

## NEWS

### For Immediate Release

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## PASCAL makes Twelve Thousand E Journals Available to SC College and University Students & Faculty

In December, PASCAL signed an annual license for a collection of 12 databases that extends access to over 12,000 full text titles in core academic disciplines, health sciences, and business. The database license agreement, signed with EBSCO, a worldwide leader in providing information access and management solutions, extends access to core research materials to all levels of higher education in the state. There are two corner-stone databases in the package: *Academic Search Premier*, one of the world's most valuable and most abundant collections of active full-text peer-reviewed journals; and *Business Source Premier*, the definitive scholarly business database. Between them, the databases provide in depth full text resources in many academic and business disciplines. Previously, only four institutions in the state were able to make both of these tremendous resources available to their users. The EBSCO package also includes major nursing and allied health sciences (*CINAHL*), and language and literature (*MLA International Bibliography*) databases.

"This EBSCO package is an excellent start, but it is only the beginning for us," says Joe Boykin, chair of PASCAL's board of directors and dean of libraries at Clemson University. The consortium anticipates making additional license agreements in the spring and in subsequent fiscal years, assuming that the project is funded at the same level. These agreements promise equally stunning results. Conrad Festa, executive director of the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education, observed that "One of the things we learned through the committee of commissioners and university presidents, chaired by Jim Konduros, that prepared the proposal for the General Assembly, was that over time, these programs can multiply the purchasing power of their funds to an astonishing degree."

The consortium was able to multiply its buying power by five times over the prices quoted to individual libraries, "avoiding" an expenditure of over \$2 million! This represents money saved over what would have been spent had each individual institution acquired these resources independently. "The cumulative power of this "cost avoidance" is phenomenal," noted Rick Moul, PASCAL's executive director. "Over ten years, a similar academic consortium in Virginia has recorded approximately \$125 million in cost avoidance! With a sustained program, we could achieve similar results for South Carolina." An additional benefit of the program is the fact that cash-strapped PASCAL libraries will be able to use their own funds currently spent on small subsets of the EBSCO package, to acquire other vital resources.

"The opportunities are definitely out there, says Moul. "We just needed the resources to go after them. With the state funds, we're extending the DISCUS model to increasingly specialized academic resources." DISCUS is

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the South Carolina State Library's highly successful program for making electronic resources available to all K-12, public libraries and academic libraries in South Carolina. To this base, PASCAL is adding electronic resources that directly address scholarly information needs. PASCAL cooperates closely with DISCUS in order to coordinate the selection of resources and share program management responsibilities. Jim Johnson, the director of the State Library, says, "the State Library is committed to doing all it can to ensure that state dollars are expended in a manner that ensures the widest accessibility at the most economical cost."

Moul noted that PASCAL was able to use the DISCUS relationship to extend licensing of three health and education databases in the EBSCO package to all South Carolina citizens "We will be aggressive in looking for synergies that support our interlocking goals as we jointly develop our programs," he says. PASCAL's programs will include the State Library, thus making member resources available to South Carolina government employees.

### **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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