

**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

November 24, 2009

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

Dear Mr. King,

As the Commonwealth continues to address this year's budget shortfall I understand most state agencies were told to plan an additional 6% budget cut. As you consider your response, please remember that 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. 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. Reductions in these basic resources by KYVL will only push academic libraries into more expensive arrangements to provide them. We strongly urge you to avoid additional cuts in the KYVL program.

Last year KYVL sustained half a million dollars in cuts which resulted in lost access to 17 databases. With just the remaining databases, KYVL still provided almost 23.5 million searches for Kentucky residents; database usage has increased consistently every year. The economic downturn has significantly increased library use in both the academic and public sectors. I have no doubt that with the current economy database usage will be up significantly this year as residents are busy trying to find or create jobs and cost savings for themselves in addition to the ongoing educational efforts they support. Now is not the time to cut back on these resources. Now is when our citizens most need them.

In addition, KYVL provides or supports a variety of library resources and services to the Commonwealth. 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 and furthers academic achievement and research excellence. The number of items delivered last year increased by 6% to over 206,000 items; it has almost tripled since FY 2000-01. This service provides efficient and cost effective access to the library collections of many of the state's libraries, using the postal service's special library rate would result in longer delivery times and double the cost.

KYVL is an important and cost effective resource that is a key piece of the state's information infrastructure. Its resources and services provide equitable access for all of Kentucky's students and, by introducing them to concepts such as information literacy and quality information resources, prepare them for success in higher education and careers in 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. Through its support for the CPE's key indicators, KYVL advances the educational goals of the CPE, supports economic development in the state and promotes life-long learning for all members of the Commonwealth. We urge you to fully fund the KYVL program and avoid additional cuts to its resources and services.

Sincerely,

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

Bellarmine University Library  
2001 Newburg Road  
Louisville, KY 40205

