

GALILEO, Georgia's Virtual Library for the 21st Century

In 1995, the University System of Georgia (USG) launched a visionary project to provide equal access to information and to improve the quality of library services for all Georgians. GALILEO (**GeorgiA Library LEarning Online**) is Georgia's award-winning virtual library of licensed, commercial databases and selected free internet resources that offers access to thousands of full-text magazines, journals, encyclopedias, and electronic books to every Georgia citizen. GALILEO complements services of Georgia's libraries by providing premier electronic information (via **PeachNet**) to library users regardless of location and contributing to a more educated Georgia.

ACCESS FOR ALL

By collaborating and sharing resources, GALILEO benefits more than nine million user-constituents in Georgia wherever they are -- school, home, library, or office. GALILEO serves more than 2,000 institutions including the USG, public K-12 schools, public libraries, technical colleges, a group of private academic colleges and universities, and a group of private K-12 schools.

GALILEO meets the following major objectives:

- Leverage funding for higher-level resources and services not otherwise obtainable by some libraries
- Work toward seamless integration with the USG's **Integrated Learning Environment**
- Provide methods to work with other learning management systems
- Offer training for librarians and users
- Team with librarians to increase awareness about GALILEO's benefits, particularly for K-12 schools, technical colleges, and public libraries

OUTCOMES AND BENEFITS

- Universal access to core materials, including full-text books and journals, for learners of all ages and interests
- Usage increases of 1600% since inception in September, 1995, totaling over 1.7 billion total user experiences
- Continuous assessment-based improvement to user interfaces, including customizations for academic, K-12, and public libraries
- Best-of-breed tools for simultaneous searching of content from multiple databases (discovery) and linking among electronic journals

- Significant subscription and database cost avoidance for institutions and libraries
- Georgia Government Publications, a database of more than 70,000 documents produced by Georgia state agencies
- Technical support for the New Georgia Encyclopedia, Georgia's first online encyclopedia
- Digital Library of Georgia, the online gateway to Georgia's history and culture in digitized books, manuscripts, photographs, government documents, newspapers, maps, audio, video, and more

COST AVOIDANCE

GALILEO provides a higher level of services for all Georgians at a lower cost than if all libraries tried to provide those services on their own. Thanks to resource and cost-sharing opportunities, Georgia libraries avoid spending many millions of dollars in annual costs and are able to provide resources and services that would not otherwise be affordable. With GALILEO, all Georgians can access a bounty of information.

CHALLENGES

Libraries now operate in dynamic environments, including rapidly changing user skills, technology, and publishing models that create the following numerous challenges:

- Explosive growth of information available online
- New information technologies
- Increasing costs of electronic resources
- Increasing subscription costs from rising prices based on rising student enrollments
- Funding limitations

GALILEO's savvy users' expectations continue to grow; while significant improvements have been made to GALILEO in recent years, they expect more:

- Ease of use, convenience, and integration as experienced within other online environments (**social media**, Amazon, Google)
- Delivery of academic library services and content within the context of campus **portals**, online courses, faculty and library web sites, and portable devices
- Rich, interactive, and age-appropriate interfaces for young users.

In other words, how can GALILEO expand resources and services to catch up with the information and technology that users expect?

PeachNet is the statewide network that supports all information and instructional technology efforts for the USG and the Georgia Public Library Service (GPLS).

The **Integrated Learning Environment (ILE)** is the seamless operation of instructional and administrative functions of the University System of Georgia. See other side for examples.

A **portal** is a gateway to the Internet that may be specialized and customizable, e.g., Google, "My University," and my eBay. A portal often includes a search engine.

Social media is a collective description applied to interactive web technologies, which capitalize on the convergence of browser-based software, dynamic interconnection of information, user creativity, and participation (Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Flickr, blogs, wikis, etc.).

SOLUTIONS

GALILEO conducts continuous assessment practices through collection of user comments, surveys, focus groups, and usability testing of new interfaces. In this way, GALILEO has been taking steps for improvement that were identified through consensus and are being evaluated through user feedback as they are developed:

- Tools for embedding content in library websites, online courseware, campus portals, and other environments
- Browser-based toolbar to allow users to search GALILEO without going to a particular website
- Video help and instruction at point-of-need
- Additional enhancements to search and discovery features, including a more specialized interface for K-5 students

WHAT'S UNDERWAY?

A Courseware and Website Library Resource Integration Tools Development project has provided customized GALILEO toolbars for GALILEO users, an improved children's interface, as well as tools for content developers such as faculty, course designers, and librarians.

In addition, efforts to enhance search and discovery include the implementation of a discovery service for all institutions, development of integrations for learning management systems, and procurement of a next generation library system that will allow great collaboration among USG libraries.

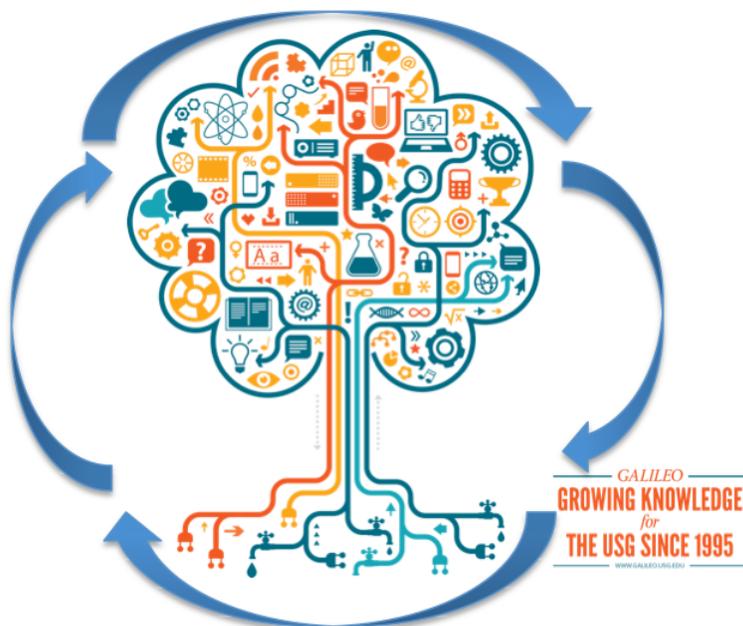
GALILEO brings together a vast collection of learning resources that support education from K-12 to graduate and lifelong learning. GALILEO fulfills a vital role in generating, collecting, and transmitting knowledge in our interconnected, interactive global society.

WANT TO KNOW MORE?

To learn more about GALILEO, current projects, the Digital Library of Georgia, the Georgia Knowledge Repository, Affordable Learning Georgia, and the New Georgia Encyclopedia, see the following websites:

1. www.galileo.usg.edu
2. <http://about.galileo.usg.edu/planning/projects>
3. <http://dlg.galileo.usg.edu>
4. www.georgiaencyclopedia.org
5. www.gaknowledge.org
6. www.affordablelearninggeorgia.org

GALILEO AND THE USG'S INTEGRATED LEARNING ENVIRONMENT (ILE)



- Libraries are central to teaching, learning, and research in the ILE; GALILEO provides access to core online library collections for the USG as well as support for Open Scholarship (institutional repositories) and Open Educational Resources (textbooks).
- Using GALILEO's tools for embedding content in library websites, online courseware, campus portals, and other environments, faculty can create reading lists with dynamic, authenticated access to subscription resources, including articles, ebooks, videos, and more.
- Librarians can work with faculty to create custom LibGuide reading and research pathfinders.
- Faculty, staff, and students can conduct research through Discovery tools that support cross-disciplinary and undergraduate research as well as through advanced citation-finding tools.
- All researchers also have access to sophisticated folder and alert tools to manage ongoing research materials and receive updates when new materials become available in specific journals and topics.