

## News

### For Immediate Release

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## PASCAL Creates 12 Million Volume Virtual Academic Library for South Carolina

In December, PASCAL selected a vendor to create a virtual library collection of over 12 million volumes. "By this time next year," predicts Mark Herring, dean of libraries at Winthrop University, "South Carolina students and faculty will be able to retrieve well-over 12 million volumes from any academic library in the state by making a simple web-request. Books will arrive at the user's home library within two days or less!"

PASCAL selected Innovative Interfaces' INN-Reach system to provide circulation-based universal borrowing for all its members. State funds will be critical to ensure ubiquitous access from even the smallest institutions. Consequently, the PASCAL Board approved funding for both the system and delivery costs through state lottery funds. One of the compelling elements of the INN-Reach system, according to Rick Moul, PASCAL's executive director, is Innovative's capability to work with local library systems supplied by other vendors. This ensures that all South Carolina institutions of higher education will be able to participate in the borrowing program. "The impact for our students will be enormous," noted Drucie Gullion, director at Trident Technical College. "The resource base available to our students will increase an unbelievable 9,000 percent!" Even at USC, the state's largest academic library, students and faculty stand to see their collection grow on the order of 20 percent.

The INN-Reach purchase was coordinated with the acquisition of Innovative's local library system, Millennium, by eight institutions representing 16 PASCAL member libraries. The new Millennium libraries include Clemson University, the University of South Carolina as well as its seven regional and senior campuses, the College of Charleston, South Carolina State University, The Citadel, Francis Marion University, Florence Darlington Technical College and Aiken Technical College. "We began thinking that we were laying groundwork for statewide universal borrowing by building a virtual academic library with sixteen initial 'branches.' We expected to add other PASCAL libraries as we were able to overcome financial and technical barriers, but the General Assembly stepped in with the funding needed to link all the institutions right up front. Our universal borrowing system will be a 60 branch system from its beginning," said Moul.

"Library users will have more searching capabilities at their fingertips and will find greater integration of our print collections, digital resources, and online services. The library catalog will be a more powerful research tool!" said Marilee Birchfield a reference librarian at the University of South Carolina.

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**PASCAL, *Partnership Among South Carolina Academic Libraries***  
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## **About PASCAL**

In 2001, South Carolina academic libraries formed PASCAL -- Partnership Among South Carolina Academic Libraries ([pascal.tcl.sc.edu](http://pascal.tcl.sc.edu)) -- to address information- access problems. Today, PASCAL is a consortium of well over 50 public and private academic libraries dedicated to improving information resources, access and services at each member institution's library. PASCAL programs include electronic resource licensing, universal borrowing among its members; statewide access to historical, cultural and educational resources through collaboration and digitization; and professional development of its member librarians. These projects have been characterized as the South Carolina Academic Virtual Library.

An important dimension of PASCAL's program is its cooperation with state government agencies. The Commission on Higher Education, the SC State Library, the Budget and Control Board's Division of the State CIO, and the Department of Archives and History are all partners with the member libraries. Another important partner is South Carolina Independent Colleges & Universities (SCICU), which promotes the cause of independent higher education in South Carolina.

More information on PASCAL may be found at this URL:

<http://pascal.tcl.sc.edu/>

More information on PASCAL's partners and service providers may be found at this URL:

<http://pascal.tcl.sc.edu/members/members.html>

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