Fostering innovation and collaboration to preserve Georgia's history and culture

Imagine that you donated this World War I picture of your grandfather to your local county library's historical collection and that it is available in digital form to people all over the world. Or imagine electronic access to old maps, government publications, and fragile manuscripts that are vital to researchers but a challenge for a library both to preserve and yet circulate. What you imagine is a growing reality. The Digital Library of Georgia (DLG) is Georgia's gateway to history and culture in digitized books, newspapers, maps, photographs, manuscripts, government publications, audio, video, and other multimedia items.

The DLG connects users to about a million digital objects in more than 100 collections from 65 libraries and institutions and 100 government agencies. Although these numbers represent only a small fraction of Georgia's diverse historical and cultural treasures, the DLG continues to grow rapidly through partnerships with libraries, archives, museums, government agencies, and other organizations throughout the state and nation. The result is a rich array of resources—a unique opportunity for Georgians to understand their community and heritage.

Based at the University of Georgia (UGA) Libraries, the DLG is an initiative of GALILEO, Georgia's Virtual Library, supported by the Office of Information and Instructional Technology (OIIT). PeachNet, the University System of Georgia's (USG) underlying network infrastructure, delivers the DLG's expanding technology-based collections and services.

CHALLENGES

- **High costs** of digital conversion and alignment with national standards

  Digitization is a costly, labor-intensive process that includes many steps beyond scanning content. Materials must be transcribed, coded, stored, and maintained in databases. They must be indexed for retrieval, and they need supporting content that provides historical context in addition to graphic design and web services for display.

- **High demand** for resources from learners, educators, and scholars

- **Ongoing commitment** to sustain over time

- **Ease of use** for instructors and learners (seamless search operation across collections and contextual and instructional materials for K-12 learners, college students, and beyond)
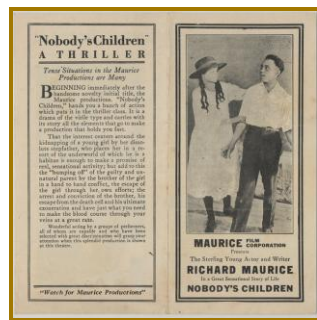
SOLUTIONS

- Centralized technical structure, expertise, and shared support combined with local content expertise and individual collections

- Funding from Georgia Public Library Services to create and preserve *digital assets* through *Georgia HomePLACE* (Providing Library and Achives Collections Electronically)

- Increased content available by digitizing key collections about Georgia history and life, such as *Vanishing Georgia*

- Better access to Georgia government publications produced since 1994, including more than 40,000 full-text annual reports, periodicals, maps, posters, and videos

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Digital assets are any form of media put into a binary form for electronic distribution and archiving. Examples include books, manuscripts, diaries, newspapers, and government publications; photographs, artwork, postcards, logos, and maps; audio; video; and other resources.

Metasearch is the ability to search multiple databases simultaneously from a single search box.

Piedmont Mine near Dahlonega, Ga, ca. 1910

1920 Film Circular from Macon's Douglass Theatre

Stone Mountain Aerial Photo, 1972

OUTCOMES AND BENEFITS

- Universal access to primary research resources for scholars and learners of all ages, including K-12 classroom students, college students, faculty, and independent life-long learners from schools, libraries, and home computers

- Instructional resources for teachers, e.g., the Sanborn Maps of Georgia towns and cities

- Completeness, preservation, and long-term availability of multi-media collections

- Promotion of local libraries, regions, and the state

- Local and regional history put in context of national events

- Quick and easy browsing and *metasearching* of large volumes of material

- Universal access to Georgia's cultural heritage

- Economies of scale and efficiency as a result of centralized technical support

- High level of baseline service, support, and best practices

WHAT'S NEXT

The Digital Library of Georgia and its partners launched the Civil Rights Digital Library (CRDL) in 2008. The CRDL features an online archive of more than 30 hours of historical news film, allowing users to be nearly eyewitnesses to key events of the civil rights movement. CRDL also is a national portal connecting learners to related content from 100 U.S. libraries, archives, museums, and public broadcasters. CRDL includes curricular support materials for teachers and features a partnership with the online New Georgia Encyclopedia. CRDL received funding from the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services. Visit CRDL at http://crdl.usg.edu.
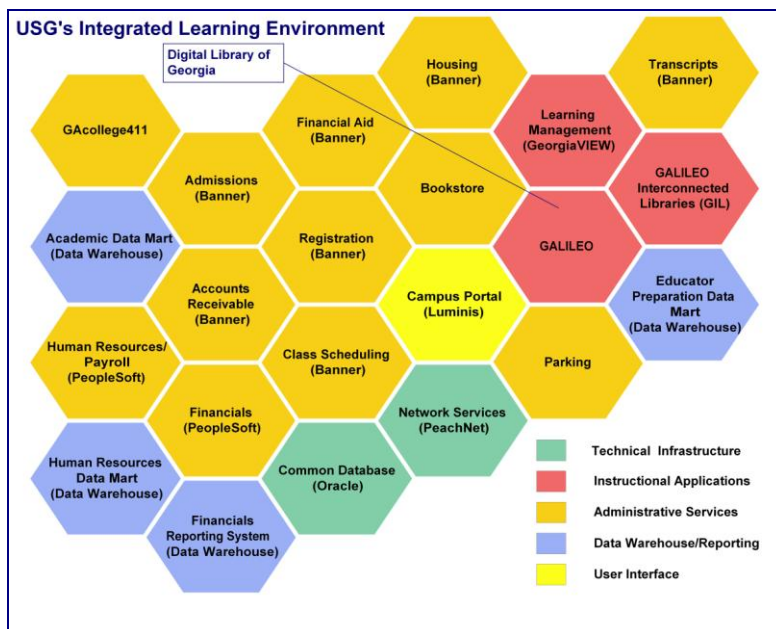
WANT TO KNOW MORE?

To learn more about the DLG and to access the complete collections, visit the website at http://dlg.galileo.usg.edu/.

For more *Facts from OIIT*, visit the OIIT website at http://www.usg.edu/oiit/.

THE DIGITAL LIBRARY OF GEORGIA AND THE INTEGRATED LEARNING ENVIRONMENT (ILE)

The DLG is the gateway to Georgia's history and culture in digitized resources, used by scholars and learners of all ages. The graphic shows some of the instructional and administrative functions and the enterprise technologies that must work together seamlessly in the ILE.

USG's Integrated Learning Environment

Digital Library of Georgia

Housing (Banner) · Transcripts (Banner) · GAcollege411 · Financial Aid (Banner) · Learning Management (GeorgiaVIEW) · Admissions (Banner) · Bookstore · GALILEO Interconnected Libraries (GIL) · Academic Data Mart (Data Warehouse) · Registration (Banner) · GALILEO · Accounts Receivable (Banner) · Campus Portal (Luminis) · Educator Preparation Data Mart (Data Warehouse) · Human Resources/ Payroll (PeopleSoft) · Class Scheduling (Banner) · Parking · Financials (PeopleSoft) · Network Services (PeachNet) · Human Resources Data Mart (Data Warehouse) · Common Database (Oracle) · Financials Reporting System (Data Warehouse)

Technical Infrastructure
Instructional Applications
Administrative Services
Data Warehouse/Reporting
User Interface

- Students must be recruited, admitted, and registered; they need access to books, e-mail, and the Internet; they must be able to take courses at multiple USG institutions and graduate.

- Students must receive financial aid and pay tuition, parking, and housing bills.

- Faculty and staff must have technological tools to teach, conduct research, and provide services.

- Those with visual, auditory, or motor impairments need full access to all on-line educational opportunities.

- Data for informed decision making and reporting must be collected.

- Technologies for learning in the classroom and on line and for accessing library resources and student services throughout the state from anywhere must be robust, reliable, and secure.

- Faculty and staff must be compensated and receive benefits.