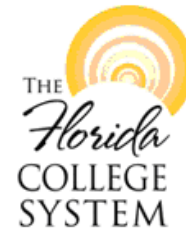




STATE
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Task Force on the Future of Academic Libraries in Florida

December 6, 2010

Dear Legislative and Governor's Staff:

In a recent meeting with staff from our offices, the Florida Center for Library Automation (FCLA), and the College Center for Library Automation (CCLA), you asked if you could have a recommendation from the *Task Force on the Future of Academic Libraries in Florida* by December 1 regarding data center consolidation. The report and recommendations are attached.

The Task Force agreed that the cost analysis being done by FCLA and CCLA is beneficial in identifying hardware and software costs that will have to be addressed in approximately three years, as current systems near their end of life. As reflected in the Executive Summary:

While FCLA and CCLA have a history of cooperation and collaboration, it should be noted that both plans, as submitted, focused on the geographical (physical) relocation of the existing data centers, as requested, rather than on the strategic needs of the next generation library technology infrastructure. Additionally, as highlighted in our conclusions and recommendations, the allotment of additional time to review both data centers from a more strategic, collaborative, and user requirements driven process would allow for the development of a more comprehensive and complete study. Such a study would identify cost benefits and opportunities associated with redefining business processes, leveraging purchasing models, as well as leveraging existing resources including infrastructure and staff.

We recommend that we all pause in our consideration of library automation changes until the final report is submitted by the Task Force. This will allow us time to focus on the broader effort of providing a more robust academic library system for the state, using the next generation library technology infrastructure to meet user requirements. It would allow us time to assess emerging trends and their ramifications on currently utilized tools and organizations and the impact on our students, faculty and academic community.



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We thank you for your continued interest in library automation, and we look forward to working together to accomplish our common goal of ensuring that library automation services are provided in a cost-efficient manner while meeting the needs of our academic community. Please let us know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Frank T. Brogan.

Frank T. Brogan
Chancellor
State University System of Florida

Handwritten signature of Will N. Holcombe.

Will N. Holcombe
Chancellor
Division of Florida Colleges

FTB/WNH/kg