



GEORGIA HOMEPLACE

What is HomePLACE?

Through HomePLACE, the Georgia Public Library Service supports free information access by providing a collaborative model for digitizing primary source collections on local history from public libraries and related institutions. Digitized collections include historic newspapers, manuscripts and archives, photographs and maps, and audio visual material. Georgia HomePLACE is a collaboration with the Digital Library of Georgia (DLG), an initiative of GALILEO, Georgia's Virtual Library.

Why do libraries need HomePLACE?

Many of Georgia's public libraries and heritage institutions possess irreplaceable material highlighting the history of their communities. In the majority of instances, these institutions lack staffing, expertise, and resources to make these treasures widely available to the public. The infrastructure to ensure long-term access to online collections is often a major stumbling block for small libraries.

By shifting focus from funding single projects at individual libraries to a collaborative model which centralizes infrastructure and supports community projects, HomePLACE is able to both save library systems significant resources and facilitate access thru a single, statewide portal via the DLG. Those historic resources are then uploaded to the Digital Public Library of America (DPLA). Librarian trainings and workshops further serve to preserve these unique materials.

■ Increased Access

Nearly 110,000 new digitized items and associated metadata records were added through Georgia HomePLACE to the Digital Library of Georgia in calendar year 2017. The images and records of these cultural heritage objects are freely available to the public.

Digital access to newspapers is a top priority for librarians and library users. In 2017, the DLG launched a new, unified, user-friendly database for browsing and searching digitized newspapers called Georgia Historic Newspapers (GHN). For

the first time, users are able to conduct federated searches of all newspapers from a single location, rather than repeating queries in each of the state's regional newspaper sites. In FY17, 83% of HomePLACE project funds were dedicated to newspaper digitization and, in partnership with HomePLACE, the DLG celebrated its **one millionth digitized newspaper page** in Fall 2017.

HomePLACE Highlights

84,000 new and converted digitized items and associated metadata records added to the Digital Library of Georgia (DLG), including 76,600 newspaper pages.

40,000+ unique public library items, making Georgia's public libraries the second-largest contributor to the DLG.

More than half of Georgia's public libraries have contributed content to the DLG.

The Digital Public Library of America included 25 items from Georgia's public libraries in selectively curated national digital exhibits in FY17.

■ Continuing Education

HomePLACE supports the continuing education of library staff by offering trainings, consultations, and technical equipment, including scanning toolkits--or DigiKits--that libraries can check out. Libraries don't have to purchase their own expensive scanning equipment for staff, patrons or programming. Using the centrally-managed statewide courier network, DigiKits can be

sent to any public library in the state. Four total kits are available: two large-format scanners, and two portable scan kits. The latter are lightweight, portable, and enable libraries to conduct community scan day events out in the field.

Without the support and resource sharing HomePLACE affords, many of Georgia's public libraries' archival and special collections would deteriorate or remain inaccessible to the public.

With the help of HomePLACE, public libraries save many thousands of dollars annually, while their patrons enjoy increased discoverability and access to unique, regionally significant primary source material.

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