

**DISCUS – South Carolina’s Virtual Library**  
**A Service of the South Carolina State Library**  
**Program Timeline**

**1996/1997**

- Jim Johnson, South Carolina State Library Director, and John Landrum, South Carolina State Library Deputy Director, initiated the planning, development and implementation of the South Carolina Database Access Project
- Initially funded by a Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) grant
- Mary Bull became Project Coordinator; standing committees were formed

**Fall 1997**

- Project formally named DISCUS (Digital Information for South Carolina Users)

**February/March 1998**

- During 1998 pilot year, participants included: all public libraries and branches, all higher education institutions and three public school districts (Calhoun, Horry and Rock Hill 3)
- Access for remaining K-12 public schools planned to take place by January 1999

**September /October 1998**

- State funding from the South Carolina General Assembly was requested by Jim Johnson
- General Assembly granted \$1.5 million through the K-12 School Technology Initiative; several years later, DISCUS funding was added as a separate line item to the State Library budget
- DISCUS project expanded to include remaining K-12 public schools and private schools accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS)
- Access for schools included in the 1999 database license agreements that provided four IAC SearchBank periodical databases, with provision to gradually connect the schools to the databases during fall 1998; databases were:
  - *General Reference Center*, plus subsets appropriate for school-age children:  
*Primary TOM, SuperTOM and SuperTOM, Jr.*
  - *Expanded Academic ASAP*
  - *Business & Company ASAP*
  - *Health Reference Center-Academic*

**February 1999**

- New content added to DISCUS collection: *Grolier Online* encyclopedias and SIRS topical databases

**September 1999**

- Remote access to the seven InfoTrac databases made possible when DISCUS-participating institutions began providing users with a statewide username and password, extending service beyond normal hours of operation

**September/October 2000**

- New content added to DISCUS collection: *Biography Resource Center* (comprehensive biographical database) and *Custom Newspapers* (full-text newspapers)



### **March/April 2001**

- Remote access to **ALL** DISCUS resources made available from homes and offices in South Carolina (via a single username and password)
- New content added to DISCUS collection: *InfoTrac OneFile* and *LegalTrac*

### **May 2001**

- New content added to DISCUS collection: *Health and Wellness Resource Center*

### **September/October 2001**

- New Web page made available to streamline DISCUS access for K-12 schools:  
<http://www.state.sc.us/scsl/discus/>

### **August 2002**

- DISCUS received its own domain: <http://www.scdiscus.org>

### **March 2003**

- New content added to DISCUS collection:
  - *SIRS Interactive Citizenship* module
  - *SIRS Discoverer WebFind* component
  - *Kids Infobits* (replacing *Kid's Edition*)
  - *General BusinessFile ASAP*

### **January 2004**

- Redesigned and enhanced Web site for all schools was launched, including a K-12 access page:  
<http://www.scdiscus.org/school.html>
- Academic and public libraries continued to create and maintain DISCUS links on their own Web sites

### **March/April 2004**

- New content added to DISCUS collection:
  - *The State* (searchable NewsBank archive of the Columbia, SC newspaper)
  - *Scribner Writers Series* (world authors database)
  - Additional titles added to *Custom Newspapers*
- New content addressed needs identified through a user survey and brought the DISCUS collection to a total of 20 databases
- Significant enhancements were made to the DISCUS K-12 access Web pages

### **August 2004**

- Redesigned and enhanced DISCUS Web site launched

### **September 2004**

- "Got Homework?" promotional campaign launched that included 50 billboards across South Carolina

### **May 2005**

- Amy Duernberger became the DISCUS Program Director

### **Fall 2005**

- New content added to DISCUS collection: *Literature Resource Center* (licensed by DISCUS for public libraries and K-12 schools; PASCAL purchased access for academic libraries) and the *Gale Virtual Reference Library* (collection of 24 e-books)



### **May 2006**

- 52 private K-12 schools, accredited by the South Carolina Independent School Association (SCISA), added as DISCUS-participating institutions

### **January 2007**

- New content added to DISCUS collection: *Academic OneFile* and *History Resource Center: U.S.*

### **August 2007**

- Redesigned and enhanced DISCUS Web site launched that included new color scheme and logo

### **September 2007**

- New content added to DISCUS collection: *AccessScience* (licensed by DISCUS for public libraries and K-12 schools; PASCAL purchased access for academic libraries)

### **January 2008**

- New content added to DISCUS collection at no additional cost, as a result of database evaluations and contract renewal negotiations:
  - *Opposing ViewPoints Resource Center*
  - *Science Resource Center*
  - *History Resource Center: World*
  - *LitFinder*
  - *Educator's Reference Complete*
  - *Book Review Index Online Plus*
  - *Small Business Resource Center*
  - *Nursing Resource Center*
  - *Amazing Animals of the World*

### **May 2008**

- *Books & Authors* (reader's advisory product) replaced *What Do I Read Next?* in DISCUS collection

### **November 2008 - January 2009**

- DISCUS budget cut of \$346,000 prompted reduction in staff and database re-evaluation
- *Grolier Online* and *NewsBank* products discontinued; *Britannica Online Learning* selected as encyclopedia provider
- Two unique resources added to DISCUS collection: *Britannica Learning Zone* (designed solely for early childhood learners and educators) and *Enciclopedia Juvenil* (Spanish language encyclopedia)

#### **Staff of the DISCUS Program Through the Years**

Mary Bull  
Amy Duernberger (current)  
Carolyn Dunlap  
Pat Fratangelo  
Judith Head  
Ruth Thompson (current)  
Sallee Weston

