University Libraries

Technology Fee – ITEP Proposal

FY2011-2012

Project Description

The library is purchasing Thomson Reuters' Web of Science, a highly regarded database for citation searching and research for the science and social science disciplines. Web of Science includes the databases Science Citation Index, Social Science Citation Index, and Biological Abstracts. In previous years, this core database had been out of reach for the Library to acquire, and its absence has been detrimental to students and faculty conducting comprehensive research. This has been especially true for individuals at the graduate level in biology, environmental studies, math, nursing, social work, psychology, health sciences, business, and other social sciences.

The Electronic Resources Librarian has negotiated an affordable price for an annual subscription to Web of Science. In addition to the annual subscription, the Library must purchase access to the archive to have a functional database. The Library is committed to paying the annual subscription and contributing to the initial one-time archive cost, but requests funding for the remaining balance for the archive back to 1975:

- Library commitment in FY2012: $20,476 annual recurring cost + $20,000 toward the archive fee
- Library ongoing commitment: $20,476 annual cost
- ITEP request: $15,722 in FY2013 and $15,722 in FY2014 for a total of $31,444 to purchase the remaining cost for the archive back to 1975. (Or the entire archive total in the amount of $31,444 could be paid in FY2012)

Alignment with Strategic Plan

➢ **Strategic Focus: High Quality Academic Programs**
Our University's vision states: "UWF aspires to greatness by empowering each individual we serve with knowledge, skills, and opportunity to contribute responsibly and creatively to a complex world. . . ." The Library takes this responsibility very seriously by acquiring core resources to support research at a level needed at a regional comprehensive university. The Web of Science is one of the core resources that should be available to our faculty and students and supports the University's strategic focus of providing high quality academic programs.

➢ **Strategic Goal: Engage students purposefully to develop intellectually through project management opportunities and other types of active learning.**
Many top level scholars teaching at UWF in the science and social science disciplines engage students by conducting research alongside them, which fulfills this strategic goal. In order to effectively accomplish these collaborative efforts, students must have access to appropriate resources. The Web of Science is a core database that would enable students to identify not only

relevant and seminal articles in certain disciplines, but also focus searches on faculty and institutional scholarship.

Description of Benefits

a) Ways in which student access to technology will be enhanced.

Web of Science provides students access to the indexing of almost 7,000 science and social science journals. Through the robust online search functionality, students will be able to track citations back to seminal articles; discover an article's influence by linking seamlessly to all of the articles that subsequently cite it; perform in-depth scholarly research; and link to the full text of relevant articles using the Libraries' discovery tools.

Currently, if a student wishes to track citations for a particular article they must use several databases. This duplication of searches makes their research cumbersome and slow. Furthermore, because of the lack of citation searching functionality in these databases, they will still not have done a thorough search. Web of Science offers the most comprehensive citation searching tool available, ensuring that students are not only able to discover articles on a given topic but also see easily how they relate to one another. These relationships are important to grasp in order for students to see the development of the discourse in a given discipline. Furthermore, the Web of Science's folder management system will allow students to manage and organize these articles so that they can easily retrieve their prior research efforts.

b) How the student experience will be enhanced.

One of the unique features of the Web of Science is its citation searching feature, which allows researchers to identify citations to particular authors and articles. Citation searching has been used as a classic indicator of an author's or an article's importance and also makes it possible to track other relevant studies, follow a researcher's path, and locate seminal research. Recently, searching capabilities by scholar identification and institutional affiliation have been added to improve precision. In addition to identifying articles, the Web of Science also links out to full text sources through the Libraries' full text linking tools, which enhances its value.

The Web of Science is considered a core database in the sciences and social sciences and is accessible at eight of Florida's eleven State Universities (New College, University of North Florida and University of West Florida are the only exceptions). Having access to this resource will give our students and faculty the ability to perform in-depth research on par with other institutions.

As a bonus, faculty needing citation searching in support of promotion and tenure will find this database extremely useful. Furthermore, the Board of Governors has included a requirement for measuring faculty designated as "Highly Cited Scholars" in the draft 2012 University Work Plan. Web of Science has been identified and recommended by the BOG as the most appropriate tool for this metric—a subscription to Web of Science will enable us to meet this goal.

c) How assessment will be conducted.

The Web of Science, like many databases, provides web reports indicating usage over specific periods of time. This usage data will be compared with other research databases to determine its importance to the research of our students and faculty.

d) Which and how many students will be impacted.

With the addition of the Web of Science to our list of databases, nearly all students at UWF will have a core resource to accomplish comprehensive levels of research. Although especially strong in the sciences, the Social Science Citation Index supports 55 disciplines in the social sciences including communication, education, political science, public health, psychology and sociology. All students in STEM and social sciences disciplines will benefit, with graduate students and active researchers benefitting in particular.

e) How students with special needs or disabilities would be helped.

As an online accessible database, Web of Science will be available to all UWF students from any computer that has an Internet connection. For students with special needs and disabilities, this accessibility prevents the need for them to come to the library and navigate the physical building.

f) How training of students and faculty in the use of technology would be enhanced.

The Library has an active instruction program in which librarians would demonstrate the utility and effectiveness of Web of Science as a powerful research tool. The Web of Science would also be promoted in webinars and tutorials when they are available. As with any of our library resources, assistance is available at service desks, on online chats, via email, or with subject specialist librarians by appointment.

Resources Needed:

The archive for the Web of Science from 1975 to 2012 is $51,444. The library has committed to purchase the current database and its platform and contribute $20,000 toward the cost of the archive. The ITEP request is for the remaining $31,444, which would finance the complete archive. This archive would deepen the access, broaden the scope and thereby enhance the value of the Web of Science as a citation tool.

Timeline

The Library has allocated funding to purchase the current Web of Science database for this fiscal year (2011-2012). Upon receiving funds, the archive will be paid in full in April 2012.

Plan for Sustainability

Once the archive of the Web of Science is purchased, UWF will have permanent access to this database and complement the subscription to the current index that the Library commits to as a serial purchase.

The archive would be a one-time cost and would enhance the annual subscription to Web of Science.

Resource Matching

The library would contribute by committing to purchasing Web of Science as a serial subscription ($20,476 in recurring funds) in addition to $20,000 toward the cost of the archive.

Group Implementing Project

The Electronic Resources Librarian, Shari Johnson, and the Science Reference Librarian, Caroline Thompson are the individuals implementing the project.

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