

**GALILEO Steering Committee (GALSTEER)**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
October 20, 2023

**GALSTEER Attendees:**

Angiah Davis	Benjamin Mullis
Jennifer Durham	Burr Osoinach
Michelle Easley	Kristi Peavy
David Edens	Angela Stanley
Julius Fleschner	Jeff Steely
Sonya Gaither	Ru Story-Huffman
Karen Glover (for Leslie Sharp)	Julie Walker
Toby Graham	Bradley Warren
Sarah Holmes	Melissa Whitesell (Chair)
LaVerne McLaughlin	Oluremi Wright

**GALILEO/GIL Staff:**

Sean Boyle	Barry Robinson
Lucy Harrison	John Stephens
David Seamus Narron	Joshua Walker Wier
Russell Palmer	Mike White
Sean C Purcell	Joy Woodson

**Agenda and Minutes:**

Chair Melissa Whitesell called the meeting to order. Lucy Harrison took roll. Ben Mullis moved to approve the agenda and Julius Fleschner seconded. Agenda was approved. Toby Graham moved to approve minutes from the August meeting, Jeff Steely seconded, and minutes were approved.

**Member Updates:**

Melissa welcomed new member Oluremi Wright, who will be representing K-12 and the Georgia Department of Education.

Angela Stanley reported that GPLS wrapped up the fall directors meeting in Carrollton at the end of September and are planning for the winter directors meeting which will take place at Savannah State in early December. The GPLS library awards have opened, with five award categories including ones for library staff, directors, library of the year, library champion of the year and lifetime achievement. Nominations can be made through the [georgialibraries.org](http://georgialibraries.org) website. Ben Carter, GPLS Assistant State Librarian, will be taking the helm at the Georgia Library Association next year as the Vice President / President Elect. GPLS is also working on their state program report for LSTA funding.

Ben Mullis reported that TCSG libraries are hard at work with the fall semester in full swing. David Edens at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College reported that the library was recently the host for a successful meeting of the Board of Regents, which went off without a hitch.

Lucy, Russell, John and Joy then provided some general GALILEO updates:

**FOLIO:** Lucy reminded the group of the general timeline for the USG's FOLIO and OpenRS implementation: from Sept 2023 – May 2024 we will be focused on implementation of Bibliograph (piloting with GGC and UGA) and Panorama Analytics (which will be live for everyone no later than June 2024). This will also be the pre-implementation Phase for FOLIO and OpenRS, including some institution data cleanup tasks, self-directed training via EBSCO Academy, continued EBSCO development efforts, and analysis of workflows/policies.

OpenRS is the resource sharing platform to which USG libraries will be migrating, initially to replace the Gil Express functionality, but longer term perhaps connecting other libraries and consortia functionality that looks more like ILL. OpenRS is putting together an advisory group to start looking into that functionality and we have a USG representative (Angela Mehaffey) and a Public Library representative (Chris Sharp, GPLS) on that group.

Bibliograph will be live for all USG libraries in the spring. For other libraries, if patrons are searching for content available at USG schools, then they will be able to find it on the open web. This linked data tools will also allow USG schools to do some interesting and new things with that linked data on the web it initially it makes our catalogs portable and visible on the web. Longer term EBSCO hopes to display e-content as well, which will expand non-USG patrons' visibility into the USG collections.

**Courier RFP:** USG procurement is kicking off a competitive bid process for the courier service that is shared by the Public Library service and the university system. The public libraries are much larger users of the Courier than are the USG, so they are the main drivers of the contract. There are some GIL-specific terms, and we have pulled together some USG representatives to be on the RFP team, including Brad Warren from Augusta who will serve as the RACL liaison to that group. The RFP team has not yet met.

**Budget:** No new information expected until after session kicks off in January.

**Authentication Update:** Russell updated the group on OpenAthens. Higher ed institutions are basically complete (all USG and TCSG done; a handful of privates still to do). We have just started work with Covenant College. PINES Libraries are also complete. Non-PINES Libraries are getting close:

- Sequoyah Regional - complete
- Chattahoochee Valley - complete
- Fulton County - complete
- Dekalb County - complete
- Gwinnett—ready, Nov/Dec
- Cobb—underway—Mid-November
- Bartow—complete, Nov 2 go live
- Coweta—complete
- Forsyth—Waiting on resource activation

We are having very productive meetings with DOE on behalf of K-12. Had a reset meeting with team at GaDOE in July, with follow up meetings in September and October 19. We have brought EBSCO and OpenAthens into the conversation and are setting up a test connection, working through

personas/options, and determining the hierarchy for the setup. Tentatively hoping to pilot in spring 2024 with at least one school, then going live summer 2024. Private K-12 also piloting soon.

Russell discussed some recent authentication improvements, including the IP/CustID mismatch which is now resolved, and some overall improvements to EBSCO's "Find My Organization" functionality. We are also testing using the OpenAthens reporting API to identify and trace unauthorized usage.

We will be decommissioning most of the GALILEO EZProxy instances on December 11, though GALILEO will continue to support local instances as needed, and specific instances for TCSG eCampus and GoView will remain until further notice. An announcement will be sent on November 5. Any old links will be redirected.

**New EDS Interface:** We have decided to delay the rollout of the new interface for USG and -PALS libraries until May 2024. Three features originally slated for January were pushed by EBSCO: access to custom folders; the ability to e-mail articles from within the results list; and journal alerts. These are heavily used by higher-ed power users so we will wait until those are in place.

Russell also highlighted some newly-released functionality in the new UI which GPLS, K-12, and TCSG can start using immediately: far more articles now feature text to speech, including PDF's; and there is a new recommender service in EDS, which currently uses metadata, but will eventually use AI. Additional functionality coming soon includes the ability to search the EBSCO eBooks K-8 Collection by lexile limiter (Tentative: April 2024) and separating the EBSCO eBooks K-8 Collection into K-5 and 6-8 collections (Tentative: Mid-year 2024).

**E-Resource Updates:** John provided a quick look at usage trends over the past year:

- FY23 usage for PQ resources is lower for every community and package (with one exception), although less than indicated by midyear usage.
- EBSCO usage increased for all communities except USG
- Three-year trend of total usage decline for USG

John suggested some potential theories for these trends, provided some more detailed statistics, and the group discussed briefly.

John also asked for some input into something that has come up in our strategic planning: that we need to be better in "determining lifelong learning needs." According to our [Vision and Mission statements](#), "GALILEO facilitates the creation of knowledge and provides tools and resources for all Georgians to meet their lifelong learning needs" and "Serve(s) as Georgia's statewide virtual library providing...Access to the tools necessary to help Georgians become lifelong learners." John asked the group to consider:

- What are lifelong learning needs?
- In what ways should GALILEO support lifelong learning needs?
- What are we doing now and what do we need to do more of?

Does GALILEO need to do better in determining and meeting lifelong learning needs? Or are we already doing that well? Angela said that public libraries have a strong role to play in this arena, and agrees that Galileo is crucial in supporting lifelong learning needs. It's been very effective in communicating its relevance and utility to the K12 and Higher Ed audiences, but perhaps there is a

gap in communicating how GALILEO supports students/learners of all ages. GPLS focuses a lot of effort in communicating to those patrons, for example how to use Learning Express to get skills, or using Mango to learn a language, and explaining that patrons can do all this learning without being a formally enrolled student. But GALILEO could more clearly communicate the relevance that GALILEO has to users of all ages. Several other GALSTEER members weighed in on the need to work with partners to communicate what we are doing in these areas.

GALILEO may need to shift its focus – instead of just communicating what people have access to, maybe we need to connect those resources to lifelong learning for specific purposes. For example, to learn a language, or finish high school, or find a career, or return to college as an adult learner, or earn a credential. GALILEO has many resources that could tie to those goals, or perhaps we need to look at what the gaps are between what we have now and what those goals are, to help fill those gaps. John also suggested that perhaps we should focus more on data and information literacy to provide the skills so people can self-direct their own lifelong learning.

**Strategic Planning:** In the interest of time, Lucy will provide a brief update after the meeting.

**K-12 Showcase:** Joy updated the group that there will be nearly a dozen presentations by media specialists, vendors and GALILEO the weeks of Oct. 16 and 23. So far, approximately 150 registrants, which is still low.

**GALILEO Annual Survey:** Will be live November 1-17. It will include a couple of questions on strategic planning, report expected in January. Joy will communicate with libraries just prior to these dates. This year, the survey will be behind the GALILEO login.

**Upcoming Bento / Admin Updates:** Sean Purcell provided an overview of the changes coming soon to the GALILEO Search, which include:

- Customizable banners
- Embedded search boxes that redirect to individual bento box search results
- Ability for institutions to add a librarian chat widget
- Some new bento options, including NGE and DPLA
- User personalization options

Josh provided a live demo of the user personalization options (which can be controlled by individual users and will be remembered in the browser). Seamus provided a demo of the customizable banners (which can be controlled by libraries to show up for their users, and which can be customized in text and color and can include HTML links to additional content).

Additional enhancements coming soon include an enhanced ‘Custom EDS Resource’ bento to show available EDS databases in a dropdown within GALILEO; the ability to drag and drop spotlight items to the desired position; allowing sub-roles for institutional users (for example, one person who can gather stats, another who can make changes to the databases). We’re also planning a statistics platform redesign. For DLG, we are also migrating Georgia government publications data into DLG proper, and we will also be eventually migrating Georgia's historic newspapers to a new platform. We’re also actively investigating AI and how we might incorporate that into our planning.

Toby Graham motioned to adjourn, and Jeff Steely seconded. Meeting adjourned.