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to the copyright holder. The processing fee is where the VPP discount takes place. At 67%, the regular \$3.00 processing fee becomes only \$1.00, a significant savings for volume users. Members can expect to receive the discount within ten business days of registering. SOLINET will submit registrations to CCC weekly through March 31, then monthly, with the discount becoming effective by the first of the next month.

Details of the program are available at www.solinet.net/library_products/ccc. For registration information, please contact the [SOLINET Member Services Help Desk](#) by email or 1-800-999-8558. For all other questions and requests, you may contact the [Copyright Clearance Center](#) by email or at 978-646-2600.

**SOLINET AND THE HBCU LIBRARY ALLIANCE PUBLISH
*THE STATE OF LIBRARIES AT HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES***

The Southeastern Library Network (SOLINET) and the HBCU Library Alliance recently completed and published an assessment of the state of libraries at Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs). Produced with support from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science, *The State of Libraries at Historically Black Colleges and Universities* uses data collected by the National Center for Education Statistics through its biennial Academic Libraries Survey.

The statistical study describes levels of support for and services from HBCU libraries and compares it to that for other, peer academic libraries in the U.S. It offers a baseline for future comparison among HBCUs and of HBCUs with non-HBCUs. It also provides data that can be used to strengthen libraries at HBCUs, individually and as a group. The report is available on SOLINET's website at www.solinet.net/resources/HBCUStats and on the HBCU Library Alliance website at www.hbculibraries.org.

Created by the deans and directors of HBCU libraries in 2002, the HBCU Library Alliance is a consortium that supports the collaboration of information professionals dedicated to strengthening Historically Black Colleges and Universities and their constituents. The purpose of the HBCU Library Alliance is to ensure excellence in HBCU libraries through the development, collaboration, coordination, and promotion of programs and activities to enhance members' collections and services. Visit the HBCU Library Alliance website at www.hbculibraries.org.

**ASERL VIRTUAL REFERENCE EXPANDS SERVICE
SPONSORS IPOD GIVEAWAY**

The Association of Southeastern Research Libraries (ASERL) finalized a new partnership with the University of Alabama's School of Library and Information Studies to provide additional service hours for its groundbreaking regional virtual reference service, "Ask a Librarian." Students from UA-SLIS will now supplement the chat service coverage provided by reference staff at ASERL libraries into the late-night hours.

To mark the expanded service, ASERL will give away a 1MB iPod Shuffle to one user of the online reference service at each participating ASERL institution.

Beginning February 6, the service will be open until midnight (ET) seven days a week. "This is an exciting time for us," commented John Burger, ASERL's Executive Director. "We have been seeking a cost-effective way to meet our patrons' reference needs later into the evenings. Working with future librarians is a great way to provide the additional service, and to forge new relationships with our colleagues of tomorrow, too." The "Ask a Librarian" service is open to affiliated users of the participating libraries via each library's home page.