

NEW! New S.A.C. Committee to Look at Electronic Resources

Cover Story

SUNYConnect has included [shared electronic resources](#) for quite some time. This SUNYConnect-wide access to full-text and other electronic research and reference resources is a most popular part of SUNYConnect's offerings.

[New Models for Scholarly Communication](#)

Features

As with other SUNY-wide initiatives it is a challenge to make one size fit all. SUNY libraries and institutions are a diverse array with varying priorities in regard to teaching and research. Minimally, SUNYConnect should provide access to as many basic resources as possible to free up funds for SUNY institutions to acquire or access more specialized resources on their own.

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[A SUNY-Wide Digital Repository](#)

S.A.C. is in the process of establishing a representative group to evaluate SUNYConnect's electronic resources. The document establishing the group's charge is included here:

[SUNYConnect II Planning](#)

E-Resources Evaluation Project Team

[A New S.A.C. Committee](#)

The SUNYConnect Advisory Council (SAC) is establishing a representative group from the SUNY community to provide guidance on electronic research and reference resources that are made available to all campuses participating in the SUNYConnect initiative.

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The existing set of electronic resources within SUNYConnect may not represent the most effective and useful resources that could be made available to the SUNY community. The SUNY library community needs to examine current SUNYConnect electronic resources and other electronic resources available to establish the best collection of electronic resources for the funds available.

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The E-Resources Evaluation Project Team charge is:

- to evaluate and provide recommendations on electronic resources for inclusion in SUNYConnect; these resources will preferably be full text and support research in liberal arts, business, health and education and fulfill core information needs of SUNY libraries (Note: as of October 2005 this evaluation should include all existing SUNYConnect electronic resources with the exception of the ScienceDirect database and the Gale Literature Resource Center which was purchased as an archive);
- to provide recommendations on how best to utilize the finite amount of financial resources available in regards to best-bang-for-the-buck vis-à-vis the electronic resources selected as well as in regards to contracts and purchasing agreements to utilize (via Nylink, New York State contracts, multi-year contracts with stated inflationary increases, etc.);
- to evaluate selected electronic resources in the context of new technologies such as open URL linking via the SFX system;
- to recommend a process for the ongoing assessment and evaluation of SUNYConnect electronic resources.

The overall goal for the SUNYConnect electronic resource offerings is to provide access to as many core information resources as available monies allow, freeing up SUNYConnect campus funds to be spent on more specialized resources that fit that campus' educational and research mission.

The recommendation of the Project Team will be submitted to the SUNYConnect Advisory Council by the end of April. These recommendations will be given thorough consideration by the SAC who will be responsible for the final decisions regarding subscriptions and associated financial matters. Any subscription changes or additions will be effective July 1, 2006, or Jan. 1, 2007 depending upon current subscription periods.

Project Team Organization

The Project Team will be appointed by the end of December 2005. Project Team participants must be willing to commit a significant effort to activities from January 2006 to April 2006.

OLIS staff member John Schumacher will act as the Project Manager for this process. The Project Manager will be responsible for setting meeting agendas, running meetings, establishment of decision making protocols, arranging facilities, coordinating demonstrations, investigating and analyzing information, ensuring ongoing communication among the various stakeholders, distribution of assignments, working with the committee members to ensure that they are provided with the information and resources necessary to meet their objectives. The Project Manager is a non-voting member of the committee.

Project Team members will be responsible for setting selection criteria, identifying appropriate products for review, assessing selected products, identifying appropriate products for inclusion in SUNYConnect, regular communication with their constituent group and submitting a final report to the SAC.

The Project Team will consist of a representative from the SUNY Faculty Senate, the SUNY Student Assembly and a library representative from each of the following sectors of the University:

- University Centers (representative from the Univ. Centers' Collections Council)
- Medical Colleges/Other Doctoral (representative from the Medical Colleges' Collections Council)
- Comprehensive Colleges
- Technical Colleges
- Community Colleges

Each Library Director will be asked to name an individual from their staff to be the contact person for this initiative. The Director may also nominate the individual to serve on the committee. SAC will select the committee members from nominations received. The OLIS has created a web form for Directors to identify their contact person for this activity. Library Directors must identify their contact people prior to Dec. 1. The SAC will form the Project Team soon after.

The contacts provided by the library directors will provide a constituent group for each of the Project Team members. Team members will be required to establish an ongoing communication process with their constituent group. The OLIS can assist committee member communication to their constituent group by hosting conference calls or listservs. Committee members may opt for other communication methods such as face-to-face meetings, blogs, wikis, etc. The OLIS will not be responsible for supporting any of these other communication methods.

The OLIS will pay for all in-state Project Team travel at the standard state rates. No air travel will be supported.

As indicated in the charge, the group is asked to re-examine all the *SUNYConnect* electronic resources. Along with issues of quality, coverage and price other factors come into play in regards to this evaluation. Some of these factors include:

- re-establishing competitive (discounted) bids from the various vendors;
- contractual issues and practicalities (e.g: use of Nylink, OGS or of a new contract);
- interoperability between the resource and SFX.

Money, of course, will be a major determinant in these selections. There is, to state the obvious, not an unlimited pool of revenue. Thus, this evaluation of the electronic resources will proceed with a "no sacred cows" perspective. Ideally, the end result will be a suite of electronic resources that meet as many needs for as many SUNY institutions as possible.



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