Georgia

Projects by Strategy, FY 2003–2006

- Human Capital Development
- Library Service Expansion and Access
- Information Infrastructure

7%
13%
80%
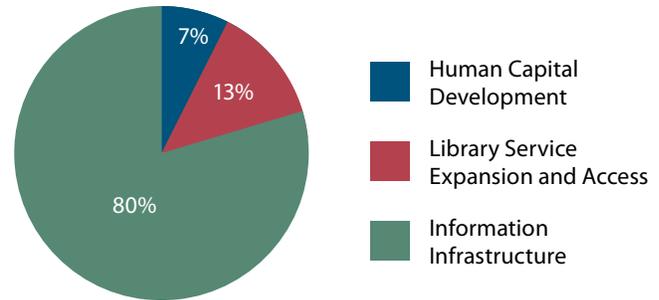
This fact sheet provides information about the State Library Administrative Agency, LSTA Grants to States programs by category, expenditures by fiscal year (2003–2006), interview highlights with the chief officer, and the program goals for 2008–2012.

State Library Administrative Agency Information

Agency name	Georgia Public Library Service
Agency governance	Reports to the University System Board of Regents
Population served in 2006	9,318,715
FY 2006 total expenditures	$38,983,000
Grants to States allotment total for FY 2003–2006	$17,531,296
Chief Officer	Lamar Veatch, Assistant Vice Chancellor/State Librarian
Web site	www.georgialibraries.org

Interview Highlights with the Chief Officer, Lamar Veatch

Greatest Program Impact in the Last Five Years:
"We've been able to 'raise all the boats.' The greatest impact has been in the more rural areas; library service has improved markedly in those less populated areas of the state. Those small libraries now have access to resources through the network. Also, more emphasis on training and continuing education, particularly technology training, has given these libraries more/better tools.

"Without LSTA libraries wouldn't be as technically relevant to their communities. E-Rate and the Gates funds have supplemented LSTA, combining to enhance the online access people in Georgia have through their local public libraries. Even the smallest public libraries offer technology services that help to keep them relevant."

Delivery of Library Services:
"We have a high level of collaboration among public librar-ies in Georgia, so programs and projects that emphasize

Program Data by Fiscal Year, FY 2003–2006

Georgia	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	All Years
Total allotment	$4,225,196	$4,349,960	$4,433,740	$4,522,400	$17,531,296
Number of projects reported	11	7	11	11	40
Largest project amount	$1,800,057	$1,524,949	$1,779,809	$1,438,004	
Median project amount	$169,725	$316,320	$214,597	$223,907	

economies of scale are most feasible. We're using LSTA in that way, giving almost no individual, direct grants; and believe the state is getting a bigger bang for the buck. PINES and Evergreen programs, for example, allow greater use and benefit all participating libraries. (PINES is the public library automation and lending network; Evergreen is the open-source software developed in Georgia to run PINES.) Georgia has a mature technology and collaborative infrastructure and it can make funds go further because of that. Databases, network, and resource sharing happen at a high level."

Challenges in the Coming Five Years:

"Maintaining the technology infrastructure at a level that keeps up with the public's demand is one of the top ones; recruiting and training new librarians and nurturing new leadership is another. In Georgia the public libraries have a long history of reliance on state funding; the challenge is to increase the portion of local funding. Georgia is about ninth in per capita state funding, but near 48th among the state in local funding support. The State Library Agency needs to be doing as much as it can toward advocacy and leadership training for Georgia's public library trustees, professional staff, and friends."

Program Goals for 2008–2012

- **Information Access:** Georgia library users of all ages will have increased access to library resources in a variety of formats for their information needs.
- **Electronic Linkages:** Georgia library users will have expanded access to information resources through electronic linkages between and among libraries of all types.
- **Children's and Family Literacy:** Georgia libraries will foster the development and improvement of family literacy skills, with emphasis on children, teens, and family groups.
- **Serving People with Disabilities:** Georgians with disabilities will be aware of and be able to effectively use library resources.

Exemplary Project: Georgia Public Library Service

Project title	Georgia Library HomePLACE
Library	Georgia Public Library Service
LSTA Funds Expended FY06	$223,907
Total Cost FY06	$223,907
Program Category	Information Infrastructure

The purpose of Georgia HomePLACE (Providing Library and Archives Collections Electronically) is to support and encourage the participation of Georgia's public libraries in the Digital Library of Georgia (DLG), an initiative of Georgia Library Learning Online (GALILEO), Georgia's Virtual Library. HomePLACE provides a mechanism for bringing local/family history materials into the DLG through the process of digitization. The collaborative digitization efforts range from geographically focused and localized projects with individual public libraries to extensive projects of statewide scope that serve the interests of many libraries across Georgia. The HomePLACE digitization model relies on centralized technical expertise (at DLG) and distributed historical content expertise (at public libraries). HomePLACE conducts site visits to public libraries to build awareness of the DLG initiative, to identify historical resources suitable for digitization, and to provide logistical support during digitization. HomePLACE supports the extensive digitization and encoding processes executed at the DLG facilities, and also provides up-to-date computer and imaging equipment, along with associated software, so that the DLG can proceed with the required work more effectively and efficiently.