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The process of selecting the SUNY-wide Library Management System (LMS) is on track. By the deadline of March 30, 1999, proposals were received from six vendors: Ameritech, DRA, Endeavor, Ex Libris, Sirsi, and VTLS. Thanks must go to the [SLAM Committee](#) and Project

Manager, Maureen Zajkowski, for the significant progress that has been made towards choosing the next SUNY-wide LMS.

A recent survey of SUNY library directors indicates they expect a very large percentage of SUNY libraries will be using the same LMS within the next five years. This is an exciting prospect for the *SUNYConnect* initiative as well as for SUNY libraries and librarians working together to expand access to resources for SUNY's students.

As part of the RFP process, a mandatory Bidders' Conference was held on February 23, 1999. Vendors represented at the conference were Ameritech, Compaq, DRA, Endeavor, Ex Libris, Gaylord, GEAC, Innovative Interfaces, Rapid Applications Developers (RAD), SIRSI, and VTLS. Attendance at the Conference was mandatory in order for a vendor to be considered. At the conference, vendors received background information regarding SUNY-wide library automation projects as well as some specifics of what SUNY is looking for in the successful bid. Questions from the vendors were then addressed.

SLAM Evaluation Team

The SLAM team responsible for evaluating the bids has been chosen. The Evaluation Team will send its recommendation for the new LMS vendor directly to the Provost's Office. Looking at [the list of team members and their affiliations](#), you can see that the team represents a wide cross-section of SUNY institutions.

With the help of consultant Joseph Ford and members of [Advanced Learning and Information Services](#), the Evaluation Team has developed a comprehensive and multi-faceted procedure for evaluating the proposals. It is required that all bids be evaluated in the same manner, and that this evaluation process be submitted to the New York State Office of the State Controller prior to the proposals being opened.

Initial Implementation Planning

While the Evaluation Team is examining the proposals and developing a short list of vendors, activities related to the initial system implementation have begun.

The vendor selection is scheduled for June-July 1999. Contract negotiations with the selected vendor will then commence. It is hoped that initial system implementations can begin before the end of 1999. Much work remains to be done. Some of these tasks include:

- finalizing the SUNY-wide LMS configuration
- developing criteria for host site selections
- selecting the host sites
- ascertaining whether any stand-alone implementations are necessary
- surveying campus readiness
- generating an implementation schedule
- determining who will provide technical support services.

Members of the SLAM Committee, the OLIS staff and the *SUNYConnect* Advisory Council (formerly [LASG](#)) are the primary human resources assigned to these tasks.

SUNY OLIS extends great appreciation to the SLAM Committee for all of their efforts. The

charge to the committee was as follows:

1. Assess the current LAIP Project in terms of strengths and weaknesses in the following areas:

- systems architecture
- costs
- support mechanisms
- shared access
- involvement/participation of SUNY library community
- high level functionality

(The assessment should include data for each type of SUNY institution.)

2. Based on the assessment of the current LAIP Project, define the information service (and technical) goals to be achieved by the acquisition of a library information/automation/technology system for 2001 detailing:

- functionality (including functions beyond OPAC and Circulation)
- security for data and user confidentiality
- portability of data to subsequent systems
- ability to share data while maintaining security
- enrollment verification
- deployment strategies
- SUNY wide access
- migration potential from current system support mechanisms (implementation, maintenance and training)
- fiscal goals
- systems architecture
- participation by SUNY libraries

The evaluation of LAIP was completed January 8, 1998. The report is available online at <http://olis.sysadm.suny.edu/projects/slam/slamfin.htm>. Since we are in some of the final stages of the vendor selection process, LASG has been asked to examine how portions of the SLAM Committee should now be re-configured, re-constituted and supplemented to assist in the ongoing implementation effort.

Project Manager Maureen Zajkowski has provided [additional documents](#) to help SUNY libraries prepare for implementing the new LMS.



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