

**A Proposal for Statewide Library Access:
Using New Information Technologies to Support Student Success and Student Equity
Goals, to Support and Strengthen OEI, and to Modernize CCC Library Services Platform**

This budget proposal addresses opportunities in community college library services to

1. further strengthen student success and student equity initiatives;
2. enhance the development of the Online Education Initiative;
3. enable all college libraries to make the critical transition to a state-of-the-art cloud-based library service platform and to reap the benefits of collaborative efforts and services within the community college library system; and,
4. significantly reduce the colleges' current and future library system costs by this transition to a statewide integrated library system.

This budget change proposal requests two-year (FY2016/17 - FY2017/18) project implementation funds in the amount of \$5,975,000, and an ongoing annual appropriation of \$2,475,000 (see chart, page 4).

By providing organized and curriculum-shaped access to information resources in a myriad of formats, academic libraries play a significant role in the student experience. The library is a valuable portal into the college student experience and is a key player in efforts to retain students and help them succeed. Today, academic libraries are more access- and service-focused than ever before, providing opportunities for students to engage with technology, their peers, and campus faculty and staff.

The California Community Colleges Student Success Task Force recognized the importance of libraries in student persistence, retention, and successfully achievement of goals. This proposal is aligned with the following recommendations of the Task Force:

- Recommendation 2. Strengthen Support for Entering Students
- Recommendation 7. Enable Efficient Statewide Leadership & Increase Coordination Among Colleges, and
- Recommendation 8. Align Resources with Student Success Recommendations.

Statewide electronic library resource databases and a statewide integrated library catalog are specifically embraced in the body of Recommendation 2.3: *Community colleges will develop and use centralized and integrated technology, which can be accessed through campus or district web portals, to better guide students in their educational process.* Libraries are committed to being active participants in the work of implementing the Student Success Act so as to strengthen student achievement and to do it in ways which improve student equity throughout the state; this proposal helps meets this objective at a statewide level.

The current technological landscape in library automation within the California Community Colleges is uneven, unequal, unnecessarily expensive, and technologically obsolete in most cases.

- While some larger colleges or districts have the financial and technological resources to offer current library automation tools, smaller and more financially-challenged colleges are currently using library service platforms that are technologically limited and which do not prepare students for the research environments they will encounter at CSU and UC campuses upon transfer.
- Adoption of a system-wide Integrated Library System (ILS) will allow every student in California's community colleges to access a cloud-based, state-of-the-art library information tool through a variety of means including today's mobile devices.

- A statewide library services platform can be easily integrated into, and be especially critical components of statewide learning management systems such as Canvas and other tools associated with the system's Online Education Initiative (OEI). A state-of-the-art library resources tool will also better support faculty instructional goals and methods, improve ease of integrating library resources into instruction, facilitate use of a myriad formats, and particularly assist adjunct faculty who often work at multiple colleges.
- A statewide integrated library system opens the door to development of regional capacity to support library collections, instruction, and services. Existing platforms and technologies do not allow this.

"Library services platforms [i.e., cloud-based state-of-the-art platforms accessible in multiple formats] in production use since 2011, have passed into the realm of routine offerings, especially for academic libraries in desperate need of systems that can manage both electronic and print resources (Breeding, Marshall. "[Library Systems Report \(2015\)](#)" *American Libraries*. 46, no. 5 (May 2015): 28-41. What the American Library Association identifies as routine, however, is far from that in the California Community Colleges.

Based on a 2014 survey of community college library directors by the Council of Chief Librarians, CCC, it is estimated that (on average)

- each community college currently spends **\$78,800** annually on its current integrated library system.
- at the aggregate system level, therefore, approximately **\$8,904,400** is spent each year to maintain legacy systems that in many cases do not meet the needs of 21st century learners or work effectively with 21st century technology.

This proposal would allow the system

- to **reduce** this spending by nearly **\$4 million a year**; with state funding for a system-wide library platform, the **colleges** would see overall local savings of **\$7 million**;
- to upgrade all libraries together to a current technology platform and address critical student equity and success initiatives with appropriate learning support technologies;
- enable its libraries to work in more collaborative ways -- one example would be to manage collection development activities more efficiently, as geographically proximate colleges could better coordinate and share library resources, further producing cost savings currently not realizable.

If this proposal does not move forward and is not funded

- Each college will independently be forced to upgrade its legacy system within the next 5-7 years, and students would be neither equitably served nor appropriately prepared to meet their educational goals;
- The purchase and implementation costs of a new system for each college to do this would run in the **hundreds of thousands of dollars**, and the varying technological expertise employed at each college would create a disparate and costly library environment within the system.
- With each passing year, technological upgrades would be implemented inconsistently and ineffectively throughout the system.
- With such motley systems, uneven services, and varying access to collections, California community college students would be further disadvantaged.

Adoption of a statewide integrated library system will allow the California Community College system to realize enormous efficiencies and facilitate students' equitable access to resources. This corresponds to similar actions already taken by the California State University (CSU) and University of California (UC) systems. Failure to adopt a CCC statewide library services platform would be tantamount to systematically treating CCC students as less-than-deserving of having 21st century library resources, technology, and services.

Statewide Library Access Proposal

Part A: Statewide Integrated Library System (ILS) with Discovery Service

Through strategic planning and careful discussion within the CCC library community, the Council of Chief Librarians, California Community Colleges (CCL) has concluded that improved services, cost efficiency, and prospects for cooperative collection development and collaborative approaches to technical services will be realized by a move from more than 100 stand-alone Integrated Library Systems (ILS) to a single shared solution (library services platform). And more than simply replicating legacy systems in a shared or cloud-computing environment, this proposal would seek to obtain a unified set of services and access tools now available in shared environments that exceed ILS capabilities in use at CCC libraries currently.

Library users expect a Google-like search experience and often don't understand the myriad resource silos and access restrictions that they encounter when using existing tools to search library collections. State-of-the-art library services platforms include "discovery solutions" -- tools that more comprehensively support varied users' research needs, enabling them to locate and access relevant resources efficiently. Such a tool acts by integrating resource silos, by providing a more feature-rich search interface than has typically been found in library systems, and by facilitating unified access to the widest range of multi-format resources. At the same time, the discovery solution will provide search options for experienced researchers and users who require a greater level of control and specificity in an interface. A statewide library services platform which includes such a "discovery" component will serve the widely different needs of the diverse population of library users.

Statewide Library Access Proposal

Part B: Critical Thinking Tool

The CCC libraries all currently use a general academic resources library database (Ebscohost) which is provided by a system-funded subscription. As part of its strategic planning efforts and extended conversation within the library community, CCL has also identified a critical need for a second general database -- to be available for all students and faculty at all of the colleges -- which assists users in comparison and analysis of, and critical thinking about, contemporary issues and subjects by providing a variety of validated and legitimate viewpoints to review and assess. Critical thinking is an important student learning outcome, and information competency/literacy go hand-in-hand with developing higher level thinking skills. These tools and resources would directly enhance instruction and support student learning. Competency in information literacy and stronger critical thinking skills are expected from students who transfer to the CSU and UC systems and who enter the workforce that increasingly relies on information.

Statewide Library Access Proposal

Proposed Budget (based on preliminary vendor price quotes)

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 1-2 Project Total	Year 3+ (ongoing)
Part A: Integrated Library System (ILS) with Discovery Service	\$1,600,000 (50% payment; implementation costs)	\$3,600,000 (50% payment; implementation costs; 1st year maintenance costs)	\$5,200,000	\$2,100,000 (annual maintenance costs; administrative costs)
Part B. Critical Thinking Tools for Systemwide Equity and Access	\$400,000 (implementation costs, annual subscription)	\$375,000 (annual subscription)	\$775,000	\$375,000 (annual subscription)
Total Cost	\$2,000,000	\$3,975,000	\$5,975,000	\$2,475,000
Ongoing Local Savings (per year)				\$6,983,400 <i>(based on figures shown below)</i>

☐ **Current Spending Average for each College (based on 2014 Survey)**

Annual service cost for Library ILS: \$41,000
 Annual hardware/server costs for Library ILS: 800
 Annual staff costs to maintain local ILS: 37,000
 Total: \$78,800 annual per college

Systemwide Cost (\$78,800 x 113 colleges): \$8,904,400 annually

☐ **Projected Local Spending Average for each College after Migration to Statewide Integrated Library System**

Annual staff costs to support participation \$17,000
Systemwide Cost (\$17,000 x 113 colleges): \$1,921,000 annually