

GALILEO Steering Committee (GALSTEER)
Meeting Minutes
June 7, 2024

GALSTEER Attendees:

Laura Burtle (for Jeff Steely)
Angiah Davis
Jennifer Durham
David Edens
Julius Fleschner
Sonya Gaither
Toby Graham
Lucy Harrison
Sarah Holmes
Natalie Marshall

LaVerne McLaughlin
Ben Mullis
Russell Palmer
Kristi Peavy
Leslie Sharp
Angela Stanley
Julie Walker
Bradley Warren
Melissa Whitesell (Chair)
Oluremi Wright

GUESTS:

Joy Bolt (incoming RACL Chair)
Caroline Culver (TCSG incoming rep)
Deborah Millier (GPALS incoming rep)

Kathy Pillatzki (incoming GPLS rep)
Shaundra Walker (incoming RACL Chair Elect)

GALILEO/GIL Staff:

Deena Anderson
Brad Baxter
David Seamus Narron
Sean C Purcell

Barry Robinson
John Stephens
Josh Walker Wier
Joy Woodson

Agenda and Minutes:

Chair Melissa Whitesell called the meeting to order. Lucy Harrison took roll. LaVerne McLaughlin moved to approve the agenda, Jennifer Durham seconded, and the agenda was approved. LaVerne McLaughlin moved to approve minutes from the March meeting, Toby Graham seconded, and minutes were approved.

Membership Changes:

Chair Melissa Whitesell reminded the committee of membership changes that will take effect July 1:

Incoming Members:

- Chair for FY24-25: Joy Bolt
- Vice Chair/Chair-Elect: Shaundra Walker
- New RACL At-Large positions (2-year term)
 - Tamatha Lambert
 - Robert Quarles
 - Julius Fleschner
- FOGL liaison: Melissa Whitesell (will be past Chair)
- New GPLS Representative: Kathy Pillatzki

- New TCSG Representative: Caroline Culver
- New GPALS Representative: Deborah Millier

The following committee members will be leaving GALSTEER. Melissa thanked them for their service:

- David Edens (RACL at large)
- LaVerne McLaughlin (RACL at large)
- Ru Story-Huffman (RACL at large)
- Julius Fleschner (RACL past chair, moving to At Large)
- Jennifer Durham (GPLS)
- Ben Mullis (TCSG)
- Kristi Peavy (GPALS)

Member Updates:

Incoming GPALS representative Deborah Millier announced that they have a new member institution, Heritage Bible College.

Angela Stanley from GPLS provided several updates. Summer reading is off to a big start statewide, with GPLS libraries holding many kickoff programs and other great events happening in libraries and virtually around the state. They've also just rolled out their statewide benefits kiosks, which are a partnership between GPLS and DHS that provides a mobile kiosk based on a Chrome environment. Those kiosks will provide patrons with access to the Gateway platform that DHS uses for its clients to apply for, renew, and modify their social services benefits – everything from food stamps and healthcare to WIC and other nutrition and healthcare programs. Those kiosks are in over 300 libraries around the state, with capacity to increase to 400. They are very excited at the reception, and grateful to DHS and the GPLS IT team for thinking about new ways to use existing technology.

GPLS will also be providing access to American Sign Language courses via Mango Languages. Anyone with a public library card can now access to the ASL learning module within Mango Languages (through GALILEO). That includes two different units of ASL which are equivalent to about two college semesters of ASL, and they are also working on creating a library specific ASL module that will help library staff learn some basic ASL skills to assist with patron interactions.

Angela also announced that GPLS is rolling out the Palace Project for our public libraries statewide. Palace is built off the SimplyE code base and is a vendor neutral ebook aggregator that allows content streams from a variety of different ebook and audiobook sources to be combined into a single platform. Palace is maintained by LYRASIS in partnership with the Digital Public Library of America (for content). GPLS will be purchasing a statewide multilingual children's collection and will also be giving participating libraries a small stipend to do some purchasing.

GPLS will be presenting at ebook Friday at ALA from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Angela will be giving an update on behalf of state library administrative agencies and COSLA along with Jeremy Johansson. Other folks at that meeting will include Readers First, Library Futures, DPLA, the Internet Archive and copyright lawyer Kyle Courtney.

State Librarian and Vice Chancellor for Libraries and Archives Julie Walker then presented an update on the outcomes of the legislative session. She thanked the committee members for their assistance and support as we navigated a tricky legislative session. Luckily, none of the bills that would have

been especially difficult for libraries passed. GPLS had a very successful session on the financial side, receiving money for construction projects, major repair and renovations, book money, technology money, as well as funding for the large health insurance increase.

Julie also provided an update on the Digital Public Library of America. She has accepted an invitation to sit on their cultural Heritage Steering Committee, which is evaluating proposals from institutions interested in becoming the new home for the cultural heritage program. Applications are due June 11 and they hope to select a finalist by July.

Ben Mullis updated the group that TCSG's Alma contract is up for renewal/renegotiation. Caroline Culver will be handling that along with their Alma/Primo committee.

Brad Warren shared that Augusta has announced a single finalist candidate for their President: Russell Keen. He is currently the one of the executive vice presidents at Augusta University. He will move into his new position prior to July 1.

Leslie Sharp announced that they have a new affordable education librarian, Danielle Evans, and a new head of technical services, Martin Patrick. Both were internal hires, so Tech now has openings for a public services librarian and systems librarian.

GALILEO Updates:

Lucy Harrison provided a brief update on the USG migration to FOLIO and OpenRS, which is still on track for a summer 2025 go-live. Pre-implementation planning is essentially done, and GIL held their official implementation kickoff at the GUGM meeting a couple of weeks ago.

GALILEO received an official accessibility complaint from OCR on behalf of the Digital Library of Georgia website. We will be working with Tech's Center for Inclusive Design and Interoperability to identify and remediate those concerns. We'll also be doing an audit of the main GALILEO portal.

Lucy also provided an update on the status of K-12 resources and access. K-12 is the second largest user of GALILEO, but we have not received a funding increase in many years and the OpenAthens implementation for K-12 has hit some roadblocks. We are rethinking our approach to K-12 access and will keep the group updated moving forward. Russell Palmer added that we are expecting some improved functionality for K-12 soon, including the release of K-5 and 6-8 EBSCO ebook collections in July, and better lexile limiters.

Russell provided a status update on OpenAthens. All GPLS Pines and non-Pines public libraries are now live. AMPALS and GPALS implementations are also wrapping up, though we have seen some weirdness with OCLC/WMS implementations that we encourage people to report. On the K-12 side, we have still not been able to identify a good path forward, so while we continue to review options and ideate, we are also putting some fallback solutions in place. Wayne Mackey has retired from EBSCO: he worked with all of the libraries to put OpenAthens in place and will be greatly missed. Leif Johnson is replacing him and will be working with many USG libraries as we roll out FOLIO.

Russell noted that the new EBSCO discovery service UI was released for USG and -PALS on May 30 (all other groups started using it last August). To date, only one post release support ticket has been submitted, so the rollout has gone really smoothly. Staff can register for training sessions that will be offered in June, July, and August, or view a recorded session [here](#). New features include:

- Cleaner search interface
- Easier access to full text options
- Project folders
- Saved searches and results folders
- A Concept Map tool
- “More like this” recommendations
- Text-to-Speech feature for PDF and Text document

The “Custom Folders” functionality will be restored next year. Only about 2% of MyEBSCOHost accounts have custom folders. Any custom (named) folder created prior to the new EDS will not appear in the new EDS, but to see previously created custom folders, users simply need to access their MyEBSCOHost account in another EBSCO database, such as Academic Search Complete. The bulk save/edit feature is expected to be restored in July or earlier. Initially this will be limited to 50 results, but EBSCO will expand that to 250 in the future.

Russell also showed a couple of new development features we expect to release soon, including Ask a Librarian LibChat integration, which is currently being tested with a couple of libraries. We also expect to make some changes to K-12 views, limiting access to other views once an initial view is chosen by user or direct link. Users will be able to go down a level (e.g., from high school to middle school), but can’t go up (e.g., from elementary school to high school.) We plan to get some feedback from schools and public libraries and then release later this summer. This functionality can be modified by the school district or public library if they choose.

We’ve also added two new bentos: the PINES Catalog is now available as a bento to add for any institution or for users utilizing bento customization; and a Consumer Health bento has been added as a default for all public libraries (it’s also an option for any institution wishing to add it).

Selected development goals for the coming year include:

- Adapt user interface to be more K-12 friendly
- More web discoverable content outside of GALILEO
- Georgia Historic Newspapers bento
- Leverage AI to improve searching with better “did you mean?” feedback for the user
- A better GALILEO stats experience
- Cloud hosting for GALILEO

Joy Woodson provided an update on the GALILEO Annual Conference which is taking place virtually next week. The last day for registration is June 7th (today). We have over 350 people registered for the event. The theme is “GALILEO Unbound: New Perspectives on Literacy” and the website is here: <https://about.galileo.usg.edu/conference>.

Lucy provided some good news that we received both some one-time year end funding and a partial restoration of ongoing funds that were cut in FY21. The one-time funding will provide permanent access for USG libraries to some ebooks and research platforms. The De Gruyter and University of Michigan Press collections will be available to all higher ed libraries.

Sonya Gaither motioned to adjourn, Leslie Sharp seconded, and the meeting adjourned.