

South Carolina Academic Virtual Library

April 2, 2004

The South Carolina Academic Virtual Library envisions an environment where every student and faculty member in an institution of higher learning has quick and easy access to information resources regardless of location or institutional affiliation. The South Carolina Academic Virtual library ultimately will comprise a core of electronic resources that includes electronic indexes, journals, reference materials and books, as well as access to all the printed materials from the state's academic libraries.

This vision is the outgrowth of four years of collaborative work by 54 public and private academic libraries in South Carolina. They have formed an organization called PASCAL (the Partnership Among South Carolina Academic Libraries) to enhance library resources and services. Based on self-assessment models tied to the size of each institution, PASCAL libraries have laid the groundwork for this proposal since 1999. Under the PASCAL umbrella, members have shared expenses through a consensual methodology for an executive director and six cooperative ventures, amounting to a total expenditure of about \$2.6 million in 2004. Some projects benefit all members, while others have been fashioned by subgroups. Despite this remarkable collaboration, the fact is that state support is needed to extend access to core scholarly information resources to the entire higher education community, and for the state's economic development effort.

Through this proposal, the vision would be accomplished in two ways.

The proposal to fund the first part of the vision -- providing a core of electronic resources to all of South Carolina's higher education students and faculty -- is for \$2.5 million dollars in ongoing funding to subscribe to this core of electronic indexes, abstracts, journals, reference materials and books.

Every student and faculty member in every corner of the state will have access to these electronic resources. Any citizen or business within our state would be able to use them by visiting an academic library. The program will level the playing field regardless of location or institutional affiliation - extending access to citizens in rural areas, distance education students and others who are presently underserved.

As demonstrated by a large number of other states that have provided funding to license these core electronic resources and by the South Carolina State Library's DISCUS program, the power of licensing electronic resources for the entire state can buy 4 to 10 times more than would be possible through individual institutional subscriptions. Thus, substantial cost savings are an integral component of this proposal. For example, in the state of Virginia, the VIVA library program has documented over \$100 million in cost avoidance over a 10 year period. By our estimate, over the next five years, we can achieve \$55 - \$65 million in cost avoidance in South Carolina."

These electronic resources will be provided as DISCUS Academic, a joint effort with the State Library that manages the very successful DISCUS program of electronic resources available to all K-12, public libraries and academic libraries in South Carolina. DISCUS Academic will expand this effort to add those electronic resources that directly address scholarly information needs of the academic environment. In addition, many institutional subscriptions can be renewed as a part of the DISCUS/Academic package, providing a further leveraging of library spending.

Like the DISCUS project, the acquisition, negotiation and maintenance of those electronic resources that will be a part of DISCUS Academic will require a small staff infrastructure. The participating libraries will jointly fund this component using the principles for matching developed by PASCAL.

To accomplish the second part of the vision, printed resources will be made available through a union catalog of all the state's academic libraries' holdings and delivered by a courier service. This aspect of the virtual library is currently being organized through a series of collaborations. Local library system modernization and consolidation has already taken place within the technical colleges, and the libraries at six four year institutions (along with 2 technical colleges) have joined together to create a shared system. These efforts are being funded by the participating institutions. The collaboration involving the four-year institutions will total between \$1.5 - \$2 million dollars, and will serve as the base for a statewide union catalog.

The union catalog will bring the recently upgraded technical college systems as well those institutions that have independent library systems into it. The one-time cost of this effort will be about \$1 million. We seek \$500,000 in one-time funds from the state to be matched by the institutions based on a self-assessment tied to the size of each institution.

As a result of this collaboration, the state of South Carolina will extend access to over 12 million printed items to all students and faculty, thus leveraging a large existing investment and also reducing the need for unnecessary duplication of holdings.

The acquisition of the electronic information resources and the union catalog envisioned in this project will provide even more timely and cost effective library services to South Carolinians so they may reach their potential in academic achievement, economic development and personal growth.

The specifically proposed source of funding for this proposal is the available funding created through increases in Lottery Revenue. This request is for additional funds above those higher education programs currently funded, or proposed for increases as illustrated on the attached schedule.

Higher Education Items included in House Version of Lottery Proceeds Distribution

(1) Tuition Assistance Two-Year Institutions	\$34,000,000
(2) LIFE Scholarships	92,727,949
(3) HOPE Scholarships	6,183,017
(4) Palmetto Fellows Scholarships	11,491,212
(5) Need-Based Grants	13,019,497
(6) Tuitions Grants Commission--Tuition Grants	4,000,000
(7) National Guard Tuition Repayment Program	1,500,000
(8) Teacher Grants	2,000,000
(9) Endowed Chairs	30,000,000
(10) South Carolina State University	5,500,000
(11) Technology: Public 4-Year Universities, 2-Year Institutions, and State Technical Colleges	14,000,000
(12) Higher Education Excellence Enhancement Program	5,200,000

Additional Requested Item:

Funding for Statewide Electronic Library	\$3,000,000
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