

To: The Community College Library World
From Jim Matthews, CCL President
July 23, 2009

Re: TTIP and database funding

During the course of the State budget negotiations, the Telecommunications and Technology Infrastructure Program (TTIP) budget was scrutinized. When I last discussed this topic in the May issue of Outlook, TTIP was not going to be cut. Unfortunately, in the end, TTIP was cut by 19%. This program's second largest item was the \$4 million for library databases. Given the restrictions based on contracts in the other TTIP items, the library database funding will be cut to zero.

So, what do we do? First of all, we are not the only ones in this boat. All Chancellor Office programs and categorical items were cut. We need new strategies and ideas to move forward. In the CCL Board's and Vice Chancellor's Perry's estimation, we will not be able to get our \$4m restored in the next few years, if ever. At our CCL board meeting on July 22, we created an action plan to address the issues.

Issue #1: Money for databases. This issue will not be solved in the short term. There is no point in a letter-writing campaign to the legislature or especially to the Chancellor's office. The Legislature has too many other calls on them. The Chancellor's office and particularly Vice Chancellor Patrick Perry, who was at our Board meeting on July 22, is on our side and is actively working with the CCL Board to find answers.

Answers for today; Lobby your college for funding to replace part or all of the lost TTIP money. The colleges also lost the Instructional Supplies funding which was cut to zero. However, there are still two pots of funds that may be tapped: Lottery funds and district general funds. The following are a few key arguments you can use.

1. Loss of databases directly affects students, particularly those in distance education programs
2. We can't return to paper products since they would be prohibitively expensive
3. Accreditation will be in jeopardy if services for off-campus students are not provided through online databases.
4. Add your own ideas!!!

Issue #2: Answers to funding in the Short to Medium Term:

1. The CCL Board is planning to become a non-profit organization. This would enable us to seek grants and develop other types of consortium relationships for funding.
2. We are exploring finding funding for a possible centralized purchase of basic databases.

3. We will continue the current consortium purchasing program, using the expertise of Sarah Raley.
4. We are actively seeking a role in the Governor's Digital Literacy Proposal. There may be funding from that program when it is developed.
5. We will be looking at President Obama's Community College Initiative to see how that might help us.

As new information is available or new strategies develop, we will share it with you. We are already planning a special CCL Outlook for where more information will be available.

Jim Matthews