

From Janice Henderson, Northwest Florida State College

## **What CCLA does that is working well and is of value**

### 1) Library Management System

- a. The library management system we share has a robust, flexible and dynamic structure that uses the data that each college has found during collection development and cataloged by describing it and placing it in the proper location based on the needs of our patrons and separate curriculum.
- b. The library management system is so much more than just a catalog of materials, a record of the rules of circulation, a listing of our patrons, and a way to order, process, organize and share information. BUT that is exactly what it started out to be and what CCLA has provided for the group as a whole with individualized application for each institution.
- c. The Florida College System gets a library management system that individually we could not afford, that we would not be able to stretch beyond basic usage, and could not maintain either financially or physically and we have done it in a cooperative collaborative way.

### 2) Advisory relationship

- a. CCLA is not just a data center, a service we subscribe to, training center or a helpdesk, but it is all those things as well as a partner that values each institution's input and experiences without making the institutional staff learn it all, do it all and potentially ruin it all on our own!
- b. The college continues to have control and ownership of all the metadata and resources that we share while CCLA builds and adapts the structure in such a way that we can and do share (and by the way have shared for more than 20 years). Please note that ownership is not important because the information has a measurable value – ownership is established so that the metadata is protected (FERPA, copyright, and license restrictions) and shared (resource sharing and cooperative cataloging) in a way that maximizes the state and our local communities investment in the information.
- c. CCLA does not just have a relationship with the library – they have a complex and synergistic relationship with our IT departments, business offices, student records officers, and instructional technology providers. Each of the 28 run different business, student records, and course management systems. The job of embedding access to the library and access for the library into those systems has been done (to the extent possible) and is being done by the departments involved at each institution and CCLA staff.

### 3) Library Resources

- a. CCLA again provides the robust, dynamic, and flexible structure that we each need to provide digital resources to each institution's patron in a way that is as transparent as we can make it (and getting more transparent everyday).
- b. **As a group** the 28 member Advisory Board voting members have selected and CCLA has managed an impressive collection of resources for 15 + years without a single student having to know where it came from, who paid for it or where it was actually "located"!
- c. The resources which have always been a significant investment for the colleges – first on their own, then as a group, then on their own again, and now as a state funded with additional group buying for added value resources. We have years of experience now with maximizing the use, the funds, and the system so that from the largest to the smallest our students have access in the most advantageous and cutting edge way that is possible. If we squabble it is over "a best practice" for providing a service – not over whether we will provide A service or not!

### **What is currently not available**

This is not what they "won't" or "can't" do because CCLA has a process so IF a majority of the Advisory group declares it to be important then CCLA begins to use, tweak and/or build a way to accomplish that identified need.

There are things we have not done yet and they have already been affected by this proviso language:

- 1) Digitization of both materials (for preservation and access) and services (like Ask-A-Librarian) so that our students can get to resources and services wherever the students are.
- 2) Moving to the "next generation" of library materials management and discovery tools. Okaloosa-Walton Junior College might not even be discussing the first generation products if we had done it alone!
- 3) Integration of library processes and information into college systems so that students and faculty have single sign-on (28 different versions) with broad access to the whole world of materials and services.

Colleges and Universities have always cooperated and each year – especially since 2001 we have expanded and deepened that collaboration but we do not and should not run a "united" system anymore than we all should just be one institution.

**If the “concepts” in the proviso are implemented**

**We (libraries of the Florida College System) already have implemented the proviso concepts and for our system as a whole we have:**

a union catalog capable of searching more information directly related to our mission and curriculum levels.

a working method for joint negotiation of resources and we are currently expanding that negotiation process to reach more people in the state of Florida.

Florida College System is consolidated to  
maximize efficiencies (21 years worth of them),  
reduce costs both to the state and to each institution,  
and collaborate in a model that is known worldwide.

we have a statewide approach for contracting with cataloging utilities and have maximized our memberships in library organizations to increase the influence of the state of Florida.

At Florida College System libraries we are free to focus on student learning outcomes, general education goals like information literacy, specific program demands and individual faculty needs at our respective institutions because CCLA, our presidents, and the library staff have invested both state and college funds, personnel and time into building a partnership that we can no longer separate from ourselves. We are enough alike to be the Florida College System and different enough to be 28 institutions and CCLA has supported our differences and enhanced our commonality.