



# Alabama Virtual Library

**December 1, 1999**





# What is the Alabama Virtual Library?

- **A collection of scholarly, essential, electronic information resources**
- **Accessed through the Internet**
  - school libraries and classrooms
  - public libraries
  - colleges and universities
  - remote authentication





# Goals of the AVL

- **Equity**
  - every student, teacher and citizen will have online access to current core of information
- **Economy**
  - statewide licenses offer significant savings
- **Excellence**
  - appropriate, accurate/reliable, scholarly, up-to-date information





# AVL Partners

- **Alabama Commission on Higher Education**
- **Alabama Department of Post-Secondary Education**
- **Alabama Public Library Service**
- **Alabama State Department of Education**
- **Alabama Supercomputer Authority**





# How is it funded?

- **\$3,000,000** appropriated by the **Alabama Legislature** for **FY 2000**
- **APLS** serves as the **fiscal agent** for the **AVL**
- **Funds**
  - Special Education Trust Fund
  - Budget signed by the Governor in June
  - Funding began on October 1, 1999
  - First databases were available in August





# How was it created?

- **Years of work**
  - AETC provided the venue
  - Coalition of state agencies and associations
  - 1998 “seed money” to develop the project
- **Grassroots effort**
  - post cards
  - video tape
- **Legislative advocates**





# How is the AVL governed?

- **Under the legal authority of APLS**
- **“Council” appointed by agency heads**
  - 3 members from each agency
- **Bylaws**
- **Committees**





# How is the money used?

- **License databases**
  - online encyclopedias
  - almanacs
  - indexes
  - full text of online books and magazines
- **Training**
- **Set up and maintain hardware and software**
- **NO FUNDS FOR STAFF!!**







**Where is the AVL?**

**<http://www.avl.lib.al.us>**

***Alabama Supercomputer  
Authority***





# How do I use the AVL?

- **Go to the web site**
- **Log on**
  - Passwords through December
- **Explore**
  - Each database is unique; try them all
- **Attend training**
  - Train the Trainer sessions have been underway since September





# What does this mean for our schools?

- **AVL will provide teachers and students with accurate, up-to-date information**
- **AVL makes information available at the desktop**
- **AVL allows teachers in the poorest and most rural schools to have access to the same information as everyone else**





# School library example (1998 survey)

- **average number of print magazine subscriptions per school is 11**
  - 2000+ magazines now available through AVL
- **average age of science books in school libraries in Alabama is 19 years**
  - AVL resources are current
- **73% of school libraries have access**
  - “dial up” access must not be the standard
  - goal is 100% high speed, LAN connectivity





# What does this mean for school libraries?

- **The role of the school media specialist is critical to the success of AVL**
- **AVL contains only *reference* resources**
- **AVL resources allow for the use of library enhancement funds to develop the school collection for use by all**





# How can I learn more about the AVL?

- **Log onto the Alabama Supercomputer Authority's web site:**

**<http://list.virtual.lib.al.us/cgi-bin/majordomo>**

- **Join the AVL discussion list**





# AVL Databases





# How are the databases selected?

- **Emphasis on support for education**
- **Applies to a broad base of AVL users**
- **Reliable, quality database information**
- **Content represents a good value**
- **Pre-existing user base**







# What databases have been selected?

- **EBSCOHost**
- **Electric Library**
- **SIRS Knowledge Source**
- **OCLC FirstSearch**
- **Grolier Online**
- **Bell+Howell ProQuest**
- **Encyclopedia Britannica**





# EBSCOHost *includes*

- **Academic Search Elite**
  - support the core curriculum, degree requirements, and elective classes
  - provides journal coverage for most academic areas of study
  - features full text for over 1230 journals with many dating back to 1990





- **Business Source Elite**
  - compiles the research and perspectives from leading business thinkers
  - rich collection of popular business magazines, scholarly journals, and trade publications
  - full text for over 925 journals





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- **Health Source Plus**

- authoritative source for information on health-related questions
- topics covered include medical sciences, psychology, food sciences and nutrition, childcare, sports medicine, health care law and general health
- over 255 full text journals





- **ERIC**

- citation and abstract information from over 750 educational journals
- full text ERIC Digest records

- **Searchasaurus**

- Especially for younger kids





- **Professional Development Collection**
  - Professional education resources on everything from children's health and development to cutting-edge theory and practice
  - searchable full text for over 240 journals





- **Newspaper Source**

- delivers more than half a million articles to the desktop
- full text of *The Christian Science Monitor*
- abstracts and indexing of the *NY Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, and *USA Today*
- abstracts from *NY Times Magazine* and *NY Times Book Review*







- **Vocational Search**

- offers industry-specific information from trade-related journals, reviews and newspapers
- designed for vocational and technical curriculums
- full text articles, reports, and special issues from 150 industry and trade journals





# **ELECTRIC LIBRARY**

- **Designed for the novice user, but powerful enough for an experienced researcher**
- **Variety of resources including newspaper, TV & radio transcripts, maps & other images**
- **Allows for the retrieval of age appropriate resources**





# Knowledge Source

- **SIRS Discoverer**
  - interactive reference tool for young readers
  - each article is assigned a reading level category
- **SIRS Researcher**
  - general research information on social, scientific, health, history, business, and political issues





# Knowledge Source

- **SIRS Renaissance**
  - current perspectives on the arts and humanities
- **Government Reporter**
  - wide range of information published by and about the federal government, i.e. Supreme Court decisions, directories, information on Congress, etc





# OCLC FIRSTSEARCH

- **OCLC WorldCat**
  - 37,000,000 bibliographic records
  - 370 languages
- **OCLC Union List of Periodicals**
  - 7 million library specific holdings
  - 750,000 periodicals in WorldCat
- **Other OCLC databases**





**grolier online**

Know -- --

- **Grolier MultiMedia Encyclopedia**
  - Grades 5 and up (middle school)
- **New Book of Knowledge**
  - Grades 3 and up (elementary school)
- **Encyclopedia Americana**
  - Grades 7 and up (high school and junior college)





- **Research Abstracts II**
- **PrQuest Gold**
  - high school
- **JuniorQuest**
  - middle school
- **KidsQuest**
  - elementary





- **Full text of most authoritative encyclopedia**
- **Other EB services**
- **Free vs. Fee Britannica service**







# What's next for the AVL?

- **Additional databases**
- **Access to government and other free information**
- **Recurring appropriation to maintain AVL**
- **Training and use are critical**
- **Thank the legislature!**



