

GALILEO Steering Committee (GALSTEER)

Meeting Minutes

Date: April 3, 2026

Location: Virtual (Microsoft Teams)

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)

Tamatha Lambert (Middle Georgia State University)

Natalie Marshall (Flint River Regional Library System)

Jessica Osborne (Georgia Highlands College)

Burr Osoinach (Cobb County Public Library)

Russell Palmer (USG/GALILEO)

Robert Quarles (Atlanta Metropolitan State College)

Leslie Sharp (Georgia Tech)

Angela Stanley (Georgia Public Library Service)

Jeff Steely (Georgia State University)

Julie Walker (USG / GPLS)

Shaundra Walker (Georgia College & State University, Chair)

Bradley Warren (Augusta University)

Melissa Whitesell (Dalton State College)

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

Welcome, Roll, Minutes, and Agenda Approval

Chair Shaundra Walker called the meeting to order and welcomed participants. Roll call was conducted by Lucy Harrison and a quorum was confirmed. The agenda was presented as distributed. A motion to approve the agenda was made by Leslie Sharp and seconded by Angela Stanley; the motion carried. The minutes from the January 30, 2026 meeting were reviewed. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Natalie Marshall and seconded by David Edens; the motion carried.

Member Updates / General Discussion

Updates were invited by sector. K-12/GADOE, GISA, AMPALS/GPALS, TCSG, and USG reported no updates. Abbie Gettys is the new TCSG representative, though not present.

GPLS Updates: Angela Stanley reported on a successful Library Awards year and Library Day at the Capitol. GPLS celebrated six statewide awardees and highlighted strong visibility through legislative engagement. Preparations are underway for the May Directors Meeting with all 61 public library system directors. Stanley shared updates on professional license renewal for librarians using the new CE Broker platform. America 250 initiatives continue, including Georgia Reads Day at the Capitol and statewide programming support. Summer Reading 2026 will feature the theme "Unearth a Story."

Stanley also formally acknowledged Julie Walker's announced retirement after 12 years as State Librarian and 44 years in library service.

Legislative and Budget Updates

Julie Walker provided a legislative update following the conclusion of the 2026 General Assembly session late the previous day. Key outcomes included:

- \$243,035 in new ongoing funding for GALILEO included in the final budget.

- \$584,931 in additional PINES funding to support courier services.
- Reduction of the proposed increase to employer health insurance contributions for public libraries.
- Inclusion of GPLS grant funded positions in the statewide \$2,000 salary supplement.
- Over \$13 million approved statewide for library capital projects, including a record \$5 million for major repair and renovation.

Walker reported that Senate Bill 74 did not advance and is considered dead for this biennium. She also summarized recent federal advocacy activity, including Georgia's participation in ALA National Library Legislative Day and COSLA Voices for Libraries events in Washington, D.C.

Lucy Harrison added that GALILEO continues to advocate for additional one-time and ongoing funding through the Board of Regents budget process, with leadership meetings held recently and further updates expected later.

K-12 Budget Planning and Resource Review

John Stephens and Lucy Harrison reviewed the ongoing K-12 budget challenges and planning efforts. GALILEO currently supports approximately 1.7 million K-12 students with a budget near \$1.1 million annually. Vendor cost increases over several years have resulted in sustained deficits and reliance on shared reserves. A one-time amendment in FY26 allowed Britannica access to be extended through June.

Stephens reviewed the K-12 budget timeline and example scenarios previously shared with stakeholders, emphasizing that these were illustrative and subject to revision given the newly approved funding.

Results from the K-12 e resources survey (approximately 200 responses) indicated:

- Britannica ranked highest in usefulness, followed by EBSCO and SIRS.
- A majority of respondents supported dropping SIRS if necessary to stay within budget.
- World Book ranked highest among potential new resources.
- EBSCO resources were identified as particularly important for high school and AP coursework.

Based on the news that GALILEO has received partial K-12 additional funding, staff will continue evaluating options and anticipate making decisions on K-12 content during April to support July 1 implementation timelines.

Accessibility Updates

John Stephens thanked Jeff Gallant for representing GALILEO on the Library Accessibility Alliance testing committee. Stephens shared progress on centralized accessibility documentation, including the [VPAT/Accessibility List](#) and [Accessibility Plan](#). Current discussions include whether there is value in coordinating shared remediation services to support:

- Rapid remediation (e.g., Georgia Tech use cases),
- High volume remediation (e.g., ALG textbooks),
- High quality remediation needs for public libraries.

Stephens also raised questions from member institutions related to accessible interlibrary loan workflows and OCR practices.

Affordable Learning Georgia

Jeff Gallant announced the rebranding of GALILEO Open Learning Materials to [ALG Commons](#), noting that URLs remain unchanged. He reviewed ALG accessibility work in preparation for ADA Title II compliance and summarized results from Round 29 of the Affordable Materials Grants (58 applications from 17 institutions). Awards will be announced April 20.

GALILEO Development and Support

Russell Palmer provided updates on development priorities, including continued progress on the new GALILEO Stats platform, backend infrastructure improvements, and K-12 interface updates. He reviewed upcoming EBSCO eBooks platform changes effective May 19, including the transition away from Adobe Digital Editions to LCP DRM using the Thorium Reader. An [FAQ](#) has been published, with updated training forthcoming. Palmer also previewed EBSCO interface updates planned for July 2026 and noted ongoing AI experimentation related to search and discovery.

Annual Conference

Joy Woodson reported that the 2026 GALILEO Annual Conference will be held April 13-14 at Middle Georgia State University with the theme "*Intelligent Libraries.*" Registration has reached capacity (250 attendees). Programming includes an AI-focused opening panel and a closing session featuring Google. Julie Walker will be recognized at what will be her final GALILEO Annual Conference.

Strategic Planning

Lucy Harrison briefly reviewed plans to restart GALILEO strategic planning with the Carl Vinson Institute of Government, with an anticipated kickoff in summer 2026.

GALILEO Stats Demo

Seamus Narron provided a brief demonstration of the new GALILEO Stats platform, highlighting improved usability, filtering, sorting, and performance over the existing system. Broader access, feedback opportunities, and additional demonstrations are planned in conjunction with the GALILEO Annual Conference.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Leslie Sharp and seconded by Angela Stanley. The motion carried unanimously.

Next Meeting: June 5, 2026 (Virtual)