



**A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE
BAINBRIDGE SUBREGIONAL LIBRARY
FOR THE BLIND & PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED OF
SOUTHWEST GEORGIA**



The Subregional Library for the Blind & Physically Handicapped of Southwest Georgia is a part of your public library and the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, serving Baker, Brooks, Calhoun, Clay, Colquitt, Decatur, Early, Grady, Miller, Mitchell, Quitman, Randolph, Seminole, Terrell, Thomas and Webster counties.

We do not endorse any product or service mentioned in this newsletter.

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April 2010

GLASS MEETINGS SHOW STATEWIDE SUPPORT FOR GEORGIA'S TALKING BOOK CENTERS

The results are in from the series of 12 public meetings held around the state in the first quarter of 2010, and those people who live within an easily traveled distance of a Georgia Talking Book Center (TBC) want their center to remain as is.

Georgia Libraries for Accessible Statewide Services (GLASS) conducted the meetings to give patrons the opportunity to share suggestions for service improvements. The goal is to provide more efficient, effective service to citizens with visual or physical disabilities that prevent the use of regular print materials.

“Those who attended our meetings were quick to point out that they enjoy the personalized service they receive from the committed and knowledgeable staff members at Georgia’s TBCs,” said Lyn Hopper, former assistant state librarian.

The GLASS network of 11 libraries and one outreach center serves every corner of the state, offering a variety of programs and support services, including the distribution of Braille and audio materials from the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped that are circulated to eligible borrowers in the United States by postage-free mail. GLASS network members are strategically located throughout the state, and the network maintains affiliations with each of the state’s nearly 390 public libraries.

“People who live farther away from a center may not get the same browsing opportunities as those who do live near a TBC,” Hopper said, “and mail service from the Atlanta and North Georgia centers to patrons in South Georgia seems much slower than to and within the northern half of the state. So we clearly have work to do to solve these and other issues. But because of the overwhelming need and support for this service, there will be no changes to the GLASS network in fiscal year 2011.”

GLASS Director Stella Cone said that duplication of and within collections needs to be reduced, and that TBC staff members often must spend too much of their time processing mail. “The time spent on mail clearly would be better spent providing personal service to patrons,” she said. “If there’s anything we have learned from these meetings, it’s that the personal touch from a trusted readers’ adviser is among the most important aspects of what the GLASS network provides.

Cone noted that GLASS patrons and staff who attended the meetings were nearly unanimous in voicing their belief that outreach services should be as localized as possible — ideally in every county or in small, multicounty areas.

“Library systems that don’t currently host TBCs would need staff and staff training for this, and that may not be possible in the current economy,” she said, “so we will be looking at ways to provide a more balanced distribution of service, raise awareness in the areas where no local TBC exists, and better integrate patrons into our services through regular libraries. Mail distribution can be handled anywhere, as long as delivery times are fast.”

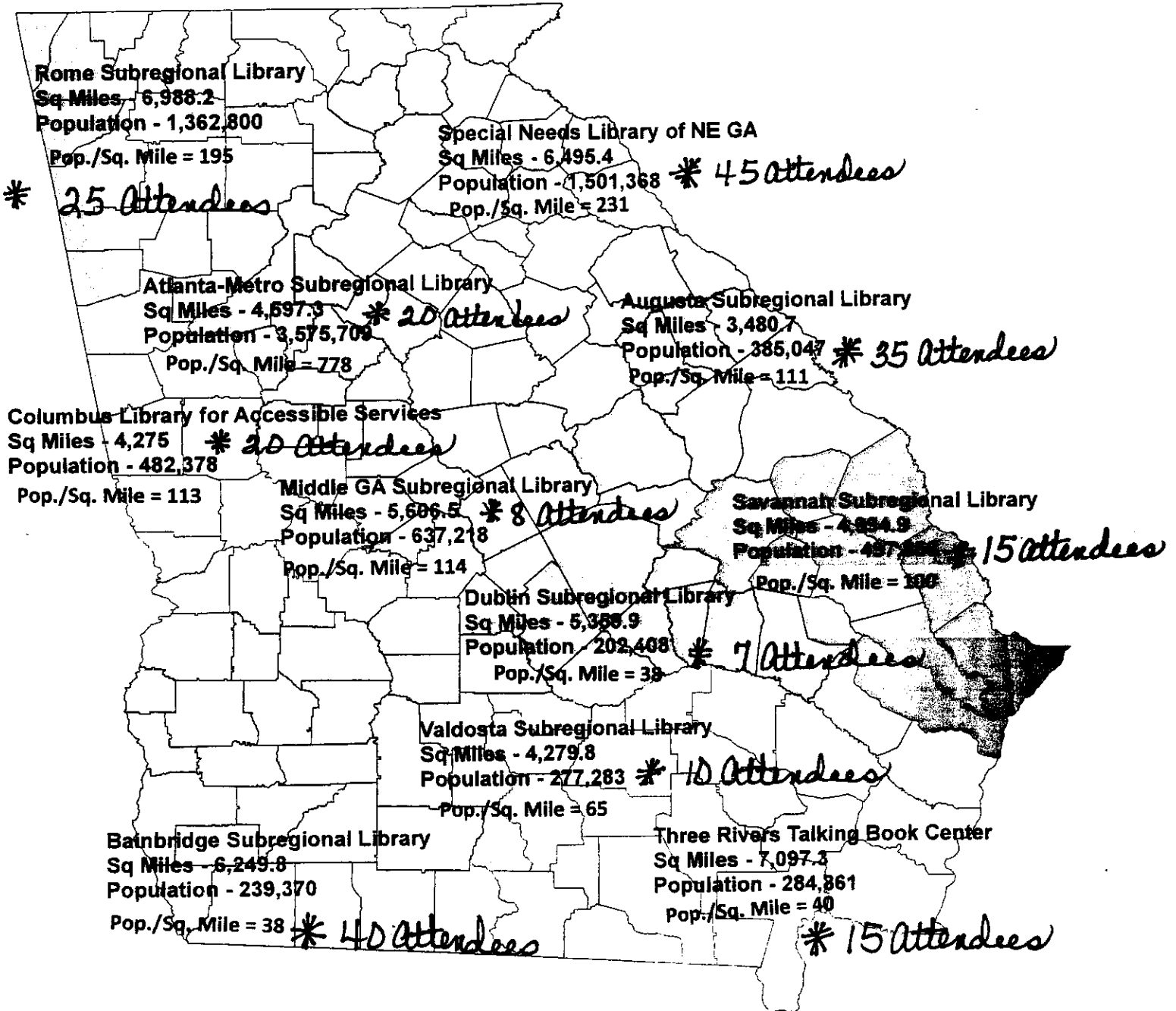
The planning team will continue to gather additional data and will meet again this summer to determine and refine the most effective methods for providing statewide services. Information of particular interest to the team includes:

- * an examination of the effectiveness and efficiency of the outreach center model (currently used by the LaFayette outreach center and Rome’s Northwest Georgia Talking Book Library);
 - * a cost study comparing a centralized mailing service to the current model;
 - * use statistics by county to compare levels of service throughout the state; and
- * an online survey and possibly more public meetings to gather input from patrons who live in counties without a local library for accessible services.

A short, online survey about Georgia’s TBCs and the services they provide is now available at www.georgialibraries.org/glass/ or by calling 1-800-248-6701. GLASS encourages all users of the service, affiliated service providers, and library staff — especially those in communities where no TBC is located — to complete the survey by May 31.

This map shows the population, square mileage, population per square mileage & attendance at each of the GLASS public opinion forums on services to the blind and disabled.

Georgia Subregional Libraries



GLASS Public Hearings held in January & February 2010

* Counts for each meeting.

Bainbridge Subregional Library f/t
Blind & Physically Handicapped
301 South Monroe Street
Bainbridge, GA 39819
(229) 248-2680 or 1-800-795-2680



June 2009

Representatives from LBPH 16 counties service population

U.S. Senators and Representatives:

U.S. Senator Saxby Chambliss – web form:

<http://chambliss.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?p=Email>

U.S. Senator Johnny Isakson – web form:

<http://isakson.senate.gov/contact.cfm>

U.S. Representative Sanford Bishop:

Bishop.email@mail.house.gov

State Senators:

John Bulloch: john.bulloch@senate.ga.gov

Tim Golden: tim.golden@senate.ga.gov (Brooks and Thomas Counties)

George B. Hooks: George.hooks@senate.ga.gov (Webster County)

Freddie Powell Sims: Freddie.sims@senate.ga.gov (Baker, Calhoun, Clay, Mitchell, Quitman, Randolph, and Terrell Counties)

State Representatives:

Ellis Black: ellis.black@house.ga.gov, blackellis@bellsouth.net (Brooks and Thomas Counties)

Winfred Dukes: Winfred.dukes@house.ga.gov (Baker County)

Gerald Greene: iamggreene@yahoo.com, Gerald.greene@house.ga.gov

Bob Hanner: bob.hanner@house.ga.gov (Quitman, Terrell, and Webster Counties)

Penny Houston: penny.houston@house.ga.gov (Colquitt County)

Mike Keown: mike@mikekeown.com (Grady and Thomas Counties)

Gene Maddox: gene.maddox@house.ga.gov

Jay Powell: jay.powell@house.ga.gov (Mitchell County)

Ed Rynders: erynders@bellsouth.net (Colquitt County)

Bainbridge Subregional Library
F/T Blind & Handicapped
Southwest Georgia Regional Library
301 South Monroe Street
Bainbridge, GA 39819

Free Reading Matter
F/T Blind & Handicapped
U. S. Mail
Do Not Cancel

Hours:
Monday 9am to 8pm
Tuesday 9am to 6pm
Wednesday 9am to 6pm
Thursday 9am to 7 pm
Friday 9am to 6 pm
Saturday 9am to 4 pm

Phone: (229) 248-2680
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Email: lbph@swgrl.org
Fax: 229-248-2670

Take a virtual tour of our libraries
and Subregional Library
for the Blind and Physically
Handicapped by clicking on
www.swgrl.org/handicap.php

Information presented in this newsletter will be provided in alternative formats upon request.

Online Catalog for ordering library books: www.klas.com/glass
Call the library for your log-in and password.

NOTE: Please submit information or news that you would like to share to Kathy Hutchins.