

**State University System of Florida  
Florida Center for Library Automation  
2009-2010 Budget**

**Total Budget Need: \$5,900,000**

**Historical Perspective**

The Florida Center for Library Automation (the Center) was created by the Florida Legislature as part of the FY 1984-1985 proviso language. The legislative goal for the Center was to create an organization to support the library automation needs of Florida's public universities (currently 11 institutions and 73 library sites). This consolidated approach for library automation was projected to save the State of Florida considerable dollars compared to separately funding library automation needs at each state university.

**Current Fiscal Situation**

The Center has operated with only minor funding increases over the past six years despite a rising demand for Internet-based services caused by advances in technology and the proliferation of digitized information. Other than legislatively-approved salary increases and a one-time (nonrecurring) allocation of \$3.75 million in FY 2000-2001 for implementing the new Ex Libris software, the Center's budget has remained static.

In FY 2006-2007, the Center retained an outside firm to conduct a review of its current budget, service demands, risks, and Ex Libris software support requirements. Based on this review, the Center is requesting a FY 2009-2010 budget increase as follows:

<b>FCLA Request</b>	<b>RECURRING</b>	<b>NON-RECURRING</b>	<b>TOTAL REQUEST</b>
Electronic Library Resources	\$2,840,000	\$1,760,000	\$4,600,000
Cost to Continue (inflation)	\$300,000		\$300,000
Technology Refresh	\$1,000,000		\$1,000,000
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$4,140,000</b>	<b>\$1,760,000</b>	<b>\$5,900,000</b>

**Electronic Library Resources – Materials for Students, Faculty, and Researchers**

The Center provides technology-based library services for all 11 state universities and Florida's nearly 300,000 enrolled students. A critical service provided by the Center is the licensing and acquisition of refereed scholarly electronic resources (e-books, journals, and periodicals) for use by faculty, researchers, and students. These electronic publications are protected by copyright laws and are not free via the Internet. They must be subscribed to and paid for each academic year based on the number of full time equivalency (FTE) students at the university. The Center licenses these products on behalf of all 11 institutions each year and is therefore able to achieve an average of over 50% bulk discount because of the combined statewide university FTEs. It would cost the State of Florida more than double current expenditures (\$8 million compared to the current \$3 million this past year) if the Center did not conduct this consolidated, coordinated statewide procurement.

The Center has received no funding increases for electronic resources since 2000-2001, despite rising enrollments, increasing annual licensing fees, and a growing student demand for resources. The lack of new funding, combined with rising vendor prices, has caused the universities and the Center to eliminate licensed products necessary for quality academic programs. Without a new infusion of funds, the number of electronic resources provided to students, faculty, and research will continue to erode.

FCLA is requesting \$2,840,000 in recurring funding to license an additional 33 new electronic databases/research materials. In addition, the Center is requesting \$1,760,000 in one-time funding to purchase certain e-books and back-files of research journals (electronic resources purchased once and accessible forever).

### **Florida Center for Library Automation – Cost to Continue Increases**

The Center's centralized technology-based library services are critical to the university libraries. Essentially, each university is reliant on the Center to provide its online library catalog and to operate the systems that support its libraries' purchasing, cataloging, and circulation. The Center also provides digital archiving functions necessary to preserve library materials and university research data for use by future generations.

Many items in the Center's budget have continued to rise, without any corresponding operational budget adjustments (other than legislatively-approved personnel increases). In the last five years, the Center has encountered cost increases in building operations, travel, vendor-provided software licenses, hardware maintenance contracts, telecommunications, phones, and general administrative office expenses. Without a budget increase, the Center will have to reduce university services to cover these basic infrastructure costs. The Center is requesting \$300,000 in recurring funds for FY 2009-2010 to off-set these basic inflationary expenses. This request represents a modest 3.5% adjustment for the previously identified expense items, plus a 6% adjustment for the rising cost of e-resources.

### **Library Automation Technology Refresh**

In FY 2005-2006, the Center successfully completed its migration from the legacy, mainframe-based NOTIS library management system to the server/web-based Ex Libris' Aleph system. The Center has also expanded its web-based services and digital archival repository to support university and student educational needs. These services require initial and ongoing software and hardware purchases, in addition to specialized equipment to maintain system security and to provide redundancy for disaster recovery.

The Florida Legislature appropriated \$3.75 million in one-time, non-recurring funds in FY 2000-2001 to migrate the old library management system to the new Ex Libris system. However, the long-term costs for equipment replacement were not known at that time and were subsequently deferred for future legislative budget requests. Because of its fiscally conservative approach, the Center has been able to acquire the necessary hardware and software for the new system.

The original equipment purchased for the Ex Libris system in FY 2000-01 is approaching the end of its useful life-span. To support its ongoing hardware replacement needs, the

center is requesting \$1 million in recurring funds. This request is based on the Center's more than \$5 million in capital equipment and a five-year replacement cycle. Without this increase, critical hardware will continue to age, placing the Center and the 11 universities at an increased risk of equipment failure and potential disruption to essential library services.