Executive Overview

For twenty years, LOUIS: The Louisiana Library Network has been a collaboration among Louisiana’s academic libraries and the foundation on which Louisiana academic libraries build to support research, teaching and learning, but never more than during this period of diminished funding for higher education.

LOUIS was established in 1992 to provide equal access to library services and information resources to all publically funded academic libraries; to maximize the purchasing power of the consortium; and to save money and share expertise in support of research, teaching and learning on each campus. LOUIS is governed by the LALINC Executive Board, which is made up of the Deans and Directors of the LOUIS member libraries.

LOUIS is still developing a new business model brought on by budgetary changes. As such, a sustainable funding model is core to the continued existence of the consortium. This year membership fees increased to 73% of LOUIS's budget, with Board of Regents support at 27%.

LOUIS supports all libraries in the higher education systems: the University of Louisiana System; Louisiana Technical and Community College System; Southern University System; Louisiana State University System; Louisiana Academic Independent Colleges and University Network; and LUMCON. In addition, LOUIS works closely with the State Library of Louisiana, parish libraries, state archives and museums, and private museums. LOUIS continually considers the needs of K-12 when negotiating for e-resources. A link to a full list of members is provided at the end of this summary.

LOUIS saves money for the taxpayers of Louisiana. In 2012 alone, LOUIS purchased over $24 million worth of services and resources on behalf of Louisiana’s academic libraries for $3.67 million, a savings of over $20 million. Since 1992, LOUIS has saved the state of Louisiana over $172 million.

A central support staff of seven (6.75 FTE), located in Information Technology Services at LSU, makes it all happen. LOUIS staff installs, upgrades, configures, consults, supports and negotiates prices for the services, technologies and resources approved by the LALINC Executive Board. With over 125 years’ combined experience, LOUIS staff has an unequaled level of institutional knowledge and expertise which equates to fast and efficient implementation of new solutions and problem solving. Members support paying more in membership fees due to the exemplary level of service provided. The staff’s dedication to consortium activities has been especially noteworthy during recent changes in funding. A link to a list of services and resources is provided at the end of this summary.

Member libraries are reliant on exemplary support by the LOUIS staff as their own staff dwindles. Following the retirement of 1.25 LOUIS staff and upcoming retirement eligibility of
several more LOUIS staff, LOUIS hired a uniquely experienced analyst and expects to hire a second experienced analyst in FY 2012-13.

The following is a list of activities provided by LOUIS during the past year. LOUIS was successful in licensing and providing support for the following services and resources:

- SirsiDynix Symphony, the library staff client and the electronic catalog
- SirsiDynix Web2, the union catalog
- SirsiDynix e-Library, the user interface
- OCLC Atlas ILLiad, the inter-library loan system
- OCLC CONTENTdm, the digital library system
- LinkSource and A-to-Z, the URL resolver and title list for LOUIS resources
- EBSCO Discovery Service (EDS)
- Credo Literati, information literacy – a joint collaboration with the State Library of LA
- EZproxy authentication technology
- 69 Electronic Resources (academic journals, full-text and abstracting services, citation databases, etc.) for state
- 23 Electronic Resources (academic journals, full-text and abstracting services, citation databases, etc.) for “mini” groups
- WordPress webpage software
- FootPrint incident reporting and knowledge base software
- Actively communicated with sites using email, listservs, and social networking tools such as Twitter, Facebook, YouTube and the LOUIS website
- Managed 10 listservs

The major highlights from this past year include:

- Participated in SirsiDynix Strategic Partner Program
- LOUIS staff elected as Program Chair of COSUGI 2013
- LOUIS staff member of EBSCO Academic Advisory Board
- Consulting with Northshore Technical Community College to join LOUIS
- Consulting with Central Louisiana Technical Community College to join LOUIS
- Consulting with Northwest Technical Community College to join LOUIS
- Consulting with Centenary College to join LOUIS
- Hosting the 19th annual LOUIS Users Conference (LUC)
- Hosted 34th and 35th System Administrator Meeting
- Hosted North and South ILLiad Users Group Meeting
- Hosted the LOUIS Boot Camp for new System Administrators
- Successfully tested Disaster Recovery process
- Enhanced Big Brother server monitoring system
- Implemented a redesign of the LOUIS website
- Implemented a new Partners contact platform and migrated 400+ contacts
- Implemented a new Documentation platform and migrated 700+ documents
- Implemented and hosted North and South Symphony User Group Meetings
- Implemented upgrade to SirsiDynix Symphony system on Beta, Training and Production servers
- Implemented improved SirsiDynix upgrade scripts
• Implemented new and enhanced Symphony functionality
• Implemented enhanced MARC file processing with MARCIVE
• Implemented numerous custom processes and database cleanup projects
• Implemented EBSCO Discovery Service (EDS)
• Presented on LOUIS at 6 different occasions
• Invoiced and received payment or PO’s from all LOUIS members
• Hired a new seasoned analyst
• Circulated over 1.129 million items through Symphony WorkFlows
• Provided results for over 3.5 million searches in Symphony e-Library
• Maintained all administrative content (documentation, partners, databases, software, financial)
• Participated in all LALINC Executive Board meeting
• Participated in all LALINC committee meetings
• Participated in beta testing processes with SirsiDynix and CONTENTdm
• Partnered with UNIX server administrators in the areas of disk space management, security, backup and recovery, and operating system maintenance
• Partnered with LOUIS sites and EBSCO to continue to enhance the A-to-Z with MARC service integration into the catalog
• Partnered with LOUIS sites and EBSCO to integrate EDS into the catalog
• Facilitated 4 training sessions
• Attended 7 site visits
• Attended 11 training sessions
• Attended user conferences for SirsiDynix, ILLiad, CONTENTdm
• Attended four conferences: LLA, ALA, ICOLC, Charleston Conference
• Attended Lyrasis Consortium Summit
• Renewed 69 e-resources saving the state million by negotiating discounts
• Supported 23 mini-consortiums for electronic resources purchased on behalf of subsets of LOUIS member libraries saving millions by negotiating discounts
• Offered numerous trials of new e-resources
• Loaded, on average, 140,000 A-to-Z records each month for 30 sites
• Completed 109,789 interlibrary loan requests
• Customized ILLiad pages
• Served on various committees with library industry staff regionally, nationally, and internationally
• Added 13 new collections to the LOUISiana Digital Library
• Facilitated the addition of 23,345 new items to the LOUISiana Digital Library for a total of 213,959 items
• Received 1140 new incidents via FootPrint incident portal
• Closed 1137 incidents in FootPrints
• Targeted specific training to insure all resources and services are used and properly understood

LOUIS Webpage: www.LOUISLibraries.org
LOUIS Members: www.LOUISLibraries.org/wp/louis/louis-members
LOUIS Services: www.LOUISLibraries.org/wp/louis/services