



November 24, 2009

Dr. Robert L. King, President
Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education
1024 Capital Center Drive - Suite 320
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601

Dear Dr. King:

As Director of Library Services for one of KCTCS's 16 colleges (Ashland), I know that our students and faculty depend heavily on the services provided them through institutional membership in the Kentucky Virtual Library. I and my fellow library directors are concerned with the potential impact of yet another state budget cut on CPE and virtual library resources and services.

KCTCS students, whether working towards a technical/occupational or associate/transfer degree, make heavy use of the KYVL database resources, particularly in the conduct of research and completion of assignments that are required in many of their general education courses. By providing our colleges with a venerable core of online reference sources, the virtual library enables its member institutions to purchase, to limited degree, additional complementary, curriculum-based online library resources. Furthermore, KYVL facilitates interlibrary loan services through its provision of contracted courier service throughout the Kentucky library community, thereby further benefiting the 2-year college student.

KYVL-provided technology infrastructure, such as Voyager online public access catalog (OPAC), integrated library system (ILS), and federated search service (Meta-Lib) servers, ensure continuous, efficient delivery of online connectivity to our library users and enable our students to receive a fully supported, 2-year college education that is on a par with other Kentucky public, 4-year institutions of higher education.

Whereas last year, KCTCS and other participating Kentucky academic libraries pulled together to absorb the budget cuts --- in some instances with colleges pledging funds and even individual librarians making personal contributions towards retaining key database resources in the KYVL suite --- it is unlikely that KCTCS libraries can absorb another cut to the virtual library. Concomitantly, another loss of valuable online resources only places KYVL one step closer to total dismantlement. Kentucky postsecondary education stands to lose a gem in its crown of success. Therefore, and on behalf of KCTCS libraries, I urge the Council to exempt the Kentucky Virtual Library from further cuts to its budget.

Sincerely,

Matthew W. Onion

ACTC Director of Library Services
KCTCS Representative to Virtual Library Advisory Committee

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