South Carolina's Higher Education
Electronic Library Development Project

Driving Forces, or WHY NOW?

➤ Libraries have changed from collections of mostly *print materials* like books and journals to collections of print materials AND huge *electronic* data sets of information and *electronic* texts.

➤ Participation in the knowledge-based economy requires access for *more* people to *more* knowledge as quickly and efficiently as possible.

➤ Competition for the best faculty, students, researchers, and economic development opportunities occurs on a *national* scale where investment in new knowledge-based technologies has already been made by many states in their college and university libraries.

➤ Analysis of these investments in other states provides compelling evidence of simultaneous geometric quality enhancement to library holdings and services as well as huge cost avoidance savings.

> The Virtual Library of Virginia indicates that what has been purchased collectively since 1994 would have cost $125 million if purchased individually.

➤ Efficient use of resources can be maximized through inter-institutional collaboration and cooperation, group licensing purchases, use of electronic formats, and shared library holdings among all of SC's public and independent colleges and universities.

➤ Experience in other states has also demonstrated that institutional resources freed by these investments can further increase statewide library holdings, so institutions can redeploy resources to institutional specialty areas.

➤ Escalating costs of scholarly books and journals have not been matched by corresponding increases in collections budgets of academic libraries.

What Is the Project? What Has Been Achieved to Date during Year 1?

The project funds flow through the Commission on Higher Education.

Project activities are coordinated by the Partnership of SC Academic Libraries (PASCAL), a membership organization of the SC academic libraries and State Library.

The project has two specific components:

1. Identification of electronic resources appropriate for academic libraries and purchase of state-wide licenses to grant access to as many institutions as possible at the most favorable price possible.

This component is sometimes referred to as DISCUS-ACADEMIC or, more recently, Collegiate DISCUS because the State Library's DISCUS project performs a similar function for the public libraries and K-12. The key difference between DISCUS and Collegiate DISCUS is that electronic materials appropriate to higher education audiences, such as peer-reviewed journals and research texts and data bases, are correspondingly more sophisticated. Overlap between the two will be minimal but collaboration between the State Library and the academic libraries will be greatly expanded.

Licensing fees are recurring costs which usually are paid annually.

To date, Collegiate DISCUS has signed a license with EBSCO, a major vendor of electronic resources for academic institutions, for a collection of 12 data bases that extends access to over 12,000 full text titles in core academic disciplines, health sciences, and business. About half of these titles are peer-reviewed journals.

The EBSCO license cost $550,000 and extends access to all levels of higher education in the state. The total retail cost of the package if each institution were to subscribe individually would be $2.7 million.

About 30 institutions subscribe to at least one of the twelve EBSCO data bases at a total cost of $300,000.

Only four institutions had access to its two cornerstone elements, Academic Search Premier and Business Source Premier, prior to the EBSCO license.

Three of the data bases have been licensed for state-wide access (i.e., also public libraries and K-12), including MEDLINE, ERIC (education), and CINAHL (nursing).

Electronic data bases in academic libraries are available for use by any citizen of the state working in an academic library.

A second purchase of electronic resources will be made in Spring 2005 and is being negotiated currently. If year 2 funding is not available, this will be dropped and all of remaining Year 1 funds will be spent on the Union Catalog project.

2.   *Connecting all the Catalogs of the academic libraries, so that students, faculty, and researchers can access all of the State's library resources more efficiently and in a more cost-effective manner through a state-wide "Union" Catalog.*

The old "card catalog" has been electronic for some time. However, most institutions have migrated to a new generation of library management software; 20 PASCAL libraries are using or will be using soon Innovative Interfaces' local library system, Millennium; 16 use a Sirsi system; and the remainder use other library systems. Regardless of which system is used, all libraries will ultimately be inter-connected through the purchase of enabling software.

The software and systems purchased through the state-wide contract provide for transfer of data from individual library systems to a statewide "Union" Catalog.

There are two primary benefits to state-wide interconnectivity of all the academic libraries:

SHARING COLLECTIONS: Data from other states' interconnected library systems indicates that individual library collections are more different from each other than would be expected. Sharing collections reduces duplication and saves space.

UNIVERSAL BORROWING: Interconnected libraries sharing their resources increases the number of requests for interlibrary loans. A contract has been signed with Innovative Interfaces to implement over a two-year period its inter-institutional universal borrowing management system called "InnReach."

The InnReach system, based on the experiences in other states, will increase collection use dramatically, reduce inter library loan unit costs by 70-80% (from $25-$30 to $3-$8), and reduce interlibrary loan waiting time from 2-3 weeks to 1-3 days.

This system represents a capital cost of approximately $1.25 million over two years. In support of expanded use of all the collections, a new PHYSICAL DELIVERY system for books has been agreed to in principle, which will move books to requesting libraries within 24 hours.