

# Georgia Library Learning Online (GALILEO) Makes a Difference in Georgia

## What is GALILEO?

- GALILEO stands for **GeorgiA LIbrary LEarning Online**, an initiative of the University System of Georgia.
- A World Wide Web-based virtual library, GALILEO is available to all Georgia citizens through their libraries -- public libraries, University System libraries, technical college libraries, private academic libraries and K-12 libraries and media centers.
- GALILEO, Georgia's Virtual Library, gives Georgians access to more than 150 databases indexing thousands of periodicals and scholarly journals. Thousands of journal titles are provided in full-text. Other resources include encyclopedias, business directories, and government publications.
- GALILEO is a valuable information tool and a model of excellence for other states that has been funded by the Governor and the General Assembly of Georgia for the citizens of Georgia since 1995.

## Who uses GALILEO?

Biology major at Savannah State who needs refereed journal articles on genetic engineering

A nursing student at Albany Technical College searching for a nursing plan for an Alzheimer's patient

A plant manager in Dublin who wants to know more about flexible scheduling for his employees

A fourth grader in Bonaire who wants to know more about knights and jousting

A life-long learner in Reidsville curious about Edgar Cayce and dream interpretation

A Dodge County public school teacher who needs a lesson plan on Mexico for his class

A family historian in Canton who wants to look up her grandparents in the 1900 U.S. Census for St. Tammany Parish, Louisiana

A Columbus business owner needing information about a potential client based in New Jersey

## How does GALILEO benefit the State of Georgia?

- GALILEO helps to bridge the information divide. It provides equal access to premium information for Georgians throughout the state regardless of their geographic location or economic condition.
- It is a constant in Georgia's educational cycle, providing information to all levels of learners from kindergarten children to octogenarian life-long learners.
- GALILEO connects Georgians to their past, present and future. Through GALILEO a user can access a Civil War diary, read today's newspapers published all over the world, or prepare for developing trends in business, careers or technology.
- Through a number of initiatives such as the *Digital Library of Georgia*, the *Georgia Homeplace* and the *New Georgia Encyclopedia of Georgia*, GALILEO provides information about the state that enhances tourism and Georgia's heritage.
- GALILEO helps Georgians retrieve information that can help them make better decisions in the academic setting, in the workplace, in the marketplace, at home and in their hobbies and recreational activities.
- GALILEO sends the message to businesses and families considering Georgia as a potential home that Georgia is serious about investing in technology and access to information—two essentials for successful communities and economies of the future.
- GALILEO is a tool that will help build a more educated Georgia.

## How is GALILEO different from the World Wide Web?

- GALILEO provides premium content. GALILEO gives Georgians access to quality information from authoritative sources. Information found in the public domain on the World Wide Web cannot be guaranteed as accurate or authoritative.
- Through GALILEO, Georgians have online access to full-text articles in more than 5,000 journals, magazines, newspapers and encyclopedias not available on the World Wide Web.
- GALILEO provides online access to thousands of full-text Georgia government documents, including Georgia legislative documents, and digital Georgia historical documents, such as Civil War diaries.

## What are the financial benefits of GALILEO?

- GALILEO has helped the state avoid costs exceeding 34 million dollars in access to electronic full-text alone.
- If GALILEO didn't exist, only a handful of libraries in Georgia could afford to subscribe to the current GALILEO menu of databases.
- GALILEO's collaborative process allows for cost sharing and volume purchasing among public and private libraries.
- GALILEO has been able to keep pace with technological advances with little or no increases in budget.

## In summary, GALILEO is:

- Georgia's premier information resource
- A bridge over the information divide, providing equal access to premium information for Georgians throughout the state regardless of their geographic location or economic condition
- A constant in Georgia's educational universe—providing quality information to all levels of students from kindergarten children to octogenarian life-long learners
- A tool that will help build a more educated Georgia

### GALILEO

GALILEO is available at over 2000 libraries throughout the state of Georgia:

- 35 University System of Georgia libraries
- 56 Public library systems
- 44 Private academic libraries
- 36 Technical College libraries
- 2066 K-12 sites

GALILEO's databases have been searched by users over 64 million times

Over 36 million full-text articles have been viewed by GALILEO users

The Georgia Government Publications database has been searched over 300,000 times

Public libraries have 4,731 public access computers available to the public

An average of 156,572 individuals use public access computers in Georgia public libraries each week, an annual total of 8,141,740 computer users

(based on FY 2003 statistics)