**Consortia-to-Consortia Alma Resource Sharing**March 2021

**Proposal**Unmediated resource sharing services in Alma provide streamlined workflows for library staff, faster delivery, and require less clicks from the patron to order materials. I propose expanding Alma resource sharing beyond the California State University (CSU) library system by adding a secondary rota in CSU+ to share physical materials. The State University of New York (SUNY) library system is interested in piloting consortia-to-consortia Alma resource sharing and developing mutually beneficial reciprocal agreements to not charge each other for resource sharing requests.

**Process**

This pilot program would test resource sharing between the CSU and SUNY libraries by adding secondary rotas within Alma. We currently use one rota listing CSU libraries actively sharing materials through CSU+. The second rota would list participating SUNY libraries and requests would cycle through the second rota only if the requested material is not available through a CSU library. Materials will be shipped between the CSU and SUNY systems using the UPS and/or Fedex workflows currently used for resource sharing outside California.

For this pilot program 4 SUNY libraries would like to begin sharing materials. The University at Albany, the University at Buffalo, Binghamton University, and Stony Brook University would like to begin sharing materials after a testing phase. These 4 libraries have approximately 5.9 million items marked as available for resource sharing. I propose 4-6 CSU libraries volunteer for this pilot at the discretion of the library dean.

The configuration to add a secondary rota with new partner libraries does not require sharing Network Zones. Our catalogs and patron information will not be shared. The Resource Sharing Manager can configure the new partners prior to testing and implementation to reduce added work for campus resource sharing staff.

**Benefits**

This program will benefit the CSU system in several ways:

* Increased access to physical materials through unmediated resource sharing will allow patrons to request more materials using the same process currently used by patrons to request CSU+ materials, reducing possible confusion caused by having multiple resource sharing systems.
* Reciprocal agreements to not charge for resource sharing may also reduce IFM charges by adding more free partners for loans through Alma and copies/scans through ILLiad.
* Reduces the amount of resource sharing processed in ILLiad.
* This expansion to CSU+ uses built in Alma functionality so there are no additional subscription or software costs.

**Future Roadmap**

Depending on the results of the pilot, more SUNY and CSU libraries may join to further increase the amount of available titles between consortia. This consortia-to-consortia network can be further expanded by offering partnerships to groups including, but not limited to, the University of California library system and the Orbis Cascade Alliance. The reason we are starting with SUNY is because SUNY came forward wanting to pilot consortia-to-consortia Alma resource sharing.

To assess the pilot we will track the following data points:

* Cost to ship materials to SUNY
* Turnaround Times
* Number of filled borrowing and lending requests

The Resource Sharing Manager and staff from the 4-6 pilot campuses will make a recommendation on whether all CSU libraries should partner with SUNY after piloting the program in summer 2022.

**Conclusion**

To summarize, we propose expanding CSU+ to include SUNY libraries starting with a pilot between 4 SUNY libraries and 4-6 CSU libraries. Testing of the system will be performed over summer 2021 and the pilot will go live fall 2021 at participating libraries. This pilot will use built in Alma functionality, so there will be no additional subscription costs, and we will track changes in IFM charges and shipping costs to assess any costs or savings associated with the program.

Thank you,

Christopher Lee, CSU Office of the Chancellor