

November 24, 2009

President Robert King  
Council on Post Secondary Education  
1024 Capital Center Drive  
Frankfort, KY 40601

Dear President King:

I am writing this letter on behalf of Kentucky Library Association about the projected budget cuts for the Kentucky Virtual Library (KYVL). Reducing the access to KYVL databases will directly impact the educational institutions and special libraries throughout the state. These databases are used and depended upon by all library users.

In the Fiscal Year 2008-09, KYVL was used by Kentuckians and their children at libraries in universities, colleges, K-12 schools, public libraries, and other remote sites resulting in over 2 million searches. KYVL databases cover a variety of topics. Some databases are aggregate databases that gather a wealth of scholarly publications such as *Academic Search Premier*, others are specialized medical and career databases, and some are encyclopedia and reference databases. Over 3 million of those searches were at the K-12 education level. Special libraries, made up of members from hospitals and other special institutions that rely on current, reliable and high-quality information, conducted nearly 20,094,690 searches.

In 2008-2009:

- KCTCS conducted 1,967,382 searches
- Special Libraries conducted 222,984 searches
- K-12 users conducted 3,153,831 searches
- K-12 Private Libraries conducted 118,003 searches
- Public Universities conducted 8,892,050 searches
- AIKCU - private academic College users conducted 3,140,926 searches
- Special Academic conducted 1,885,657 searches
- Public Libraries users conducted 686,471 searches.
- Government Agencies (KDLA and other state agencies) conducted 27,386 searches

The assumption that all information is free, available and usable through the Internet is a misinformed notion. The KYVL databases used to conduct informational searches contain high quality medical, career, business and news data that ensures the correct and reliable information

makes it to business decision levels within a variety of organizations and contributes to our education and economic growth.

KYVL's purchasing power makes available 265 million records within 21,559 unique titles to libraries and information users throughout the state. This information is used to fuel business decisions and economic progress, educational development and high-impact research.

The value that KYVL brings through their database collection is great compared to the per use cost (2008-09) ranging from \$0.19 to \$42.87 (some which are very specialized databases of psychological and medical content).

Database costs per Full-text document:

- 18 of the databases cost \$0.19
- 1 of the databases cost \$3.27
- 1 of the databases cost \$2.85
- 1 of the databases cost \$0.47
- 1 of the databases cost \$0.50

KYVL has already received a 4% budget cut this year resulting in nearly a \$150,000 deficit. This deficit necessity is an increase in Member fees, of which those Members are also having their own budgets reduced. KYVL would be hard pressed to sustain another budget cut without having to reduce services, whether that is in the form of the Courier service, the integrated library system Voyager, or the loss of access to very important and needed databases for Kentuckians.

KYVL's mission is:

*All Kentuckians will have equitable access to quality library and information resources and qualified, well-trained staff to support the Kentucky Virtual University as well as meet broader needs for learning, working and living. ([http://apps.cpe.ky.gov/temp\\_docs/kyvl/mission.htm](http://apps.cpe.ky.gov/temp_docs/kyvl/mission.htm))*

An additional budget cut would most likely lead to a reduction or non-existence services for Kentuckians. KYVL is vital to our educational and economic growth. I respectfully ask that you exempt KYVL from the proposed 6% cut as reported in the *Courier-Journal* article, "Beshear asks some agencies to plan for 6 percent cuts" (November 13, 2009).

Thank you for your consideration in this matter,

Emmalee Hoover  
President  
Kentucky Library Association