

The University of Tennessee at Chattanooga Student Technology Fee Funding Request

Proposal

Beginning 2005-2006

Title: Electronic Access to Library Databases

Unit Submitting Proposal: Lupton Library

Briefly summarize the proposed project.

This request is for continued funding of the University's access to electronic indexes, abstracts, and databases through the Lupton Library. The funding from this source over the past few years has allowed the Library to subscribe to virtually all the databases the University can currently access. These databases include *Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, ABI/Inform, PsycINFO, CINAHL, Engineering Village2, Sociological Abstracts, ERIC, America: History and Life, Music Index, Sport Discus*, and others.

Identify the project goals and objectives. Briefly describe your goals and objectives. Include in the description how the outcomes of the project will improve teaching and learning. Indicate also the anticipated reach of your project. In other words, how many and what type of students will benefit from the successful execution of the proposed funding? How will they benefit?

Access to electronic databases forms the core of student and faculty research in many disciplines. In some disciplines, the electronic databases to which we subscribe are now the primary or only means of accessing indexing and abstracting information. This access, available from dorm rooms, campus offices and labs, and off-campus locations, enhances the educational opportunities available to students and faculty members by permitting research during times when the Library is closed and the researcher is unable to get to the Library.

The world of scholarly communication is changing rapidly. The traditional print mechanisms for disseminating information are changing as the continued increase in pricing for journal subscriptions, advances in technology, and changing user demands and expectations have driven libraries to embrace electronic information retrieval as a means of getting the greatest value for the increasingly limited dollars available to us. Subscribing to large, aggregated databases permits access to many more sources (journals, etc.) than the Lupton Library would ever be able to afford as print subscriptions. All students, faculty and staff members of UTC have access to these databases and benefit from the variety and number of titles, the ease of access and the availability of full-text for many of these

titles. Usage statistics and anecdotal evidence from public service librarians indicate these electronic services are our most popular and heavily used resources.

Describe the method with which you will achieve your goals. Briefly describe your methodology. Include a calendar of target project dates. That is, when will the major steps in the project begin and end?

Subscriptions to these databases in question are already in place, and all are available through the Library's website. We are requesting funding to continue these subscriptions.

How will you evaluate the success of the project? Describe your evaluation criteria clearly. How will you determine whether the project is successful?

Success is defined as the continued access of the university community to these databases. Like any material purchased or leased by the Library, each title received is evaluated periodically to determine its continued relevance to the curriculum and research needs of our faculty and students. Usage stats reveal whether a database is accessed or not, and continued low use could result in replacing one subscription with one that is potentially more useful. Input from faculty members and changes in program requirements will also be taken into consideration in the evaluation of these databases. For example, the addition of a doctoral program in Engineering has led us to add a new database supporting engineering research. Our users will quickly let us know whether we have chosen well through their use of this database and their feedback regarding its value to Library faculty and staff members.

In addition, the Library Dean has created a new standing committee and charged this group with reviewing on an annual basis all existing digital subscriptions to determine if they are meeting the needs of our users and still the best product available in that particular discipline. The committee will consider usage stats, external reviews and evaluations, and consult with the appropriate user community.

Previous grant(s): If you received a Student Technology Fee grant last year, have you submitted your final report?

Reports for grants received by the Lupton Library for fiscal year 2003-04 have been submitted.

Proposed location: Describe the proposed location of the equipment, software, etc.

Access to these databases is already available through the Library's website. There are no additional equipment or space requirements involved in this request.

Requested Budget: Clearly identify one-time costs, such as equipment, shipping, and installation. Clearly identify recurring costs, such as maintenance and support, and the source of the funds to cover the recurring costs.

We are requesting \$150,000 to pay for subscriptions for calendar year 2006. This amount represents the subscription costs for the databases to which we currently subscribe. As stated in the past, this represents an annual cost, which the Library anticipates requesting of the Technology Fee Funds for the foreseeable future. If this source of funding were not available, the Library would pay these costs from its existing budget. This would result in additional cancellations of print subscriptions and even further reductions in the number of books and other materials the Library would purchase.

Summary of projected costs

Salaries (if any)	\$0
Equipment (hardware and software)	\$150,000
Complete the following items as appropriate	
Installation	\$0
Construction/renovation costs	\$0
Annual maintenance/support costs	\$0
Training	\$0
Recurring costs per year	\$150,000
Total project one-time costs	\$0
Estimated recurring costs per year	\$150,000

Identify the area(s) responsible for operating and maintaining the equipment.

Lupton Library

Approval by Dean or Vice Chancellor: _____

Individual responsible to complete proposal if funded: Michael Bell, Head of Library Acquisitions and Collection Development

Priority established by Dean or Vice Chancellor: _____

Deans and Vice Chancellors should return completed forms (along with 20 copies) to Provost John Friedl, Chair of the University Technology Committee, prior to **December 12, 20**