In FY21, Georgia’s public libraries comprised 408 facilities in 61 library systems. The COVID pandemic continued to impact communities in Georgia. When libraries were closed or services were limited, staff focused on meeting patron needs through services such as curbside pickup of books and children’s craft kits. WiFi parking lot access at libraries continued to be vital in allowing citizens to work and students to attend school.

Responding to patron demand for virtual services, Georgia libraries added to electronic collections: E-books increased by 125% and downloadable audiobooks by 35%, with a resulting increase in electronic materials circulation of 47% over pre-pandemic FY19. Virtual programs flourished in FY21 with four times the offerings of the prior year, and over 333,000 patrons participated in more than 11,500 self-directed activities.

Total public-access Internet computers — 10,260 (includes more than 5,100 GPLS-hosted cloud computers)

Total user sessions of public-access internet computers, excluding wireless — 2,479,876
Total wireless sessions used — 3,539,340
Average broadband speed: 512Mbps; minimum speed of 42Mbps/maximum speed of 5Gbps

Total materials circulation — 24,665,608
Physical materials circulation — 18,223,930
E-book circulation — 2,912,526
Other downloadable audiovisual (movies, music, audiobooks, etc.) circulation — 3,529,152
Youth materials circulation — 9,743,393
GLS (talking book) circulations — 686,738
GALILEO usage via public libraries — 658,501

Population — 10,820,919
(FY2021 estimate, Governor’s Office of Planning and Budget)
Total library cardholders — 4,350,408
Percent of population holding library cards — 40.2%
Public library systems — 61
Total facilities, including libraries, bookmobiles and central offices — 408
Total paid library staff (FTE) — 2,739
State-certified public librarians — 608

Patron visits — 7,872,906
Virtual visits (via library websites) — 21,173,286
Total visits - 29,046,192
Community members who used meeting rooms — 143,387

In-person programs - 21,030
In-person attendance - 533,670
Virtual programs (live & recorded) - 25,606
Virtual Attendance/Views - 700,978
Self-directed activities (such as take-home crafts and story walks) - 11,636
Self-directed patron participation - 333,087

Youth materials circulation — 9,743,393
GLS (talking book) circulations — 686,738
GALILEO usage via public libraries — 658,501

Books and magazines — 13,986,343
Audios (incl. downloadable) — 2,313,196
DVDs and videos (incl. downloadable) — 1,246,435
E-books — 2,614,071
ANNUAL FUNDING IN GEORGIA
for Public Library Services (July 2020 - June 2021)

Local: $180,943,210
Georgia ranks 48th per capita in the nation.
- Direct revenue from Local Government: $127,049,297
- Local Government on-behalf: $45,524,005
- Library fees and donations: $8,369,908

State: $39,847,020
Georgia ranks 11th per capita in the nation.
- State Grants to Libraries: $32,739,417
- GLASS/IT/PINES: $2,776,202
- Resource Sharing (GALILEO) and support: $4,205,901
- GCSU Sandra Deal Grant: $118,000
- GA Humanities Grant: $7,500

Federal: $5,375,652
- IMLS-LSTA State Programs grant expenditures* $4,235,046
- IMLS - CARES** $862,606
- Other Federal Funding to Libraries: $278,000

Total funding: $226,165,882
Georgia ranks 49th per capita in the nation.
- 17.6% $39,847,020 (State)
- 80.0% $180,943,210 (Local)
- 2.4% $5,375,652 (Federal)

Sources: Georgia Public Library Statistics Fiscal Year 2021 (7/1/20 through 6/30/21; data subject to Institute of Museum and Library Services [IMLS] review during spring 2022 Public Library Survey); IMLS rankings based on latest (2020) survey data.

* State funds and Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) funds provide public libraries with statewide services such as GLS, GALILEO, PINES, email and Internet access.

** The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act allocated funding to IMLS to enable libraries, museums, and organizations serving tribal communities to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus, including by expanding digital network access, purchasing Internet accessible devices, and providing technical support services to their communities.

ADDITIONAL LIBRARY SUPPORT
awarded for FY21 by the General Assembly

Capital Projects: $12,395,000
MRR Facilities Grants: $2,000,000
MRR Repurpose Grants: $1,110,000
Technology Grants: $1,000,000
Total FY21 Bond Funding: $16,505,000