

Spotlight on Georgia's Libraries

Julie Walker

Vice Chancellor for Libraries & Archives
State Librarian



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Legislative Updates & Funding for Libraries



Public libraries formula
funding FY26: \$52,671,821

Public libraries capital
outlay funding AFY 25 &
FY26: \$16,800,000

-includes
construction, MRR, and
technology

One time materials funding
AFY25: \$1,427,041

2024 Year in Review



**Libraries expand
technology access.**

30,981 Launchpad
checkouts

30,846 Laptop
checkouts

16,542 Hotspot
checkouts

100% provide free
high-speed internet

9,860 public-access
internet computers



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2024 Year in Review



to become strong readers and lifelong learners

↑19% increase in children's program attendance, including 200,000 more participants

545,971 students with PLAY cards across 52 school districts

↑5% increase in youth materials checkouts, including 700,000 more items borrowed

23,532 children registered for 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten



2024 Year in Review



26 libraries being planned,
designed, or built

60+ libraries undergoing
structural repairs

\$42,314,155
Capital Projects Expenditures
including \$12.3 million (state)
and \$30 million (local)

\$2.65 million in
reimbursements
for Major Repair and Renovation



2024 Year in Review



es



\$210,894,893

Local 79.7%

\$47,427,638

State 17.9%

\$5,965,708

Federal 2.3%

\$467,088

Other <1%

\$264,755,327

Total funding for Georgia



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Georgia's
Public Libraries:

Facts & Impact

**\$732.8 million in state
economic impact and
service valuation**

34.9 million total materials
circulation

18.2 million in-person visits
27.3 million website visits



4.9 million Georgians have a
library card!

Free high-speed Wi-Fi at
ALL GA public libraries



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Continued Collaboration Across Units



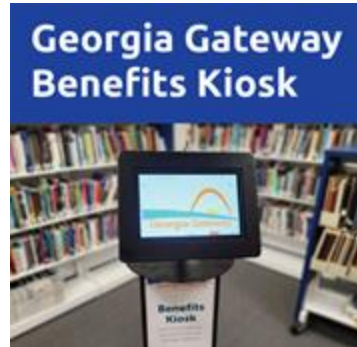
Putting Resources in the Hands of Georgians



Digitization



MANGO
LANGUAGES



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Connecting Readers of All Ages, Anywhere



eREAD 
GEORGIA

eREAD 
KIDS



The **Palace Project**

thepalaceproject.org



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ProQuest
Ebook Central



BLACK
STONE



boundless
by BAKER & TAYLOR



CloudLibrary



Palace
Marketplace



biblioboard



Libby.



ALL
YOUR
EBOOKS

IN
ONE
PLACE



Login with your library card

georgialibraries.org/eread

Great Things Happening at Georgia Public Libraries

Summer Reading Program: Color Our World + GLS SRP



1000 Books Before Kindergarten

- At nearly 300 public libraries



“My child’s reading skills have expanded exponentially. It’s been amazing to see their progression.”

- Casey Romanos, library parent on 1000 Books

Mayor’s Reading Club



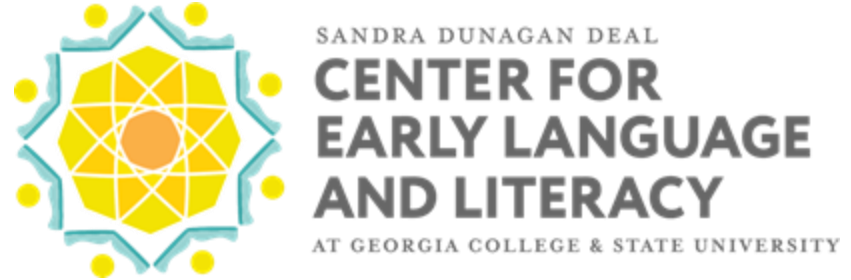
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Voices for Libraries



Libraries have a Seat at the Table

Governing Board of the Sandra
Dunagan Deal Center for Early
Language and Literacy



LYRASIS Board of Directors



Georgia Municipal Association
conference program



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Support for Library Staff

Tech Boot Camp

- 169 attendees, 99 in person, across 60 library systems



Storycamp Children's Conference

- 62 participants across 25 library systems



Library Financial Training

- 62 participants across 45 library systems

Marketing, Partnerships, and Sickie Cell Awareness grants to libraries



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