Information Access in the Age of GALILEO

by Ginny Moreland, College Librarian at Agnes Scott College
and AMPALS Consortium Representative to the GALILEO Steering Committee

Ginny Moreland, Director of Library Services at Agnes Scott College, is currently serving her second term on the GALILEO Steering Committee. She represents the Atlanta-Macon Private Academic Libraries (AMPALS), the consortium comprised of the private academic libraries in the Atlanta Regional Consortium for Higher Education (ARCH), plus Mercer University. She first served in this capacity during FY 1996-97, which was the initial year of GALILEO participation for the private academic library user community. The following comments reflect her experience at Agnes Scott College, and do not necessarily reflect the views of all AMPALS members.

In the fall of 1993 I moved from Georgia State University to Agnes Scott College, thereby concluding more than twenty years of employment in large university and research libraries. While I immediately appreciated the mission and experience of a small liberal arts college, I was stunned by the huge gulf between the resources we could provide our students vs. those offered by the larger institutions. New technologies offered some hope, but progress was slow. Our first online catalog was launched in 1994; our CD-ROM databases doubled—from two titles to four! As Agnes Scott College stabilized a new campus network, we launched a modest library website.

Then in 1996, thanks to the inclusivity of the GALILEO vision, the administrative support of the University Center in Georgia (now ARCH), and the generosity of the Woodruff Foundation, Agnes Scott and our AMPALS partners were catapulted into a state-of-the-art virtual library project. More or less overnight our holdings grew from a handful of electronic databases to several score of them, including substantial full-text material drawn from more than 1,500 periodicals. At that time our local periodical holdings consisted of fewer than 800 titles. Since GALILEO’s core databases replaced most of our CD-ROM subscriptions, we were soon able to redirect funds to additional databases that were not included in GALILEO.

In short, GALILEO was not just a phenomenal information resource; it was the catalyst that enabled us to leap confidently into the realm of electronic resources. It provided a critical mass of material, enough to capture the attention of even our most devoted fans of nearby larger academic libraries. The resounding success of GALILEO prepared our campus for other moves into digital library collections, such as a fairly aggressive conversion from print to electronic journals. Best of all, our students now share a common base of resources with the biggest and best libraries in the state, and they realize it. The gulf between large and small institutions is considerably narrowed.

Certainly, we look forward to a time when there might be state support for the core databases provided to our citizens though the private colleges, as is the case in many other statewide virtual libraries. But with or without that benefit, we can all get the best value for limited shrinking budgets by working together across constituencies in ventures such as GALILEO.

September 2002 is “Get the Password Month”!

September 2002 is “Get the Password Month” in GALILEO libraries! “Get the Password Month” is intended to increase awareness and understanding of GALILEO on a local level throughout Georgia. During July 2002, all GALILEO libraries will receive a complete publicity packet containing activities and materials designed around the theme, “Get the Password to Georgia’s World of Information.” These materials will assist GALILEO librarians and media specialists to promote password use among their patrons, and will contain ideas and suggestions for celebrating “Get the Password Month” through September. So mark your calendars now for September, 2002: “Get the Password Month” in Georgia!
New K-12 Advisory Committee

by Tim Brown, GALILEO Marketing Specialist

During Autumn 2001, the K-12 Advisory Committee joined GALILEO’s roster of subcommittees. Consisting of representatives from Georgia’s K-12 educational institutions, the K-12 Advisory Committee provides feedback to GALILEO about issues facing K-12 and enables members of GALILEO’s K-12 community to share ideas and to exchange information.

Georgia’s K-12 schools number over 1,800 and represent one of GALILEO’s largest groups of users. GALILEO is committed to providing the best service possible to all communities, and the K-12 Advisory Committee was created to help GALILEO better support the vital work of educating Georgia’s children. The needs of K-12 schools are often very different from academic and public libraries, and the K-12 Advisory Committee functions as a forum whereby GALILEO can be responsive to issues of greatest importance to K-12 institutions.

An overarching priority for the K-12 Advisory Committee is making GALILEO more user-friendly for K-12 users. The Committee will also provide feedback regarding which resources are of the greatest value to K-12 and what promotional and training materials will most benefit K-12.

Members of the Committee appreciate the opportunity to provide feedback to GALILEO. “The K-12 community is grateful to the GALILEO Steering Committee and Meryl Penson for formulating the Advisory Committee,” notes Pat Pickard.

“The K-12 community is the largest potential user group for GALILEO, and the Advisory Committee will give us a means of fuller participation in the state-wide project,” Melissa Johnston agrees. “This committee is a wonderful opportunity for the K-12 community to provide input on GALILEO and address the needs of our students,” she states. “Hopefully we can assist in making GALILEO a more accessible and valuable tool for learning at all levels.”

The K-12 Advisory Committee represents a broad range of expertise, and includes the following members: Rebecca Amerson, Woodstock High School (Woodstock, GA); Barbara M. Heller, Henderson Middle School (Chamblee, GA); Melissa Johnston, Vickery Creek Elementary School (Cumming, GA); Steve Piazza, Hilsman Middle School (Athens, GA); Pat Pickard, Dekalb County School System; Amy Friddle, Hannan Academy (Muscocoe County, GA); Cindy Thompson, Clayton County School (Clayton, GA); and Leann Tuggle, Warner Robins Middle School (Warner Robins, GA).

The committee was assembled with the assistance of Richard Brock, former Georgia Department of Education representative to the GALILEO Steering Committee.

To see a complete list of GALILEO subcommittees, please visit the following URL: www.usg.edu/galileo/comm/subcomm.phtml.

All that Glitters is in GOLD

by Lauren Fancher, Director of GALILEO Support Services

The many thousands of full-text journals in GALILEO may be a virtual cornucopia of the fruits of knowledge, but there are many more resources that are not available online. As librarians and media specialists are well aware, the user’s expectation that everything can be found on the Internet is not always met with reality. In fact, for over 50,000 journal titles held in Georgia libraries, there is no full-text available online at all. How do libraries bridge the gap between online indexing and print on the shelf? The answer is pure GOLD.

According to the website for Georgia Public Library Service, there are over 200 academic, public, private, school, special, and technical college member libraries which participate in uploading their holdings to the Georgia Online Database (GOLD) as well as in the interlibrary loan and resource sharing agreements which are the GOLD-en rule of Georgia libraries. For GALILEO users, the GOLD database provides a link to holdings for any participating library from vendor site databases such as those at EBSCOhost and FirstSearch. As the impact of embargoed publication delays is seen in GALILEO’s full-text databases, access to holdings information for current publications becomes more critical for users.

While GOLD libraries may upload their holdings information to OCLC on a daily basis, GALILEO programmers obtain this information from OCLC and load it into a database hosted on GALILEO servers twice a year. Therefore, holdings information may not be current in the GOLD database as in other locations such as a library’s OPAC.

Linking to a GOLD database holdings display occurs through matching the ISSN number in a citation to an ISSN number in the database. Libraries which have uploaded their holdings for a record in OCLC’s WorldCat with the same ISSN will see their information displayed in GOLD for that record.

Recently, changes were made in the GOLD database. While much of this development effort occurred in the behind-the-scenes wholesale-reprogramming of the database, one change is very visible. GOLD is now displaying a “search their catalog” link to University System user’s GIL catalogs, as well as a link to the list of Georgia Library Catalogs for all users. In this way, GALILEO is forging links between different data sources for current holdings information. Keeping GOLD shiny and bright, GALILEO programmers continue to work to improve the display of GIL data in the GOLD location display and provide the ability to link to the catalogs of other GOLD libraries.

For more information about the GOLD database, see www.public.lib.ga.us/pls/gold/
Extra! Extra!
Georgia Historic Newspapers Online!
by Rand Raynor, GALILEO Support Specialist

If you are at all like me, then you enjoy reading the local news in your hometown paper. How would you react if you came across the following news blurbs in this week’s edition of the Macon Telegraph:

Woman in jail – Miss Beda Gray: Adultery

Mr. Fleet Pope stuck a splinter in his foot about two weeks ago till last Tuesday when he took lock-jaw and died in a short time.

Would you think it odd to see the following Headlines?

On the Duty and Value of Punctuality

or...

Amusement for the Pensive Carpet-Bagger

These amusing and strange stories can all be found within the pages of Georgia Historic Newspapers, one of the many fascinating databases available through GALILEO’s Digital Library of Georgia. The Georgia Historic Newspaper Database is an outgrowth of the Georgia Newspaper Project managed by the University of Georgia Libraries and the Digital Library of Georgia project. So far, three newspapers have been digitized: the Cherokee Phoenix, the Dublin Post, and the Colored Tribune, with dates ranging from 1750 to 1925. The Cherokee Phoenix holds special historic significance. It was the first newspaper printed in both English and Cherokee, the language (or syllabary) invented by Sequoyah in the early nineteenth century. Its pages are filled with political speeches concerning the fate of Native Americans, as well as terms of recently signed treaties. The newspapers are all viewed in Adobe Acrobat Reader format, which lets the viewer see them as they originally appeared, with the added viewing and search features that Acrobat Reader provides.

In 1878 wire feeds and news services did not put us in touch with world events instantly, as they do today. The only immediate news was local news. World news, such as it was, was often relegated to stories with headlines such as “Popular Superstitions of Russia.” Entertaining? Certainly. Newsworthy? Not by today’s standards, but perhaps it could be fodder for a new network TV show. The question that always arises whenever I explore Georgia Historic Newspapers is, “Why can’t we have news like this today?” With that in mind, consider the following blurb from the November 9, 1881 edition of the Dublin Post:

An old hen belonging to Mr. J.W. Bowyer is entitled to a little notoriety for the long and successful ‘fast’ she has recently accomplished. She was placed in a closet to be handy for a pot pie on Sunday, when something happened by which she was overlooked and forgotten. She remained in the closet seventeen days…when released the other day she had dwindled very much in flesh, and her feathers were considerably “ruffled” Now this statement is founded on a fact. We have no desire to make a snake story out of it. If we did, we would have said the hen laid a dozen eggs during her confinement in the closet.

For my money, it beats reading about Enron.

Facts about Georgia Historic Newspapers
from Stephen Miller, Director of the Digital Library of Georgia

Georgia Historic Newspapers Microfilm Scanner

The microfilm scanner used by the Digital Library of Georgia (DLG) was acquired through a grant from Georgia Public Library Service. The scanner, which enables the DLG to scan in-house, is a Mekel 525GS made by Mekel Inc. In most cases it takes a minimum of an hour to scan a microfilmed roll of newspapers. There are approximately 600 frames per roll, and for most of the older papers, 2 pages per frame. Having the scanner gives the capability to easily incorporate titles into the workflow, and the ability to correct mistakes and adjust for problems in the film (light or dark exposures, for example) while the scanning is taking place.

After scanning, page images for each issue are created by cutting apart the frame images. This lets users browse page-by-page, maintaining the original structure of the newspaper. The older papers are usually four to six pages long, and issues are arranged first by title and then by date. Although currently the newspapers are not searchable by text, the Digital Library of Georgia is researching ways of making text fully searchable in the future.

Upcoming Additions to Georgia Historic Newspapers

Future additions to the Georgia Historic Newspapers database include the Georgia Gazette, the first Georgia newspaper, which was published in Savannah; current microfilm holdings at the University of Georgia date from 1763 to 1802. Other upcoming newspapers are the Louisville Gazette from 1767 to 1800, the Milledgeville Southern Recorder from 1826 to 1837, and the Blakely Georgia Early County News from 1912 to 1922. The Digital Library of Georgia hopes to begin putting these newspapers into production during summer 2002.
netLibrary News
by GALILEO Staff Members

On January 24, netLibrary was purchased by the Online Computer Library Center (OCLC), a nonprofit organization that provides computer-based cataloging, reference, resource sharing and preservation services to 41,000 libraries in 82 countries and territories. The sale of netLibrary’s assets to OCLC settled the questions surrounding netLibrary’s continuation and secured the availability of netLibrary’s collection for GALILEO’s users.

University System of Georgia institutions and public libraries have purchased access to the Second SOLINET/netLibrary Shared Collection through GALILEO. With the new collection, users from these communities now have access to over 3,100 additional e-books, making over 18,000 volumes available altogether. SOLINET expects the second collection to grow to approximately 10,000 books in the future, which will bring the total number of available e-books to nearly 26,000.

The second collection, like the first, contains non-fiction titles related to literature, business, history, health and medicine, sociology, religion, science, philosophy, computer science, and education. Though only University System of Georgia institutions currently have access to these new titles, other consortia are currently considering the purchase. GALILEO will also be working with netLibrary in the near future to provide MARC records for second collection titles to be included in participating libraries’ catalogs.

The netLibrary off-line reader will no longer be available because netLibrary is switching from open e-book to PDF format for the books. PDF offers them the ability save on conversion costs for e-books already produced in PDF format by publishers. However, the online reader is being enhanced in several ways. Bookmarking is a powerful new feature that will allow users to easily organize research on netLibrary. While browsing or searching e-books in a library’s collection, users will be able to create shortcuts to favorite pages for future reference and easily access bookmarked content at a later date. Another enhancement allows users to open multiple e-books simultaneously. Instead of closing an open e-book before being allowed to access additional titles, users will now be able to “jump” from one open e-book to another, without losing place.

The netLibrary Extranet is now called the Library Resource Center. The Library Resource Center functions in the same way as it did before, enabling librarians to view statistics such as which titles are used the most, which titles have turn-aways, and which titles are used the least. Instructions for accessing the netLibrary Library Resource Center are found in “About GALILEO” at the following URL: www.usg.edu/galileo/netlibrary.phtml.

K-12 GALILEO Password Notifications by Email

A unique password is issued for each Georgia school system four times a year; when K-12 GALILEO passwords are generated, the school system’s media contact person receives a notification about the password change via email. In an effort to assist Georgia’s school systems distribute passwords to individual schools, GALILEO has sent password notification letters to every K-12 institution in Georgia.

GALILEO Services is expanding the email notification system to include distributing passwords to each K-12 school in Georgia, replacing password notification letters. Email notification will enable each K-12 school to receive a password notification directly via email immediately after the password is generated. If you would like to receive upcoming password notifications through email and are responsible for receiving your K-12 school’s password, please use the “comment” feature on the GALILEO homepage to contact GALILEO via email and include the following information:

- Email address
- Name of the responsible contact
- School system
- Name of school

Please note that for security reasons, email addresses must be school system-issued addresses. To ensure timely receipt of the email notification, please submit this information prior to June 1, 2002.

More information about passwords and the password change schedule can be found online at www.usg.edu/galileo/accessman.phtml.

If you have any questions about recent netLibrary developments, please feel free to contact GALILEO Support Services through the “comment” feature on the GALILEO homepage.

GALILEO URL Change Reminder

As previously announced, the GALILEO URL is changing. The use of the “peachnet” domain name is being gradually phased out in favor of the “usg” domain name in the University System Office web pages. Currently, both “galileo.peachnet.edu” and “galileo.usg.edu” resolve correctly to the GALILEO homepage, and both versions will continue to do so for the next year. Both versions of the galileo2 URL work as well. Although users will still be able to use either form of the URL, from now on, GALILEO communications will begin to refer to the URL “galileo.usg.edu.” GALILEO libraries may also want to change their own references to the URL; on July 1, 2002, users of the old URL will be redirected to an intervening page with a message regarding the change.

Publication Information

The GALILEO Planet is published quarterly as a web-based newsletter reporting on GALILEO-related information.

Suggestions and contributions are encouraged.

Website: www.usg.edu/galileo/news.phtml
E-mail: galileo.planet@usg.edu

GALILEO is an Initiative of the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia.
GALILEO By the Numbers
by Karen Minton, Virtual Library Development Specialist

6 Number of databases available in the Spanish language to public library patrons.

6 Number of years since GALILEO was first launched on September 21, 1995.

12 Number of general GALILEO tutorials and vendor-specific tutorials available (Go to “About GALILEO,” then click on “Resources for GALILEO users”).

2,500 Number of passwords issued to participating institutions per year.

2,548 Number of participating library sites that make up GALILEO.

3,000 Number of Internet links in the Internet Resources section of GALILEO.

3,005 Average number of successful requests (hits) per day in the Internet Resources section of GALILEO in 2001.

5,000 + Number of full-text journals in EBSCOhost and ProQuest combined.

1,000,000 + Number of searches in GALILEO per month.

Share Your Activities!
GALILEO is interested in knowing about classroom activities using GALILEO which have been developed and implemented by media specialists and teachers in your school. If you would like to share your ideas, please send an email to “galileo.planet@usg.edu”.

Huh?

ATHENS, GA: In a shocking development, GALILEO was accused today of distributing “mind-boggling and incomprehensible” information in the form of a new password notification. More to come.

GALILEO
Training Opportunities

GALILEO will provide training for the public library community this spring at Gates Labs throughout the state. Training locations, schedule, and content are posted on the Georgia Public Library Service website: www.public.lib.ga.us/pls/pls/opls/workshops/.

GALILEO also provides monthly training sessions at Macon State College in room 103 of the Educational Technology Center. Each class lasts from 9:00am to 3:30pm. Classes are free to librarians and library staff of participating libraries.

“Introduction to GALILEO”
• April 25, 2002
• May 30, 2002
• June 27, 2002

“Spotlight on Special Databases: Lexis-Nexis, netLibrary, Grove Dictionary of Art and AccessScience”
• April 26, 2002
• May 31, 2002
• June 28, 2002

To see a complete GALILEO monthly training schedule and to register online, visit www.usg.edu/oit/training/sched.html.

For Your Information

• GALILEO marketing and instructional materials: www.usg.edu/galileo/materials/materials_form.phtml

• More about the GALILEO initiative: www.usg.edu/galileo/

• GALILEO questions and technical support: 1-888-897-3697 or email: helpdesk@usg.edu

• To subscribe to GALILEO listserv, send an e-mail to listproc@gsu.edu with this message in the body: subscribe galileo first name last name

• To subscribe to the GALILEO Planet, send your email address to galileo.planet@usg.edu