



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 network of nine subregional libraries and a central distribution center.

The GLASS network of cooperating libraries gives 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 playback equipment — is 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 each subregional library and toll-free at GLASS.

The GLASS-affiliated libraries and outreach centers:

- 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 require the use of books and magazines in audio format or in Braille;
- 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-affiliated outreach centers are located in public libraries in the cities of Athens, Atlanta, Augusta, Bainbridge, Columbus, Dublin, Macon, Rome and Savannah.

GLASS serves as the playback machine and accessories-lending agency, as distribution center for the entire NLS

collection and as the primary provider for materials in Braille. 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.

Digital recorded books from NLS are now replacing the cassette format. Once the digital transition is complete (estimated for 2015), approximately twice as many talking books will be able to occupy the same amount of space. As more individuals are able to access broadband Internet and more materials are available in downloadable audio formats, GLASS will be able to bring additional focus to duplicating and recording equipment, outreach and training and other aspects of this important service. ■

GLASS Statistics FY2010

Registered users	15,000+
Annual circulation	1,076,379
Titles on audio and in Braille in Georgia deposit collections	450,000+ <i>(1 million+ copies)</i>
Titles in Braille and audio formats accessible from NLS collection	470,000+ <i>(64 million copies)</i>
Titles available for download	24,000+

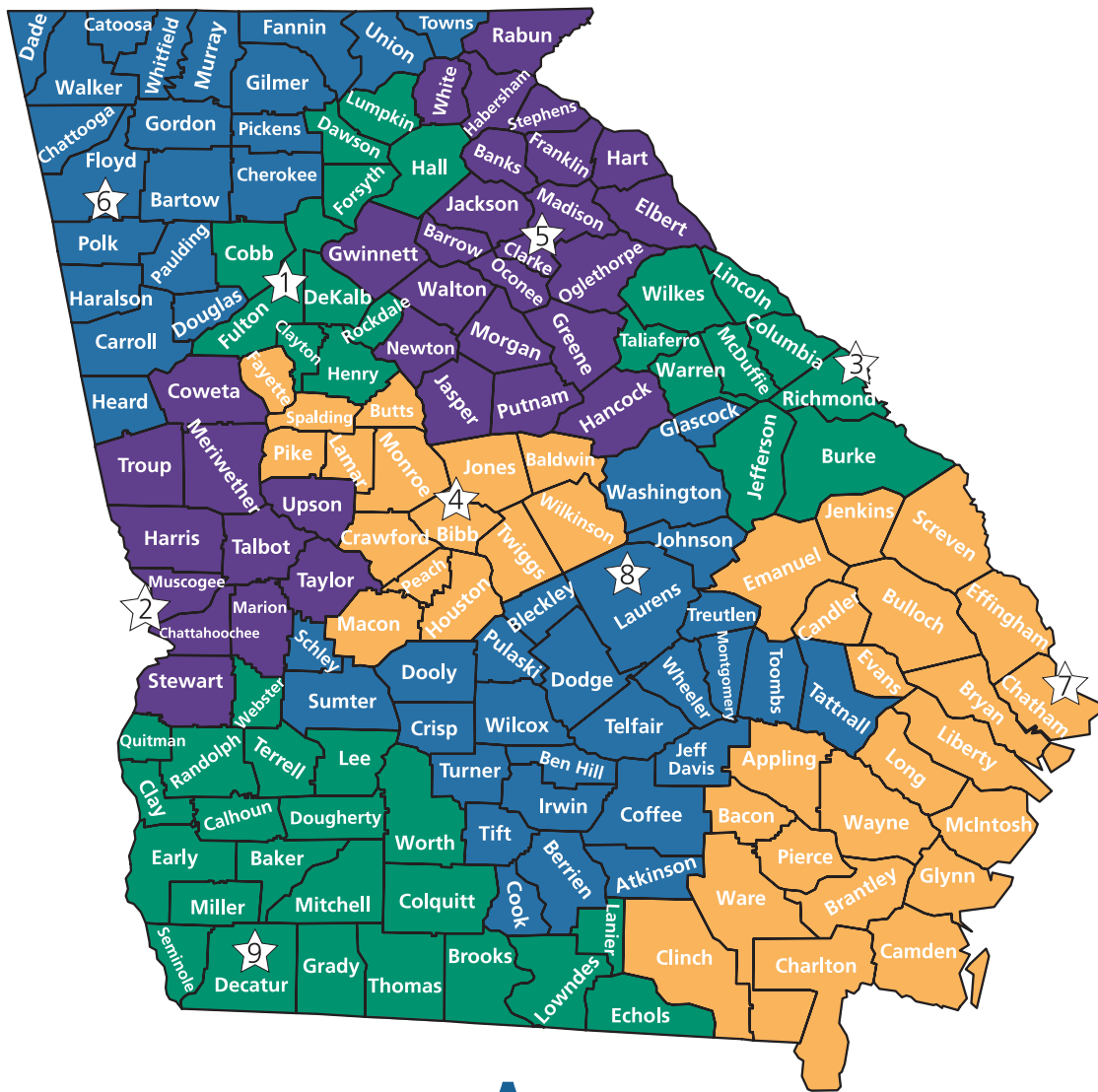


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www.georgialibraries.org

A Unit of the University System of Georgia



☆ **AMLAS**
Atlanta Metro Library
for Accessible Services

☆ **CLASS**
Columbus Library
for Accessible Services

☆ **ECGATBC**
East Central Georgia
Talking Book Center

☆ **MGLAS**
Middle Georgia Library
for Accessible Services

☆ **NEGATBC**
Northeast Georgia
Talking Book Center

☆ **NWGATBL**
Northwest Georgia
Talking Book Library

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Savannah Talking
Book Center

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Southeast Georgia
Talking Book Center

☆ **SWGLAS**
Southwest Georgia Library
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