Funding Technology in Georgia Public Libraries

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ABOUT GEORGIA PUBLIC LIBRARY SERVICE

Georgia Public Library Service empowers libraries to improve the lives of all Georgians.

We provide scalable library technology and services; staff training, consulting, and best practices; grant administration and more to create equity in library experience for patrons, no matter where they live.

Georgia Public Library Service is the state library administrative agency and a unit of the Board of Regents, University System of Georgia.
SHANNAN FURLOW
IT Program Manager

• 10 years in Georgia
• University systems and public libraries
• GPLS – March 2018
• MLIS graduate Valdosta State
• Lib Tech Fund program
• LIFT program
• Other GPLS initiatives
“Libraries exist to help people succeed during every phase of their life.”

- Julie Walker, Georgia state librarian
TODAY’S AGENDA

• Library Technology in Georgia
• GPLS Service Model
• Funding Process
• Future of Technology Funding
• Q&A
LIBRARY TECHNOLOGY IN GEORGIA

Broadband + Tech Funding

FY2014

3 mbps
10 y/o machines

FY2019

318 mbps
Emerging tech
GPLS SERVICE MODEL
CUSTOMIZED ASSISTANCE

- Infrastructure to support individual needs
- Provide both resources and support
- Empower the libraries
AVAILABLE RESOURCES

Website
Launch documents
Form templates
Bulk discounts
Vendor menu
Webinars
Updates
Office hours
Infographic
Tech loaner kits
CUSTOMER SUPPORT

TRAINING

RESOURCES

DOCUMENTATION REVIEW

TROUBLESHOOTING
DATA SPOTLIGHT

FY19 Lib Tech Support

- 388 tickets
- 149 customers
- 1,458 replies
GOVERNING BODIES & GUIDELINES

- Georgia General Assembly
- Georgia State Financing and Investment Commission (GSFIC)
- GPLS
- Library System
FUNDING FORMULA

• State funding through 5-year bond
• RPLAC committee
• Population projections
• 50% per capita
• 50% divided by county
CYCLE OF ADVOCACY

- Beyond channel for tech funding
- Mechanism for reporting
- Presence at legislative session
- Continued investment in funding
Program Outcomes FY2014-2019

New Tech
- 10.5M in funding
- 27,206 items purchased

Broadband
- 97% file for E-rate
- 318 average mbps

Makerspace
- 58% provide items
- 13 different types
FUTURE OF TECH FUNDING
FUNDING STRATEGIES

ADAPT
- Focused directives
- Changes in bond requirements
- Supplement funding through grants

MAINTAIN
- Advocate for technology funding
- Provide guidance on emerging tech
- Excellent customer support
"From this library, you cannot say: 'I do not have internet. I do not have a computer. I do not have access to information.' Because from this library, you have everything."

-Miguel Vicente, South Georgia Regional Library director
Connect with us

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