

GALILEO, Georgia's Virtual Library for the 21st century

In 1995, the University System of Georgia (USG) launched a visionary project to provide equal access to information and to improve the quality of library services for all Georgians. GALILEO (**GeorgiA Llibrary LEarning Online**) is Georgia's award-winning virtual library of licensed, commercial databases and selected free Internet resources that offers access to thousands of full-text magazines, journals, encyclopedias, and electronic books to every Georgia citizen. Supported by the Office of Information and Instructional Technology (OIIT), GALILEO complements services of Georgia's libraries by providing premier electronic information (via *PeachNet*) to library users regardless of location and contributing to a more educated Georgia.

ACCESS FOR ALL

By collaborating and sharing resources, GALILEO benefits more than nine million user-constituents in Georgia wherever they are—school, home, library, or office. GALILEO serves more than 2,000 institutions including the USG, public K-12 schools, public libraries, technical colleges, a group of private academic colleges and universities, and a group of private K-12 schools.

GALILEO meets the following major objectives:

- Leverage funding for higher-level resources and services not otherwise obtainable by some libraries
- Work toward seamless integration with the USG's ***Integrated Learning Environment***
- Provide methods to work with other learning management systems
- Offer training for librarians and users
- Team with librarians to increase awareness about GALILEO's benefits, particularly for K-12 schools, Georgia Department of Technical and Adult Education colleges, and public libraries

OUTCOMES AND BENEFITS

- Universal access to core materials, including full-text books and journals, for learners of all ages and interests
- Increase in total of logins, searches, and articles displayed annually from 15 million in 1995 to 50 million in 2006
- Significant subscription and database cost avoidance for institutions and libraries

- Georgia Government Publications, a database of more than 28,000 full text digital publications
- Technical support for the New Georgia Encyclopedia, Georgia's first online encyclopedia
- Digital Library of Georgia, the online gateway to Georgia's history and culture in digitized books, manuscripts, photographs, government documents, newspapers, maps, audio, video, and more

COST AVOIDANCE

GALILEO provides a higher level of services for all Georgians at a lower cost than if all libraries tried to provide those services on their own. Thanks to resource and cost-sharing opportunities, Georgia libraries avoid spending many millions of dollars in annual costs and provide resources and services that would not otherwise be affordable. With GALILEO, all Georgians can access a bounty of information.

CHALLENGES

Libraries now operate in dynamic environments, including rapidly changing users, technology, and publishing models that create the following numerous challenges:

- Explosive growth of information available online
- New information technologies
- Increasing costs of electronic resources
- Increasing subscription costs from rising prices based on rising student enrollments
- Funding limitations

GALILEO's savvy users' expectations have risen sharply in the last 10 years; they expect more:

- A search engine that is more accessible, intuitive, and convenient—more like Google
- Interfaces with a customized look and feel for individuals (My GALILEO), user communities (academic, public libraries, and K-12 schools), and subjects
- Delivery of academic library services within the context of campus portals, online courses, faculty and library web sites, and portable devices

In other words, how can GALILEO expand resources and services to catch up with the information and technology that users expect?

PeachNet is the statewide network that supports all information and instructional technology efforts for the USG and the Georgia Public Library Service (GPLS).

The ***Integrated Learning Environment*** (ILE) is the seamless operation of instructional and administrative functions of the University System of Georgia. See other side for examples.

A ***portal*** is a gateway to the Internet that may be specialized and customizable, e.g., Google, "My University," and my eBay. A portal often includes a search engine.

Metasearch is the ability to search multiple databases simultaneously from a single search box.

 **SOLUTIONS**

User communities have clearly identified their needs and are participating eagerly in the GALILEO upgrade to meet the following goals:

- Enhanced usability and ease of access—more intuitive searching
- Customized user interfaces for each community
- Customized community and institution menus
- Enhanced user personalization
- Simultaneous, multiple database search capability with GALILEO Quick Search (*metasearching*)
- Interlinked GALILEO resources
- Easier access for users to content and features from library websites, online courseware, campus portals, and other environments

 **WHAT'S NEXT?**

The GALILEO upgrade is a complex project that will implement new features and new technology in phases over the next three years. Metasearching within the existing GALILEO system will come first, followed by linking and easier remote access. In the

next phases, representatives from each GALILEO community will collaborate to develop customized interfaces for their communities. In addition, a second more specialized metasearching tool for academic libraries will be incorporated.

GALILEO brings together a vast collection of learning resources that support education from K-12 to graduate and lifelong learning. With OIIT's help, GALILEO fulfills a vital role in generating, collecting, and transmitting knowledge in our interconnected, interactive global society.

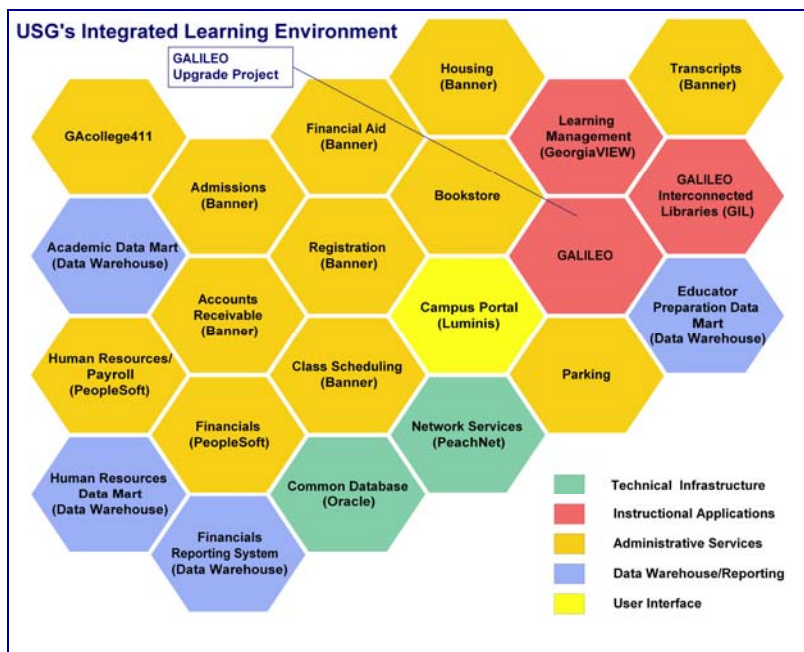
 **WANT TO KNOW MORE?**

To learn more about GALILEO, the upgrade, the Digital Library of Georgia, and the New Georgia Encyclopedia, see the following websites:

- www.galileo.usg.edu/
- www.usg.edu/galileo/about/planning/projects/upgrade/
- <http://dlg.galileo.usg.edu/>
- www.georgiaencyclopedia.org

 **GALILEO AND THE USG'S INTEGRATED LEARNING ENVIRONMENT (ILE)**

Libraries are central to teaching, learning, and research in the ILE, and GALILEO provides access to the libraries. The graphic shows some instructional and administrative functions and the enterprise technologies that must work together seamlessly in the ILE.



- Students must be recruited, admitted, and registered; they need access to books, e-mail, and the Internet; they must be able to take courses at multiple USG institutions and graduate.
- Students must receive financial aid and pay tuition, parking, and housing bills.
- Faculty and staff must have technological tools to teach, conduct research, and provide services.
- Those with visual, auditory, or motor impairments need full access to all on-line educational opportunities.
- Data for informed decision making and reporting must be collected.
- Technologies for learning in the classroom and on line, and for accessing library resources and student services throughout the state from anywhere must be robust, reliable, and secure.
- Faculty and staff must be compensated and receive benefits.

