SUMMARY

The Utah Academic Library Consortium is a nationally-recognized collaborative system with all nine USHE institutions, Brigham Young University, and Westminster College. It allows all library resources, wherever they may be located, to be made available to all libraries in the system. The Analyst recommends that the Subcommittee put on its priority list, $500,000 in ongoing funding and $2 million in one-time funding for the Academic Library Consortium for FY 2009 to support the digital imaging and document collections and gain back lost ground in electronic collections, specifically in Computer Science, Business, Health, and Education.

OBJECTIVE

This appropriation will enable the Consortium to continue its collaborative efforts in providing resource material to Utah students.

DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

For the past few years, digitization centers have been operating on the campuses of the University of Utah, Utah State University, Southern Utah University, and Brigham Young University. There are now over 4 million items and documents that have been digitized. Additional funding will allow for these efforts to continue and help to preserve records as well as address the increasing prices for other items in the libraries’ collections.

The Consortium provides access to electronic resources for students and faculty. The use of these database searches has increased considerably over the past few years. In 2001, there were approximately 4.3 million database searches; in 2006, that figure increased to 9.9 million.