ULMS: Unified Library Management System

“THE BIG, IMPORTANT ISSUE IS TO ENSURE EQUITY ACROSS ALL CAMPUSES. ALL STUDENTS, FACULTY AND STAFF NEED TO HAVE EQUALLY SUCCESSFUL AND POWERFUL LIBRARY SERVICES.”

Gerry Hanley, Assistant Vice Chancellor, Academic Technology Services

WHAT IS THE ULMS?
ULMS stands for Unified Library Management System. It’s a next-generation digital platform for providing library services across the California State University.

WHAT WILL IT DO?
1. **AID DISCOVERY.** The platform will serve as a gateway to digital resources for CSU students, faculty and staff across disciplines, ensuring library users at every campus equally powerful access to articles, e-journals and e-books.
2. **UNITE RESOURCES.** The ULMS will provide “consortium capabilities,” allowing libraries to see what other campuses are buying and leverage that knowledge for better contracts when purchasing digital journals and articles.
3. **EMPOWER ANALYTICS.** Libraries will easily be able to share and compare user data, giving the CSU a more complete picture of what books, journals and resources are in high demand and allowing libraries to better serve users’ needs.
4. **SIMPLIFY WORKFLOW.** Currently, staff must enter the same data into multiple systems, many that don’t communicate with each other. One platform reduces redundant data entry and unifies the source of data about CSU library collections.

WHO SUPPORTS THE ULMS?
The ULMS is a collaboration between the CSU libraries and the Chancellor’s Office.

LEARNING FROM OTHERS
Many other library systems are beginning to implement unified platforms. CSU has been consulting with the Orbis Cascade Alliance of 37 libraries based in Oregon, Washington, and Idaho. The University of California libraries are also beginning to explore a unified platform.

“We can expect this trend toward large-scale systems to continue and to accelerate as libraries seek opportunities to operate more efficiently…and to leverage technology to strengthen strategic cooperative initiatives.”


WHAT’S NEXT?
Fall 2014
The ULMS steering committee releases request for proposals

Winter 2014
In-person demos at Chancellor’s Office

Spring 2015
Secure agreement with vendor

October 2015–May 2016
Phase 1 migration and implementation

March 2016–December 2017
Phase 2 migration and implementation

October 2017–June 2018
Phase 3 migration and implementation

MORE INFORMATION ON THE ULMS
CSU Systemwide Digital Library Services
library.calstate.edu