



## What is the AVL?

The AVL ([www.avl.lib.al.us](http://www.avl.lib.al.us)) is Alabama's statewide digital library. The Alabama Legislature first funded AVL in 1999, with the goals of:

- **Equity:** every student, teacher, and citizen will have access to core information needed for instruction, research, and lifelong learning
- **Excellence:** information will be accurate, scholarly, and current
- **Economy:** Alabama will realize significant savings by providing information on a statewide basis

Since that time, AVL has provided Alabama citizens with 24/7 access to a wealth of information, including authoritative, high quality magazine, journal, and encyclopedia articles and e-books.

## AVL governance

The AVL Council is composed of representatives appointed by the Alabama State Department of Education, the Alabama Public Library Service, the Alabama Community College System, the Alabama Commission on Higher Education, and the Alabama Supercomputer Authority. The APLS is the fiscal agent for AVL. Funding is appropriated from the Education Trust Fund, and approximately 94% of funds are spent on resources. The remaining 6% covers administrative costs.

## Who benefits from AVL?

- **ALL** K-12 students
- **ALL** community college students
- **ALL** university students
- **ALL** teachers and librarians
- **ALL** citizens of Alabama

In the year 2019, AVL databases registered an average of 22 million searches.

## New AVL initiatives in 2019-2020

- **Workforce Development:** The Council will assist the Governor's initiative for apprenticeship and credentialing by providing more workforce development tools.
- **Alabama OER Commons:** Increase usage of Open Educational Resources. AVL has created a state repository for Open Educational Resources developed by Alabama educators for their students. These textbooks and other materials are projected to save Alabama students millions of dollars.
- **Alabama Reading initiative:** The Council will explore providing enhancement material for statewide reading programs.

## AVL funding needs for FY2021

An allocation of **\$3,570,000** in FY2020 would allow AVL to:

- Continue to fund existing resources, even as database costs rise 3 to 5%
- Continue to publicize AVL resources and provide training on the new website
- Continue to develop initiatives such as the Alabama OER Commons and Workforce Development tools
- Add resources that will benefit K-12 students, community college & university students, and the general public... all for just 73¢ per Alabama resident.