



# Alabama Virtual Library

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Alabama Public Library  
Service



# What is the Alabama Virtual Library ?

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



# What is the Vision of the AVL?

- ◆ Alabama educators and librarians share a vision of each library serving as a gateway to the total library resources of Alabama as well as to a rich array of electronic information.
- ◆ These resources will be available to Alabamians, regardless of location or time through traditional and non-traditional means.



# What are the goals of the AVL?

## ◆ Equity

every citizen, student, and teacher will have online access to current core of information

## ◆ Economy

state-wide licenses achieve significant savings

## ◆ Excellence

users will have appropriate, accurate/reliable, scholarly, up-to-date information



# Who are 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 is 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 available in August, 1999.



# How was the AVL created?

- ◆ Coalition of State agencies and associations
  - 1998 “seed money” to develop the project
- ◆ Grassroots effort
  - posters
  - postcards
  - video tape
- ◆ Legislative advocates



# How is the AVL governed?

- ◆ Under the legal authority of APLS
- ◆ AVL Council - 15 members
  - advises APLS
  - 3 members from each agency appointed by agency head
  - Bylaws
  - Committees





# How is the money being used?

- ◆ License information content on-line
  - encyclopedias
  - almanacs
  - indexes
  - full text of journal and magazine articles
- ◆ Training
- ◆ Infrastructure - hardware and software
- ◆ Technical support - help desk



Where is the AVL ?

At a library near you !

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

**Alabama Supercomputer Authority**

# How do I use the AVL?

- ◆ Go to the web site [www.avl.lib.al.us](http://www.avl.lib.al.us)
- ◆ Log onto the database
  - Temporary passwords
  - IP addresses
  - Remote authentication
- ◆ Explore
  - Each database is unique - try them all
- ◆ Attend training
  - Train the Trainer sessions have been underway since September






# How can I stay informed about AVL developments?

- ◆ Log onto the Supercomputer's web site :

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

- ◆ Join the AVL discussion list



# What does this mean for Alabamians?

- ◆ AVL provides teachers, students and other learners with accurate, up-to-date information regardless of location.
- ◆ AVL makes information available at the desktop.
- ◆ AVL allows teachers and libraries in even the poorest and most rural to have access to the same information as others elsewhere in the state.

# Why is the AVL so important?

## School library example (1998 SDE 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% LAN connectivity*





# AVL Databases



# How are the databases selected?

- ◆ Emphasis on support for Education
- ◆ Applies to a broad spectrum of AVL users
- ◆ Reliable, quality database information
- ◆ Content represents a good value for the \$\$\$
- ◆ 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
- ◆ Business Source Elite
- ◆ Health Source Plus
- ◆ ERIC
- ◆ Searchasaurus
- ◆ Professional Development Collection
- ◆ Newspaper Source
- ◆ Vocational Search



# ELECTRIC LIBRARY

- ◆ Designed for the novice user, but powerful enough for an experienced researcher
- ◆ Variety of resources including newspapers, 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



## ◆ 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**
- ◆ **ProQuest Gold – high school**
- ◆ **JuniorQuest – middle school**
- ◆ **KidQuest – elementary school**
- ◆ **Career and Technical Collection**





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 info.
- Recurring appropriation to maintain AVL
  - Alabama Public Library Service budget
- ◆ Training and use are critical
- ◆ Ongoing evaluation of database usage
- ◆ **Thank the Legislature !!!**



# Alabama Virtual Library

brought to you by  
Governor Don Siegelman  
&  
The Alabama State Legislature

