LIBRARIES AND eRESOURCES COLLABORATIVE
FOCUS ON EFFICIENCY

The CSU's Systemwide Digital Library Content leveraged its purchasing power to achieve economies of scale and augment its eResources acquisitions while strengthening the content available to students and faculty.

CSU's Systemwide Digital Library Content (SDLC) program coordinates and manages contracting of electronic information resources, eResources, in support of CSU's academic mission. SDLC is one of the most successful models for shared acquisition of electronic information in the nation and manages the consortium on behalf of its member libraries, which include CSU, CCC and UC campuses. SDLC focused on leveraging its substantial purchasing power to achieve economies of scale and maximize these benefits for CSU's students and faculty. This resulted in a cost savings/avoidance of $15 million for the CSU in 2017-18.

The CSU's Digital Library eResources provides access to about 800 million sources — journals, dissertations and other research data, and there are more than 100 million full-text resources available. The program also manages a portfolio of agreements for licenses and subscriptions with publishers, research institutions and other academic eResources programs to provide nearly 99,000 e-journals. The resource is in constant use: CSU faculty, staff and students performed more than 6 million searches and 5 million full-text downloads in 2017.

IMPACT AND BENEFITS

The library collaboration:

- Provides access to about 800 million searchable journal articles, dissertations and other research data, with more than 100 million full-text resources available online

- Manages a portfolio of approximately 50 eResources agreements governing licenses and subscriptions with hundreds of publishers, research institutions and other academic e-resource providers covering nearly 99,000 full-text e-journals

- In 2017, allowed CSU faculty, staff and students to perform more than 6 million searches and 5 million full-text downloads using systemwide discovery and access tools

- In 2017-18, provided a cost savings/avoidance of $15 million for the CSU through its cooperative purchasing strategy

- Avoids the need for two full-time employees per CSU campus to locally manage eResources acquisitions

MILESTONES

2012
- SDLC implements a reset to the original library eResources acquisition program by incorporating new technologies to all of SDLC's procedures and processes, in addition to updating requirements to rights and restrictions terms that SDLC requires of its vendors.

2013
- SDLC adds e-books to SDLC eResources portfolio in recognition of the increasing importance of e-books in CSU libraries' collections and the desire to influence the development of e-book acquisition models friendly to CSU libraries.

2014
- SDLC adds streaming audio and video resources to SDLC's eResources portfolio due to the increased importance of these services in CSU libraries' collections along with the goal of influencing the development of acquisition models friendly to CSU libraries.

2015
- Reimagines SDLC services to provide eResources offerings while financial resources remained flat

2016
- SDLC moves from content focus to content and services focus.

2017
- Increases collaboration with campus libraries
- Launch of SDLC Professional Development Program for vendor-provided eResources training

- Provides equal access by students across all CSU campuses

- Results in vendors being more responsive to CSU requirements

- Influences industry leaders to develop business models that are more friendly to the CSU and higher education

- Considers the unique rights and restrictions of faculty and students, CSU fiscal requirements, higher education's unique environment, and up-to-date educational and technological needs of CSU students

OPPORTUNITIES

- Reinventing the library e-resource industry to better meet student and faculty needs while containing costs

- Keeping up with students' demands to stay current with technology (e.g., mobile access)

QUALITY

Five of the top 10 most-visited websites hosted by the Chancellor's Office are CSU library systems.

LESSONS LEARNED

1 Having librarians and students drive selection of resources better meets needs and helps to control costs.

2 Supporting rather than leading consortium meetings created a collaborative environment.

REFERENCES

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