

Colleton uses huge library delivery system

Special to The Colletonian

Nineteen counties within South Carolina are currently participating in the SC LENDS (South Carolina Library Evergreen Network Delivery System) program, one of which is Colleton Memorial Library.

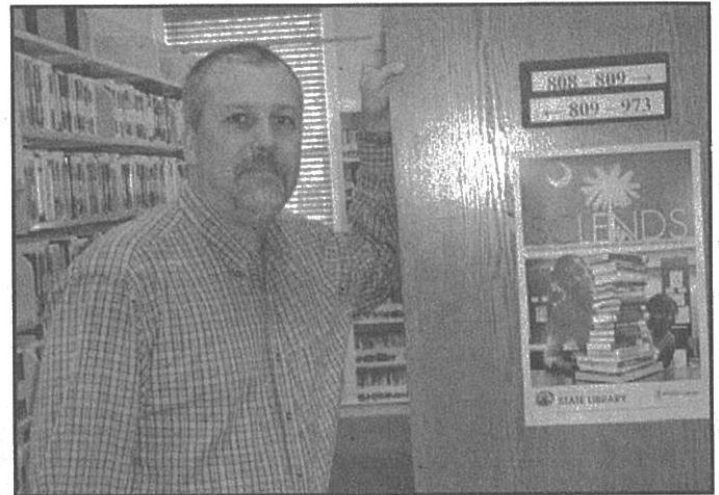
SC LENDS is a consortium of libraries within our state that have agreed to share resources and circulating material. The program circulates about 340,000 items every month, and transfers an estimated 21,000 items between library systems on a monthly basis.

SC LENDS benefits patrons by giving them access to more materials than have ever been offered in the past. Together, participating libraries serve the population of one-third

of the state's counties, and have a collection of 3.5 million items. The smallest member of SC LENDS went from having a collection of less than 40,000 books and audio-visual items to more than 3.5 million.

Using South Carolina's Inter-Agency Mail Service (IMS) allows for the loan of materials from the furthest parts of the state, usually within 48 hours, at one-sixteenth the cost, or less, than purchasing an item. This also supports the IMS, which is critical to many state departments.

Libraries have been able to loan more than 300,000 items between counties facilitated by SC LENDS at a value of over \$1.8 million, at less than one-seventh the cost. SC LENDS' savings have allowed participating libraries to place even more focus



Library Director, Carl Coffin, sees many advantages in utilizing the SC LENDS system. *Photo by Rick Tobin*

on providing reference materials, story times, Internet access, job searching, and many other critical community services.

"Colleton County citizens are able to borrow up to 3.5 million items with their library card," said Colleton Memorial Library Director Carl Coffin. "These items include books, DVDs, books on

CD, music CDs, graphic novels, Anime, young adult books, children's books, and other related material." Coffin also noted that local residents are able to download up to 11,000 E-books or audio books through the Jasmine Digital Catalog using their library card and PIN number.

Correction: Nineteen county libraries and the State Library are currently participating in SCLEND S.