

GALILEO Steering Committee (GALSTEER)

Meeting Minutes

Date: January 30, 2026

Location: Virtual

Attendees

Joy Bolt (University of North Georgia)

Michelle Easley (Fulton County Schools)

David Edens (ABAC)

Sonya Gaither (Clayton State / Gordon State)

Lucy Harrison (USG/GALILEO)

Sarah Holmes (Catoosa County Library)

Tamatha Lambert (Middle Georgia)

Natalie Marshall (Flint River Regional)

Deborah Millier (Emmanuel University, GPALS)

Burr Osoinach (Cobb County Public)

Russell Palmer (USG/GALILEO)

Kathy Pillatzki (Henry County Library System)

Robert Quarles (Atlanta Metropolitan)

Leslie Sharp (Georgia Tech)

Angela Stanley (Georgia Public Library Service)

Jeff Steely (Georgia State University)

Julie Walker (USG, GPLS)

Shaundra Walker (GCSU, Chair)

Bradley Warren (Augusta University)

Melissa Whitesell (Dalton State College)

Oluremi Wright (Ga Dept. of Education)

GALILEO Staff: Barry Robinson, John Stephens, Joy Woodson, Sean Purcell, Nicole Lawrence, Brad Baxter, Mike White, Joshua Walker Wier, Jared Street McReynolds, Jef Whatley, Jeff Gallant, Sean Boyle

Welcome, Roll, Minutes, and Agenda Approval (Shaundra Walker)

Chair Shaundra Walker called the meeting to order and welcomed participants. Roll call was conducted by Lucy Harrison and a quorum was confirmed. The minutes from the October 3, 2025 meeting were reviewed. Motion to approve the minutes was made by Natalie Marshall and seconded by Jeff Steely; the motion carried. The agenda was presented without changes. Motion to approve the agenda was made by Deborah Millier and seconded by Michelle Easley; the motion carried.

Member Updates / General Discussion

Member updates were invited by sector. K-12/GADOE reported no updates, and no updates were shared from GISA, AMPALS/GPALS, or TCSG (representative absent).

Shaundra Walker reported major library facilities damage from a burst pipe in December. GALILEO/GIL support assisted with updating catalog status and patron messaging while materials were relocated and restoration proceeded. The library reopened at the start of the semester, with further restoration expected over spring break.

GPLS Updates: Angela Stanley shared that GPLS is celebrating statewide library award winners, including Library/Director/Employee of the Year and awards connected to services for the Blind and Print Disabled. GPLS will highlight recipients around Library Day at the Capitol.

GPLS is collaborating on an America 250 initiative and a curated 25-title reading list for elementary, middle, high school, and adult audiences, along with potential commemorative library cards and civic literacy partnerships.

After Baker & Taylor's closure, GPLS migrated the statewide kids eBook initiative from the Boundless platform to the Palace Project and is refining configuration options so libraries can manage collection visibility and K-12 access pathways.

Julie Walker provided federal and state advocacy updates emphasizing the importance of continued IMLS/LSTA funding and active legislative engagement. GPLS is advocating for increased PINES courier support, continued formula funding, and additional GALILEO funding to address ongoing deficits and reliance on reserves. Members were encouraged to engage local legislators as potential champions.

GALILEO Updates

Lucy Harrison reported that USG decided on October 31, 2025 not to proceed with the planned FOLIO + OpenRS go-live. USG will remain on Ex Libris Alma/Primo while contract re-award steps are finalized. GALILEO will remain involved with OpenRS for potential longer-term interlibrary loan/resource sharing functionality and possible options for other sectors, even though USG will not use OpenRS as the immediate replacement for Alma resource sharing.

Budget conditions continue to be difficult, particularly for K-12. GALILEO is exploring how to continue K-12 service without increased K-12 funding, including consolidating accounts and shifting access toward GPLS authentication rather than dedicated K-12 credentials. Britannica has begun pursuing direct relationships with K-12 schools, which may limit the feasibility of maintaining Britannica as a GALILEO-funded resource. GALILEO is discussing World Book as a potential alternative while continuing to monitor funding opportunities.

E-Resources: John Stephens announced a new e-resource suggestion box intended to create a consistent channel for community recommendations; broader promotion and placement on the website will follow. Stephens reviewed USG budget planning survey results and how they informed funding requests. High-interest areas included eBooks, streaming video, a UGA Press digitization/partnership proposal, and establishing an ongoing open access budget line.

Accessibility and ADA Title II preparedness survey results indicated many libraries lack institutional guidance, and some do not yet have clear mechanisms for users to submit accessibility requests. Planning and training were identified as the strongest areas of need, with follow-up work planned through the accessibility committee and conference programming.

Stephens noted that after vendor responsiveness and staffing changes, the plan is now to continue the Ovid nursing journals agreement for FY27, pending ongoing performance alignment.

Development & Support: Russell Palmer highlighted an updated GALILEO portal navigation that moved frequently used tools and links to the top of the page for easier discovery. This change was based on sustained community feedback.

Development priorities for 2026 include an update to the public-facing GALILEO stats site (with an initial demo planned for the GALILEO Annual Conference in April), continued improvements to K-12 interfaces, and ongoing backend/infrastructure work.

Palmer described AI experimentation by the dev group that includes possible metadata improvements, recommendation services for search, and potential chatbot features.

He shared an overview of new vendor tools including ProQuest and EBSCO AI enhancements.

The development group will work collaboratively with EBSCO in hopes of adding AI features like natural language search into the GALILEO Bento search.

Russell previewed the upcoming EBSCO eBooks DRM transition, shifting to Radium LCP DRM and the Thorium Reader to remove dependence on Adobe Digital Editions for using ebooks offline. Training on the

new eBooks format is scheduled for March 31, and the consortium change is targeted for mid-May to minimize disruption. GALILEO staff will also add an FAQ with details on using eBooks in the new platform.

GALILEO Annual Survey (Joy Woodson)

Joy Woodson summarized the annual user survey results, noting that education remains the primary reason users access GALILEO and that users frequently cited the value of GALILEO's broad database library. Most respondents learned about GALILEO from teachers, reinforcing the importance of outreach and training for educators. Ease-of-use scores declined modestly, and users requested clearer tutorials and more transparent full-text indicators—areas being addressed through recent enhancements and new tutorial development.

GALILEO Annual Conference (Joy Woodson)

The 2026 GALILEO Annual Conference will be held April 13–14, 2026 at Middle Georgia State University with the theme “Intelligent Libraries.” Programming will focus on AI and technology, including a keynote panel with experts across sectors. Registration is free, though increasing costs may affect future event planning. The Call for Proposals closed January 30, and the pre-conference capacity has already been reached; additional outreach for session support may occur.

Strategic Planning (Lucy Harrison)

Lucy Harrison outlined plans to restart GALILEO strategic planning, noting the last full strategic planning cycle occurred in 2017 and was later updated post-COVID without a full statewide process. A proposal from the Carl Vinson Institute of Government is under review (estimated \$40K plus travel/meeting costs). If funding is approved, the project is expected to kick off in summer 2026 with listening sessions and interviews across stakeholder groups, followed by drafting a strategic plan and an 18-month implementation plan.

Next Meeting: April 3, 2026 (Virtual)

Adjournment: Motion: Robert Quarles; second: Sonya Gaither — approved unanimously.
Meeting adjourned.