



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Public libraries contract with collection agency  
Patrons owe libraries more than \$300,000 in late fees, fines**

BRUNSWICK — The member libraries of the Three Rivers Regional Library System have partnered with a collection agency to recoup more than \$300,000 owed by patrons.

On Oct. 1, the public libraries in Brantley, Camden, Charlton, Long, McIntosh and Wayne counties will begin working with Jeffersonville, Ind.-based Unique Management Services, Inc., an agency that specializes in library collections.

The Brunswick-Glynn County Library has been working with the collection agency since February, and so far has collected \$4,400 of the more than \$105,000 patrons owe in overdue fines and fees for lost materials.

The response from the public has been overwhelmingly positive, said Steve W. Schaefer, interim assistant director of Three Rivers Regional Library System, based at the Brunswick library.

“When the Brunswick library announced its new collections policy, it certainly raised awareness,” Schaefer said. “A lot of people simply did not realize how much overdue materials cost public libraries, which are already struggling with severe budget cuts.”

Unique Management will contact patrons owing at least \$25 in late fees and those with materials 60 days or more past due. In addition to fines, those patrons will have to pay a \$10 collection fee and will risk damage to their credit.

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Library patrons will receive multiple notices by mail or e-mail about overdue materials and fines, so there will be ample time to clear up delinquent accounts.

Three Rivers libraries and the regional bookmobile are owed the following amounts, excluding balances below \$25:

Regional Bookmobile	\$2,275.39
Brantley County Library	\$25,406.40
Camden County Public Library	\$59,997.67
Charlton Public Library Inc.	\$11,276.60
Long County Public Library	\$11,091.17
Ida Hilton Public Library	\$10,583.43
Hog Hammock Public Library	\$25.00
St. Simons Island Public Island	\$2,298.61
St. Marys Public Library	\$33,004.95
Wayne County Library	\$44,401.09

***In other library news:***

- The Brunswick-Glynn County Library will host a free “Reading Rodeo” from 10:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 29. The event will include story times, crafts, activities to promote pre-reading basics, and much more. It’s sponsored by the Glynn County Head Start; Weed and Seed Brunswick; Ferst Foundation Glynn; Glynn County Schools State Funded Pre-Kindergarten and Federally Funded Title I / Parent Involvement. Details are available online at

<http://www.trrl.org/brunswick/rodeo.pdf>.

- St. Marys Public Library has a new blog featuring updates on its expansion project. Patrons can visit the site at [libraryexpansion.blogspot.com](http://libraryexpansion.blogspot.com) for floor plans, photos and notices about the construction project.

*The Three Rivers Regional Library System is headquartered at the Brunswick-Glynn County Public Library, and includes Brantley County Public Library, Camden County Public Library, Charlton Public Library, Hog Hammock Public Library on Sapelo Island, Ida Hilton Public Library in Darien, Long County Public Library, St. Marys Public Library, St. Simons Public Library on St. Simons Island, and Wayne County Public Library. The libraries are members of PINES, the Public Information Network for Electronic Services, a program of the Georgia Public Library Service, which gives libraries and their patrons access to more than 9.6 million books and materials, at more than 275 libraries and service outlets in Georgia. Visit Three Rivers online at [www.trrl.org](http://www.trrl.org)*

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