

## **NETWORK OF ALABAMA ACADEMIC LIBRARIES Fiscal Year 2012 Plan**

The Network of Alabama Academic Libraries (NAAL) is a well-established consortium with a successful history of sharing and expanding library resources statewide. The NAAL vision, adopted in 1984, seeks to assure every student, faculty member, or other researcher will have information needed for education and research regardless of the geographic location of the user or the information.

In NAAL's subsequent twenty-seven years, users of Alabama's academic libraries have achieved access to and use of information resources at a significantly greater level than each library alone could have provided. In addition, participating libraries have been able to expand information resources available to their users at a lower cost than each could have achieved alone. NAAL's history of innovation and successful accomplishments have earned Alabama a significant national reputation for academic library leadership.

Unfortunately, the current international fiscal crisis is eroding the steady progress made by Alabama's academic institutions toward higher quality library resources and services. NAAL members are coping with funding cuts, but strongly affirm NAAL's guiding principles and embrace collaboration, innovation, and statewide leadership to assure their library users have the best library resources and services possible.

For FY2011-2012, NAAL will build on its collective vision and coordinated action to:

- Expand access to global information in support of the academic programs offered by NAAL institutions,
- Share academic library resources and expertise to achieve more effective use of limited financial resources,
- Support efforts to deliver core library resources for learners beginning in pre-kindergarten,
- Expand access to Alabama's rich history and culture through digital library collections accessible to Alabama residents as well as scholars throughout the world,
- Advocate strategies to preserve information created in a variety of formats to assure its long-term availability for research,
- Develop partnerships when mutually beneficial to strengthen library resources and services, and
- Collaborate to share expertise, develop shared teaching and learning tools, and improve library accountability and performance.

The FY2011-2012 Annual Plan details specific actions for NAAL to build on the accomplishments of the past and to continue its leadership to assure every Alabamian will have exemplary library services and resources required for a successful educational experience.

## **1. EXPAND ACCESS TO GLOBAL INFORMATION**

- 1.1 Assure access to library and information resources needed to support the academic programs offered by NAAL institutions.
  - 1.1.1 Support the Alabama Virtual Library for statewide access to core education materials and library-based resources for all Alabamians.
    - 1.1.1.1 Advocate funding for the Alabama Virtual Library to provide information resources supporting a core curriculum adequate for pre-kindergarten - 20 teaching and learning.
    - 1.1.1.2 Offer AVL database training for k-12 teachers in support the AVL mission to assure students are adequately prepared for college-level research.
- 1.2 Coordinate statewide licensing of online resources to improve licensing terms and achieve lower and sustainable costs for NAAL institutions.
  - 1.2.1 Coordinate licensing for electronic databases to assure the most affordable cost and best licensing terms for NAAL members.
  - 1.2.2 Whenever feasible and as allowed by database vendors, assist non-members to participate in the NAAL Online Content Program when it is mutually beneficial.
  - 1.2.3 Coordinate training opportunities to assure that library staff and information users attain the knowledge and skills necessary to support effective and efficient use of online information.
- 1.3 Advocate funding to implement comprehensive online access to research in scholarly and scientific fields that support the academic institutions' research initiatives and support institutional efforts to advance statewide economic development.
- 1.4 Explore the opportunity provided by institutional repositories to store and provide access to digital content created in NAAL institutions for their research, information, and education missions.
- 1.5 Continue to advance the vision defined in "An Electronic Gateway to Information: A Virtual Library for the Millennium," to assure academic library users attain seamless access to information resources needed for their education and research.

## **2. ASSURE ACCESS TO HISTORICAL ALABAMA RESOURCES**

- 2.1 Coordinate a statewide program to identify, digitize, and preserve traditional historical scholarly materials held uniquely by NAAL institutions and other repositories and make these electronically accessible to Alabama residents as well as scholars throughout the world.
  - 2.1.1. Sponsor *Alabama Mosaic* [www.alabamamosaic.org](http://www.alabamamosaic.org), in cooperation with Auburn University Libraries, as a web portal supporting access to digitized Alabama history materials.

2. *Assure Access to Historical Alabama Resources, continued*

- 2.1.2 Sponsor the Alabama Digital Preservation Network [www.adpnet.org](http://www.adpnet.org), a distributed, affordable archival solution to manage, preserve, and store digital resources harvested from all types of Alabama repositories.
- 2.2 Seek external funding to support efforts to digitize historical materials and make them accessible electronically.

3. **COORDINATE SHARING OF ACADEMIC LIBRARY RESOURCES**

- 3.1 Assure that students, faculty, and other researchers can obtain needed information regardless of where it is held in accordance with the policy, "Interlibrary Loan Program," first adopted on 22 October 1985.

NAAL will work with its members to develop a plan for print journal retention so that Alabama's researchers will have access in a timely and affordable manner.

- 3.2.1 Fund package delivery services to assure timely delivery of items borrowed between NAAL libraries participating in traditional interlibrary loan.
- 3.2.2 Continue efforts to implement a statewide unmediated borrowing program that would allow students and faculty to request items directly from an owning library and to borrow materials on-site from participating NAAL member libraries.

4. **DEVELOP PARTNERSHIPS TO EXPAND ACCESS TO INFORMATION**

- 4.1 Support initiatives that improve resources and services for all Alabamians regardless of the type of the library used for research.
- 4.2 Sustain and develop mutually beneficial partnerships to strengthen and expand access to library resources and services.
- 4.2.1 Alabama Virtual Library: Support partnerships with the Alabama Commission on Higher Education, Alabama Department of Postsecondary Education, Alabama Public Library Service, Alabama State Department of Education, and Alabama Supercomputer Authority to strengthen and expand the Alabama Virtual Library resources and services.
- 4.2.2 Affiliate Institutions Program: Coordinate the Affiliate Institutions Program to enable Alabama's accredited, non-profit, four-year colleges not eligible for NAAL membership to share online databases, participate in continuing education activities, and engage in joint planning for increasingly technology-based delivery of library services and resources.
- 4.2.3 Alabama History and Culture: Support partnerships with the Encyclopedia of Alabama coalition and the Alabama Center for the Book to encourage an appreciation of Alabama's history and culture and to develop digital publications related to Alabama, such as the *Encyclopedia of Alabama* and *This Goodly Land*, an online literary map of Alabama.

4. *Develop Partnerships to Expand Access to Information, continued*

- 4.2.4 Alabama Department of Archives and History: Support programs that preserve historical records and expand appreciation of Alabama's history and culture.
  - 4.2.4.1 Participate in the Alabama Historical Records Board by maintaining an appointment to the board as described in the State of Alabama Act No. 2006-160.
  - 4.2.4.2 Assist with efforts to improve and expand access to information published by the State of Alabama and assure publications are available electronically and preserved for long-term use by researchers.
- 4.2.5 HBCU Library Alliance: NAAL will encourage and support efforts by the Alabama Historically Black Colleges and Universities participating in the national HBCU Library Alliance to forge cooperative programs that will strengthen their resources and services.
- 4.2.6 Alabama Cultural Commons: Participate in the partnership directed by the Alabama Historical Commission to develop and implement a state plan to sustain and preserve collections in all types of repositories.
- 4.2.7 Government Documents Depository Libraries: Support partnerships with all Government Documents Depository Libraries in Alabama to develop a statewide plan for government documents that will expedite the delivery of government documents to researchers and minimize the cost to member libraries.

**5. IMPROVE LIBRARY ACCOUNTABILITY AND PERFORMANCE**

- 5.1 Collaborate to share expertise and develop shared teaching and learning tools.
  - 5.1.1 Identify expertise to facilitate sharing among the NAAL members, including language skills for cataloging and translating materials, knowledge about new technologies, and other unique skills.
  - 5.1.2 Encourage the development of teaching and learning tools that can be shared among the NAAL institutions.
  - 5.1.3 Identify and encourage sharing of best practices that better utilize the resources of individual libraries to expand cost effectiveness and improve services to students, faculty, and other researchers
- 5.2 Coordinate program assessment and data collection to assist NAAL institutions in developing effective and efficient library programs.

5. *Improve Library Accountability and Performance, continued*
  - 5.2.1 Facilitate the collection of statistical data about academic libraries for the biennial Academic Library Survey compiled by the National Center for Education Statistics, and collect annual statistical data about academic libraries during the years when data is not collected by the National Center for Education Statistics.
  - 5.2.2 Collect and evaluate data on the use of online resources to assure the most effective licensing models and expenditures for online information products licensed by NAAL.
  - 5.2.3 Encourage use of the *LibQual+* library services assessment results to publicize library accountability and user satisfaction with academic library resources and services.
  - 5.2.4 Collect other management information, as needed, to monitor progress and performance of NAAL programs or to provide baseline data for planning future programs.
- 5.3 Sponsor training programs to enhance and strengthen the skills of library staff to ensure the provision of excellent library and information services in Alabama academic libraries.
- 5.4 Disseminate information about NAAL to raise the level of awareness about its programs and services among university administrators, the Alabama legislators, library patrons, and other members of the public.