

**FoKAL: The Federation of
Kentucky Academic Libraries**

Comprising the libraries of the
following institutions:

Alice Lloyd College
Asbury College
Asbury Theological Seminary
Ashland CTC
Bellarmine University
Berea College
Big Sandy CTC
Bluegrass CTC
Bowling Green Technical College
Brescia University
Campbellsville University
Centre College
Clear Creek Baptist Bible College
Eastern Kentucky University
Elizabethtown CTC
Frontier School of Midwifery and
Family Nursing
Gateway CTC
Georgetown College
Hazard CTC
Henderson Community College
Hopkinsville Community College
Jefferson CTC
Kentucky Christian University
Kentucky State University
Kentucky Wesleyan College
Lexington Theological Seminary
Lindsey Wilson College
Louisville Presbyterian Theological
Seminary
Madisonville Community College
Maysville CTC
Mid-Continent University
Midway College
Morehead State University
Murray State University
Northern Kentucky University
Owensboro CTC
Pikeville College
St. Catharine College
Somerset Community College
Southeast Kentucky CTC
Southern Baptist Theological
Seminary
Spalding University
Thomas More College
Transylvania University
Union College
University of Kentucky
University of Louisville
University of the Cumberlands
West Kentucky CTC
Western Kentucky University

June 3, 2009

Mr. Robert King
1024 Capitol Center Dr., Suite 320
Frankfort, KY 40601

Dear Mr. King,

During this difficult fiscal time for the Commonwealth of Kentucky, the Council on Postsecondary Education is facing many competing demands for support. Kentucky's academic libraries believe the Kentucky Virtual Library (KYVL) is one of the best investments the CPE can make in providing a quality educational experience for our students and we strongly urge you to fully fund the KYVL program.

KYVL is an important and cost effective resource that is a key piece of the state's information infrastructure. Through its bargaining power, KYVL is able to provide access to online resources that the state's institutions could not provide by themselves. It saves Kentucky money by providing basic resources, including access to over 30 databases containing 10,000+ electronic periodicals, and allows individual member libraries to concentrate on meeting the advanced needs of their local institutions. Its support for the Integrated Library System (Ex Libris) helps control costs for public and independent, rural and urban, community college and research institutions. KYVL's Interlibrary Loan delivery service complements the ILS, providing efficient access to the library collections of many of the state's libraries. The ability to quickly deliver materials to users across the state makes use of resources already owned by the state and furthers academic achievement and research excellence.

KYVL is unique among our region's library consortia in that it brings together not just academic libraries but also public, school and special libraries, including businesses. It provides equitable access for all of Kentucky's students and, by introducing them to concepts such as information literacy and quality information resources, prepares them for success in higher education and careers in various vocational and technical fields. Its support of government agencies and special libraries helps establish an effective information infrastructure that provides needed information for our schools, governments and economy.

As an example of the benefit these databases represent, consider the recent controversy that erupted over the obituary of French composer, Maurice Jarre. Several newspapers published erroneous information in their obituaries of him after picking up fictitious quotes placed in Wikipedia. Students today have a critical need for information literacy skills so they can evaluate and select quality resources. Without access to databases such as Biography Reference Bank (lost last year due to budget cuts at KYVL) our students and citizens will lack quality alternatives to the Internet's "free" information.

We urge you to fully fund the KYVL program in the coming year and support efforts to provide stimulus funds to KYVL's ongoing efforts to create and maintain a cost effective information infrastructure for Kentucky. Through its support for the CPE's key indicators KYVL promotes the educational goals of the CPE and life-long learning for all members of the Commonwealth.

Sincerely,

John K. Stemmer, Ph.D.
Chair, FoKAL Executive Committee

Bellarmine University Library
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