

In this Issue:

## PASCAL Celebrates Anniversary of the SC Academic Virtual Library

### PASCAL's Major Benefits

For the past two fiscal years, the legislature has provided \$2 million each year to fund the "Statewide Electronic Library" for higher education. This newsletter shows how we've used these funds to develop core research materials, including millions of articles in over 16,000 electronic full-text periodicals. The soon-to-be universal borrowing program makes all 12 million volumes — almost every book in every academic library in South Carolina — available to every college student and every faculty member in the state. *For more, see: <http://pascalsc.org/>.*

### Statewide Electronic Library Serves Everyone

## New Electronic Resources

In fall 2005, this PASCAL program added two major new resources to the core electronic resource collection. In September, PASCAL, in cooperation with the State Library, added the GALE Literature Resources Center, a definitive resource for literature to users in electronic form. At the end of 2005, PASCAL licensed Lexis-Nexis to its membership, a flagship service of full-text documents from 6,000 news, business, legal, medical, and reference publications and several national newspapers. When added to the thousands of academic journals in the suite of full-text databases licensed in fall 2004, the new resources truly make a core academic library for all of South Carolina's more than 210,000 students in higher education. *For more information, please contact Rick Moul ([rmoul@gwm.sc.edu](mailto:rmoul@gwm.sc.edu)).*

### PASCAL Delivers: And How!

## PASCAL Delivers Takes Off

Our universal borrowing program, Pascal Delivers, is in full motion. After a year of testing and preparation, we have started to build the catalog that will allow users to search and request material from any library. In mid-April, a new courier service will be selected to deliver books for PASCAL member libraries. By May, a small cadre of librarians will be trained to use the software for PASCAL Delivers. June is the dress rehearsal for the delivery system, and in August we'll formally launch Pascal Delivers. For the first time ever, students and faculty in South Carolina will be able to request books themselves from any SC academic institution and receive those books in about 24 hours. What better way for South Carolina's students to start a new semester? Can you name any other more cooperative state-funded project? We can't either! *For more information, please contact Alisa Whitt ([whitta@gwm.sc.edu](mailto:whitta@gwm.sc.edu)).*

### Sharing Our State's History through PASCAL's Digital Project

## Statewide Digital Library Conference

A federally funded LSTA grant allows PASCAL to begin to shed light on treasures hidden away in SC libraries, archives and museums. We have developed a pilot cooperative digital exhibition bringing together resources and expertise from USC, the SC Department of Archives and History, and SC Department of Parks, Recreation, and Tourism (South Carolina's Role in the American Revolution); and launched South Carolina Memory (<http://scmemory.org/>), a website to digitally showcase the state's cultural heritage.

Early this summer, the PASCAL digital library program will host a statewide conference to learn, share and collaborate on digital projects. *Contact Courtney Danforth for more details ([danfortc@gwm.sc.edu](mailto:danfortc@gwm.sc.edu)).*

Continued: PASCAL's Statewide Digital Library Conference

## Additional PASCAL Services

**More Sharing,  
More Cooperation,  
More Resources**

PASCAL empowers members to use funds wisely, judiciously and cooperatively. PASCAL expands library purchasing power through its "Buyers' Club" deals by licensing in bulk. Furthermore, PASCAL seeks to leverage our state's library expertise through a cooperative professional development committee, saving travel costs, and using our own rich resources to train others within the state. *Contact Rick Moul (rmoul@gwm.sc.edu).*

Another exemplary example of resource sharing: Francis Marion, Aiken Technical College, the Citadel, South Carolina State University, Florence Darlington Technical College and the College of Charleston partnered with PASCAL and the state CIO's office to host their Online Public Access Catalogs (OPAC) and save money on hardware, software and support costs. With PASCAL's support expertise and the South Carolina CIO's safe and secure operating environment, these institutions enjoy state-of-the-art IT support and infrastructure. *For more information, contact Victor Jenkinson (jenkinso@gwm.sc.edu).*

## The Value of PASCAL: One Librarian's View

**PASCAL Means  
Effective Cost  
Savings**

PASCAL provides research materials well beyond the financial reach of individual academic libraries. For our smaller members, it represents an unprecedented expansion in capacity. "This is an important program," said Cynthia Davies, Director of Library Services at Piedmont Technical College. "Our students are now on more equal footing with counterparts at larger research universities and institutions in other states."

The vast expansion of resources is extremely cost-effective. PASCAL brings in at least \$8 of value for every dollar we spend on electronic resources. For example, our first two major license agreements for electronic journals and research material will cost \$3.8 million over five years, but would cost South Carolina institutions \$30.8 million if licensed individually. Similarly, by making it easier and cheaper to borrow materials, the statewide catalog and delivery system will generate a three-fold increase in use at a fraction of current transaction costs.

**PASCAL Means  
Unprecedented  
Resource Sharing**

In addition to state funds, the Academic Virtual Library is supported through member library dues and federal grants for digitization. In the past year PASCAL has doubled its income from member library dues. However, state funds are the key to sustainability. They are used for database and electronic journal licensing fees, and ongoing costs such as delivery, hardware and software maintenance. "These are recurring annual expenses on which libraries have come to rely heavily," Davies notes. Establishing ongoing funding for the Virtual Academic Library is important in order to continue to meet the crucial challenge of providing the resources necessary to level the educational and economic playing field in the global information economy for South Carolina's 210,000 college and university students – including about 3,000 PTC students from the counties of Abbeville, Edgefield, Greenwood, Laurens, McCormick, Newberry and Saluda.

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