

FROM THE EDITOR

MARY DANIELS



Welcome to the Fall 2023 edition of *Florida Libraries*. When I first reached out to Jennifer Abdelnour, the Executive Director of FLA, about publishing an issue this year, I wasn't entirely sure we could pull it off. We were in the last quarter of the year, after all! But thanks to her help and guidance, the efforts and support of the *Florida Libraries* Editorial Board, and the excellent submissions we received from librarians across the state, I am pleased to present our Fall 2023 issue.

It's been an interesting time in libraries nationwide, but especially here in Florida. New disputes, different permutations of existing problems, and matters we never thought we'd face in our careers continue to loom over librarians in all fields. As evidenced by the contents of this issue, these concerns are at the forefront of many minds. As well they should be! We have reached a point here in the Sunshine State where we can no longer idly hope things will improve. Librarians have been taking action, making plans to help their respective populations, and continuing to find ways to serve their communities in spite of those who would have us stop, and for that, I commend all of you.

What makes these unsettling times bearable is the courage of our convictions—or rather, as Nietzsche said, “A very popular error: having the courage of one's convictions; rather it is a matter of having the courage for an attack on one's convictions!” Recent events have shown us this truth: our convictions are strong.

Librarians, library workers, volunteers, and library supporters have faced those attacks on their convictions. Both nationwide and in Florida, they have handled those conflicts with astonishing (but not at all surprising) dignity and grace. We are the readers of Orwell and Collins, the keepers of philosophers and poets. Did they really think we would “go gentle into that good night?”

I applaud each and every one of you—no matter if you work in the public, in a media center, in university libraries, in technical services, in special collections, or the myriad of other places librarians work—for having not only the courage of your convictions, but the courage to keep those convictions. In this season of thankfulness, I am grateful to the library workers who continue to inspire and elevate others. As the FLA President reminds us in his letter, keep in mind your *why*. Reach out to your coworkers, your colleagues in the field, and both give and gather support. We will continue to thrive, and we will do so together.

Gratefully,

MARY DANIELS, MLIS
INTERIM EDITOR-IN-CHIEF