
- NGE articles (Georgia)
- GPB/PBS resources (national)
- Posters designed for each GSE module



For more advanced history students

Junior Division (grades 6–8)

Senior Division (grades 9–12)



National History Day students study the past in an active and dynamic way, developing skills that apply to all facets of their lives. They learn the value of deep and critical reading. Students analyze evidence, interpret data, draw conclusions and communicate them via written and oral means. It is a true learning experience: students learn, students experience, students grow and students achieve in ways even they thought unimaginable.

<https://libguides.galileo.usg.edu/NHD>

The Inside Scoop: Athens-area Co-ops

Research is easier from the inside!

Identify co-ops to better target promotion and marketing

Athens area:

- Double Helix STEAM school
- Firefly homeschool
- Compass
- North GA group
- Learning Commons
- Positively Playful

this is just the Athens
area!

The Inside Scoop: Takeaways

Why being an insider is SO important:

- You can gauge (like a focus group!) the needs of the communities
- Parents can definitely use the resources AND some basic info lit assistance to better know how to search for things and find the best materials
- Students can also use skills and benefit from outside instruction
- Events like **National History Day** can be incorporated into co-op style classes to have larger impact on the families/students
- Knowing individual community/family locations and sense of schedules helps to better plan future events to meet users where they are!
- We are building shared Zotero libraries with resources for these niche groups



Successful Outreach & Promotion

- A multi-faceted approach can best meet the widest range of user needs.
- Meeting families where they are schedule-wise accommodates differences in location, work, time, a technology aptitude.
- It also helps better accommodate users who self-identify largely as neurodivergent and might benefit from a variety of learning styles.

Outreach:

Zoom events
In-person events
Hybrid Zoom/in-person events
Asynchronous events
Facebook groups
Direct email
Facebook events
Community Zotero libraries

Promotion:

Facebook groups
Direct email
Facebook events
State homeschool associations

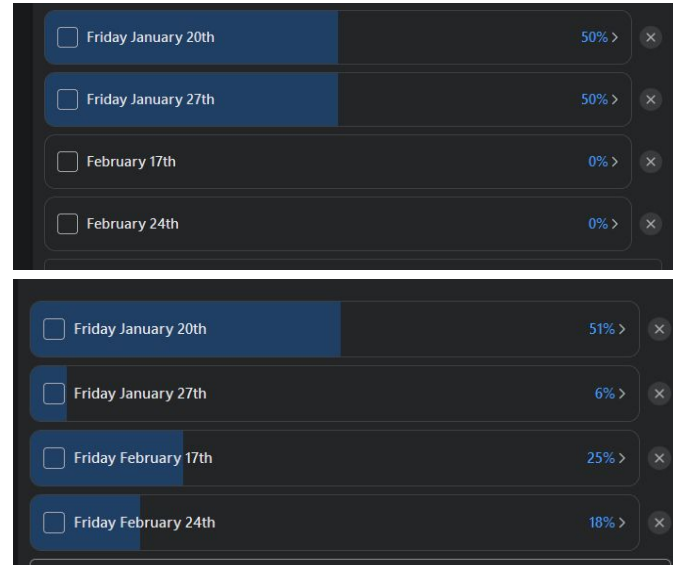


Assessment of Our First Event

Reviewing the information on our previous slide, the following were considered:

- Tech divide and issues from off-campus = **6 families!**
- Difficulties navigating to in-person = **2 families!**
- # of Users planned to (RSVP) but did not = **10 families!**
- Personal feedback from users who said they reviewed recordings asynchronously = **7 families!**

TOTAL REACHED: 17 families!
(15 students, 17 parents)



Polling results from 2 Athens FB groups

How We Planned 2 More Events

Reviewing the information on our previous slide, we realized the following:

- Tech divide and issues from off-campus made virtual synchronous a problem
- Difficulties navigating to in-person on-campus location had also been a problem
- # of Users who planned or attempted to attend - needed to meet them where they already were (the co-op!) and preferably in existing class or event settings
- Personal feedback from users who reviewed recordings asynchronously

The most effective was to "go and meet people directly"

We picked an appropriate "class" to market resources to and arrange support for

We also capitalized on an existing day/time during the week for a drop-in presentation from DLG to demo resources and help search student topics

Lastly, we arranged a multi-UGA departments resource table to coincide with an existing co-op/community event (The STEM+R Fair in Spring 2024) so that pamphlets about overlapping state-wide resources could be picked up and questions answered

Both of these opportunities provided us with a captive audience



2024 Event: Co-Op Demo & Research Support from the DLG

Forum Message Posted to Thread

Category: Info Literacy & Research Writing (Class)

Thread: Class 19: Week 3 of the CRAAP Test - A is for Authority with a Digital Library of Georgia Archivist

[Go directly to thread](#) | [Reply direct to sender](#) | [Post new message to thread](#) | [Add new thread](#)

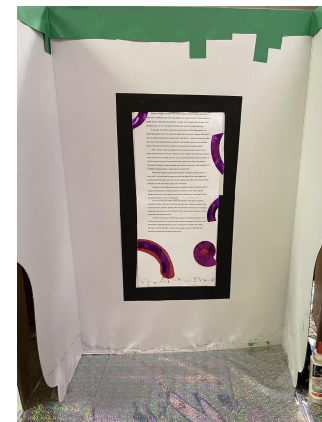
Evans,
Rachel
&
Grant
Posted
1/28/24
05:15
PM
EST

Greetings Students & Parents,

Last week was wonderful with a special guest in class from the Digital Library of Georgia's Mandy Mastrovita! Mandy is a digital archivist and university faculty librarian at UGA who regularly does outreach to promote the state's free resources to the public. She brought a few free items along (posters, stickers and info cards) plus a stellar presentation. Students can access the slides and all the info from this class session online anytime at: https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/14I7jMM4wrASyw7f3T_YqJRwYoMqtYG8bdptQ3xcx12M/mobilepresent?slide=id.p1



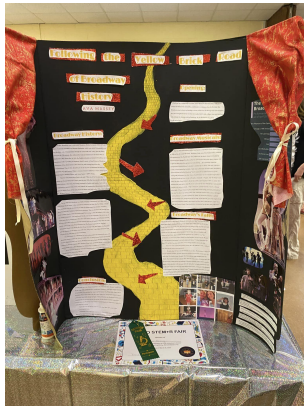
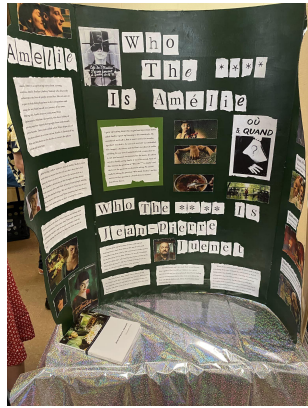
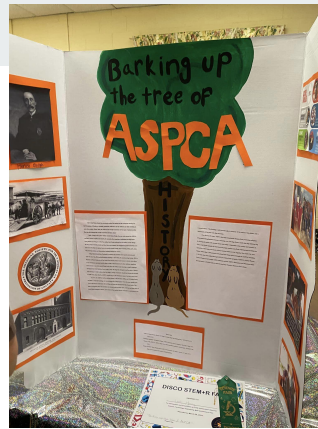
slide=id.p1



The most effective was to "go and meet people directly
We picked an appropriate "class" to market resources to and arrange support for
We also capitalized on an existing day/time during the week for a drop-in presentation from
DLG to demo resources and help search student topics



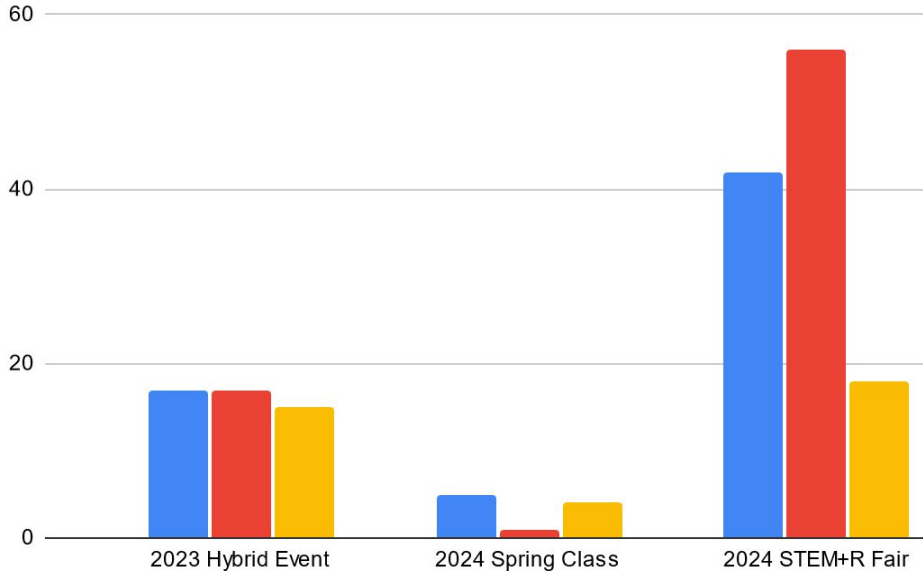
2024 Event: Co-Op STEM & Research Fair Tabling



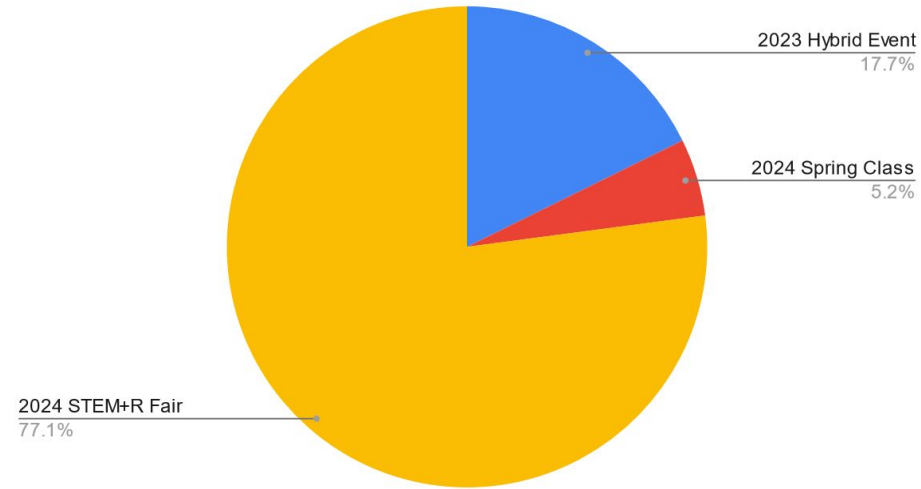
Arranged a multi-UGA departments resource table to coincide with an existing co-op/community event (The STEM+R Fair in Spring 2024) so that pamphlets about overlapping state-wide resources could be picked up and questions answered. Both of these opportunities provided us with a captive audience.

RESULTS OF 3 OUTREACH EVENTS 2023-2024

Families Reached # Parents # Students



TOTAL Individuals



Links to our presentation(s)

Outreach visits to Firefly

February 17 2023 Firefly instructional webinar [recording](#) | [slide deck](#) | [flier](#)

January 24 2024 Firefly classroom visit [slide deck](#)

Reporting back to GALILEO

June 2023 GALILEO conference [slide deck](#) | [recording](#)

June 2024 GALILEO conference [slide deck](#) | [recording](#) * >> **this presentation!**

Thank you!



Rachel Evans, MLIS

(she/her/hers)

Metadata Services & Special Collections Librarian

Alexander Campbell King Law Library

School of Law, University of Georgia

Athens, GA 30602-1641

rsevans@uga.edu

rsevans203@gmail.com

<https://www.law.uga.edu/profile/rachel-s-evans>



**Alexander Campbell King
Law Library**

School of Law

UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA



**School of Law
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA**



Thank you!



Mandy Mastrovita, MLIS, MFA, CDMP, PCM

(she/her/hers)

Digital Projects Librarian
Digital Library of Georgia
University of Georgia
Athens, GA 30602-1641

mmastro@uga.edu

mandy.mastrovita@gmail.com

Schedule a meeting with me [here](#)

Join our listserv [here](#)

Like us on [Facebook](#)

Follow us on Twitter: [@DigLibGA](#)

We're on [Instagram](#) too!

Read our latest news on our [blog](#)

<https://linktr.ee/diglibga>



Digital Library of Georgia
Sharing Georgia's History & Culture Online



School of Law
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

