**Building a Shared Collection for Low-Use Print Library Materials**

In August 2007, the State University Libraries submitted to the Board of Governors (BOG) a proposal for construction of a High Density Library Storage Facility to be operated by the University of Florida on behalf of all the Libraries. The proposal was approved by the BOG in October 2007, and $2 million in planning money was provided in fiscal year 2010-2011. Construction funds are not anticipated any earlier than 2013-2014, given the current shortage of the PECO funds.

The primary purpose of the facility is the creation and management of a Shared Collection consisting of a single, commonly owned copy of low-use materials from the collections of the SUS Libraries. It will be a high-density facility with a capacity of 4.5 to 5 million volumes, climate controlled to optimize the life of the materials. Materials in the Shared Collection will be equally and readily available to all SUS Libraries, with items delivered to users either digitally or through the state-wide library courier service (DLLI). Annual operating expenses will be shared using an allocation based on student FTE.

The facility will offer efficiencies of space to all of the participating institutions, providing an opportunity to re-allocate existing on-campus library space by removing low-use or duplicate materials. The initial basis for the collection will be approximately 1 million items already in storage at the University of Florida (UF) Auxiliary Library Facility (ALF). 100,000 items have already been processed for transfer to the Shared Collection.

Because of the delay in funding for the construction, UF has arranged to lease an interim storage facility (Eclipse) in which the SUS Libraries can establish and expand the Shared Collection. This facility will have a capacity for an additional 800,000 to 1 million volumes. UF is covering the initial one-time costs to prepare the facility for occupancy and the recurring expenses for fiscal year 2011-2012. Beginning in 2012-2013, UF will cover 50% of the recurring costs and will need support from the other SUS institutions for the balance of the recurring costs, also to be allocated to on a student FTE basis.

The total recurring annual costs are estimated at approximately $480,000 annually for rent and utilities, with an average of $580,000 for receiving and processing materials for inclusion in the Shared Collection. This budget assumes that the facility reaches capacity in 5 years, with an average of 200,000 items processed per year. Obviously, it is unlikely that the flow of materials will be that evenly distributed, but it provides a basis for estimating the costs. Since the BOG staff have approved use of the PECO planning funds for processing materials in both ALF and Eclipse, it seems reasonable to seek additional planning/processing PECO funds while we wait for the construction of the building to reduce the processing costs that will otherwise be shared among the SUS.

 It is highly desirable to accelerate the construction of the High Density Facility so that the costs to be borne directly by the SUS institutions can be reduced.