

***The State-Assisted Academic Library Council of Kentucky  
1748 Greatwood Drive  
Florence, KY 41042***

*Eastern Kentucky University  
Morehead State University  
University of Kentucky*

*Kentucky Community & Technical College System  
Murray State University  
University of Louisville*

*Kentucky State University  
Northern Kentucky University  
Western Kentucky University*

May 9, 2009

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

Dear Mr. King,

It was a pleasure meeting you during your visit to Eastern Kentucky University. I especially enjoyed hearing your comments after lunch; it's wonderful to meet someone passionate about higher education and excited to be in Kentucky. When I explained during our brief encounter that I chaired the State Assisted Academic Library Council of Kentucky (SAALCK), you inquired about the Kentucky Virtual Library (KYVL). As requested, I've tried to quantify the value of this tremendous resource and the impact it has on the people across our state.

While not everyone in the Commonwealth has access to a large University Library, all citizens have access to KYVL. The Virtual Library was built on the principle that small rural communities with poorly funded libraries would be provided with resources equal to those in the larger cities in our state. Eastern Kentucky University contributes \$18,000 annually towards this impressive statewide resource that would cost much more if we sought out individual database and journal subscriptions. For example, *Higher Education Research & Development*, and *Science and Public Policy* are two journals bundled in the Academic Search Premier Database that would individually cost \$901 and \$578 annually. KYVL provides access to both of these titles and 7000 more, which averages \$2.50 per journal-- a much more affordable price in the KYVL bundle. I can assure you that most libraries in our state, and the majority of citizens in our communities, would lack high quality information without the Kentucky Virtual Library. Contrary to what some think, quality information is not free and available to everyone on the Internet. KYVL was initiated by the academic library community, but its impact has been broad touching every school, public library and home computer.

The Virtual Library "plan of action" drafted in 2000 has not been fully realized. The goal of universal borrowing and document delivery has not been accomplished, which is why the library directors at Kentucky's postsecondary institutions place the highest priority on replacing our integrated library system and improving the document delivery infrastructure. This additional service would allow a student at Somerset Community College to find a book at my library and request

home delivery. Materials would be passed back and forth across the state which would allow for less duplication and allow the libraries to purchase more unique materials. Replacing our integrated library system and improving the delivery of materials are described in a request for economic stimulus funds through the Technology and Networking committee at CPE, Innovative Applications for Library Access. Please read the proposal and consider the impact.

Let librarians and libraries continue to be a model of the power of working together. As it stands, KVYL represents an ideal of P-16 and community collaboration. We passionately believe that providing access to knowledge and information is the key to changing lives in Kentucky.

Sincerely,



Carrie L. Cooper, Chair of SAALCK, Eastern Kentucky University

Arne Almquist, Northern Kentucky University  
Mike Binder, Western Kentucky University  
Carol Pitts Diedrichs, University of Kentucky  
Adam Murray, Murray State University

Elsie Pritchard, Morehead State University  
Hannelore Radar, University of Louisville  
Shelia Stuckey, Kentucky State University  
Sheree Huber Williams, KCTCS

cc: Dr. Doug Whitlock, President; Eastern Kentucky University  
Mr. Allen Lind, Vice President of Information and Technology; CPE