

LIBRARY IMPACT

At the end of FY23, Georgia's public libraries comprised 407 facilities in 60 library systems, and 45% of Georgians were library cardholders, with library card partnerships between schools and libraries increasing access for students.

In-person visits were up 25% from FY22, which resulted in usage increases in checkouts of physical materials (5%), user sessions of public-access internet computers (13%), and program attendance (62%).

Over 2.2 million Georgians enjoyed in-person or virtual programs and self-directed activities during FY23, 540,000 of whom were children aged five and under and their caregivers, as libraries build early literacy.

Record highs continued as library systems provided access to technology and electronic materials. Wi-Fi sessions jumped 28% to over 7 million, with individuals utilizing libraries to work, study, and apply for jobs. With additional funding in FY22, libraries invested in laptops/tablets/Wi-Fi hotspots/children's Launchpads that circulate to the public, which boosted usage 64%. Checkouts of ebooks, downloadable audiobooks, and downloadable videos were 80% higher than pre-pandemic numbers because libraries significantly expanded collections of these formats to meet patron needs.

GENERAL INFORMATION

- Population 10,992,292
FY2023 estimate, Governor's Office of Planning and Budget
- Total library cardholders 4,906,161
- Percent of population holding library cards 44.6%
- Public library systems 60
- Total facilities, including libraries, bookmobiles and central offices 407
- Total paid library staff (FTE) 2,855
- State-certified public librarians 583

TECHNOLOGY

- Total public-access internet computers ... 9,730
includes more than 6,000 GPLS-hosted cloud computers
- Total user sessions of public-access internet computers, excl. wireless 3,915,095
- Total wireless sessions 7,069,133
- Average broadband speed 636 Mbps
minimum speed of 42 Mbps / maximum speed of 5 Gbps

LIBRARY USAGE

- Total hours buildings open 860,625
 - In-person visits 17,812,965
 - Virtual visits (via library websites) 24,953,503
- Total library visits 42,766,468
- Community members who used meeting rooms 437,259
- Bookings of reservable spaces 243,251
- Total materials circulation 32,340,137
 - Physical materials circulation 24,434,996
 - Ebook circulation 3,578,384
 - Other downloadable audiovisual circulation
movies, music, audiobooks, etc. 4,326,757
- Youth materials circulation 14,182,457
- GLS (talking book) circulations 638,592
- GALILEO usage via public libraries 1,127,393

PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES

- In-person programs 76,648
- In-person attendance 1,715,621
- Virtual programs (live & recorded) 2,585
- Virtual Attendance/Views 97,358
- Self-directed activities
such as take-home crafts and story strolls 11,958
- Self-directed patron participation 484,081

HOLDINGS

- Books and magazines 13,581,865
- Audios (incl. downloadable) 3,797,626
- DVDs and videos (incl. downloadable) 1,468,611
- Ebooks 5,889,221

Source: Georgia Public Library Service statistics
Fiscal Year 2023 (July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023)

Data subject to Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS)
review during FY2023 Public Libraries Survey (spring 2024)

Annual Funding in Georgia

for Public Library Services (July 2022 - June 2023)

LOCAL

■ Direct revenue from Local Government	\$131,518,985
■ Local Government on-behalf	\$61,657,773
■ Library fees and donations	\$9,542,996

Local funding: \$202,719,754

Georgia ranks 48th per capita in the nation.

STATE

■ State Grants to Libraries	\$36,956,178
■ GLS / IT / PINES	\$2,935,315
■ Resource Sharing (GALILEO) and support	\$4,956,849
■ GCSU Sandra Deal Grant	\$118,000
■ Georgia Humanities Grant	\$9,972

State funding: \$44,976,314

Georgia ranks 11th per capita in the nation.

FEDERAL

■ IMLS - LSTA State Programs grant expenditures*	\$4,827,892
■ GEER Library Grants**	\$2,326,645
■ IMLS - ARPA***	\$369,862
■ Other Federal Funding to Libraries	\$200,081

Federal funding: \$7,751,300

ADDITIONAL LIBRARY SUPPORT

awarded for FY23 by the General Assembly

Capital Projects	\$9,050,000
MRR Facilities Grants	\$2,000,000
Total FY23 Bond Funding	\$11,050,000

\$202,719,754
Local 79.4%

\$44,976,314
State 17.6%

\$7,751,300
Federal 3.0%

\$255,447,368

Total Funding for Public Library Services

Georgia ranks 49th per capita in the nation.

Source: Rankings based on latest (2021) national Public Libraries 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.

** Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER) Funds support learning recovery initiatives and programs to confront the learning loss caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. GEER funding provided by the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSA), 2021.

*** The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) 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.



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