Division of Academic Affairs

Technology Fee – Systemic Project Proposal

2022

Proposal Deadline: Friday, February 4, 2022 @ 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

Supporting Undergraduate Researchers and Faculty Mentors

Total Amount of Funding Requested

$27,912.50

Primary Project Coordinator

Cindy Gruwell

Unit Head Acknowledgment

Unit Head Signature: _Stephani Glavell_   *Date:* 4 February 2022

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Systemic Project Proposal Template

2022

Systemic proposals must provide the following information:

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

The University Libraries, Research Administration and Engagement (RAE), and Office of Undergraduate Research (OUR) are proposing to expand the library's institutional repository to become a research information management (RIM) system so that we are able to better support undergraduate research by connecting students with a broader array of faculty mentors from across all Colleges, departments, and disciplines. In 2020, the Library worked with OUR to include undergraduate research in Argo IRCommons, the institutional repository, in the same way faculty research and scholarly outputs are included. The posters from the 2021 Student Scholar Symposium and Faculty Research Showcase are available as well as posters from the 2020 and 2021 Summer Undergraduate Research Program (SURP). Many of the 2020 SURP posters also include brief oral presentations by the student researchers. In Spring 2022, the current institutional repository, Argo IRCommons, will migrate to a new ExLibris platform, Esploro Standard, which will integrate with Alma, the library management system. This will allow repository collections to be integrated with, searchable, and accessible through the online catalog. We have the opportunity to expand the current contract to include RIM services that will provide robust support for research by students and faculty, allowing research impact to be better documented to support institutional goals and metrics.

RIM is defined as "the aggregation, curation, and utilization of information about research."[1] Expanding the Esploro contract to include RIM services will allow us to provide thorough faculty profiles to showcase the breadth and depth of research and creative works across disciplines. Undergraduate students searching for a research mentor will have a broader pool of faculty to interact with. Faculty, businesses, and industries will have access to an expertise network that will allow them to find cross- and interdisciplinary partners for research, grant funding, publishing, and presenting. The library will be able to provide greater access to faculty scholarship to anyone searching the online catalog.

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[1] https://www.oclc.org/research/publications/2017/oclcresearch-defining-rim.html

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

Implementing a RIM system will provide university-wide support for research - undergraduate, graduate, and faculty. Beyond the libraries being able to showcase faculty research, Research Administration and Engagement (RAE) will be able to create an expertise network among the UWF campus community that will integrate with state and regional networks, providing greater support for faculty looking for cross- and interdisciplinary research partners when pursuing research, grant, and publishing opportunities. The new RIM will replace the current Tableau-based Researcher Interests and Skills database managed by RAE. OUR will have a broader pool of faculty researchers/mentors for undergraduate researchers to work with, providing students with more opportunities for research and creative activities across all disciplines. Esploro analytics can provide research impact information that will be of value to faculty for annual evaluations and the tenure and promotion process, as well as provide value to College administrators, Institutional Effectiveness, and the Office of the Provost. All of the research and scholarly outputs along with impact analytics will be in one place that can be accessed by anyone who searches the library's online catalog, increasing accessibility of UWF research and expanding its potential to support teaching and learning.

3. Description of project alignment with the UWF Strategic Plan.

This project supports the strategic plan in multiple facets. The integration of faculty profiles and research output provides and advances the scholarship of the university, enhances student mentoring, promotes community collaboration, and showcases the diverse talent of faculty and students.

Strategic Direction 1: Learner Centered and Focused

- 1.1 Provide high-quality learning and co-curricular experiences that inspire students to become enlightened and engaged global citizens and successful professionals.
- 1.2 Align resources to deliver exceptional support services and learning opportunities that will ensure students have access, continuity and success while earning degrees.

This project will provide increased faculty research exposure and at the same time showcase student creative and scholarly works.

Strategic Direction 2: Personnel Investment and Engagement
- 2.2 Recognize, reward and celebrate faculty and staff for their contributions to student development, scholarly or professional achievements, community partnerships, and the University.

Esploro Advanced will expand our ability to demonstrate and exhibit research and other contributions in the Argo IRCommons and within the faculty profiles.

Strategic Direction 3: Academic Programming, Scholarship, and Research
- 3.2 Develop and retain a culture that supports research and creativity.
- 3.3 Augment and invest in academic and research programs that meet professional, personal, scholastic and workforce needs.
- 3.4 Optimize internal and external support to promote teaching and learning activities, service, research, strategic innovation and other scholarly works.

The project will help promote scholarly collaborations between faculty and students and provide a permanent home for scholarly output.

Strategic Direction 4: Community and Economic Engagement
- 4.1 Strengthen and expand partnerships that amplify UWF's impact and visibility in the community as an educational, cultural and economic center.

The expanded Esploro tool will allow UWF to have a documented research presence and an expertise database to enhance community engagement, support, and involvement.

Strategic Direction 5: Infrastructure

- 5.2 Invest in and steward UWF's natural, technical, intellectual and physical infrastructure.

This investment is vital to the project which will provide a gateway for intellectual exposure in research and academic communities.

4.   Description of benefits provided.

Supporting and showcasing the UWF community's research and scholarly outputs is an important service of the University Libraries. Providing a platform for robust faculty profiles along with research impacts will allow users to find faculty research, publishing, and funding partners, whether they are undergraduate students looking for a research mentor or a colleague researching in a related field. Providing stronger support for faculty will, in a fully implemented RIM system, allow us to provide stronger support for our undergraduate student researchers. OUR will have a pool of potential faculty mentors with a breadth and depth not currently available to undergraduate researchers. Students will be able to explore a broader array of cross- and interdisciplinary topics and learn from a wider range of faculty mentors.

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

Success and impact of this project will be measured by the database analytics provided as part of the Esploro package. Highly detailed and customized reports can be made available to both faculty and administration and utilized for tenure, research influence, and global reach. Additionally, we hypothesize that use of the database will increase both the number of faculty engaged in undergraduate research and the diversity in faculty disciplines. OUR will assess this potential impact through annual records of the number of faculty mentors supported by OUR programs as well as the number of departments that these faculty represent.

6.   Detailed description of resources required including hardware and software requirements and personnel costs (faculty compensation is not an allowed cost). (Please provide quotes and detailed information when possible)

Please see attached copy of the current Esploro contract. On page 10, Annex B, it states "For twelve (12) months following contract signature, Customer may elect to upgrade to Esploro Edition: Advanced for an additional initial annual fee of $13,750." The contract also stipulates a 3% inflationary cost for each year of the contract. We are requesting two years of funding at $13,750 per year plus $412.50 for 3% inflationary cost in year 2, for a total budget of $27,912.50.

7.   All Tech Fee Proposals must be reviewed by ITS prior to submission. Please provide your JIRA Ticket # here.

TF-136

8. Please note the location(s) (Building, Room #) where the project work will take place.

The project work will take place in the Pace Library (building 32), with the majority of the work being done by Cindy Gruwell and Andii Johnson, the faculty librarian and staff person respectively, responsible for Argo IRCommons, the institutional repository. Allison Schwartz in OUR will review the faculty profiles to ensure that they include research descriptions that are accessible to novice student researchers. Matt Schwartz in RAE will promote the database and ensure that faculty research records are accurate.

9. Proposed timeline.

Because Cindy Gruwell and Andii Johnson will already be working with the Esploro Implementation Team to implement Esploro Standard, they will continue working with that group to implement Esploro Advanced. Upgrading to Esploro Advanced will require about two months for implementation and creation of workflows which can be done over the summer months. OUR will work with research students during the Summer Undergraduate Research Program (SURP) 2022 to help develop student friendly research profiles for existing faculty mentors that will be used as examples for other faculty more broadly. The system should be available in time for the Fall 2022 semester so that OUR could begin working with undergraduate researchers to identify potential faculty mentors. RAE will promote the database to faculty in the Fall 2022 semester and encourage faculty to add new research products to their profiles and strengthen the content. RAE and OUR will coordinate efforts to utilize the existing UWF faculty Researcher Interests and Skills (RIS) database as a foundation for a new student-focused database. RAE can also export its records (3,000+) from the RIS database to serve as a preliminary content in the new Esploro-hosted RIM system.

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

If results of this pilot study on the utility of the Esploro Research Information Management System demonstrates a positive impact in student and faculty engagement in undergraduate research and sponsored research, the annual cost of continuing the contract is anticipated to be $13,750. Beyond the period of grant funding, the Esploro system will take the place of RAE's current contract with Grant Forward of $3,200 annually, that can be contributed to the sustainability of the project. The library will realize some savings in canceling the contract for the current institutional repository platform that could then be used to sustain Esploro Advanced. The remaining costs will be supported by the Library, RAE, and OUR.

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

The University Libraries have signed a three-year contract with ExLibris for Esploro Standard and Alma Digital. Contract costs include a $25,300 implementation fee and a $29,000 per year subscription fee (with 3% inflationary costs in each year of the contract). At the end of the three-year contract, the Libraries matching commitment will be $114,936.

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

Cindy Gruwell

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