

## An Analysis of FCLA and CCLA Data Center Transition Plans

By the Technology Subcommittee

Task Force on the Future of Academic Libraries in Florida

The Technology Subcommittee was requested by the Chair and Co-Chair of the Task Force on the Future of Academic Libraries in Florida to review the data center transition plans submitted by Florida Center for Library Automation (FCLA) and College Center for Library Automation (CCLA) and offer recommendations and observations. Below are the comments and recommendations of the Technology Subcommittee.

### **Executive Summary**

While FCLA and CCLA have a history of cooperation and collaboration, it should be noted that both plans, as submitted, focused on the geographical (physical) relocation of the existing data centers, as requested, rather than on the strategic needs of the next generation library technology infrastructure. Additionally, as highlighted in our conclusions and recommendations, the allotment of additional time to review both data centers from a more strategic, collaborative, and user requirements driven process would allow for the development of a more comprehensive and complete study. Such a study would identify cost benefits and opportunities associated with redefining business processes, leveraging purchasing models, as well as leveraging existing resources including infrastructure and staff.

Based upon a review of the existing documents submitted to the Technology Subcommittee we offer the following observations and comments:

### **CCLA Data Center Transition Plan**

**Florida State 2010 Specific Appropriation 112 (Excerpt regarding CCLA):** From the funds in Specific Appropriation 112, the College Center for Library Automation shall work in conjunction with the Florida Center of Library Automation to develop and submit a transition plan by October 1, 2010, to the Executive Office of the Governor, the chair of the Senate Policy and Steering Committee on Ways and Means, the chair of the House Full Appropriations Council on Education & Economic Development, the Chancellor of the Board of Governors, and the State Board of Education, for the relocation and consolidation of its computing services and associated resources to the Northwest Regional Data Center (NWRDC) by December 31, 2011, pursuant to s. 282.201(2)(d)1.e., Florida Statutes. The center shall work with the Agency for Enterprise Information Technology (AEIT) and the NWRDC in developing the plan, in accordance with requirements of the AEIT, that shall, at a minimum, include an inventory of all

resources, including but not limited to, all computing equipment; a description of resources for computing services proposed to remain in the department; the budget, full time personnel, and contracted services associated with the cost of its current computing services; the necessary budget adjustments required to accomplish the transfer to computing resources; and a timetable with significant milestones for the completion of the relocation.

**Comment:** Based upon the preliminary review of these documents we would agree to the cost analysis provided by CCLA as to the transition and relocation of its data center to Northwest Regional Data Center (NWRDC). Specifically, the Technology Subcommittee finds that if CCLA were to relocate its data center at this time from its current location to NWRDC there would be:

- a. A one-time estimated cost of \$114,000 for moving CCLA equipment from its current location to NWRDC. Additional costs could also be incurred associated with the relocation of data center to NWRDC, such as the need to retrofit the existing CCLA data center space after the relocation. However, this would need to be reviewed in greater detail;
- b. An estimated increase in data center operation cost of \$245,200 per year for NWRDC to provide the needed data center services as currently defined by CCLA. The \$245,200 is the service fee assessed in 2010 dollars and will increase with the increase in the cost of service materials and labor based upon their projected requirement;
- c. An unknown increase in software license fees, including both an estimated one-time purchase of additional library management system software license fee of \$651,200 and an on-going license fee of \$149,000.

**Additional Observations Specific to the CCLA Plan:** We concur with CCLA about its assessment of uncertainties that should be addressed prior to the data center relocation, specifically:

- a. The role of the Agency for Enterprise Information Technology (AEIT) in the negotiation and facilitation of service agreement between CCLA and NWRDC;
- b. The joint review by NWRDC and CCLA of the need for additional Ex Libris license and the joint negotiation with Ex Libris to reach an agreement on the joint use of Ex Libris software;

- c. Determination of the need for re-negotiation and rewriting of the existing CCLA hardware and software agreements to include NWRDC as an end user;
- d. Determination of the legality of transferring the ownership of CCLA equipment to NWRDC;
- e. Developing a plan to consolidate the K-12 bibliographic data from the former SULINK into CCLA database and service;
- f. Given the significant cost of the relocation should we elect to move forward, if CCLA data center relocation plan is to be carried out, CCLA should be funded properly for both the one-time and recurring costs as listed in the above sections of “Comment” and “Additional Comment”.

### **FCLA Data Center Transition Plan**

**Florida State 2010 Specific Appropriation 132 (Excerpt regarding FCLA):** From the funds in Specific Appropriation 132, the Florida Center for Library Automation shall work in conjunction with the College Center of Library Automation to develop and submit a transition plan by October 1, 2010, to the Executive Office of the Governor, the chair of the Senate Policy and Steering Committee on Ways and Means, the chair of the House Full Appropriations Council on Education & Economic Development, the Chancellor of the Board of Governors, and the State Board of Education, for the relocation and consolidation of its computing services and associated resources to the Northwest Regional Data Center (NWRDC) by December 31, 2011, pursuant to s. 282.201(2)(d)1.e., Florida Statutes. The center shall work with the Agency for Enterprise Information Technology (AEIT) and the NWRDC in developing the plan, in accordance with the requirements of the AEIT, that shall, at a minimum, include an inventory of all resources, including but not limited to, all computing equipment; a description of resources for computing services proposed to remain in the department; the budget, full time personnel, and contracted services associated with the cost of its current computing services; the necessary budget adjustments required to accomplish the transfer of computing resources; and a timetable with significant milestones for the completion of the relocation.

**Comment:** After reviewing FCLA data center transition plan, we offer the following comments:

- a. There is inconsistency between 2010 State Specific Appropriation 132, which required that FCLA be relocated to NWRDC and the conclusion made by the Agency for Enterprise Information Technology (AEIT) that FCLA is not

subjected to the data center consolidation mandated in Chapter 282 of the Florida Statutes.

- b. FCLA already has a substantial amount of equipment installed in NWRDC and has been using NWRDC as its standby and backup operation site for business continuity. FCLA has been using its equipment in NWRDC whenever FCLA conducts equipment maintenance or has an outage at its UF site.
- c. Relocating all FCLA equipment to NWRDC essentially amounts to eliminating FCLA's existing business continuity plan and capability.
- d. There will be a one-time cost of \$125,000 for moving the existing equipment from UF site to NWRDC.
- e. There will be an estimated increase in recurring costs of \$90,000 per year for adding staff at NWRDC to monitor and maintain FCLA data center equipment. There will also be both one-time and recurring costs associated with adding NWRDC to the Ex Libris contract. These costs have not yet been ascertained. However, since the FCLA and CCLA contracts are almost exactly the same, the costs could be similar to those reported by CCLA.

**Additional Observations Specific to the FCLA Plan:** We would also offer the following recommendations regarding the relocation of FCLA to NWRDC:

- a. Clarify the inconsistency between 2010 State Specific Appropriation 132 and Chapter 282 of the Florida Statutes and determine if FCLA should relocate all of its data center equipment to NWRDC.
- b. Given that FCLA has already been using NWRDC as its standby and backup operation site, re-evaluate the benefit of relocating all FCLA equipment to NWRDC. Based on the information provided by FCLA data center transition plan, there is little benefit from relocating all FCLA equipment to NWRDC because the relocation eliminates FCLA's existing business continuity plan and will force FCLA to select a new site for business continuity and disaster recovery. If all FCLA equipment is relocated to NWRDC and thereby FCLA's existing business continuity plan is eliminated, FCLA should be funded for building a new disaster recovery site away from NWRDC for business continuity.
- c. If it is determined that FCLA is in the scope of the State data center consolidation effort and that FCLA must relocate all its equipment from its UF site to NWRDC,

FCLA should be funded for the projected one-time and on-going costs as a result of the mandated data center relocation to NWRDC.

### **Conclusion**

In that both CCLA and FCLA (environments) should be addressed as they reach technology life cycles within the next three years, the Technology Subcommittee would question the rationale for an immediate transition plan to a new consolidated data center at this time. Given the significant cost for relocating CCLA data center to NWRDC, as well as the FCLA cost study, it is recommended that additional time be allocated to conduct a more in-depth cost-benefit analysis. As identified within these plans, as requested, there is a high cost associated with the physical movement of equipment, new software licensing, and space realignment while not truly considering other factors. The concern of the Technology Subcommittee is that both plans focus on the geographical relocation of existing data centers with little regard for redefining business processes and leveraging shared infrastructure, shared software, or shared data center staff.

The Technology Subcommittee recommends

- a. that a timeline be developed with an independent (third party) review of the existing data centers that focuses more on the strategy of building a next generation library model, both internal and external to research libraries,
- b. that the issue of consolidation of the data centers be based upon a document driven by requirements for the delivery of these services, and
- c. that the consolidation plans address the benefits and opportunities of future technology strategies, and merging, leveraging, and sharing of support infrastructures including buildings, staff, and software.

### **Members of the Technology Subcommittee**

Doug Guiler, Chief Information Office, *Lake Sumter Community College*

Dick Hamann, VP Information Technology & Resources/CIO, *Seminole State College*

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### **Subject Matter Experts/Resources to the Technology Subcommittee**

Jim Corey, Director, *Florida Center for Library Automation*

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