

att. XX

PASCAL (Partnership Among SC Academic Libraries)

Fact Sheet: Statewide Higher Education Electronic Library

March 3, 2005

Using \$2 million appropriated by the General Assembly in FY 2004-05 to establish an academic electronic library, PASCAL (Partnership Among South Carolina Academic Libraries) launched two major programs that will reshape the way South Carolina's students, faculty, and researchers acquire information.

Program 1: Statewide Licensing for Academic Libraries (Collegiate DISCUS)

PASCAL signed an annual license for a collection of 12 EBSCO databases that extend access to over 12,000 full-text electronic titles in core academic disciplines, health sciences, and business.

- This extends access to these titles for all 210,000+ students and faculty in South Carolina higher education. Only 4 SC institutions had complete access before.
- This license cost \$550,000. It would have cost 56 PASCAL libraries \$2.7 million if they all paid individually. Over five years, the License will cost PASCAL \$3 million, and it will provide a \$15 million value-- a five-fold multiplication of investment!
- Thirty academic libraries that previously licensed a subset of the EBSCO package will also have \$300,000 annually that can be used to close additional gaps in their collections.
- PASCAL's five year plan includes additional licensing packages, totaling \$3.3 million. Altogether, the total program would supply at least \$31 million in value for a \$6 million outlay.
- PASCAL has included the SC State Library in its licensing arrangement and coordinates licensing with the DISCUS program. Over time this will increase availability to all citizens.
- These are annual licenses that must be renewed each year. South Carolina will lose a tremendous opportunity to level a crucial element of the education and economic playing field in the global information economy, if we turn away from this great start.

Program 2: Universal Borrowing

Universal borrowing, powered by Innovative Interfaces' INN-Reach software and an outsourced delivery service will create a virtual library of 12 million rapidly available volumes.

- Universal Borrowing will extend access to the resources of 56+ academic libraries and the State Library to all of South Carolina's 210,000+ students, faculty and researchers.
- Universal Borrowing is a cost-effective extension of resources to all South Carolina institutions -- unit costs for interlibrary loans of books will drop by as much as ten times, while use will increase on the same order!
- The program will provide a foundation for increasing the scope of research collections and collaboration, and greater efficiencies in collection management, to the benefit of all.
- State funding will make this service available to all. Without continued funding, many libraries, especially at the smaller institutions representing half of our students will most likely lose out.

A Foundation for the Future

These programs provide a basis for increasing cooperation across academic institutions, archives, state government and public libraries. They can serve as matching for major Federal grants to further improve state-of-the-art information access in South Carolina, and they will stimulate further economies and increases in the development of the state's knowledge infrastructure. However, they must be sustained or the fine start made by the General Assembly last year will be lost.

For more information: <http://pascal.tcl.sc.edu/>