

## 37% of Georgia Residents Have a Public Library Card

1. Provide Voter Registration
2. Provide Federal/State Tax Forms and facilities for AARP tax assistance
3. Provide Literacy Training and GED Prep
4. Provide Assistance to the Home School Community
5. Provide Non-English Computers, Classes and Assistance
6. Support P-16 library needs
7. Provide Genealogy Collections, Research and Assistance
8. Provide Tourism Materials and Assistance along with e-mail services for travelers
9. Provide access for *GACollege411*, *Georgia CARES*, *Georgia One-Stop Workforce Development* and other state online services like the proposed *Georgia Virtual High School*
10. Provide Public Photocopy Machines

Georgia's public libraries do a lot of things other than check out books, provide computers, present reading programs and answer questions. In fact the *Top 10* other things are:

The Georgia Public Library Service (GPS) is the state library agency for Georgia. GPS is a part of the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia. GPS manages the state grant funding for the 58 public library systems, the PINES service, the network of Subregional Libraries for the Blind and Physically Handicapped and provides professional consulting services to libraries. In addition to these services, GPS staff also manage the statewide network for Internet connectivity to public libraries. If you would like to learn more about GPS and Georgia's 58 public library systems, please contact:

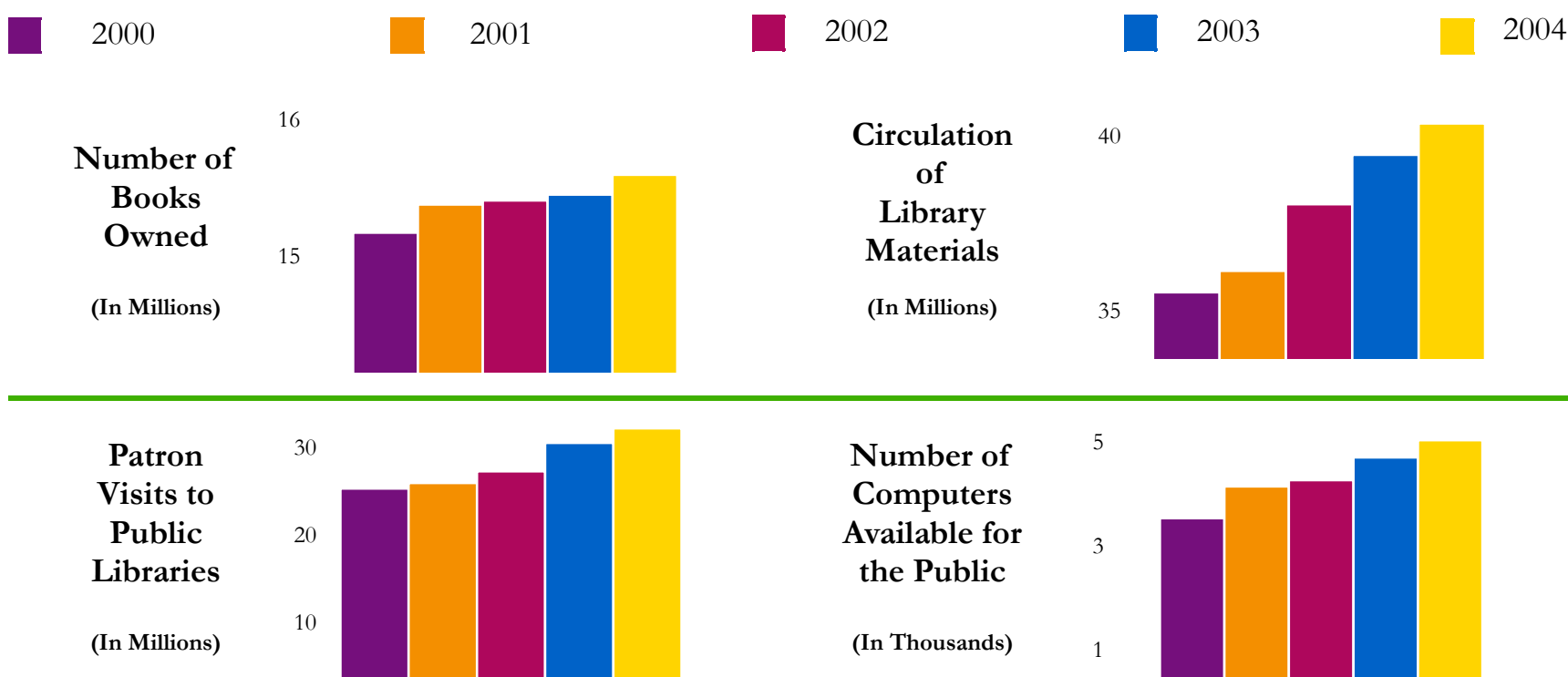
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### Did You Know?

## Georgia Public Library Services In the 21st Century

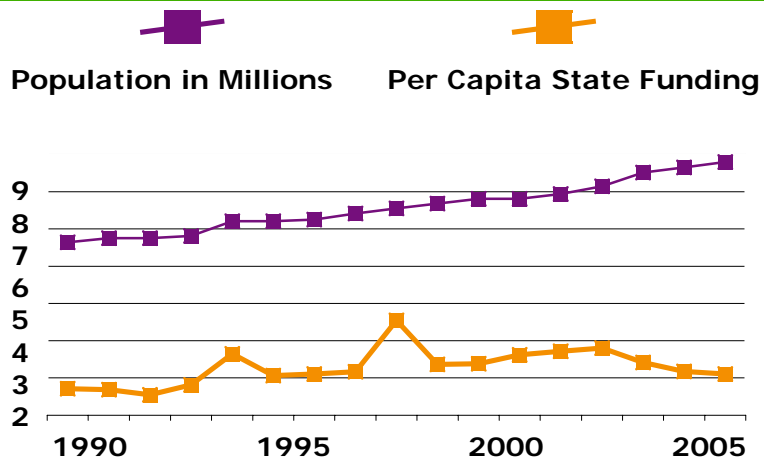
During the first 5 years of the 21st Century:  
 The use of Georgia's public libraries grew.

At the same time, the materials and equipment available for the public to use also increased.



# Why is State Funding Important for Georgia's Public Libraries?

Even though less than 20% of the overall funding for Georgia's public libraries comes through the State budget, some library systems in the rural areas depend on state money for over half of their operating budgets. State funding of public libraries provides the solid foundation for the statewide network of library services that is a critical component of *A More Educated Georgia*.

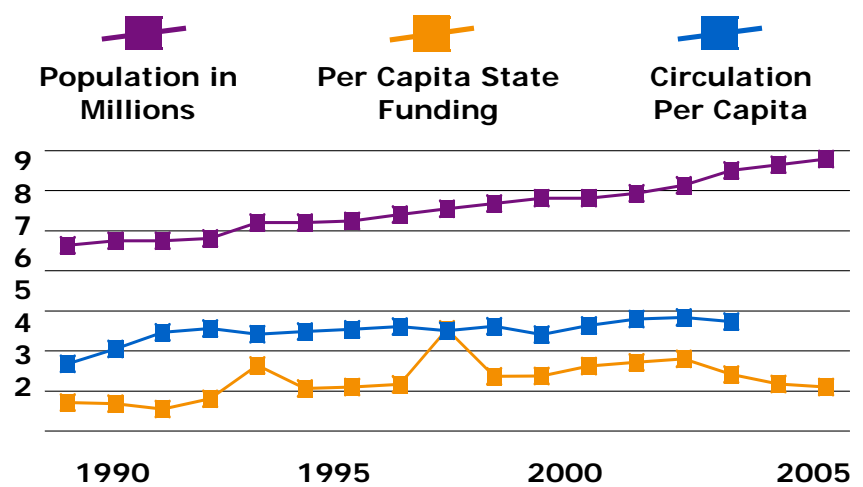


The chart to the right shows the beginning of a negative trend with the per capita circulation of public library materials as a result of the decline in state funding. It is hoped that with funding for the New Direction project, FY 2006 will see a reversal of this trend.

Public libraries are a vital link to education in the state of Georgia. This is a resource that is available in each and every county and all basic services are provided at no charge to the users.

There are a few notable facts about the chart to the left.

1. The spike in state funding for 1994 was due to a very large salary increase for the state funded positions based on the teachers' pay scale.
2. The spike in state funding for 1998 was the \$10 million special appropriation for books.
3. The gap between population and state funding has grown wider over the past four years of continued budget cuts.



## New Direction For Georgia's Public Libraries

For the past 2 years, the public library directors of Georgia and the Georgia Public Library Service have worked intensively to revise and update the method for distributing state grants to the 58 public library systems. This work has resulted in the proposed **New Direction** for Georgia Public Libraries.

Additional state funding, in the amount of \$1.35 Million in the FY06 budget is sought for public library services in Georgia

### Talking Points:

- The method for allocation of state grants has not been changed since 1985.
- Budget cuts over the past 4 years and major demographic shifts have made the old system inequitable and harmful to many library systems.
- **New Direction** enhances the equity of state funding to meet growing demands for public library services.
- **New Direction** provides greater flexibility at the local system level for the expenditure of state grant funds.
- With **New Direction** there is greater recognition of the diversity of the public library systems in Georgia.
- The request represents only an additional 15.4 cents per capita for improved public library service across the state.
- This \$1.35 Million would be only a 4.1% increase in needed state grant funding for public libraries.



### FY 2004 Statistics

Circulation	15, 200,000
Registered Patrons	1,200,000
Items Available	7,610,000

Georgia Library Public Information Network for Electronic Services, or **PINES** is an initiative of the Georgia Public Library Service and provides an automation and lending network for 250 public libraries in 123 counties.

### Talking Points:

- **PINES** helps public libraries leverage a tremendous economy of scale by providing staff, equipment and services at the state level, rather than individually at each public library system. If **PINES** were eliminated, replacement cost would be \$15 million for the 44 public library systems currently participating.
- The foundation of **PINES** is the sharing of resources throughout the state. **PINES** provides daily courier service to every **PINES** headquarters library, so that library materials can be efficiently and securely routed to a patron's selected pickup location.
- The **PINES** central office mailed out over half a million overdue notices on behalf of the **PINES** participating libraries in FY2004, saving postage dollars and staff time.
- The additional amount of \$304,000 is needed in the FY2006 budget to fully fund the statewide operation of the **PINES** program.