



MEMORANDUM

Date: August 5, 2008

To: Presidents of South Carolina's Public and Independent Colleges and Universities

From: Ruth Riley, Chair, Board of Directors, Partnership Among South Carolina Academic Libraries (PASCAL) & Director of Library Services, University of South Carolina School of Medicine

Rick Moul, PASCAL Executive Director

Re: **PASCAL Report: FY 08-09 Budget Cuts and Effect on the Statewide Higher Education Electronic Library (PASCAL programs)**

In his May 14, 2008 memorandum to you, Dr. Garrison Walters summarized the crisis facing PASCAL, the Statewide Electronic Library for higher education. The state legislature reduced funding for PASCAL by 90% from \$2 million to \$200,000 in FY 2008-09. Dr. Walters indicated that we would provide you with a report on the work of your librarians to develop a survival strategy for the current year.

Since 2004, PASCAL's \$2 million annual appropriation from the state has been used to develop and sustain two major programs:

- **PASCAL Delivers**, a rapid delivery service for books that vastly expands and leverages print-based knowledge statewide by providing a single, web-based, unified catalog of South Carolina academic libraries holdings.
- **Electronic Resources** – extremely cost-effective central licensing of core electronic resources for higher education.

These programs vastly increased the knowledge available to the entire higher education community in South Carolina. With one or two clicks of a mouse, students and faculty could have books rapidly delivered from any academic library in the state – drawing from a virtual library of over **10 million volumes**, or access **millions of articles** from over 13,000 electronic research publications.

The PASCAL survival strategy, approved unanimously by our member libraries, will preserve the essential core of these programs through the end of FY 2008-09 by canceling licenses for many resources, reducing the frequency of deliveries, and assessing substantial increases in institutional dues and fees. While the resources retained for the current academic year are significantly diminished, this core remains a cost-effective expenditure, and is still highly valuable to the students and faculty at your institutions.

Our larger challenge will be in FY 2009-10. Unless we can address the huge cuts made in 2008-9, PASCAL will not remain viable. The Commission on Higher Education is expected to formally request \$2.3 million in additional funding for PASCAL in their FY 2009-10 budget request in August. As you recall, the Commission on behalf of higher education sought \$2.5 million recurring for this program last year. The funding requested for FY 2009-10 will restore PASCAL's purchasing power to its FY 2007-08 level. We will be working with you, the Commission, and other stakeholders to restore legislative funding.

Over the next few months we will provide you with the information necessary to support the effort to restore funding to this important program. Concerted action by the entire higher education community is necessary to restore and sustain the program beyond June 30, 2009. Thank you for your efforts on behalf of PASCAL.