

Customer Services Newsletter



Division of the State CIO

State Budget and Control Board

PASCAL Celebrates Anniversary of S.C. Academic Virtual Library

The Partnership Among South Carolina Academic Libraries (PASCAL), a partner of the Division of the State Chief Information Officer (CIO), celebrated its two year anniversary of the South Carolina Academic Virtual Library.



Dr. Jim Bryant (L), Chief Information Officer (CIO), Division of the State CIO, converses with Rick Moul, Executive Director, Partnership Among South Carolina Academic Libraries (PASCAL), about the enormous benefit to South Carolina students and faculty of PASCAL's Academic Virtual Library.

PASCAL built and is continuing to enhance its virtual academic library to support the 210,000 students and faculty in South Carolina higher education. This virtual library is organized into three major programs.

- **Collegiate DISCUS** provides millions of research articles which builds on the State Library's DISCUS foundation of general resources, and provides access to thousands of core academic resources in

electronic form to college students and faculty.

- **PASCAL Delivers** will provide access to all books in South Carolina academic libraries by building a virtual library collection of over 12 million volumes. This will be a single place to look for books, coupled with overnight delivery of material to requestors. With a simple Web-based request, books will arrive at a user's home library within two days or less. Full service to all colleges and universities will be phased in during in 2006.
- **South Carolina Memory** is an evolving statewide digital library program which emphasizes expanded access to cultural and historical resources for researchers, students at all levels and citizens through collaboration and digitization.

About PASCAL

In 2001, South Carolina academic libraries formed PASCAL to address information-access challenges facing virtually all of South Carolina's public and independent institutions of higher education. Today, PASCAL is a consortium of nearly 60 public and private academic libraries dedicated to improving information resources, access and services at each member institution's library. An important dimension of PASCAL's program is its cooperation with state government agencies. The South Carolina Commission on Higher Education, South Carolina State Library, 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 and Universities (SCICU), which promotes the cause of independent higher education in South Carolina. Additional information on PASCAL may be found at www.pascalsc.org.

In December 2005, PASCAL selected a vendor to create the catalog for the PASCAL Delivers virtual library collection. PASCAL selected Innovative Interfaces' INN-Reach system to provide a circulation-based universal borrowing to all users. The INN-Reach purchase was coordinated with the acquisition of Innovative's local library system, Millennium, by eight institutions representing 16 PASCAL member libraries.

CIO's role in support of the partnership involves hosting and networking support of the INN-Reach universal borrowing system as well as the local systems for The Citadel, College of Charleston, South Carolina State University, Francis Marion University, Florence-Darlington Technical College and Aiken Technical College. The University of South Carolina and Clemson University each supports their own library system. All of the local systems went live in August, in time for the start of the 2005-06 academic year.

The INN-Reach system will be largely in place by the start of the fall semester of 2006-07. Innovative will begin loading libraries' catalogs into the system in March, starting with Clemson. Winthrop University, Coastal Carolina University, Trident Technical College and Midlands Technical College played an important role in testing and profiling the new system.

The cooperative efforts among the state's academic libraries have resulted in an extremely successful partnership with very tangible results.

Today, South Carolina's 210,000 students and faculty can use a large and increasing store of knowledge in core academic subjects, health sciences and business. The Collegiate DISCUS program of the academic virtual library provides a treasure trove of research materials, including millions of articles in over 16,000 electronic full-text periodicals. Most of these periodicals are core academic research journals. PASCAL Delivers will unlock access to millions of scholarly books for all students and faculty members in the state, usually within 24 hours, regardless of the size or location of their technical college, four year college, university or medical school.

For the past two fiscal years, the legislature has provided \$2 million/year funding for this "statewide electronic library" for higher education in the S.C. Commission on Higher Education budget. The resulting vast expansion of resources is extremely cost-effective. "We bring in at least \$8 of value for every dollar we spend on electronic resources through Collegiate DISCUS," notes Rick Moul, who coordinates the Virtual Library's programs. "For example, our first two major license agreements for electronic journals and research material will cost \$3.8 million over five years, but would cost South Carolina institutions \$30.8 million if licensed individually." Similarly, by making it easier and cheaper to borrow materials, the statewide catalog and delivery system will generate a 3-fold increase in use at a fraction of current transaction costs. "We're providing research materials well beyond the financial reach of our individual academic libraries," observes Moul.

In addition to state funds, the Academic Virtual Library is supported through member library dues, and has been awarded several small federal grants for digitization through the State Library. In the past year PASCAL has doubled its receipts from member library dues so that they account for 7.5% of the total operating budget. However, state funds provide the key to sustainability. They are primarily used for database and electronic journal licensing fees, and

ongoing costs such as delivery, hardware and software maintenance. "These are recurring annual expenses on which libraries have come to rely heavily," says Cynthia Davies, Director of Library Sciences at Piedmont Technical College. Establishing ongoing funding for the Virtual Academic Library is important in order to continue to meet the crucial challenge of providing the resources necessary to level the education and economic playing field in the global information economy for South Carolina's 210,000 college and university students. Moul observes that much of the research material licensed using state funds would otherwise be unavailable to many of our students. "Mostly what we're doing with Collegiate DISCUS is expanding access to new research tools, but when one of our libraries does encounter a direct savings, it means they're able to fill another hole on their own." Frequently, that involves a cooperative venture. PASCAL also works to expand library purchasing power through "Buyers' Club" deals that reduce costs, further leveraging spending by licensing in bulk.

For additional information, contact Rick Moul, PASCAL Executive Director, Thomas Cooper Library, University of South Carolina, via telephone 803-777-1327 or email rmoul@gwm.sc.edu.

The CIO is pleased to support PASCAL in their contributions to the enhancement of educational opportunities for the citizens of South Carolina.