

## **Alabama Virtual Library**

**December 1, 1999** 





- A collection of scholarly, essential, electronic information resources
- Accessed through the Internet
  - school libraries and classrooms
  - public libraries
  - colleges and universities
  - remote authentication





### Goals of the AVL

 every student, teacher and citizen will have online access to current core of information

### Economy

statewide licenses offer significant savings

### Excellence

 appropriate, accurate/reliable, scholarly, up-to-date information



- Alabama Commission on Higher Education
- Alabama Department of Post-Secondary Education
- Alabama Public Library Service
- Alabama State Department of Education
- Alabama Supercomputer Authorit



- \$3,000,000 appropriated by the Alabama Legislature for FY 2000
- APLS serves as the fiscal agent for the AVL
- Funds
  - Special Education Trust Fund
  - Budget signed by the Governor in June
  - Funding began on October 1, 1999
  - First databases were available in August





### How was it created?

Years of work

- AETC provided the venue
- Coalition of state agencies and associations
- 1998 "seed money" to develop the project
- Grassroots effort
  - post cards
  - video tape
- Legislative advocates





# How is the AVL governed?

- Under the legal authority of APLS
- "Council" appointed by agency heads
  - 3 members from each agency
- Bylaws
- Committees





- online encyclopedias
- almanacs
- indexes
- full text of online books and magazines
- Training
- Set up and maintain hardware and software
- NO FUNDS FOR STAFF!!





### Where is the AVL?

## http://www.avl.lib.al.us

Alabama Supercomputer Authority





- Log on
  - Passwords through December
- Explore
  - Each database is unique; try them all
- Attend training
  - Train the Trainer sessions have been underway since September

## What does this mean for our schools?

- AVL will provide teachers and students with accurate, up-to-date information
- AVL makes information available at the desktop
- AVL allows teachers in the poorest and most rural schools to have access to the same information as everyone else

# School library example (1998 survey)

- average number of print magazine subscriptions per school is 11
  - 2000+ magazines now available through AVL
- average age of science books in school libraries in Alabama is 19 years
  - AVL resources are current
- 73% of school libraries have access
  - "dial up" access must not be the standard
  - goal is 100% high speed, LAN connectivity



# What does this mean for school libraries?

- The role of the school media specialist is critical to the success of AVL
- AVL contains only reference resources
- AVL resources allow for the use of library enhancement funds to develop the school collection for use by all



## How can I learn more about the AVL?

Log onto the Alabama Supercomputer Authority's web site:

http://list.virtual.lib.al.us/cgibin/majordomo

Join the AVL discussion list





## **AVL Databases**





- Emphasis on support for education
- Applies to a broad base of AVL users
- Reliable, quality database information
- Content represents a good value
- Pre-existing user base





## What databases have been selected?

- EBSCOHost
- Electric Library
- SIRS Knowledge Source
- OCLC FirstSearch
- Grolier Online
- Bell+Howell ProQuest
- Encyclopedia Britannica



# EBSCOHost includes

- **Academic Search Elite** 
  - support the core curriculum, degree requirements, and elective classes
  - provides journal coverage for most academic areas of study
  - features full text for over 1230 journals with many dating back to 1990





### Business Source Elite

- compiles the research and perspectives from leading business thinkers
- rich collection of popular business magazines, scholarly journals, and trade publications
- full text for over 925 journals





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### Health Source Plus

- authoritative source for information on health-related questions
- topics covered include medical sciences,
  psychology, food sciences and nutrition,
  childcare, sports medicine, health care law
  and general health
- over 255 full text journals







- **ERIC** 
  - citation and abstract information from over 750 educational journals
  - full text ERIC Digest records
- Searchasaurus
  - Especially for younger kids





### Professional Development Collection

- Professional education resources on everything from children's health and development to cutting-edge theory and practice
- searchable full text for over 240 journals







### Newspaper Source

- delivers more than half a million articles to the desktop
- full text of The Christian Science Monitor
- abstracts and indexing of the NY Times,
  The Wall Street Journal, and USA Today
- abstracts from NY Times Magazine and
  NY Times Book Review



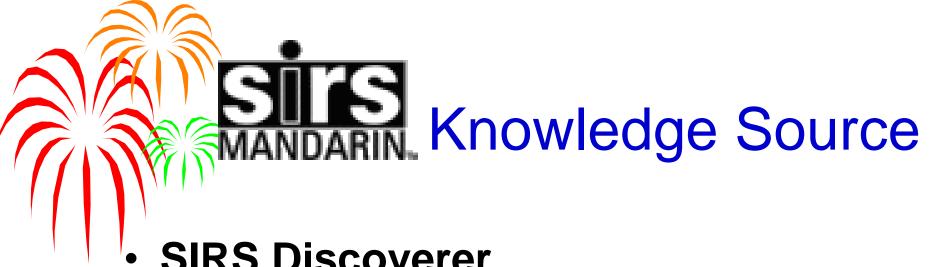
### Vocational Search

- offers industry-specific information from trade-related journals, reviews and newspapers
- designed for vocational and technical curriculums
- full text articles, reports, and special issues
  from 150 industry and trade journals



- Designed for the novice user, but powerful enough for an experienced researcher
- Variety of resources including newspaper, TV & radio transcripts, maps & other images
- Allows for the retrieval of age appropriate resources





### **SIRS** Discoverer

- interactive reference tool for young readers
- each article is assigned a reading level category

### SIRS Researcher

 general research information on social, scientific, health, history, business, and political issues





### **SIRS** Renaissance

 current perspectives on the arts and humanities

### Government Reporter

 wide range of information published by and about the federal government, i.e. Supreme Court decisions, directories, information on Congress, etc



## FIRSTSEARCH

- OCLC WorldCat
  - 37,000,000 bibliographic records
  - 370 languages
- OCLC Union List of Periodicals
  - 7 million library specific holdings
  - 750,000 periodicals in WorldCat
- Other OCLC databases





- Grolier MultiMedia Encyclopedia
  - Grades 5 and up (middle school)
- New Book of Knowledge
  - Grades 3 and up (elementary school)
- Encyclopedia Americana
  - Grades 7 and up (high school and junior college)





- Research Abstracts II
- PrQuest Gold
  - high school
- JuniorQuest
  - middle school
- KidsQuest
  - elementary





- Full text of most authroitatie encyclopedia
- Other EB services
- Free vs. Fee Britannica service





## What's next for the AVL?

- Additional databases
- Access to government and other free information
- Recurring appropriation to maintain AVL
- Training and use are critical
- Thank the legislature!







