



ABOUT US

MISSION STATEMENT

Georgia Public Library Service: Empowering libraries to improve the lives of Georgians.

SERVICES & PROGRAMS

Georgia Library Public Information Network for Electronic Services (PINES)

PINES is the public library automation and lending network for 283 public libraries and service outlets in 142 counties. PINES serves patrons in all 159 Georgia counties, creating a statewide borderless library that provides equal access to information for all residents. Georgians who hold PINES library cards have access to materials beyond what is available on their local shelves and enjoy the benefits of a shared collection of nearly 10.6 million books, audios and videos that can be delivered to their home libraries free of charge.

Georgia Library Learning Online (GALILEO)

GPLS ensures that all Georgia public libraries and their patrons have access to GALILEO. GALILEO is the state's virtual library, providing online access to thousands of periodicals, scholarly journals, books, encyclopedias, business directories and government publications. Citizens can access GALILEO at any public library facility. Library users can also access many of GALILEO's resources at home through remote password access.

Georgia Libraries for Accessible Statewide Services (GLASS)

GLASS is the statewide network of talking book centers that provide library services for the blind and others whose physical abilities require the use of books and magazines in digital audio formats or in braille. GLASS loans specially recorded books in audio formats, specialized playback machines and braille materials. GLASS serves Georgia residents through a central library, a subregional library and a distribution center. Library users who are not able to visit one of the libraries in person may obtain talking books and other materials through the mail free of charge.

Professional Consulting, Training and Facilities Support

GPLS supports Georgia's libraries by providing a broad range of consulting services and technical assistance, such as resource sharing, outreach support and long-term facilities planning. Services also include professional consulting to library boards of trustees, assistance with recruitment and hiring of library administrators, and leadership in advocacy and governmental relations. The agency also offers a diverse menu of training and continuing education courses for

Georgia's library professionals, from integrating technology into library services to techniques for attracting more teen readers.

Grant Administration

GPLS administers state and federal grant funds totaling more than \$36.3 million to Georgia's public library systems and GLASS and for the support of other statewide activities. Grants support salaries and travel for professional librarians, the purchase of books and materials, the maintenance and operation of facilities and the purchase and development of technology systems for library staff and users.

Youth Services and Family Literacy

GPLS coordinates the annual statewide Summer Reading Program that encourages children and families to read for fun during school vacations. Libraries host literacy-based activities such as magic shows, arts and crafts and wildlife visits, and children receive rewards for achieving reading goals. Georgia's Summer Reading Program enjoyed attendance of about 525,000 in 2015, and nearly 1.7 million children and young adults attended one of the nearly 48,000 programs designed for and offered to them by Georgia's public libraries during the year. Circulation of children's materials topped 16 million items in FY2015.

Computer Networking and Technical Support

GPLS provides consulting services to assist libraries in the evaluation and selection of telecommunications vendors for the procurement of broadband services. GPLS's IT employees help to identify and negotiate with local vendors and provide technical support and E-rate application assistance. GPLS funds the non-E-rated portion of ongoing broadband costs to each library system, ensuring that citizens living in all Georgia communities have access to online services, as well as to wireless Internet connectivity at their local library. In addition to email and Web hosting, GPLS also assists public libraries with technical support for network, equipment and software technology issues and provides a range of training programs for IT staff.

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