

# Annual GOLD/GALILEO Users Conference set for August

Georgia librarians will soon come together as one, when this year's GOLD/GALILEO Users Group Conference presents "One World One Library: Working Together to Put the User First." The 19th annual conference will take place — appropriately enough — on Aug. 1 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the University of Georgia Center for Continuing Education Conference Center and Hotel in Athens.

According to **Toni Zimmerman**, director of Resource Sharing and Interlibrary Cooperation for GPLS, the annual one-day event draws librarians, paraprofessionals and technical staff from academic libraries, public libraries, schools, technical colleges and special libraries throughout Georgia and the Southeast.

The goal of the conference is to provide a forum for continuing education and professional development related to the use of Georgia's interlibrary lending and resource sharing network, GOLD, and the statewide virtual library, GALILEO. The conference will showcase new collaborative trends in library resources and highlight current partnerships.

This year's keynote speaker is **Cliff Landis**, technology librarian at the Odum Library of Valdosta State University.

"Cliff plans to share his real-time vision for libraries and the consortia that serve them," Zimmerman said. "He believes that libraries may be suffering from the drive to implement the perfect Library 2.0 service model.

"In our zeal to embrace the principles that libraries can now be everywhere, have no barriers and are capable of social networking," she continued, "we may be ignoring what is at the very heart of any evolving library — a single, user-centered approach to service."

"We may even see that traditional library catalog transform to a social network of ideas," said Landis, who researches, talks and writes about

social software, social networking, technology in libraries, teaching with technology, user-centric services, Library 2.0 and the future of libraries.

"One World One Library" will include three sets of concurrent programs, along with a GALILEO training showcase. Sessions will feature presentations that demonstrate how dynamic Georgia libraries are using creative collaborations, emerging technologies and highly adaptive communication styles, tools and trends to meet the multifaceted needs of information seekers.

"Fostering this environment means talking with your users and finding out what they want, using the same tools that they are using and contributing to multiple-user experiences and programs that earn their respect," said Zimmerman. "The 'one' approach enables libraries to connect with multiple audiences in both their physical and virtual spaces and to successfully cope with the diversity of their users. This year's conference theme celebrates both the unifying power of this approach and its simplicity in beginning with a single commitment to put your users first."

Links to registration materials and hotel information will be available in June at [www.georgialibraries.org/lib/gold.html](http://www.georgialibraries.org/lib/gold.html).

This conference is made possible by a grant from the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services to the Georgia Public Library Service under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act. ■



Speaker Cliff Landis gives a thumbs up to participants at a recent training class for GPLS's PINNACLE Institute.