



GEORGIA LIBRARY SERVICES USING LSTA — 2015

Each year, GPLS uses funds awarded by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) under the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) to support:

- the statewide network of **high-speed Internet** data lines that provide essential Internet access to all 400+ libraries in Georgia
- the award-winning, nationally recognized **PINES network** and statewide library card system, which is used regularly by more than 2.4 million Georgians and provides statewide lending via a shared database of almost 10.6 million books and other library holdings
- statewide **daily courier service** for interlibrary loans to the headquarters of all 63 public library systems in Georgia – with nearly 1 million books shared in this way
- **“talking book”** library services — encompassing almost 431,000 annual circulations — for the blind and other Georgians whose physical abilities require the use of books and magazines in audio format or in braille
- the **GALILEO online databases**, containing essential quality digital resources for students (kindergarten through higher education), teachers, professors and public library users
- the statewide **Summer Reading Program**, serving more than half-a-million in 2015
- **Georgia HomePlace** — Placing unique, historical public library collections into the Digital Library of Georgia for worldwide access
- **shared services** that provide necessary OCLC cataloging information and interlibrary loan access to every library in the state

- **continuing education programs** and training for library staff from all types of libraries (public, university, K-12 and specialized)
- **strategic partnership programs** with state and private organizations that have educated and entertained thousands of Georgians while saving approximately \$12 million in direct expenditures and providing hundreds of hours of free programming
- **professional consulting** to assist in improving local library services in such areas as technology, services to children and interlibrary cooperation

Statistics clearly show that more Georgians than ever before are turning to their public libraries for their informational and educational needs. Libraries play a critical role in workforce recovery and economic development throughout our state. LSTA funds allow the state’s libraries to take advantage of economies of scale and cooperative activities that benefit all Georgia residents. ■

IMLS is the primary source of federal support for the nation’s 123,000 libraries and 17,500 museums. Its mission is to grow and sustain a “Nation of Learners” because lifelong learning is essential to a democratic society and individual success. Through its grant making, convening, research and publications, the institute empowers museums and libraries nationwide to provide leadership and services to enhance learning in families and communities, sustain cultural heritage, build 21st century skills, and provide opportunities for civic participation. The institute’s grants are awarded under LSTA and are made to each state according to a population-based formula, with each state’s library agency administering the funds. In FY2015, Georgia received \$4,039,014 in LSTA funding to help expand learning resources and access to information for individuals of all ages.