



STATE
UNIVERSITY
SYSTEM
of FLORIDA
Board of Governors



Task Force on the Future of Academic Libraries in Florida

March 2, 2011

Dear Members, *Task Force for the Future of Academic Libraries in Florida*,

Over the last two years, the Legislature has been interested in expanding access to postsecondary library resources. Given the current economic environment, we are trying to assist legislative members and staff in reaching this goal.

Representative O'Toole, Chair of the House Higher Education Appropriations Subcommittee, has requested that the academic libraries in both of our systems use a common discovery tool and that we create a new organization to replace the State University System's Florida Center for Library Automation (FCLA) and the Florida College System's College Center for Library Automation (CCLA).

We think that you, as members of the *Task Force on the Future of Academic Libraries in Florida*, are in the best position to propose a new organizational structure that will help our systems reach the goals you are developing as a part of your strategic planning activities. To this end, we have expanded the charge to the Task Force as follows:

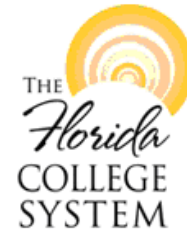
Determine a vision and develop a strategic plan for the future of academic library access, resources and services in Florida that encompasses emerging trends and changing realities in the areas of instruction, research, technology and public services within the context of the academic mission. The plan needs to assess ramifications of the identified trends and realities on currently utilized tools and organizations and the impact on our students, faculty and academic community.

In addition to including strategies and timelines for accomplishing the goals included in the strategic plan, the plan shall also address the establishment of a library technology organizational structure that will meet the needs of academic libraries in both the Florida College System and the State University System in a manner that is more cost-effective than the current organizational structure. The plan must include the resolution of identified challenges, including, but not limited to, governance, staffing, funding, and logistics.

In order to accommodate the Legislature's accelerated 2012 Session schedule, we are requesting the Task Force to submit to us the strategic plan, which will include the new library technology organizational structure, by December 31, 2011, rather than in January 2012, as originally planned.



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In addition, we are moving quickly to test the marketplace for a common discovery tool. We have asked the executive directors of FCLA and CCLA to take leadership for proposing and implementing a process for selecting a discovery tool, working in concert with the librarians in their respective systems. Our goal is to outline the selection process by the first part of April, so that legislative staff can use it while drafting their proviso and conforming bill language.

We appreciate your support in moving forward with this initiative. If you have any questions, please contact us or our staff, Dr. Nancy McKee at Nancy.McKee@flbog.edu or Dr. John Holdnak at John.Holdnak@fldoe.org.

Sincerely,

Frank T. Brogan
Chancellor
State University System

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Will N. Holcombe".

Will N. Holcombe
Chancellor
Florida College System

