

Florida Library Association State University Libraries Interest Group (SULIG)

Report

State University Libraries Electronic Resources Subcommittee (ERS)

The charge of the ERS is:

- Creating and managing a shared electronic collection acquired through state-wide funding;
- Leveraging the collective buying power of participating State University Libraries (SUL) to acquire resources funded through institutional dollars;
- Writing, maintaining, and applying collection development policies and procedures to the electronic collection;
- Advising collection managers on electronic resources and technologies.

ERS membership is comprised of a representative from each state university institution, one additional representative for each law and medical library, and an ex-officio member from the Florida Center for Library Automation (FCLA). The ERS membership nominates a chair and vice-chair for respective terms of two years.

There are five standing working groups (Business, Education, Humanities, Science/Health Science, and Social Sciences) that report to the ERS to provide subject expertise for new acquisitions, renewals, and cancellations.

Accomplishments since the 2006 meeting of the Florida Library Association

1. **FCLA Database Budget** - The ERS faced a possible deficit of more than \$400,000.00 for the 2006-2007 renewal of the FCLA funded databases. This was due to increases in database costs, an increase in FTE and a flat database budget for FCLA. The deficit was resolved in several ways:

- FCLA will no longer purchase FirstSearch blocks for per search databases. The remaining searches will last at least through Spring 2007. Once depleted, individual libraries will assume the responsibility of purchasing search blocks and indicating which per search databases they wish to continue. This resulted in a savings of \$207,000.00.
- Some vendors did not increase their prices or submitted pricing that was less than had been predicted.
- **MLA Bibliography** is no longer funded by FCLA. There had been general dissatisfaction with the Gale interface for a period of time and despite efforts to work with Gale, little had been done in the way of addressing the SUL issues. A proposal was received from EBSCO and all of the SULs now fund MLA at the institution level. This resulted in a savings for FCLA of \$61,797.00.
- FCLA negotiated with CSA and RefWorks and was successful in obtaining more favorable pricing.
- The CSUL Directors agree to fund the remaining overage.

2. **Lexis/Nexis Academic** - At the time of the last FLA conference, ERS reported that an evaluation of the LexisNexis Academic content and interface had been completed by the subject working groups and an ad hoc Law group in order to determine possible alternative resources.

The ERS studied the reports carefully and obtained price quotes for the alternative sources suggested by the working groups. There is not one resource that could replace LexisNexis Academic content completely. Several combinations of products were put forth as options. However, none were without drawbacks with regard to content coverage, pricing, pricing models, and /or compliance with federated search and link resolver technologies. ERS made the decision to renew LexisNexis Academic.

LexisNexis has been in the process of redesigning the Academic product for more than one year now. ERS participated in demonstrations of the new interface and contributed suggestions regarding needed features and enhancements. Initial previews of the direction the redesign is taking were favorable. The beta version of the new interface is now available and can be accessed via a link provided in the current version of the product.

3. **Metalib Summit** - An ad hoc committee of the ERS took on the responsibility of planning and holding an SFX/Metalib Summit. The results of a preliminary survey identified Metalib as the product of most concern and it was determined that the summit should focus on Metalib.

The Summit took place September 7-9. A report from Monica Metz-Wiseman, chair of the summit planning committee is attached.

4. **SOLINET Pilot Project** - At the request of the CSUL Directors the ERS initiated a pilot project with SOLINET, whereby SOLINET acted as the negotiating agent for the SULs with 2 publishers; University of Chicago Press and Taylor & Francis. Both of these publishers have journal packages of interest to SUL members and we were interested in seeing if this would be an effective way of negotiating agreements. The pilot is ongoing and results have been slow in developing. The CSUL Directors have approved extending the project through June. If negotiations have not resulted in an agreement with these publishers at that time, the ERS hopes that the project can be continued by the FCLA E-Resource Licensing Specialist.

5. **Subject Working Groups** - The five standing groups were asked to review and revise as necessary their wish lists of electronic resources as last submitted. The new lists have been compiled and the total cost amounts to \$3,398,014. Some pricing was not available and one group did not include pricing in their report.

6. **Value Line** - Since the onset of the FCLA subscription to Value Line, the SULs have experienced inconsistencies in access to the product. There were enough incidents where access was denied and the problem was not resolved within an acceptable timeframe to warrant sending a letter to the CEO of Value Line chronicling these events. This letter also suggested that a credit for downtime would be appropriate.

FCLA received an explanation and assurance that the problem had been resolved. Each account has also been extended for 30 days at no charge for the time in which service was interrupted. In March of 2007, FCLA was notified that the subscription had been upgraded to include the Value Line Research Center at no additional cost. Pricing is expected to remain the same over the next two years.

7. **ACM Digital Library** – SOLINET now offers consortial pricing for the ACM Digital Library, one of the resources currently funded by FCLA. The pricing is less than what is currently being paid. However, ACM has a policy that “any institution or group of institutions that lapses to jump to a new consortium deal will remain at their old consortium’s current per institution price for at least two cycles....” The ERS made the decision to move to the SOLINET offer, but will not be able to take advantage of the higher discount until July 2008.

8. **Gale Academic OneFile** – This resource was added to the current Gale package funded by FCLA as the cost was nominal, \$1,748.00.

Other database and e-journal package highlights include:

- The selection and addition of \$39,558.00 worth of titles to the Gale Virtual Reference library;
- Engaged in the renewal process for Cambridge, Oxford, Wiley & Elsevier;
- New agreements were reached with Blackwell and Springer;
- Proposals received and completed; Index to Foreign legal Periodicals (FIU-LAW, FSU-LAW, UF-LAW), Readex U.S. Serials Set (FAMU-LAW, UCF, UNF); Historical Statistics of the United States (FAU, USF, UWF, UCF, FSU);
- Proposals under consideration or in process; Inspec and Inspec Archives via Engineering Village, Sage Premier, Nature;
- Other proposals received; LexisNexis Congressional Research Digital Collection, GeoScienceWorld, Scholars Resource, CSA/Sage Full Text Collection, Knovel, Science Online, Newsbank Access World News, Mergent Manuals, Million Dollar Directory, Journal of Fluid Mechanics Digital Archive.

Respectfully Submitted,
Eleanor Lomax, Chair, Electronic Resources Subcommittee