



Alabama Virtual Library 2018 Talking Points

www.avl.lib.al.us

What is the AVL?

The Alabama Virtual Library is the State of Alabama digital library. AVL is a legislated entity governed by a board of representatives from Higher Education, Community College System, K12, Public Libraries and the Alabama Supercomputer Authority. Members are appointed by their agency directors and work together to build a digital library of academic and general interest publications that benefit students from all four governing agencies, teachers, and the public. Funding is appropriated from the Education Trust Fund, and **94%** of funds are spent on resources. The remaining 6% covers administrative costs. Resources are carefully selected and vetted to ensure the needs of Alabama citizens are met.

Funding Request FY18: **\$2,966,275** (5% increase from FY17 budget - \$2,822,167)

- Most vendors have maintained level funding for 5 budget years.
- Increases in database costs will be inevitable in the FY18 budget year.
- An increase of 5% will only cover price increases to preserve current AVL resources. This does not allow for any needed new resources to meet the requests of governing agencies.
- The Alabama Virtual Library provides the only current resources available for many public, college and school libraries.
- AVL provides ad free, safe, and reliable information from databases not internet sources for students.
- Since the inception of the ACCESS Virtual Learning Program, no additional funds have been budgeted for AVL resources.

AVL Supports State-Wide Initiatives.

- AVL is Alabama's only statewide digital library that is available to ALL citizens 24/7.
- AVL provides online resources for
 - ACCESS Virtual Learning program
 - Alabama Learning Exchange (ALEX)
 - Career Tech students for enhancing job skills
 - Workforce Development initiatives
- AVL provides reliable academic resources for students K-20.
- AVL provides online general interest resources for all citizens.

Who Benefits?

- ALL K12 Students
- ALL Community College Students
- ALL University Students
- ALL Teachers and Librarians
- ALL Citizens

Over 100,000 publications (journals, newspapers, magazines, reference resources, and books) are available to all citizens and students of Alabama.

How Can You Help? Contact your Alabama legislator and ask them to support funding of the AVL.

[Find Your Legislator](#)