GOAL

To establish the South Dakota Virtual Library to provide schools with access to information resources and databases including those currently available to members of the South Dakota Library Network (SDLN). The Virtual Library will provide academic support to students statewide to help address the mandates of No Child Left Behind.

BACKGROUND

• All students doing research using the resources of the South Dakota Virtual Library will have access to major scholarly resources. The resources will also provide academic support for the South Dakota Virtual High School which was established in 2006 as part of the 2010E Initiative.

• Research has shown that strong school library programs have a direct impact on student achievement. Students will be able to use resources both in the classroom and at home using an authentication process.


• South Dakota libraries have a long and successful history of sharing resources. SDLN members share books, audio-visuals, and journal articles through electronic and courier delivery methods.

• SDLN was founded in 1988 and is fully member supported. The network has over 70 members of all types of libraries, including all of the largest libraries in the state.

FUNDING

Funding needed is estimated at $325,000 annually. One FTE for SDLN/BOR is needed to provide user support services to the school libraries ($41,513). In addition, funding is needed for interlibrary loan software licenses, expansion of database licenses for statewide K-12 access, an online homework help service, and training and support ($283,487).