



What is the AVL?

The AVL (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 from 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. Members are appointed by their agency directors. The ALSDE 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 first 4 months of 2018, AVL databases registered an average of 4 million searches per month. Even when school is out for the summer, there are over a million searches a month!

New AVL initiatives in 2018-2019

- **New Website:** AVL will have a completely redesigned website in 2019. The new site is attractive and responsive to mobile devices and tablets. It retains AVL's popular geolocation feature and incorporates a new Discovery search system.
- **Alabama OER Commons:** AVL is creating 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.

AVL funding needs for FY2020

An allocation of **\$3,300,000** 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
- Add resources that will benefit K-12 students, community college & university students, and the general public... all for just 68¢ per Alabama resident.