

GALILEO Steering Committee (GALSTEER)
Meeting Minutes
March 28, 2025

GALSTEER Attendees:

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

GALILEO/GIL Staff:

Seamus Narron	Jef Whatley
Sean Boyle	Mike White
Nicole Lawrence	Josh Walker Wier
Sean C Purcell	Joy Woodson
John Stephens	

Agenda and Minutes:

Chair Joy Bolt called the meeting to order. Lucy Harrison took roll. Deborah Millier moved to approve the agenda, Leslie Sharp seconded, and the agenda was approved. Deborah Millier moved to approve minutes from the January meeting, Tamatha Lambert seconded, and minutes were approved.

Membership Updates:

Deborah Millier (GPALS) updated the group that they are getting ready for their Spring meeting next month. Caroline Culver (TCSG) said they are also planning their Spring meeting.

Angela Stanley reported that GPLS just wrapped up their annual financial training for public library directors across the state, which was led in Athens by finance director Christopher Evans. Today is the last day of the Accessibility Conference (virtual) spearheaded by the Director of the Georgia Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled, Kristen White. Angela also announced the appointment of some new public library directors: Beth McIntyre (Athens Regional) who was at Piedmont Regional for many years; Jeremy Snell (Three Rivers Library system), who has served as director at Troup Harris and West Georgia in the past; Betsy Powell has resumed her interim responsibilities at Northwest Georgia Regional; and Greater Clarks Hill has announced a solo finalist.

Angela also relayed an update from Vice Chancellor Julie Walker on the legislative session so far, including the status of the budget, as well as the status of Senate Bill 74 which would remove the exemptions for librarians to avoid criminal prosecution if minors access “harmful materials.” That

bill would have an impact on libraries of all types. Discussion ensued on the conversations that have taken place so far, and the potential repercussions. Angela encouraged people to reach out to the GLA Advocacy group with their comments and concerns.

Another bill, HB516, would allow for remote participation in Public Library board meetings. GPLS supports this bill, which looks likely to pass.

The group then discussed the potential changes at the federal level to the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). Georgia receives about \$5.5 million dollars annually, which is only 2.5% of all public library funding, but they do a lot statewide with that money. IMLS funding pays for the PINES library system that 51 out of the sixty public library systems use. It pays for the Georgia Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled. It pays for a lot of GPLS digitization work with the Digital Library of Georgia, and pays in part for the Public Library share of the GALILEO resources.

Lucy reminded the group that some members' terms may be expiring at the end of June. If a new member is joining GALSTEER, we typically invite them to the June meeting (June 6 in this case) so that there can be some overlap between incoming and outgoing members. If you are changing representatives, please let Lucy know a couple of weeks before that meeting if possible.

GALILEO Updates:

Lucy Harrison provided a brief update on the USG libraries' migration to FOLIO and OpenRS. Now through April 4, the team is doing its first round of Acceptance Testing (on Ramsons). Library faculty/staff training (from EBSCO) will follow in April and May. GUGM takes place May 12 – 13, and a dress rehearsal for go-live will also take place in May. In June, we will do another round of Acceptance Testing on the Sunflower release, which is the version for go-live. We are likely to delay the go-live date to July, pending a discussion with the implementation team. A detailed project plan can be found here - https://libguides.galileo.usg.edu/GIL-FOLIO/start_here

Support and Development Update:

Russell Palmer introduced the new GALILEO training and support specialist, Jef Whatley. Jef was previously in IT at UGA's Franklin College of Arts and Sciences. He has already started providing training for GALILEO.

Russell reviewed the current development priorities:

- Accessibility updates for Digital Library of Georgia & GALILEO (almost complete)
- Updating Georgia Knowledge Repository data (data was recently refreshed)
- GALILEO Elementary site redesign (working with advisory committee; you can see an early version of the redesign in the staging site)
- Statistics (working to get the statistics module up to date with the current code base)

Additional upcoming planned changes include relocating the "Know your Password?" box so it is easier for K-12 students to find; and clarification and consolidation of the GALILEO support form.

Russell Palmer provided some information on OpenAthens. We recently completed the Custom SAML certificate related changes with only a few minor issues. The TCSG connection certificates all expire(d) in March/April – that work has been completed, though communications continue. There is a potential vendor side issue with custom SAML using shibboleth or SimpleSAML. This is a SAML

vulnerability that should be resolved with standard updates, but we are contacting vendors to make sure and have already confirmed this is not an issue for the most common custom SAML vendors.

Russell also reminded the group that there is a new EBSCOHost interface coming on May 7, 2025. Institutions are already using the new EBSCO Platform in EDS, but all remaining EBSCO resources will be switched to use the new UI on May 7. All current images and customizations will move over, including folders. This change will be applied across all GALILEO groups at the same time. Training will be provided on April 24 at 2:30 and May 29 at 11:30. Library staff can register [here](#). If anyone would like a test account for the new Ehost UI live, contact Russell at russell.palmer@usg.edu.

E-Resources Update:

John Stephens updated the group on e-resource activities. We are currently in discussions with EBSCO and ProQuest on statewide GALILEO content. The recent PQ eBooks announcement has no direct impact on GALILEO eBook Central eBook subscription, though PQ may offer an expanded version of that subscription. GALILEO has previously purchased permanent access to single titles via PQ for some groups but will switch to other vendors going forward.

Elsevier negotiations are also nearing completion. This agreement will cover 18 or so higher ed institutions, who should see some cost savings over the prior agreement. Our current agreement is a traditional read-only subscription with Elsevier; the new agreement will offer the option to add Open Access publishing for a fairly small additional inflationary increase.

John also announced that costshare ordering will start mid-April, and that he is working with the E-Resource committees to make their work more transparent. He also sent out a survey earlier today to gather feedback on potential products/vendors to consider.

GALILEO Annual Conference:

Joy Woodson reminded the group that the annual conference will take place June 3-4 in Macon. The theme is “Illuminating New Paths.” The keynote speaker will be Lisa Varga, currently the Director of the Virginia Library Association, though she starts a new position in April at the American Library Association in charge of the D.C. policy office. We are currently reviewing proposals but expect to have approximately 30 speakers and sessions over two days.

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. For all conference information, including registration, visit the [conference website](#).

GALILEO Ambassador Award:

Nomination window for this award closes March 31. Anyone may nominate staff, a library, or themselves for their efforts to work in/advocate for GALILEO and a commitment to lifelong learning. The winner will be recognized at the GALILEO Annual Conference. For details and submissions, visit: <https://about.galileo.usg.edu/ambassador-award>

We are also currently running a K-12 art contest in celebration of GALILEO’s 30th anniversary.

Digital Library of Georgia:

Nicole Lawrence informed the group that DLG is hiring a new program lead position. The DLG director retired last summer and they used that as an opportunity to evaluate what they were doing, what is needed, and what made sense in terms of responsibilities.

The program lead will be responsible for all DLG outreach, training and consultation, and will also be the project manager for digitization. They are conducting final interviews currently and hope to announce someone soon.

In addition to that, they are forming a DLG advisory committee which will help steer DLG programs and services to make sure that they're meeting the needs of partners and fulfilling the strategic objectives of stakeholders. There are some permanent members for the advisory committee that are the primary funding and content stakeholders (GALILEO, UGA, GPLS, and the State Archives) but there will also be two open spots to represent voices from cultural heritage organizations. They are accepting applications for that until the end of April.

Nicole also provided an update on the accessibility work that has been done. While the site may not look much different visually, the GALILEO developers have put a lot of work into making sure that screen readers and other technologies can navigate and use DLG materials. They are currently about 95% complete, with the last major hurdle being the addition of transcripts and closed captioning to the AV content.

Nicole also mentioned their ongoing subgrants to cultural heritage institutions. They are excited to have a number of really great digitization projects starting in the fall and continuing through next spring.

Deborah Millier motioned to adjourn, Leslie Sharp seconded, and the meeting adjourned.