



CONTINUING EDUCATION & TRAINING

The rapid pace of change in the library world emphasizes the need for libraries to become learning organizations that innovate and thrive in rapidly changing environments, and ones that support continuous employee learning.

Georgia Public Library Service recognizes that in order for libraries to fulfill their missions and strategic goals, all staff members must be provided with relevant learning opportunities and support structures that will enable them to undertake their roles to the highest standards.

GPLS's Continuing Education and Training group provides diverse programs that empower libraries to reach their full potential as learning organizations and to support library staff members in their professional development efforts.

The GPLS Continuing Education and Training staff strives to:

- Provide convenient, relevant and cost-efficient learning programs to library employees.
- Reinforce and enhance employees' skills so that they meet or exceed competence in key areas of library service.
- Develop and foster awareness of issues and trends that affect the operations of libraries.
- Support a culture of learning in libraries by leveraging technologies and best practices that encourage increased collaboration and knowledge sharing within the Georgia library community.

GPLS advances workplace learning by utilizing a blend of workshops, live online instruction and self-paced e-learning. This combination develops and fosters awareness of issues and trends that affect the operations of libraries.

Georgia Learning Center

The newest tool for online learning, the Georgia Learning Center is a clearinghouse for library-related continuing education needs. The Learning Center is where GPLS will host all archived webinars, new self-paced courses, and the CE training calendar. Users first register for a new account, then can earn certificates for completing courses. This site was designed to be a one-stop resource for library staff learning needs.

The Learning Center also includes access to Lynda.com for library staff. Lynda.com is a leading online learning company that helps anyone learn business, software, technology, and creative skills to achieve personal and professional goals.

WebEx and hands-on training

In addition to the Learning Center, GPLS's Continuing Education and Training offers Web conferencing and live streaming services via WebEx to public libraries interested in expanding virtual training and collaboration within and between library systems.

Finally, GPLS staff members provide presentations on a range of subject matter and interests to system staff when schedules and budgets permit. These live programs serve as an ideal complement to branch/departmental meetings and staff development days. Topics include, but are not limited to: youth services, Web design, accessible services, statistical analysis, customer service and team building.

In FY2016, GPLS hosted 33 continuing education and training events for library staff, reaching 8,119 staff members. Librarians and other staff also actively engaged in e-learning, with more than 2,168 staff members enrolling in and completing more than 1,339 courses.

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