

KENTUCKY VIRTUAL LIBRARY FOR TEACHERS

I. Goal:

To build a quality-based portal for information resources needed by K-12 teachers in Kentucky

II. Current Status:

There is no coordinated site that serves K-12 teachers in Kentucky. Kentucky Department of Education sponsors Academic Villages (<http://www.kde.state.ky.us/oet/customer/av/>) that are independently operated by volunteers. Its focus is to "build knowledge, share ideas and solve problems together" in "virtual communities of learners connected by intellectual interest and the Internet." This site contains 13 villages without a consistent structure to facilitate searching and the content is not focused on teacher resources. There are some sites created by teachers with variant levels of quality. Fayette and Jefferson counties were planning to do their own teachers' portals before we collaboratively decided that the KCVL should be the one-stop-shop for teachers' resources.

III. Plan:

1. Technical Infrastructure:

We will use the existing KCVL server housed at and managed by the University of Kentucky. We will use the software platform, OCLC SiteSearch, to build the database for resources. These resources then will be searchable with the common look and feel with other KCVL databases.

2. Organization of Resources:

We will organize all resources based on the 7 core content subjects established by KDE: Arts and humanities, Mathematics, Practical Living/Vocational Studies, Reading, Science, Social Studies, and Writing. Within each subject area, resources will be subdivided by 4 grade levels: Primary (K-3), Intermediate (4-5), Middle School, and High School. We will also add a General/Reference area for other resources for professional development .

3. Resources:

These resources include all KCVL services: databases, library catalogs, tutorial, and digitized Kentuckiana collections. We will also include professional resources (links to professional organizations, grants information, copyright, online electronic journals, etc.), teaching resources (links to sites

for use with students, curriculum guides, lesson plans, etc.), and other relevant resources for teachers.

4. Identification and Evaluation of Resources:

We have established the KCVL for Teachers work group composed of 6 school library media specialists and teachers, a representative from KDE, and representatives from KCVL. This work group will serve as a coordinating body to evaluate content recommended by the 8 core subject specialists assigned by KDE and the school districts and by teachers in the state. We will use the online recommendation form and website selection standards already established by KCVL for the collaborative identification and evaluation process.

IV. Assessment:

We will develop an online evaluation form for teachers to let us know how useful these resources are for their teaching and professional development. We will poll teachers in professional conferences to gauge how they use this portal and how we can enhance it to meet their needs. Focus groups will be used regularly to obtain structured input from teachers.