Dear,

I am writing to you as President of the Florida Association of College and Research Libraries (FACRL), which is the Florida state chapter of the American Library Association's (ALA) division of the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL).

Multiple line item vetoes in Governor DeSantis' budget included eliminating ALL funding (over $29 million) for Complete Florida Plus Program, a program that includes the Florida Academic Library Services Cooperative (FALSC), the Florida Virtual Campus (FLVC) and the Distance Learning and Student Services (DLSS) programs. This veto eliminates the budget for the university and college shared online catalog, discovery platforms and more than $6.8 million of shared digital resources. This is an essential resource that provides crucial infrastructure for over 40 public colleges and university libraries statewide that serve over 1.3 million students, faculty, and staff.

In addition, $2 million in funding for our multitype library cooperatives (MLC) – TBLC, SEFLIN, NEFLIN, PLAN and SWFLN – was eliminated. The MLCs provide many services that include the bulk of training and development for all Florida library workers.

This loss will impact the lives of ALL Floridians.  Currently there is no plan to restore state funding for any of these resources and services. The plan is to pass the costs of all FALSC/FLVC/DLSS services back onto the colleges and universities. Note that this is a time when budgets in higher education are already reduced due to the global pandemic – and the need for access to online library resources has never been more critical. As to the constituents who rely on Complete Florida Plus Program’s services from FALSC/FLVC/DLSS, the shared resources have never been more important as students, faculty, staff, and librarians work and learn in primarily virtual environments for the foreseeable future.

**What specifically is impacted?**

For FALSC, the following resources/services are at risk:

* Integrated Library System and search/discovery tools for all 40 institutions, including shared union catalog, UBorrow ILL system, etc.
* State-funded electronic resources collection
* Authentication platforms (EZProxy and OpenAthens) for online access to all e-resources
* Help Desk Services for all FALSC/FLVC/DLSS services
* Digital archives from many institutions housed in FL-Islandora
* Staff with unmatched experience and knowledge in all of the above!

**What will this mean for library operations and patrons?**

* **Integrated Library System/Aleph:** (inventory control, circulation, acquisitions, cataloging)

Without the ILS, libraries will lose:

* + their inventory management system.
  + the ability to loan print items and receive returns of print items in circulation (won’t be able to identify items that have been charged out and who has them)
  + the ability to manage patron data
  + unmediated borrowing of materials from other university libraries
  + course reserves system

New systems would need to purchased, implemented, and each of the 40 institutions would need to completely redesign workflows and processes from scratch, with no current planning in place. This process will take 9 to 12 months and cost millions of dollars.

* **Mango** (discovery service, catalog interface, patron empowerment, UBorrow) – all FCS and SUS libraries use this
  + Loss of statewide discovery tool (<https://union.discover.flvc.org/ux.jsp>)
  + Users would not be able to place holds, view their accounts or view reserves list.
  + Users would not be able to search the holdings of other 39 institutions or place holds on those materials (UBorrow)
  + Permalinks in syllabi, research papers, or other webpages would no longer function.
  + Users would lose access to tools like “folders”,”emails”,”txt to phone”, etc.
* **OneSearch** (discovery service: EDS, FindIt @ FSU, Journal Search, Curriculum Builder) – most SUS use this
  + Patron interface for searching collections of the libraries, plus journal and article resources.
  + Users will have no way of finding Library provided and free materials.
  + Inability to look up coverage for journals or find articles via citations.
  + Loss of OpenURL “Find it @” functionality: No ability to access an article across different platforms
  + Loss of Curriculum Builder tool: LTI-integrated service within online learning management systems at each college and university that allows instructors to build and manage reading lists within course sites
* **ILS Migration/Implementation**
  + Current library system is over 18 years old and no longer being updated; current contract with vendor and process for migrating the SUS and FCS to a next generation library system would be on hold and very difficult to recreate.
  + Inability to prepare the existing system's data for migration into a next generation library system.
* **Reporting** (Arrow, SQL specialized reports)
  + Losing access to Aleph means no reports can be run in that system.  In addition to reports in Aleph itself, FALSC creates and maintains coding for additional reports which help with the following:
    - Reports needed for internal work (record clean-up projects, fund reports for budget tracking, collection management i.e. withdraws and redesignations)
    - Reports for external reporting (ARL annual stats, ASERL stats, IPEDS, SACS/COC and program accreditation reports)
* **EResources licensed and paid by FLVC**
  + (These are calendar-year licenses, so lost access would start 01/21) – off-campus access would be lost sooner when Authentication Platforms are lost
  + Loss of access to licensed electronic resources (journals, books, etc.) required not just for research and learning functions of the university but also program accreditation.
  + Shared collection budget for FCS and SUS holdings amounted to $6,853,316 for 2020.
* **Group licensing for Eresources**: FLVC negotiates and licenses electronic resources which are funded from institutional budgets
  + FALSC negotiates group discounts and consortial savings for large packages of electronic resources (journals and books)
  + Lack of viable consortial bargaining power to replace it; costs will go up substantially on many of the products
* **Digital Collections** 
  + FL Islandora platform which hosts digital collections for 11 colleges and 6 universities, including theses and dissertations and Florida cultural heritage collections
* **PURL** (Persistent URLs used in Diginole, ArchivesSpace, Aleph, and Mango)
  + Citations referencing digital collections and finding aids using PURLs will result in dead links, negatively impacting the researchers’ abilities to effectively locate resources and evaluate research findings.
* **Open Journal Systems** - Journal publishing platform
  + 37k+ articles across ~35 journals statewide - all content that is unique and not available elsewhere
  + <https://falsc.libguides.com/FloridaOnlineJournals/statistics>
  + All articles are open access and available for free to citizens/public
* **Consortial licensing and services**
  + ArchivesSpace (collections management)
  + OCLC services (global discovery)
  + Open Textbook network
  + DLLI Courier services that delivers books between Florida libraries
  + Rapid ILL (interlibrary loan)

Thank you for your consideration of this letter. As President of the FACRL Board, I and the Board members urge you to share this letter and invite conversations with any individuals or entities who may be able to help mitigate this crisis that, as it currently stands, will eliminate or dramatically reduce access to resources that now more than ever are fundamental to the education and information of students, faculty, and all citizens of Florida.

Furthermore, even with funding, the required systems staff and complex platforms that will be lost with the dissolving of FALSC cannot be built out in time for individual institutions to provide the lost services, even if they had the budgets for it, which they do not. This means that the majority of the 40 institution state consortium will not be able to meet minimum SACSCOC accreditation requirements for the fall of 2020.

Sincerely,

Alyssa Koclanes

President

Florida Chapter of the Association of College and Research Libraries