

How do the University System of Georgia libraries share their collections?

How does a student at Valdosta State University doing research for a project borrow a book that North Georgia College and State University owns? How does the student learn that the North Georgia library even has the book in its collection? How do the University System of Georgia (USG) libraries share the wealth of information resources that they manage?

The answer is GIL (GALILEO Interconnected Libraries). GIL is the integrated library management system for acquiring, cataloging, accessing, and circulating the collections of the USG institutions. GIL is an extension of GALILEO, Georgia's Virtual Library that provides access to thousands of full-text magazines, journals, encyclopedias, and electronic books. GALILEO, supported by the Office of Information and Instructional Technology (OIT), provides equal access to information and improves the quality of library services for all Georgians. Voyager software from Endeavor Information Systems is the **enterprise application** that GIL uses for library management.



Library patrons use GIL Express to borrow materials. GIL and GIL Express form the gateway to all information resources in the libraries of the USG institutions, the Atlanta History Center,

and the Georgia Department of Archives and History. Students, faculty, and staff have access to all eligible circulating material at all USG libraries through onsite and remote requesting services. Delivery of all GALILEO, GIL, and GIL Express resources depends on the **bandwidth** and robust services of **PeachNet**, the USG network infrastructure.

USE OF GIL RESOURCES

- The USG has more than 9.5 million bibliographic records representing 12.5 million items.
- All USG institutions have unique holdings because of diverse faculty and curricula.
- Of the USG's holdings, 64% are unique by institution (only one institution owns the title).
- USG library patrons used GIL Express to borrow more than 60,000 items between July 2005–June 2006.
- USG library patrons used GIL to borrow 1.5 million print items in circulation between July 2005–June 2006.



CHALLENGES

- Improve library management services and reduce costs for all USG libraries.
- Create easy, equal access to information resources for all USG library patrons—students, faculty, and staff.

SOLUTIONS

GIL and GIL Express benefit the ways that USG libraries are managed and the ways that patrons use libraries.

- GIL's library management system offers self-service options, fund accounting, cataloging, and check-in and control functions.
- GIL provides the integrated, web-based **universal catalog** of all USG book collections.
- USG library users request materials (**universal borrowing**) directly from institutional libraries, from other GIL libraries, or from their own computers at home or in the dorm.

Enterprise applications are software systems centrally supported and used across USG institutions and units.

Bandwidth is the amount of data that can be transmitted in a fixed amount of time.

PeachNet is the statewide network that supports all information and instructional technology efforts for the USG and the Georgia Public Library Service (GPLS).

The **universal catalog** includes the holdings, with current status and availability, of all USG institutions, plus the Georgia Department of Archives and History.

Universal borrowing includes up-to-date patron information so that users can request materials from one USG library for delivery to any other USG library.

Gateway to sharing information

www.usg.edu/oit/

OUTCOMES AND BENEFITS

- Access to all USG library collections using common interface and search capabilities
- Higher baseline level of service and support
- Flexibility for local environments and needs
- Better search outcomes because of consistency in bibliographic entries
- Consistent technical environment and backup
- Collaboration resulting in best practices
- Data from GIL about growth and use of collections that guide libraries in decision-making and cooperative development of their holdings

COST AVOIDANCE

By consolidating hardware, technical support, and software maintenance into four sites to host all GIL libraries, costs are avoided, and the following benefits are gained:

- Reduced hardware needs with higher-level reliability and redundancy
- Fewer technical staff because of consolidated hosting
- Economies of scale for pricing of hardware, software, and maintenance

Smaller institutions benefit from the higher level of expertise that supports them. In addition, they receive services that they could not obtain independently. Libraries pay for software, maintenance, and support based on their institutions' enrollment, and the USG pays for central services that support all libraries.

WHAT'S NEXT?

- GIL is stable and robust; routine hardware and software upgrades and maintenance are ongoing.
- Each library's catalog will be included in the new Quick Search feature in the GALILEO upgrade.
- Adding more information, such as tables of contents and book covers, to bibliographic records, is planned.
- Integrating GIL with WebCT/VISTA, USG's Course Management System, and the Luminis portal product is also planned.

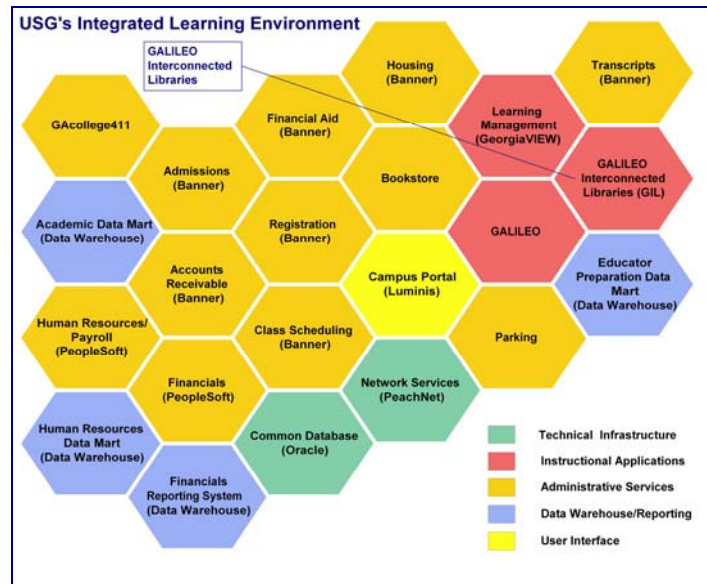
WANT TO KNOW MORE?

See these websites for additional information:

- <http://gil.usg.edu/>
- www.galileo.usg.edu/
- <http://gilexpress.usg.edu/>

GIL, GIL EXPRESS, AND USG'S INTEGRATED LEARNING ENVIRONMENT (ILE)

GIL and GIL Express provide an integrated library management system for acquiring, cataloging, accessing, and circulating the USG libraries' collections. The graphic shows some of the instructional and administrative functions and enterprise technologies that must work together seamlessly to create the ILE.



- Students must be recruited, admitted, and registered; they need access to books, e-mail, and the Internet; they must be able to take courses at multiple USG institutions and graduate.
- Students must receive financial aid and pay tuition, parking, and housing bills.
- Faculty and staff must have technological tools to teach, conduct research, and provide services.
- Those with visual, auditory, or motor impairments need full access to all on-line educational opportunities.
- Data for informed decision making and reporting must be collected.
- Technologies for learning in the classroom and on line, and for accessing library resources and student services throughout the state from anywhere must be robust, reliable, and secure.
- Faculty and staff must be compensated and receive benefits.

