



## PINES: GEORGIA'S STATEWIDE LIBRARY CARD

### What is PINES?

Georgia Library Public Information Network for Electronic Services, or PINES, is Georgia's public library automation and lending network for more than 275 libraries and affiliated service outlets in 137 counties. PINES is an initiative of the Georgia Public Library Service, a unit of the University System of Georgia. Fifty percent of Georgia's population and 49 of Georgia's 59 public library systems rely on the PINES network for their library service. PINES creates a statewide "borderless library" that eliminates geographic and socio-economic barriers and provides equal access to information for all Georgians. PINES cardholders live in every county in the state. Georgians with PINES cards have access to materials beyond what is available on their local shelves, and they enjoy the benefits of a shared collection of 9.3 million books and materials that can be delivered to their home library with no charge to them. Georgia public libraries depend on both the infrastructure and cooperative spirit of PINES to continue providing services that contribute to a more educated Georgia through lifelong learning.

### How do Georgia's citizens benefit from PINES?

Any resident of Georgia may obtain a free PINES card by visiting any PINES library. In addition to browsing and checking out books on the shelves of their local libraries, PINES allows library users to log on to [www.gapines.org](http://www.gapines.org), browse or search the online catalog for books and other library materials and have their selections delivered to their local library. Anyone with a PINES card can access the PINES catalog by using computers at their local library or by using a PIN number to log on from home.

#### For example:

A library user in a small rural community in Georgia needs information about resume writing. His local library may have two or three relevant books. When he searches the PINES catalog however, he finds 673 relevant items, including books, periodicals, books in Spanish and CD-ROMs.

Another library user is a commuter who lives in an area served by one PINES public library system, but works in an area served by another. She may find visiting the library near her office more convenient than visiting the library near her

home. Her PINES card allows her to use both. Because they are both PINES libraries, she can even check out library materials at one library and return them at the other with no penalty.

### How do Georgia's public libraries benefit from PINES?

PINES facilitates collection sharing for Georgia's public libraries. This means local public libraries are free to use their limited resources to develop collections tailored to the needs and interests of their communities. Rather than purchasing books that are already available through the PINES network, a local public library can choose to purchase books about the history of the local community or about industry and job opportunities in the area.

In addition to avoiding duplication of collections, PINES also prevents

duplication of staff, equipment and maintenance. Georgia Public Library Service helps public libraries leverage a tremendous economy of scale by providing staff, equipment and centralized processing at the state level, rather than individually at each public library system. If PINES were eliminated, the estimated replacement cost would be \$15 million for the 49 public library systems currently served by PINES to purchase and install their own automation systems — nearly 10 times the annual cost of PINES. Separate automation systems would collectively cost an additional \$5 million each year in support and maintenance due to the duplication of system administration and support personnel.

**With an annual budget of \$1.6 million, the PINES program costs less than \$1 for each cardholder! ■**

### PINES by the Numbers

Approximately 1.8 million PINES library cards in use

1 of every 5 Georgians has a PINES card

1 of every 2 Georgians is served by a PINES library

9.3 million items (books, tapes, CDs, videos)

16 million circulations in FY 2007



# PINES

[www.gapines.org](http://www.gapines.org)

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[www.georgialibraries.org](http://www.georgialibraries.org)

*A Unit of the University System of Georgia*



## OPEN-SOURCE SOFTWARE FOR LIBRARIES

GPLS developed the Evergreen Integrated Library System software platform specifically for use in PINES libraries, a statewide consortium comprised of more than 275 public libraries and affiliated service outlets in 137 counties. PINES offers Georgia citizens a shared catalog of more than 9.3 million items, with a single library card that is welcomed in all member libraries. Now boasting approximately 1.8 million registered cardholders, PINES is a national leader in library cooperation and resource-sharing.

Work on the program began in June 2004. Evergreen developers relied on input from the end-user community to guide their design of the program. It is open-source software, which means it is royalty-free, and its license permits anyone to study, change and improve the software and to distribute the software either as is or after modifications have been made. The software offers numerous advantages for library staff:

- It was designed and implemented specifically to meet the needs of Georgia's PINES libraries.
- It provides direct access to the software developers for questions, troubleshooting or suggestions.
- It ensures that suggested changes, improvements and enhancements can occur quickly.
- It enables the software development team to implement quick bug fixes without red tape or extended downtime.
- It enhances resource-sharing and interlibrary cooperation.
- It allows PINES to set loan periods, fine levels and rules for placing holds and sharing materials — needs that are unique to such a statewide consortium.
- It allows librarians to quickly create linked lists for patrons, allowing patrons to keep up with school recommended reading lists, titles relating to assigned school projects and annotated bibliographies for suggested reading choosing .
- It will grow and evolve as needs change.

With Evergreen, library patrons enjoy a range of do-it-yourself services from home or library workstations, including:

- the ability to securely change personal login name, PIN and email addresses.

- the ability to place, cancel and view holds on books and other circulating items.
- the ability to modify how they prefer to be alerted of available holds.
- the ability to view fines owed.
- the ability to create and share, if desired, lists of books already read, lists of books desired and other recommended reading lists of their choosing — and view and place holds directly from these lists.

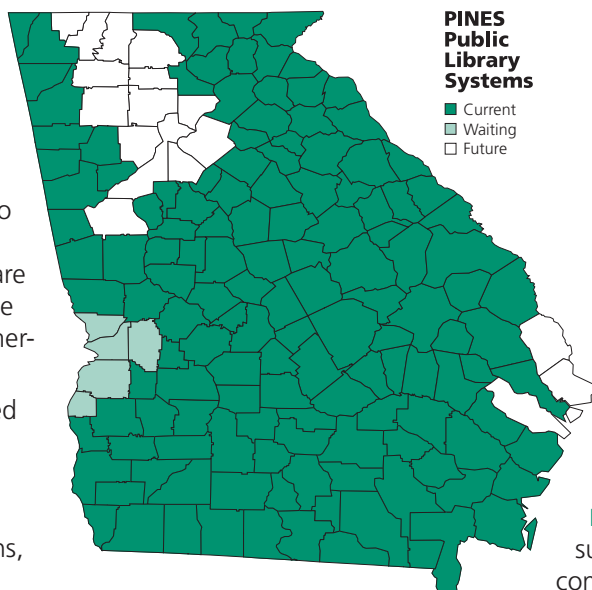
- the ability to change screen views and enlarge print for easier viewing and improved readability.

The Evergreen-based public access catalog also offers enhanced search features that allow users to:

- place a single hold that can be filled with a copy from multiple versions or formats of a work.
- select specific material formats from the catalog's front page.
- enjoy spell-checking and search suggestions similar to those used by commercial search engines and retailers like Google and Amazon.

Because Evergreen runs on the Linux operating system and inexpensive commodity hardware as opposed to a proprietary system, it can also save organizations — and taxpayers — hundreds of thousands of dollars in software maintenance costs, licensing fees and hardware costs.

The Evergreen-powered Web-based PINES catalog is now available at [www.gapines.org](http://www.gapines.org).



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