

HIGHER EDUCATION PRIORITIES – PASCAL* STATEWIDE ELECTRONIC ACADEMIC LIBRARY

\$2,000,000 recurring

The higher education electronic library has received a non-recurring appropriation of \$2 million in each of the three most recent fiscal years. CHE, along with higher education, requests continued recurring support of this important statewide initiative to avoid turning the clock back on the great progress made to date in connecting our libraries and providing for group purchasing of vital academic information.

WHAT IS THE HIGHER EDUCATION ELECTRONIC/VIRTUAL LIBRARY INITIATIVE?

A cooperative and collaborative effort among our public and private higher education libraries that is transforming how our state's citizens access vital higher-level academic information.

- Allows central licensing of essential electronic academic journals and related databases that are available to all of SC's higher education libraries (public and private) -- An effective and efficient way to equalize access to new resources statewide and level the playing field for smaller higher education institutions, while helping larger institutions fill research gaps by expanding access in core undergraduate areas. License fees for these electronic research sources are annual; requiring continued funding to sustain benefits.
 - Example of Cost Efficiencies: Each dollar spent centrally on electronic resources returns \$6-\$8 dollars in value when compared to single library licensing of the same materials. This adds up! Over 5 years, \$6.2 million invested in licenses is \$49 million worth of material!
- Enables extremely cost-effective collection sharing by connecting 58 public and private higher education libraries and the State Library in a catalog and delivery system.
 - Funding to date has purchased the hardware and software system required, and continued funding will support ongoing technology management and operations.
 - Comparisons with other states indicate this effort will reduce interlibrary loan unit costs by ten times, and increase service comparably by a comparable amount.

A FEW OF THE BENEFITS FOR SOUTH CAROLINA

- Exponentially raises the quantity and quality of academic library resources available to the state's 212,000+ students, faculty and researchers: 16,000 electronic full-text periodicals (and growing) and a virtual collection of 12 million volumes.
- Promotes institutional collaboration (Public/Private, Two-Year/Four-Year), avoids duplicated expenditures, and leverages materials, institutional spending, and capacity.
- Enhances development of the state's knowledge infrastructure -- crucial for competing in today's knowledge-based economy -- by expanding availability and access to state-of-the-art information at reduced costs, and reducing the gap between SC and surrounding states.
- Expands access to resources by other citizens through collaborative program development and direct "walk-in" use of academic libraries.

*PASCAL, Partnership Among SC Academic Libraries. See <http://pascal.sc.org> for information on library initiatives.

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