



SHARED ACCESS  
UNLIMITED KNOWLEDGE.

April 10, 2008

The Honorable Hugh K. Leatherman Sr.  
111 Gressette Building  
Columbia, SC 29201

Dear Senator Leatherman,

Each year since FY 2004-05, your allocation of \$2 million in non-recurring funds to establish and support PASCAL's "Statewide Electronic Library" programs have substantially upgraded the state's knowledge base for higher education. As academic librarians from South Carolina's institutions of higher education, we would like to thank you for this support to the students and faculty at our colleges and universities

In what has shaped up to be a difficult budget year for the state, we are especially appreciative that the Senate Finance Committee has made a place for the program as a permanent element of our higher education system by recommending \$200,000 in recurring funds for the statewide electronic library through the Commission on Higher Education's budget. This is a welcome and important development in and of itself, as it reiterates the importance of this statewide cooperative program among higher education institutions.

All of our colleges and universities have built upon the PASCAL resources funded for the past four years to become more competitive regionally, nationally and globally – and more cooperative locally. Through your support of the electronic library, you have dramatically improved the educational experience of the students who have passed through our doors after 2004.

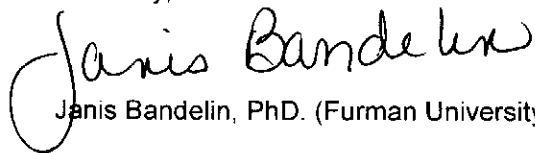
PASCAL funding is used to pay annual license fees for 33 databases, giving students across our 58 public and private higher education libraries a collection of millions articles and reports. Most of these are in peer-reviewed research journals in core academic disciplines, nursing and health sciences, or in technical & business fields. This collection has a daily impact on the quality of teaching, learning and research in South Carolina. It is considered an important element in program licensing and accreditation. It levels the playing field for all students, by providing access regardless of the size or location of the student's school. This past fiscal year, the licensing program alone cost \$1.43 million. Over the past four years, the \$4.6 million spent for these licenses would have cost \$33 million had all academic institutions acted independently. Since the resources are made available through annual licenses rather than individual purchase, loss of funding sacrifices the availability of this collection statewide.

Another critical component supported by the funds you've provided to date is "PASCAL Delivers." Using our "PASCAL Delivers" system, students can easily order any one of 9 million books from any academic library in the state and receive it within three days. The system promotes full utilization of a large capital investment that the state has made in information resources. Continued funding of the program at the level of past years will help us preserve this infrastructure along with the continuation of currently available electronic resources.

We know that all elements of our South Carolina community must share the burden in the current downturn in funding, and we greatly appreciate your resolve to sustain the statewide higher education electronic library with the recommended \$200,000 in recurring funding. However, as the Senate begins its deliberations on the budget, we would also respectfully encourage you, on behalf of our students, to restore, if possible, as much of the remaining \$1.8 million in funding that has been provided each year for the past four years to sustain our licensing program and prevent the loss of valuable resources.

Thank you again for the work you do for the betterment of South Carolina and your continued support of this critical statewide project.

Sincerely,



Janis Bandelin, PhD. (Furman University) Chair PASCAL Board of Directors

CC: Dr. Garrison Walters, SC Commission on Higher Education  
Presidents/Chief Officers at PASCAL parent institutions

Aiken Technical College	University of South Carolina
Allen University	USC School of Medicine
Anderson University	USC College of Law
Benedict College	USC-Aiken
Bob Jones University	USC-Beaufort
Central Carolina Technical College	USC-Lancaster
Charleston Southern University	USC-Salkehatchie
The Citadel	USC-Sumter
Clafin College	USC-Union
Clemson University	USC-Upstate
Clinton Jr. College	Voorhees College
Coastal Carolina University	Williamsburg Technical College
Coker College	Winthrop University
College of Charleston	Wofford College
Columbia College	York Technical College
Columbia International University	Greenville University Center
Converse College	Low Country Graduate Center
Denmark Technical College	South Carolina State Library
Erskine College	
Florence-Darlington Technical College	
Francis Marion University	
Furman University	
Greenville Technical College	
Horry-Georgetown Technical College	
Lander University	
Limestone College	
Medical University of South Carolina	
Midlands Technical College	
Morris College	
Newberry College	
North Greenville University	
Northeastern Technical College	
Orangeburg-Calhoun Technical College	
Piedmont Technical College	
Presbyterian College	
South Carolina State University	
Southern Wesleyan University	
Spartanburg Methodist College	
Spartanburg Community College	
Technical College of the Lowcountry	
Tri-County Technical College	
Trident Technical College	