GALILEO Steering Committee (GALSTEER)
Meeting Minutes
January 31, 2025

GALSTEER Attendees:

Joy Bolt (Chair)	Kathy Pillatzki
Caroline Culver	Robert Quarles
Michelle Easley	Barry Robinson (for Toby Graham)
Sonya Gaither	Leslie Sharp
Lucy Harrison	Angela Stanley
Sarah Holmes	Jeff Steely
Tamatha Lambert	Julie Walker
Natalie Marshall	Shaundra Walker
Terrance Martin	Bradley Warren
Deborah Millier	Melissa Whitesell
Burr Osoinach	Oluremi Wright
Russell Palmer	

GALILEO/GIL Staff:

Brad Baxter	Sean C Purcell
Jeff Gallant	John Stephens
Seamus Narron	Mike White
Sean Boyle	Josh Walker Wier
Nicole Lawrence	Joy Woodson

Agenda and Minutes:
Chair Joy Bolt called the meeting to order. Lucy Harrison took roll. Brad Warren moved to approve the agenda, Leslie Sharp seconded, and the agenda was approved. Natalie Marshall moved to approve minutes from the October meeting, Deborah Millier seconded, and minutes were approved.

Membership Updates:
Lucy Harrison updated the group that Angiah Davis is no longer at Gordon State. RACL Exec will discuss how to address that At-Large vacancy at their meeting later in the morning.

Angela Stanley reported that GPLS is excited to be celebrating this year's library award winners (lifetime achievement, champion, library of the year, library director of the year, and library employee of the year). This is their 10th year of awards, which will have celebrations all over the state. This year the "Library of the Year" award will be celebrating all sixty public library systems and will be accompanied with a large marketing campaign.

GPLS has also welcomed a new director of continuing education, Gina Martin, who was previously outreach manager for the Georgia Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled.

GPLS has been invited to submit a full proposal to IMLS for a national leadership grant: Georgia DEAL (the Georgia Digital Equity and Access with Libraries grant). This grant would fund digital navigators as well as provide online AI powered customizable training modules for the public to help increase digital literacy.

They have also been working with John Stephens and the public library GALSTEER representatives to evaluate the Public Library database portfolio for FY26.

Julie Walker provided an update on the legislative session so far. She is expecting that there will be some legislative action on the licensing of public librarians (as well as licensure of other professions). They are also paying attention to the "fines free" initiative that would require some revenue replacement if all public libraries eliminated overdue fines.

Several legislative leaders are very focused on literacy, and there may be some proposals for extra funding for schools and teacher preparation in that arena. There's also a proposal for $1,000,000 in public library literacy programming, for which GPLS are providing several options.

GPLS "Library Day" at the Capitol will take place on February 13th. At noon they'll be serving the Varsity hot dogs as usual, and at 2:30 they'll have the ceremony to recognize the award winners inside the Capitol.

The group then had a discussion about the recent federal funding freeze. Some institutions have already received stop orders, though everything is still very much in flux. This could have a large impact, both on individual academic institutions and on GPLS as a whole. GPLS is putting together a delegation to go to the Voices for Libraries event the first week in March in Washington.

GALILEO Updates:
Lucy Harrison provided a brief update on the USG libraries' migration to FOLIO and OpenRS. In November and December, data was loaded into FOLIO, OpenRS pilots were established, and all Locate (OPAC) instances were rolled out. Over the next couple of months there will be an additional data load, and evaluation and testing will begin. There will be other data loads, training, and user acceptance testing closer to go-live, which is still tentatively scheduled for June 25. Depending on the release date of the Sunflower version, and on the outcomes of testing, that date could shift.

DOE did include some additional funding for GALILEO in its budget request, and it appears to also be included in the governor's budget. This is not an increase, but replaces some funds that were previously cut, and will allow GALILEO to keep the K12 portfolio together and continue serving that audience without disruption for the next few years at least.

GALILEO has also made some one-time end-of-year requests, mostly for ebook and video content. This is USG-specific funding but if possible we will make funded resources available to wider audiences as well.

Strategic work for the next quarter includes:
- Finalizing accessibility work (audits are complete; all issues should be addressed soon)
- Discover content on the open web (USG rollout of Bibliograph is well underway)
- Continue AI investigation (hoping for a demo of a chatbot soon)
- Development work on Stats Tool (this is a major redesign on the underlying platform)

- Begin work on K-12 interface redesign (Russell will update a little later in the meeting)
- New Position: Training Support Specialist (we hope to make a hiring decision in the next couple of weeks)

OpenAthens Update:
Russell Palmer provided some information on the OpenAthens certificate updates. While GALILEO support managed these updates, some institutions received a notification from OA anyway (either because their institution uses a "custom SAML" setup for resource(s); or because it uses an older identity provider (IdP) and the certificate requires a manual update). GALILEO support contacted all vendors for custom SAML updates and reached out to GALILEO institutions with an impacted identity provider. All have taken or will take appropriate action. Russell asked that everyone keep an eye out for issues on Monday February 3, and to promptly report any concerns to GALILEO support.

There have been a few linking issues recently that EBSCO has repaired. We're still seeing a few other linking issues that we're working on, but those are fairly minor and only affect the K-12 environment. We have updated our K-12 linking FAQ with information on how to add the correct linking structure.

Development and Support Update:
Russell Palmer updated the group on upcoming plans for the K-12 interface, which will be reworked to be more visually interesting and helpful for our younger GALILEO users. Joy Woodson is working with a K-12 Development Advisory Committee (KDAC) that will provide input and ideas on what works and doesn't, and that will review our development work and offer feedback. We are initially focusing on the Elementary interface, to be followed by Middle and High School views.

Other ongoing development priorities include statistics work, accessibility improvements, and search improvements including the potential for AI. We are also working behind the scenes on a RAILS update to improve GALILEO/DLG speed and performance, ensure our applications are stable and secure, and keep GALILEO in compliance with best practices.

Russell also reminded the group that there is a new EBSCOHost interface coming in May 2025 (specific date TBD). This will give all EBSCO databases the same refreshed user interface and improved functionality that users currently see in the GALILEO Classic Search, which is using the new version of the EBSCO Discovery Service. Changes include a simpler, cleaner user interface; more intuitive limiters and facets; enhanced accessibility standards; and easier access to user personalization. To assist libraries with preparing for this interface change, EBSCO will provide monthly training sessions on the new interface beginning January 24.

EBSCO also recently released EBSCO AI Insights for the new UI. This is an article summary feature that helps users gauge relevance by summarizing content in 3-5 key points. This is an opt-in feature that we have not yet activated for any institutions. Please let us know if you are interested; we can provide access via a test account so you can try it out.

Britannica will also be releasing an AI "Ask Britannica" feature on February 17 as an opt in for all Britannica customers. There will be a webinar at noon on February 4 for interested libraries. This video provides an overview, and Britannica has an FAQ here. In brief, ASK Britannica operates as a secondary search function, answering user questions with relevant insights sourced from Britannica content, presented as article summaries alongside linked sources. It will not write papers for students and will not answer inappropriate queries outside of its educational scope.

E-Resources Update:
John Stephens reminded the group that we are joining the Library Accessibility Alliance. GALILEO Accessibility Committee met yesterday to discuss joining, solicit volunteers for action committees, and recommend an at-large steering committee member.

The GALILEO Open Access Committee met on November 19 for a presentation on UPL Open by De Gruyter. They will review reporting for our transformative agreements at their next meeting.

The Georgia Knowledge Repository (GKR) group has been discussing OA Switchboard for tracking publication output.

GALILEO Annual Survey:
Joy Woodson provided an update on the survey, which was live November 1 – 17. We reviewed 1,002 survey responses. 93% of respondents said GALILEO was a valuable service, the highest score in seven years. 86% of respondents were end users (mostly undergraduate students), and 14% library staff. Hotspots include Henry County, Forsyth County and DeKalb County. Approximately 159 K-12 students participated, with most being high schoolers. Much of the feedback focused on search accuracy, citation tools, personal folders, and comments that the interface is confusing for children. The full report is available here.

GALILEO Annual Conference:
The conference will take place June 3-4, 2025, in Macon. The theme is "Illuminating New Paths." The call for proposals is now open, and we encourage you to submit your ideas. Registration is also open. There will be a pre-conference on Day 1 and the full conference on Day 2. For the first time, there will be a nominal fee of $10 for Day 1, $20 for Day 2, and $25 for both days. This is to encourage attendance, as we have had significant numbers of no-shows when it was a free event. Waivers will be available. The keynote speaker will be announced soon. For all conference information, including where to submit your proposals, visit the conference website.

Deborah Millier motioned to adjourn, Angela Stanley seconded, and the meeting adjourned.