Status of the Next-Generation Integrated Library System (ILS) for Florida’s College and University Libraries

FALSC and Florida’s public postsecondary libraries are in the early stages of a transition to a next-generation ILS. This multi-year effort marks the largest transition to an integrated academic library catalog/discovery system in Florida’s history.

System Selection
A Next-Gen ILS Task Force, including representatives from FALSC and college and university libraries, was created by the FALSC’s Members Council on Library Services to evaluate and recommend a vendor-supplied next-generation system. In 2015, the Task Force recommended Innovative Interfaces (“Innovative”) as the system vendor. Innovative currently has more than 2,400 library systems installed in 9,500 libraries, in 66 countries. In July 2017, FALSC will implement Innovative’s Sierra ILS and Encore Duet discovery interface.

Funding
One-time funding to implement the new system has been provided to the Florida Virtual Campus through its FY 2016-17 Legislative Budget Request (LBR). FALSC is part of the Florida Virtual Campus and the Complete Florida Plus Program, administered by the University of West Florida’s Innovation Institute.

Statewide Collaboration
It takes a statewide village to put a new library system in place. FALSC, its Members Council, Florida’s college and university libraries, and their institutions continue to collaborate on each phase of the system’s implementation—from selection, to negotiation, to planning for the system’s implementation.

Hundreds of individuals from around the state will be involved in the system’s procurement and implementation. The general framework includes a high-level Steering Committee, an Implementation group, nine Working Groups comprised of library practitioners, Discussion Groups (by function) to ensure broad participation and communication throughout all stakeholder levels, and an ILS Coordinator from each institution.

Projected Timeline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date Range</th>
<th>Activity Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan–Apr 2016</td>
<td>Negotiations complete / Contract signed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sep–Dec 2016</td>
<td>Training for Working Groups</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan–May 2017</td>
<td>Training for library staff</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jul 2017</td>
<td>Sierra ILS and Encore Duet discovery interface “go live”</td>
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Key System Changes

- Innovative’s Sierra ILS will replace Aleph and related tools
- Innovative’s Encore Duet discovery interface will replace Mango and Primo
- EBSCO’s index of metadata will replace the Primo Central Index
- Once the new ILS is live, FALSC will decommission the legacy ILS and its related products
- Single shared bibliographic database for libraries at all 40 institutions
- July 2017 “go live” planned for all 40 public college and universities

Training and Support

- The Training Workgroup will identify training requirements
- Innovative will provide system-specific training
- FALSC will develop live and recorded webinars on specific topics
- Online training modules will be available for library staff
- A training database will be available for testing and practice
- Instructions, tips, and product documentation will be available online
- The FLVC/FALSC Help Desk will provide frontline support

Learn More

- Visit FALSC’s website at www.falsc.org – see the Sierra / Encore Duet Implementation page for detailed information
- View the Sierra / Encore Duet Implementation wiki, available online at www.falsc.org
- Join topic-based discussion groups (listserv) – coming soon
- Attend one of five regional User Meetings focused on Sierra / Encore Duet implementation
  - April 21 – Region 4 @ Hillsborough Community College
  - April 26 – Region 3 @ Valencia College
  - May 3 – Region 2 @ St. Johns River State College
  - May 12 – Region 1 @ Chipola College
  - May 18 – Region 5 @ Broward College