I. Purpose –

Library Electronic Resources (E-Resources) -- $750,000

NWRDC manages the Florida Postsecondary Academic Library Network for the SUS and the FCS. This request will allow libraries to keep current Electronic Resources (E-Resources) shared for all students and faculty across the two systems. This request is based upon recommendations from the university and college librarians of additional resources needed for programmatic content and associated services with some of those resources.

The total increase request for e-resources is $1.5 million, to be split between SUS and FCS, at $750,000 for each system. The E-Resources budget provides a statewide collection of library electronic resources, including scholarly journals, magazines, newspapers, academic streaming videos, research databases, e-books, etc. FLVC works with more than 40 different vendors to provide students and faculty with access to more than 400,000 electronic resources.
Since 2012, the FLVC e-resources budget has remained flat, while costs for e-resources have increased each year. Between 2013 and 2020, the cost for FLVC’s e-resources subscriptions increased by an annual average of more than 3%. With a flat budget, these annual increases forced the Collections Management Committee, made up of librarians from across the SUS and FCS libraries, to make difficult decisions about which statewide e-resources to discontinue. Between 2013 and 2020, 45 e-resource collection subscriptions were cancelled, representing more than 2 million student searches in the last year that each resource was available.

In order to prevent additional e-resource cancellations, FLVC requests an increase to the e-resources budget of $1.5 million. FLVC will use this amount over the next five years to cover anticipated inflationary increases in the subscriptions for existing e-resources collection.

If this is not funded, students at Florida’s public institutions will not have access to updated and needed resources in all programs of study.

This request is for a $750,000 increase for the State University System’s (50%) share of the total requested e-resources increase of $1.5 million.

II. Return on Investment

Library Electronic Resources (E-Resources) are used by students and faculty across all academic areas and programs of study at both the SUS and FCS. The FLVC E-Resources budget provides a statewide collection of library electronic resources, including scholarly journals, magazines, newspapers, academic streaming videos, research databases, e-books, etc. FLVC works with more than 40 different vendors to provide students and faculty with access to more than 400,000 electronic resources.

Student academic success depends on having access to high-quality, scholarly e-resources across all academic disciplines.

During FY 2021-22, college and university students, faculty, and staff performed more than 8 million searches and 6.5 million downloads of content from the statewide e-resources collection.

FLVC’s centralized licensing of these E-Resources saves the state of Florida $16 million per year compared to decentralized licensing.