

**THE LOUISIANA LIBRARY NETWORK
RESPONSE TO HCR 129 OF THE
2011 REGULAR SESSION
OF THE LOUISIANA LEGISLATURE**

LOUISIANA BOARD OF REGENTS



December 7, 2011

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Executive Summary.....	1
Introduction and Background	3
Overview of Study.....	4
Findings	8
Recommendations.....	9
Appendices	10

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Louisiana Library Network is a partnership with Academic Libraries, State and Private Libraries, Museums and Archives. With a centralized support staff of seven, commonly referred to as “LOUIS” and located on the LSU campus, LOUIS combines the collective resources to produce a dynamic library consortium. It provides information technology solutions to consortium members in a cloud computing environment: an integrated library system (ILS), a digital library, interlibrary loan, electronic scholarly resources, consulting, authentication, training, communication, and operational support. Established in 1992 by the Board of Regents, LOUIS has 47 members and receives approximately \$3-4 million annually in grants and membership fees to support consortium activity.

LOUIS is governed by the Board of Regents and the Louisiana Library Network Commission. The operating policies for the Commission provide for fiscal year membership appointments as follows: three elected representatives of the academic libraries that are automated by LOUIS; the Louisiana Academic Library Information Network Consortium (LALINC) Executive Committee Chairperson, the LSU Chief Information Officer; the LSU Dean of Libraries, a representative of the Council of Academic Officers of the Board of Regents; and the Commissioner of Higher Education or designee. The Executive Director of LOUIS serves as an ex-officio member. The Commissioner of Higher Education or designee also services as an ex-officio member and as chair of the Commission.

Because of shrinking state resources, LOUIS was created to assist in equalizing technology and resources in academic libraries across the state. All institutions in the four Louisiana higher education systems, all institutions within the Louisiana Association of Independent Colleges and Universities, the State Library of Louisiana, various museums and archives are members of LOUIS.

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

House Concurrent Resolution 129 requests the Board of Regents to develop a permanent funding formula for LOUIS, the Louisiana Library Network. This formula is intended to include a centralized funding base from the Board of Regents, assessments to the management boards, and individual user fees. The Resolution also requests the Board of Regents to continue to support and promote LOUIS as a critical component of the success of the state's public postsecondary education institutions.

In 1990 the Board of Regents created an ad hoc group called the Task Force on Libraries and formed a Network subcommittee to evaluate automation of the state's public academic libraries. Only six of the 19 academic libraries in the state had online catalogs; the rest relied on card catalogs. The strategy that emerged from the Network subcommittee was to use an automation system (NOTIS) housed on the LSU mainframe for all of the state's public academic libraries. This would enable the state's universities to automate more quickly, save limited funding resources and assist users with one common search engine.

The work of the Task Force on Libraries submitted its final report in the fall of 1992 and became known as the Louisiana Academic Library Information Network Consortium (LALINC). Every public and private academic library in the state was a member. The automation project was named LOUIS.

OVERVIEW OF STUDY

Membership in LOUIS continues to grow as more institutions have been created within the Louisiana Community and Technical College system. The latest library to request membership is Northshore Technical Community College. The current membership includes thirty-four public academic libraries (ten of which are considered Special Libraries), ten private libraries, the State Library, the State Museum and the Historic New Orleans Collection.

Funding Components:

Chart 1

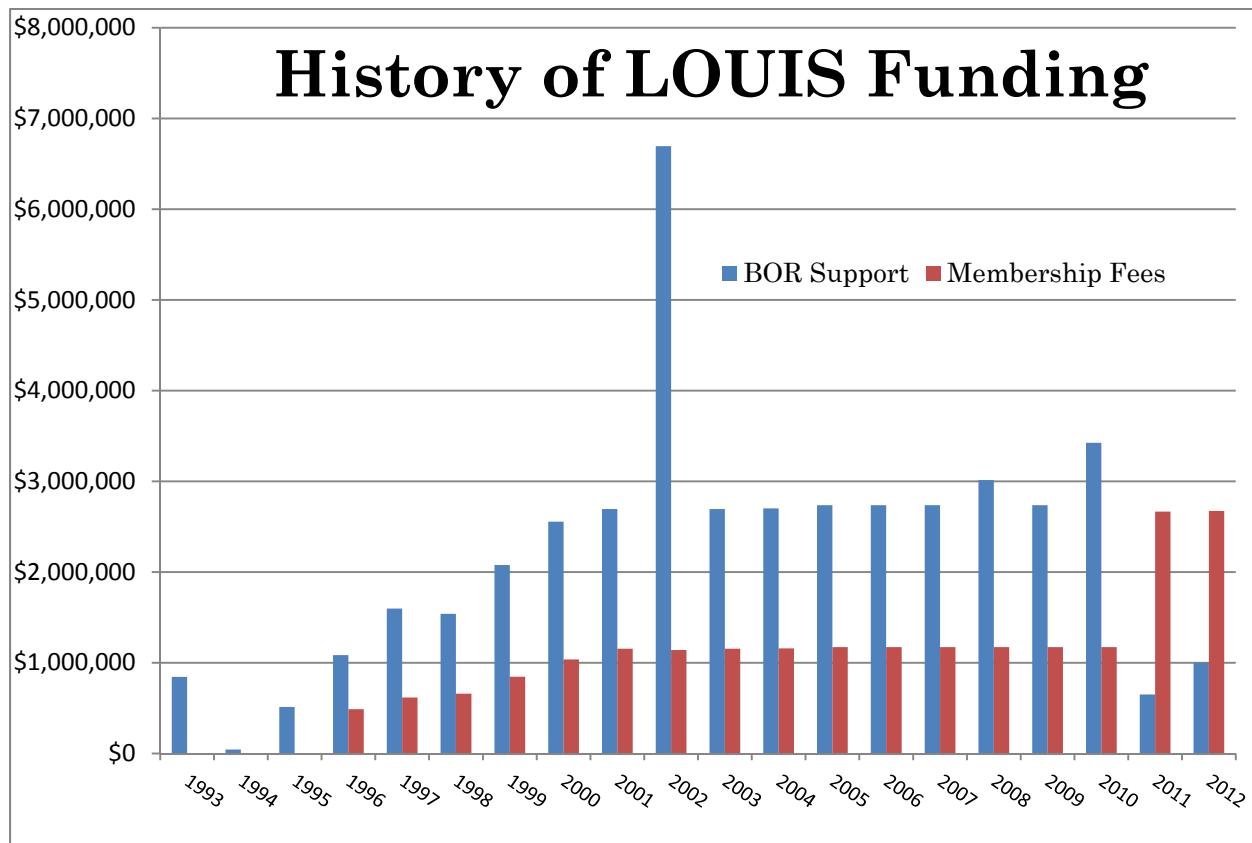


Chart 1 shows the funding history for the Louisiana Library network from inception. In 2001/2002, additional funding was provided to acquire and install new

hardware and software for the network. In 2009/2010, one-time grant funds were used to purchase Readex and Gale Virtual Reference Library.

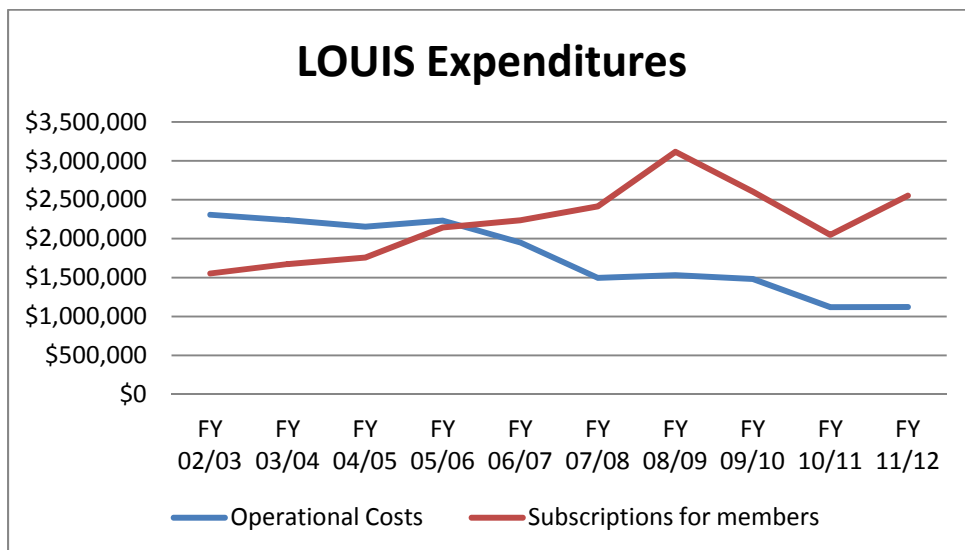
Prior to fiscal year 2011, the Board of Regents provided the majority of funding each year. Because of budget cuts, this base funding level was reduced and campus libraries were forced to pay the majority of the costs for fiscal years 2011 and 2012.

Expenditure Categories:

The operational costs of running the LOUIS network have declined over the last decade due to a reduction in staff and a decrease in office rent expense.

Increases in subscriptions for various institutions have contributed to the volatility of the total budget requests. For fiscal year 2010/2011, the LOUIS budget was reduced at the end of the legislative session and in an effort to balance the budget, some subscriptions were renewed for only six months and other subscriptions were discontinued.

Chart 2



Savings Calculation:

LOUIS staff has calculated the cost savings to the state since inception of the consortium to be in excess of \$165 million. This can best be explained by the following table which delineates one year of subscription costs compared to membership dues.

Table 1 – Individual Subscription Costs

FY 10/11	Individual Cost	Membership Dues	Annual Savings		Individual Cost	Membership Dues	Annual Savings
LSU	\$2,005,127	\$457,053	\$1,548,074	SUS	\$356,467	\$22,676	\$333,791
BRCC	\$453,276	\$55,740	\$397,536	Sowela	\$335,499	\$17,570	\$317,929
BPCC	\$393,966	\$38,945	\$355,021	ULL	\$1,095,625	\$250,015	\$845,610
Delgado	\$640,843	\$120,558	\$520,285	ULM	\$737,676	\$128,849	\$608,827
Grambling	\$558,590	\$77,761	\$480,829	UNO	\$905,682	\$162,282	\$743,400
Fletcher	\$329,514	\$12,198	\$317,316	HSCNO	\$295,163	\$29,747	\$265,416
LDCC	\$671,241	\$11,689	\$659,552	HSCS	\$235,131	\$12,129	\$223,002
LSUA	\$432,025	\$32,468	\$399,557	Pennington	\$118,483	\$5,143	\$113,340
LSUE	\$390,525	\$22,243	\$368,282	Centenary	\$90,314	\$5,116	\$85,198
LSULAW	\$450,265	\$17,993	\$432,272	Dillard	\$91,287	\$5,441	\$85,846
LSUS	\$554,345	\$54,811	\$499,534	LACollege	\$95,788	\$6,945	\$88,843
Tech	\$901,976	\$162,765	\$739,211	Loyola	\$173,394	\$28,024	\$145,370
LUMCON	\$322,182	\$6,590	\$315,592	OLOHC	\$89,222	\$4,751	\$84,471
McNeese	\$771,785	\$133,442	\$638,343	OLOL	\$325,615	\$13,299	\$312,316
Nicholls	\$720,427	\$109,857	\$610,570	SJS	\$76,612	\$539	\$76,073
NWSU	\$717,126	\$126,891	\$590,235	Tulane	\$241,485	\$59,784	\$181,701
Nunez	\$334,538	\$10,863	\$323,675	Xavier	\$129,320	\$18,147	\$111,173
RPCC	\$316,153	\$9,828	\$306,325	Tulane LAW	\$32,000	\$514	\$31,486
SLCC	\$366,386	\$24,420	\$341,966	State Lib	\$37,000	\$4,166	\$32,834
SLU	\$997,745	\$220,747	\$776,998	State Museum	\$37,000	\$4,166	\$32,834
SU	\$693,938	\$122,381	\$571,557	HNOC	\$37,000	\$4,166	\$32,834
SULaw	\$360,815	\$11,968	\$348,847	NOBTS	\$105,973	\$8,800	\$97,173
SUNO	\$483,037	\$42,600	\$440,437				
					\$19,507,564	\$2,676,080	\$16,831,484

Cumulative savings since the inception of LOUIS are significant. Table 2 represents the savings for each year. For Fiscal Year 2010/2011, the savings amount is an estimate and subject to revision.

Table 2 – Annual Savings generated by LOUIS consortium

1993	\$1,725,184
1994	\$2,805,000
1995	\$1,125,225
1996	\$1,607,672
1997	\$2,430,770
1998	\$7,634,346
1999	\$6,051,395
2000	\$9,295,900
2001	\$10,931,380
2002	\$9,295,900
2003	\$9,295,900
2004	\$10,000,000
2005	\$10,000,000
2006	\$13,000,000
2007	\$13,000,000
2008	\$13,000,000
2009	\$14,324,364
2010	\$16,831,484
2011	\$13,000,000
TOTAL	\$165,354,520

FINDINGS

The result of the study in response to HCR 129 indicates that a consortium approach for purchasing academic library subscriptions has provided overall savings to the State of Louisiana while fostering an atmosphere of shared goals and knowledge. The staff provides assistance to member organizations and is willing to assist other library institutions in the pursuit of institutional efficiencies.

Outside of the library network and campus libraries, there is a general lack of understanding of the benefits provided by using this type of consortium approach. The Board of Regents can assist by promoting the efficiencies gained when using a consortium funding methodology.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Staff recommends greater communication and involvement between the Board of Regents, the Louisiana Library Network and the LOUIS staff. LOUIS should report annually to the Board of Regents about prior year results, current year projects, and expected ensuing budget year requests. This information should be provided in detail to the Technology Committee of the Board of Regents.

HCR 129 requests the Board of Regents to develop a funding formula comprised of a base funding from the board, funding from the various management systems, and membership fees from the campuses. The Louisiana Board of Regents has submitted a request through the budget process for Fiscal Year 2012/2013 to increase the base funding to \$2.5 Million. It is not likely that the system management offices would be able to contribute a base funding without first including it in their budget requests. Since November 1 is the deadline for each agency to submit ensuing year budget requests, this would most likely not occur until November, 2012 for funding in Fiscal Year 2013/2014.

Oversight and review of the budget for the LOUIS project is expected to continue and more regular meetings between the consortium, LOUIS staff and the technology committee of the Board of Regents is recommended.

APPENDICES

- House Concurrent Resolution 129 of the 2011 Regular Session
- Reference List

Regular Session, 2011

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 129

BY REPRESENTATIVE MICHAEL JACKSON

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Board of Regents to develop a permanent funding formula for LOUIS, the Louisiana Library Network, and to express support for LOUIS as a critical component of the success of the state's public postsecondary education institutions.

WHEREAS, LOUIS, the Louisiana Library Network, provides essential information, resources, and services to the public postsecondary education institutions of the state; and

WHEREAS, in 1992, LOUIS was formed in response to shrinking library funding in the effort to equalize technology and resources in academic libraries across the state, and since then, LOUIS has contributed significantly to the success of the state's public postsecondary education institutions as well as museums and archives; and

WHEREAS, LOUIS provides around-the-clock technology and enterprise solutions to students, faculty, and staff so that scholarly materials can be purchased, identified, searched, and shared; and

WHEREAS, the essential resources and services that LOUIS offers include the library automation system and catalogs of library collections, electronic research databases and full-text journals, remote access to library resources twenty-four hours a day, interlibrary loan and reciprocal borrowing among all member libraries, and the Louisiana Digital Library, as well as centralized servers and an expert support staff; and

WHEREAS, LOUIS, a proven model of how to collaborate and consolidate, reduces duplication and saves the state millions of dollars annually; and

WHEREAS, LOUIS purchased more than nineteen million dollars worth of resources for member libraries in 2010 for only three million one hundred thousand dollars, representing a huge savings to each campus and to the state; and

WHEREAS, without LOUIS, Louisiana's public postsecondary education institutions would have trouble meeting certain Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) core requirements and comprehensive standards, and the loss of SACS accreditation would negatively affect an institution's ability to award degrees and students' ability to receive financial aid and could also have a detrimental impact on its National Collegiate Athletic Association accreditation; and

WHEREAS, the importance of LOUIS to Louisiana's public postsecondary education institutions cannot be overstated, and it is critical that it remain an available resource for the state's higher education community; and

WHEREAS, higher education funding has been severely reduced during the past three years impacting all institutions, boards, and systems; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Regents has fought to maintain funding for LOUIS, and has determined that it is in the state's best interest to formalize a funding mechanism to ensure the future of this critical resource for the state's higher education community.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Board of Regents to develop a permanent funding formula for LOUIS, the Louisiana Library Network, which shall include a centralized funding base from the Board of Regents, assessments to the management boards, and individual user fees.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Regents shall continue to support and promote LOUIS as a critical component of the success of the state's public postsecondary education institutions.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the chairman of the Board of Regents and to the commissioner of higher education.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

REFERENCES

Chandler, A. & Coco, C. (1992). What is LOUIS?

Schneider, D. W. & Cargill, J. (Fall 1993). LALINC: A Unified Agenda for Louisiana's Academic Libraries, LLA Bulletin

Cargill, J. (1995). A target of opportunity: Creation of the LOUIS Network. Library Hi Tech

Barry, Carol L. (1998). A Statewide Cooperative Project: The Louisiana Library Network