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**Resources at students' fingertips**

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Posted Friday, February 18, 2005 - 11:16 pm

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CLEMSON — As a psychology major, Clemson University senior Justin Hamrick frequently uses electronic versions of scientific journals as resources, but sometimes specific articles he needs aren't in Clemson's library.

Sometimes they are available at another school's library, but getting the information in time to complete an assignment is another matter. "I've always been able to switch and adjust," said Hamrick, 23, of Pelzer.

Finding an alternate reference, whether it's electronic or a book, takes time and sometimes it isn't exactly what you're looking for, said Adelaide Antwi, 27, of Ghana, who is working on her master's degree at Clemson.


It's about to get easier for students at Clemson and across the state.


A new \$2 million partnership creates a virtual library that combines resources at 56 public and private South Carolina colleges and universities, said Joe Boykin, dean of Clemson's libraries and board chairman of the new Partnership Among South Carolina Academic Libraries.

It will put 13 million books and thousands of electronic resources at student's fingertips, Boykin said.

"It will definitely be more user friendly," said Monica Johnson, information resource consultant at South Carolina State University's Miller F. Whittaker library.

"They don't have to actually come into the library. As long as they have a computer in their home or dorm, they can access this."

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The state-lottery funded partnership expands library resources in two ways.

It gives electronic access to more than 12,000 full text titles in academic journals and other publications that university students, faculty and researchers use in their work, Boykin said.

In addition, it will create a statewide university book catalogue and borrowing system, so anyone at any participating schools can look for a book across the whole system and borrow it by clicking on a button, Boykin said.

A statewide courier service would provide delivery within 24-48 hours in most cases. "It will help because if the book is not here, you can get access to books elsewhere," Antwi said.

Students and others will have access to the same resources, whether they are on small campuses like University Center in Greenville, at private schools like Furman or Bob Jones universities, the state's technical colleges, or large campuses like Clemson and the University of South Carolina, Boykin said.

"South Carolina has been lagging behind in moving to this kind of model where the state libraries and private libraries get together," said Janis Bandelin, Furman's director of libraries.

"We are buying many of the same things. Why buy them separately? We'll be able to save because we're buying as a group."

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