

Division of Academic Affairs
Technology Fee – Systemic Project Proposal
2016

Proposal Deadline: Friday, January 22, 2016 @ 5:00 pm

Project Proposal Type

Systemic Project

Projects proposed by operational units of the university (e.g., colleges, academic departments, Library, etc.) for instructional technology enhancements of unit-wide or university-wide scope.

All Systemic Project proposals must be acknowledged (signed) by the operational unit head (e.g. Dean, Chair, Director, etc.).

Project Title

U.S Congressional Serial Set, 1860-1994 – Digital Archive

Total Amount of Funding Requested

\$102,738

Primary Project Coordinator

Melissa Gonzalez

Unit Head Acknowledgment

Unit Head Signature: 

Date: 22 Jan 2016

Division of Academic Affairs
Systemic Project Proposal
2016

1. Description of initiative/investment to enhance instructional technology.

This Systemic Project proposal is for the purchase of Readex’s U.S. Congressional Serial Set (1860-1994) digital archive. The total one-time cost of this proposal is \$102,738.

Readex is recognized as a leading publisher of digital historical collections, producing content that is relevant and appropriate to university student course work and faculty research. The most accurate and complete replica available of the Reports, Documents, and Journals of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives, the U.S. Congressional Serial Set is widely known and accepted as “the single most important series of American government publications...on the people, issues and events of American history and politics.”¹ The Libraries already own access to Readex’s American State Papers (1789-1838) and the first part of the Serial Set (1817-1859). With the purchase of the remainder of the collection (1860-1994)² and individual catalog records for the American State Papers and the full Serial Set, UWF will gain perpetual rights and online access to the full-text of over 370,000 individual documents in more than 14,000 volumes, including 74,495 maps and over 8,000 illustrations. Catalog

These primary source texts are suitable for research, study, and course projects across all disciplines, and the Readex contract will allow any fair use of the content for educational purposes. Access would be available 24/7 to all UWF students, faculty, and staff, with off campus access enabled by EZproxy. To ensure students are aware that the collection was purchased with technology fee funds, the Libraries will include a “Student Technology Fee at Work” note in the catalog records and database links.

2. Description of how initiative has a college/unit-wide or university-wide scope.

The complete U.S. Congressional Serial Set in its entirety has applications for disciplines in each college throughout the university. Beyond the obvious use for History and Political Science, broad subject coverage includes Anthropology; Armed Forces and Conflicts; Business and Industry; Criminal Justice; Economics; Education; Environment, Energy, and Natural Resources; Food and Agriculture; Health; Infrastructure and Transportation; International Affairs; Legal Studies; Multicultural and Gender Issues; Public Administration; Publishing and Communication; Safety, Accidents, and Disasters; Science and Technology; and Social Work. In truth, there are essentially no subjects untouched by the U.S. Congress. Examples of potential research applications include historical, political, cultural, social, ethical, economic, or legal analyses, policy tracking, environmental surveys, and public health studies. In addition to

¹ Readex, “U.S. Congressional Serial Set, 1817-1994,” <http://www.readex.com/content/us-congressional-serial-set-1817-1994> (accessed January 13, 2016).

² Congressional materials published after 1994 are available online at Congress.gov

academic departments, this collection would be useful for a variety of UWF units, such as the Military and Veterans Resource Center, Center for Research and Economic Opportunity, Haas Center, Small Business Development Center, and GeoData Center.

3. Description of project alignment with UWF Strategic Plan.

UWF's mission establishes a commitment to “engage students in rigorous, high-impact, student-oriented learning experiences that enhance personal and professional development and empower alumni to contribute responsibly and creatively to a complex 21st Century global society.” This project would directly empower our students to seek out knowledge and to contribute both responsibly and creatively by providing them with the technological tools that they need to support their education and production of scholarly works while here at UWF. In regards to UWF’s enduring values, this product will increase the quality of resources and services available to our students and help to shape a caring learning environment that provides the tools necessary for the student’s individual development. In addition, the U.S. Congressional Serial Set proposal is in direct alignment with several strategic directions and priorities of the University of West Florida Strategic Plan: 2012-2017, including:

- **Strategic Direction 1:** Enhanced Student Access, Progression, and Learning and Development
Priority 1.1: Foster student learning and development to include the knowledge, skills, and dispositions that optimize students’ prospects for personal and professional success.

- **Strategic Direction 2:** Distinctive Teaching, Scholarship, Research, and Professional Contributions
Priority 2.1: Respond to the changing needs of the region, state and nation by investing strategically to support innovative instruction and high-quality, relevant and distinctive academic and research programs.
Priority 2.3: Build a vibrant culture of scholarship and research that aligns with UWF’s strengths and capacities and supports UWF’s mission, vision, and values.

Access to such a vast collection of significant primary sources relates directly to providing high quality academic programs, and supports instructional technology and information resources across disciplines. These electronic texts will enrich courses and help students develop intellectually and engage in active learning through the examination and interpretation of primary sources. This kind of research teaches skills that cannot be obtained through research of secondary sources. Furthermore, high quality academic programs, particularly those with distinctive graduate programs, demand access to unique resources such as the documents in the U.S. Congressional Serial Set.

4. Description of benefits provided.

Access to the complete U.S. Congressional Serial Set collection has many benefits for the university. As stated previously, the broad scope and time coverage of the collection would be

useful across all academic disciplines. The content will directly support student learning by providing material for course papers, projects, and study, and will facilitate research at the undergraduate, graduate, and faculty levels. The digital edition of the Serial Set is extensively indexed, full-text searchable, and can be browsed by subject, personal name, act name, geographic name, publication category, committee, and congress.

The electronic collection would be accessible 24/7 to all UWF users, including online students and distance learners. The documents can be incorporated into online courses, and there is no limit to the number of users who can access the content at one time. Students may print, e-mail, and download pages to read off-line on most mobile devices, laptops, or any computer.

Users will be able to discover these texts through the library's discovery service (OneSearch) and online catalog, and by searching the Serial Set database on the library web site. All of the Libraries' Readex products, which also includes African American Newspapers (1827-1998) and Early American Imprints, Series I: Evans, 1639-1800, are well-used as documented by sustained usage statistics. Current use of the American State Papers and the first part of the Serial Set is high, with more than 3000 document views over the last 2 years, despite the fact that users must access the database directly to search. Adding individual catalog records will undoubtedly increase use exponentially since the texts will be also be discoverable through OneSearch and the library catalog.

Additionally, access to the complete Serial Set will make up for the state library consortium's recent cancellation of ProQuest Congressional, the major index to congressional materials. Congressional is a well-used electronic resource, with over 1100 searches conducted over the last two years. The Libraries' current materials budget is already at maximum efficiency and cannot support a subscription to Congressional, which would come with a recurring cost of approximately \$6000 annually. Moreover, the Serial Set provides extensive indexing and full-text, whereas Congressional is just an index.

Evaluation of primary sources helps teach students to interpret documents and draw conclusions themselves, rather than relying on someone else's interpretation. These types of critical thinking skills can only be learned through research of primary sources rather than the more passive learning gained by reading secondary commentary on a topic. Likewise, access to these kinds of unique resources is an incredible recruitment tool for potential students, thereby increasing UWF's standing as a first-choice school.

Current UWF Faculty have the following to say about the Serial Set:

"UWF Library access to the U.S. Congressional Serial Set would provide students and faculty with an invaluable resource for research and use in teaching. The Tech Fee proposal expansion of coverage through the mid-1990s would provide for a collection of primary source documents of the U.S. federal government's legislature through nearly the entirety of its existence. This would enable researchers to trace policy-making and issue trends and changes in both legislative houses from the 15th through the 103rd U.S. Congress."

-Dr. Michelle Hale Williams, Chair and Professor of Political Science

“The Department of Legal Studies, Public Administration, and Sport Management fully supports the proposal by the John C. Pace Library to purchase expanded access to the U.S. Congressional Series Set. This material will enable our students in various academic disciplines, including Legal Studies and Public Administration, to retrieve important legislative materials for legal and policy research. This collection is incomparable and valuable, and presents outstanding research opportunities that will enrich our programs.”

-Dr. Kimberly McCorkle, Associate Professor of Legal Studies and Associate Dean,
College of Education & Professional Studies

-Dr. Susan Harell, Associate Professor of Legal Studies

“Acquiring access to the full U.S. Congressional Serial Set will directly benefit students and faculty from wide range of departments in all of the UWF Colleges. The Serial Set provides the most comprehensive record of the role and evolution of the federal government in America life. The value for traditional historical research is obvious – but even more important is that Serial Set contains the largest and most detailed collection of records documenting the activities and political context of numerous civilian and military government agencies. These records are crucial for the study of the contemporary and well as the historical dimensions of many topics including coastal development, disaster relief, historic preservation, public health, agriculture, transportation, environmental policy, Indian affairs, international relations, and the military. Beyond the immediate university community, the acquisition of the complete U.S. Congressional Serial Set will also benefit a wide range of community partners including non-profits and local government agencies. This is wise investment in long-term institutional capacity building at the University of West Florida.”

-Dr. John Jensen, Assistant Professor of History

Furthermore, UWF would join the ranks of other Florida university libraries that own the electronic Serial Set, including the University of Florida, Florida State University, University of Central Florida, University of South Florida, Florida International University, University of North Florida, Florida Gulf Coast University, Florida A&M University, and New College. Additionally, several of UWF’s peer and peer-aspirant institutions³ also have this resource, including the University of West Georgia, Western Carolina University, University of South Dakota, James Madison University, and Appalachian State University.

5. Description of how success/impact will be measured.

The Libraries will measure the success of the U.S. Congressional Serial Set through usage statistics, link analysis, and feedback from users. Readex provides monthly usage statistics, and the library can also track link usage from both the online catalog and through OneSearch.

The UWF Libraries are committed to publicizing this collection. The Libraries will feature information about the Serial Set on the library webpage, relevant online subject research guides,

³ UWF Performance Indicators, “Peer Universities” and “Aspirant Universities,” <http://uwf.edu/offices/aspire/facts-figures-and-metrics-ir/key-performance-indicators/> (accessed January 12, 2016).

and through social media. Librarians will also instruct students about the collection during Information Literacy sessions.

6. Detailed description of resources required including hardware and software requirements and personnel costs (faculty compensation is not an allowed cost).

The proposal covers the one-time purchase cost of the remainder of the U.S. Congressional Serial Set (1860-1994), individual catalog records for the American State Papers and the complete Serial Set, and annual access fees for five years. The library will assume payment of the annual access fee after the fifth year. There are no additional hardware, software, or personnel costs associated with this proposal.

Item Description	Cost
U.S. Congressional Serial Set, 1860-1994	\$81,055
MARC catalog records \$7947 – complete Serial Set, 1817-1994 \$428 – American State Papers, 1789-1838	\$8375
Annual access fee – 5 years \$2507 – Year 1 \$2582 – Year 2 \$2659 – Year 3 \$2739 – Year 4 \$2821 – Year 5	\$13,308
TOTAL	\$102,738

7. Proposed timeline.

Purchase of the U.S. Congressional Serial Set will be initiated immediately upon successful funding. Once the order is placed, access to the collection should be available within a week.

8. Plan for sustainability beyond conclusion of funding from technology fee, if applicable.

The requested funds will cover the one-time purchase cost of the product as well as annual access fees for five years. After the fifth year, the library will assume payment of the annual access fee.

9. Resource matching commitments from other organizations/sources (identify organization and amounts), if applicable.

Not applicable

10. Individual responsible for reporting and accountability, along with contact information.

Melissa Gonzalez
Head of Reference
UWF Libraries
(850) 474-2821
mgonzalez@uwf.edu

19 Systemic Melissa Gonzalez

ITS Review Comments

GENERAL COMMENTS:

None.

COMPLIANCE WITH STANDARDS:

No comments.

INFRASTRUCTURE ISSUES:

No comments.

PRICING/COST ISSUES:

No comments.

OTHER SUPPORT ISSUES:

No comments.

SUGGESTIONS TO PROPOSER:

No comments.

For questions regarding ITS comments, please contact:

Melanie Haveard, Executive Director and CTO

ext. 2540

mhaveard@uwf.edu