

Libraries and Information Skills for Students: support through computing and information technology

General Libraries Vision Plan for Information Technology 2000-2001

Executive Summary

The General Libraries long-term goals for information technology are:

- Pursue a vigorous program of teaching essential information skills required for success in the electronic environment to the entire UT Austin community.
- Establish the information and computing technology infrastructure critical to support UT Austin digital library services.
- Enhance UT Library Online with significant electronic information resources and services for UT scholars.
- Promote resource sharing and continue collaborative programs at the national, regional, state, and campus level in support of distance information-based services.

In support of the first goal, a vigorous program of teaching essential information skills, and to better serve the needs of University students, the General Libraries proposes a project to replace the Perry-Castañeda Library Electronic Information Center (PCL EIC) user workstations, proctor stations, and servers with equipment comparable to that found in the similar facilities on campus and create a hands-on training facility as an integral part of the facility. The proposed project budget is \$122,000.

General Libraries Vision, Goals, Objectives, and Recent Progress

The General Libraries primary **mission** is to support and enhance the University's learning-centered educational, research, and public service activities by providing access to information and scholarly resources in support of scholarship by University students and faculty.

Long-term **goals** of the General Libraries Vision Plan for Information Technology complement those of the Long Range Planning for Information Technology Steering Committee:

- Pursue a vigorous program of teaching essential information skills required for success in the electronic environment to the entire UT Austin community.
- Establish the information and computing technology infrastructure critical to support UT Austin digital library services.
- Enhance UT Library Online with significant electronic information resources and services for UT scholars.
- Promote resource sharing and continue collaborative programs at the national, regional, state, and campus level in support of distance information-based services.

Recent accomplishments highlight significant **progress** towards realizing the General Libraries long-term goals:

- TILT, Texas Information Literacy Tutorial, an award-winning web tutorial designed by the General Libraries Digital Information Literacy Office for use by all UT Austin students.
- Continued heavy student use of Electronic Information Centers in the Undergraduate Library, PCL, and the Engineering Library with information specialists to provide assistance and instruction in information literacy.
- Initiation of off-campus remote access to digital library services for all students, regardless of Internet service provider used.

Center, IEEE/IEE Internet Electronic Library; about 200 databases and over 2,000 electronic journals are available through UT Library Online.

- In collaboration with the Texas State Historical Association, launched the Handbook of Texas Online, the encyclopedia of Texas, to national acclaim.
- Support for digital library services to both the UT TeleCampus and on-site users of UT component campuses.
- Continued responsibility for electronic information programs of TexShare, a statewide academic library resource sharing program now administered by the Texas State Library and Archives Commission.

Facilities, Staffing, and Other Infrastructure

Facilities

General Libraries facilities as well as the Humanities Research Center, the Center for American History, and the Tarlton Law Library provide 123 UT Library Online Stations and 150 terminals to students, faculty, and staff for academic purposes. The general public may use these stations during posted hours in General Libraries facilities.

Three Electronic Information Centers, located in the Undergraduate Library, the Perry-Castañeda Library, and the Engineering Library, provide assistance from information specialists and access to specialized materials from 75 workstations.

Servers used to provide digital library services are located in the Perry-Castañeda Library and ACITS Network Operations Center. Online catalog and circulation services are supported on ACS' administrative mainframe computer. All General Libraries information technology staff are housed within General Libraries facilities, primarily in the Perry-Castañeda Library.

Staffing

Functional Responsibilities	FTE Staff
Online catalog, Circulation Services, ACS Liaison	5.0
Design and Publication Services for UT Library Online, Research Web, TexShare Web, UT System Digital Library; Team Web; Special Information Projects; Vendor Liaison; ACITS Liaison; Licensing and Subscription Services	9.0
System Administration of General Libraries, UT System Digital Library, and TexShare services; General Libraries network design and operation; Access control	7.5
Installation and maintenance of public and staff desktop platforms	4.75
Total FTE Staff	26.25

Academic Instructional Projects (ITAC Eligible)

Project

Perry-Castañeda Library Electronic Information Center Enhancement

Abstract: Replace the Perry-Castañeda Library Electronic Information Center (PCL EIC) user workstations, proctor stations, and servers with up-to-date equipment comparable to that found in the similar facilities on campus and create a hands-on training facility as an integral part of the facility.

Description: The Perry-Castañeda Library Electronic Information Center is an extremely busy computer laboratory available to the entire University community. The facility is currently equipped with 25 aging Macintosh and Windows computers nearing the useful end of their lifecycle and is open for use 99 hours per week. The PCL EIC recorded 87,611 logins during 1998/99, a 60 percent increase over the previous year.

The mission of the PCL Electronic Information Center (EIC) is to serve the information needs of students and the greater University community. The facility is available to UT students and faculty for use of the online information licensed by the General

Libraries, online University information and services, and other Internet resources. Trained library staff are available to assist users in searching bibliographic and full-text databases, accessing the growing collections of electronic books and journals, accessing assignment and other course-related materials produced by faculty, and to answer related software and printing questions. The PCL EIC is also a primary site for students to get assistance with online registration, computer accounts, claiming UTEIDs, and similar administrative services needed by students. This proposal would upgrade and expand the number of computers available to users from the current 25 to 40 and would provide access for laptop users by adding Ethernet ports and seating. In addition, one section of the EIC would have a portable computer projection unit and screen for hands-on electronic information training. This training area would also be available to students during all hours the library is open when no training is scheduled.

Audience: University of Texas at Austin students and faculty

Space: Space is currently available in the Perry-Castañeda Library, Electronic Information Center

Budget:

40 user workstations	\$ 68,000
Server, cabling, technical infrastructure	\$ 46,800
Projector and other training equipment	\$ 7,200
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Total	\$122,000

Administrative and Research Projects (Non-ITAC Eligible)

Project: Enhanced Access to UT Austin Library Holdings

Goal: Purchase a standards-based, vendor supplied system to assure state-of-the-art access to the library holdings of UT Austin, to effectively and efficiently operate UT Austin libraries, and to enable collaborative resource sharing and distance information access services.

Budget: \$3 million (one-time)

Proposed Funding Source: UT System LERR funds

Project: UT Austin Library Online Digital Library

Goal: Continue development of UT Library Online (the UT Austin digital library initiative) within the distributed computing environment on the UT Austin campus and the UT System to provide state-of-the-art information and services for both UT Austin and UT System libraries and their users.

Budget: approximately \$750,000 annually

Proposed Funding Source: UT System LERR funds

Project: UT System Digital Library

Goal: Provide library services to UT TeleCampus and UT System component libraries for on-site and distant learners, access to commercial and local information resources, and training, planning, and consulting services.

Budget: approximately \$350,000 annually

Proposed Funding Source: UT System Administration assessment to component campuses

Project: TexShare Technical Information Services

Goal: Continue management of the TexShare technical information services for all libraries in the 140 institutions of higher education throughout the state, including public, private and community colleges, as well as all public libraries in Texas.

Budget: approximately \$100,000 annually

Proposed Funding Source: Texas State Library and Archives Commission

College Instructional Technology Funding Overview and Life Cycle Methodology

Library Funding Overview (Academic and Administrative)

Primary sources of funding for library information technology initiatives are the General Libraries regular budget, UT System LERR Program, UT System Administration Information Technology and Distance Education program, and external grants and contracts. The overall strategy is to provide comparable services to various constituencies, thereby leveraging staff resources. The General Libraries regular budget supports 16.75 FTE staff, alternate funding sources support an additional 9.5 FTE staff. Electronic information resources are funded by the General Libraries regular budget, the student library fee, and various revolving funds including library fines, lost book charges, and printer revenue.

Life Cycle Methodology (Academic and Administrative)

Virtually all equipment (desktop, servers, and connectivity) is funded by one-time capital funds that are requested annually. As new desktop equipment is purchased, older equipment is provided to another staff member whose job duties can be effectively carried out on a less-powerful platform. To date, no sustainable funding mechanism to provide consistent life-cycle funding for information technology infrastructure has been identified.



Appendix 2

Network Status

All General Libraries facilities have UUNET access with the exception of the Library Storage Facility on the Pickle Research Campus. Plans currently under consideration to expand this facility will include connections to UUNET.

Library Instruction Facilities

- PCL 1.124 Classroom style seating for 75, large screen display equipment
- PCL 4.102 Classroom style seating for 35; large screen display equipment
- EJC 1.304 Alec Center for Creativity; conference style seating for 20; large screen display equipment
- FAC 227 Hands-on facility shared with ACITS; 15 user Macintoshes and instructor station