



GEORGIA LIBRARIES FOR ACCESSIBLE STATEWIDE SERVICES

Through the **Georgia Libraries for Accessible Statewide Services** (GLASS), Georgia Public Library Service provides library services for the blind and others whose physical abilities require the use of books and magazines in audio format or in braille. Services are delivered through a central library, a subregional library and a distribution center.

The GLASS network cooperates with all of the state’s library systems to give Georgians ready access to materials from the free national library program administered by the **Library of Congress** and the **National Library Service for the Blind & Physically Handicapped** (NLS). Reading materials and services for personal enrichment, education and entertainment — as well as any needed audio equipment — are sent to borrowers and returned by postage-free mail. Library users can search the online GLASS catalog for braille, recorded books and descriptive videos and place their requests. Reader advisers are available to help patrons in person or by phone at the subregional library and toll-free at GLASS.

GLASS-affiliated libraries and outreach specialists working in public libraries in Athens, Atlanta, Augusta and Bainbridge:

- help to identify and serve eligible individuals;
- provide consulting, training and outreach support for local units of service and agencies involved in providing and facilitating library service for the blind and others whose physical abilities may require accommodations to enjoy library services;
- maintain and build awareness of the latest adaptive technologies and services (e.g., free downloadable audiobooks) and implement those that are appropriate;
- circulate and maintain NLS-provided resources (recorded books and magazines, audio playback machines and equipment, braille books and magazines); and
- provide access to materials of local interest and special requests of patrons through the recording, duplication and distribution of local materials.

GLASS serves patrons by lending digital talking book players, by circulating digital talking books and by providing access to braille books. In addition to administering and promoting the program statewide, GLASS continues to provide consulting, training and assistance to those regional entities that provide library and related services to Georgians who are blind or whose physical abilities require the use of books and magazines in audio format or in braille. GLASS also

serves as the liaison between local library providers and NLS.

The recorded book collection has moved from audiocassettes to digital formats that include digital cartridges as well as downloadable digital content via BARD, the Braille and Audio Reading Download system. BARD

can be accessed via desktop computers and via the BARD app for mobile devices.

As of July 1, 2016, all GLASS patrons can now receive free Bookshare accounts, giving them access to more than 500,000 accessible e-books that can be read on a computer, smartphone or tablet. Readers now have more options than ever for fast access to the books that they want to read. Staff members at GLASS network libraries are ready and willing to assist readers Monday through Saturday. The online catalog and BARD website are available 24/7. ■

GLASS Statistics FY2016	
Registered users	15,521
Annual circulation (mailed)	328,613
Annual circulation (downloads)	119,561
Titles in braille and audio formats accessible from NLS collection	235,000
Titles available for download	99,780

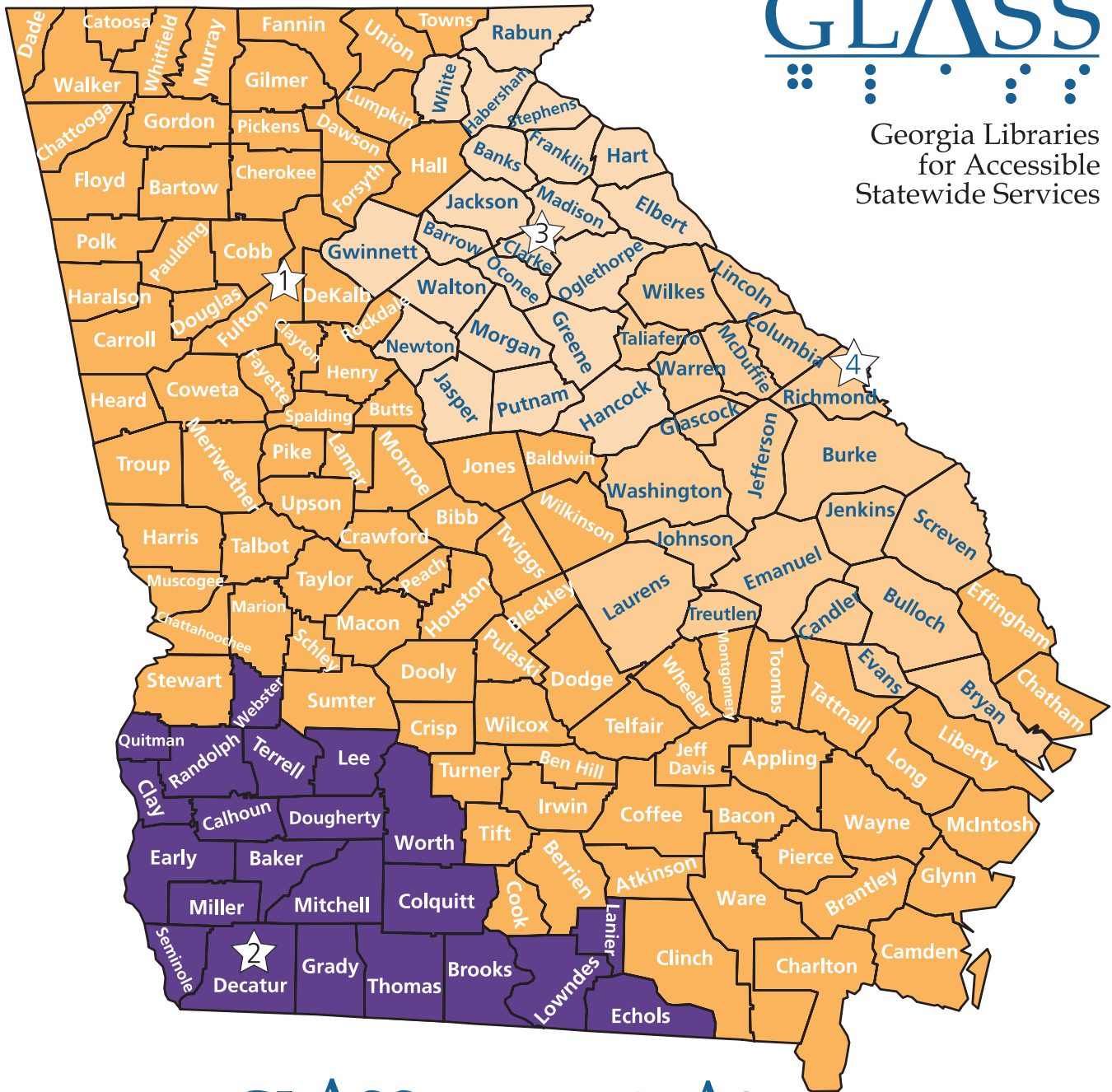


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Statewide Services



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☆ **SWGLAS**
Southwest Georgia Library
for Accessible Services

☆ Outreach services provided by
Athens Regional Library System

☆ Outreach services provided by
Augusta-Richmond County Library System



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The GLASS network of Talking Book libraries and outreach centers is made possible by a grant from the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services to Georgia Public Library Service under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act.

Effective 10/1/2016