



To: Our Stakeholder Organization Partners

From: Council of Chief Librarians
Library Services Platform Governance Committee

Date: April 7, 2020

Re: Support for LSP Funding

Good afternoon. With the current state of affairs amid COVID-19 concerns, it is easy to forget about issues and concerns that are not as emergent. That being said, the Library Services Platform (LSP) project faces a dire situation if ongoing funding is not achieved for the soon-coming 2020-21 Fiscal Year. On behalf of the LSP Governance Committee and the Council of Chief Librarians, we are asking our stakeholder partners to join us in asking the Governor to include funding for this project in the 2020-21 Budget.

With 110 colleges live on the new Alma/PrimoVE platform, a governance structure in-place and every project milestone met ontime, the LSP project is being heralded as an example of how a statewide technology project should be done. In fact, the project was recently awarded the Technology Focus Award at the CISOA Technology Summit. At no time during this entire process was there ever a notion that such a statewide system would be possible to operate effectively without centralized system administration and an infrastructure to provide ongoing support. And without that centralized system administration and infrastructure, the long-term goals of the project for robust resource sharing, system-wide work efficiencies, and establishment of truly best practices in instruction and student use will simply not occur.

In the recent weeks of transitioning most of our colleges to remote-learning, the new statewide LSP has been a huge benefit, allowing libraries to quickly shift to remote-work while still providing access to resources for students and faculty.

“With the common Alma/Primo VE LSP, we CCC librarians can consult continually with each other about problems, solutions and trends. We know that we are, literally, on the same library system page in the cloud, regardless of college size, setting or equipment in our home offices. This is most reassuring during the COVID-19 crisis.”

Tom Stough
Librarian
Oxnard College

“During the Covid-19 crisis I’ve discovered that because our library is a new Alma/Primo library, we have been able to safely, efficiently, and effectively add new resources, update them, and share those resources with Shasta College students and faculty who have been required to get up to

speed with online instruction very quickly. Working remotely the Shasta College library staff is able to continue to provide information and assistance to our college community.”

Cheryl Cruse
Technical Processing Librarian
Shasta College Library

“Going live with ALMA in January has been just about the best thing that could have happened in the face of COVID-19. The ease of use and endless scalability of the system allows our library to meet the evolving needs of our students in these difficult times and offer things that were not simply not possible before; launch new initiatives and keep everyone at the library busy and seamlessly working on improving the library operations from home without skipping a beat.”

Pawel A. Szponar
Library Coordinator and Systems Admin
Foothill College

In addition to serving as a major resource during the COVID-19 crisis, every major benchmark has been met in the implementation of this project. However, without state funding, the project loses its leverage as each college is left to negotiate its own contract. Without network and project support, the project loses its capacity to develop and grow into a tool that students and instructors alike can use to its full benefit in locating and accessing library resources. Without an infrastructure to support ongoing work, much of the value of a shared system will be lost, and the important equity and student success potentials of the LSP will be significantly compromised.

The cost for the systemwide LSP is \$4 million/year. Formerly, colleges spent \$9 million cumulatively on 14 disparate library systems. Centralized funding is a much more effective and efficient use of State funds. Local funds that were previously budgeted for library platforms might now be utilized for a variety of much needed resources, including, but not limited to: additional database collections to support high-impact certificate programs, the purchase of physical and electronic book collections to increase equitable student access to resources and an increase of library operating hours to allow working students easier access to tutoring and other student support programs. Some colleges hope to utilize those funds to purchase other items to aid in student success, such as additional laptops and calculators for semester long checkouts to support some of their most vulnerable populations. In some college districts, previous library software systems were funded by IT and those libraries will likely not see any addition to their budget or ability to purchase resources.

If funding is not secured, the project and platform oversight will cease to exist on June 30, 2020. Without the requested ongoing funding, each college will be forced to contract individually with the LSP vendor. The result will be a loss of economies of scale, the creation of systemwide inequities, and the potential loss of expanded resource sharing between colleges. Many colleges will be unable to afford the ongoing subscription and maintenance costs of the platform on their own and may revert to older, antiquated options, losing all of the valuable progress made by the project. This project has already provided substantially more equitable access to resources and materials for all 110 participating colleges - from the small, rural colleges like College of the

Siskiyou, Lassen College, and Barstow, to the larger more urban colleges such as East Los Angeles and Pasadena.

Please support this vital project by sending your message of support to Governor Gavin Newsom and Chancellor Eloy Oakley. We have attached a draft message for your ease of use. You can copy and paste the memo onto your organization's letterhead here: bit.ly/LSPSupport Thank you in advance for your support!

Members and Colleges Represented on the CCL Board and LSP Governance Committee:

Doug Achterman (Gavilan College)	Jeff Karlsen (Sacramento City College)
Gregg Atkins (Council of Chief Librarians)	Megan Kinney (City College of San Francisco)
Will Breitbach (Shasta College)	Evelyn Lord (Laney College)
Norman Buchwald (Chabot College)	Eve Miller (Santa Rosa Junior College)
Sara Cassetti (MiraCosta College)	Michelle Ohnstad (MiraCosta College)
Monika Chavez (Mt. San Antonio College)	Donna Reed (City College of San Francisco)
Catherine Cox (College of the Redwoods)	Van Rider (Antelope Valley College)
Dan Crump (American River College)	Romelia Salinas (Mt. San Antonio College)
Monica Doman (Cypress College)	Rupa Saran (Coast Community College District)
Marlene Forney (Palomar College)	Aloha Sargent (Cabrillo College)
Gary Ginther (College of the Desert)	Lauren Saslow (Pierce College)
Eric Hanson (Glendale Community College)	John Taylor (Orange Coast College)
Peter Hepburn (College of the Canyons)	Leslie Tirapelle (Pasadena City College)
Dina Humble (San Bernardino Valley College)	James Wisner (California Community College League)
Steve Hunt (Santa Monica College)	
Tina Inzerilla (Las Positas College)	