

Project Title: Consortia Collaborating on a Platform for Library Usage Statistics (CC-PLUS)

Project Director: Jill Morris, Senior Program Officer, [PALCI](#) (USA)

Project Partners: [Virtual Library of Virginia](#) (USA), [Jisc](#) (UK), [Couperin](#) (France), [Health Knowledge Network](#) (Canada), [Canadian Research Knowledge Network](#) (Canada), [California Digital Library](#) (USA), [University System of Maryland and Affiliated Institutions](#) (USA)

Project Description:

PALCI and partnering library consortia request \$50,000 to plan for and develop an international, modular, open technology, proof of concept platform for the collection, display, and analysis of consortial library usage data. The CC-PLUS proof of concept platform will be adapted from software previously developed by a partnering organization (Jisc's existing [Journal Usage Statistics Portal](#) codebase) to collaboratively address community-identified usage data challenges. This project will result in a shareable platform that will be deployed to consortia and member libraries to: increase libraries' analytic capacity; create staffing and cost efficiencies; and empower libraries and consortia to practice exemplary stewardship by making data-informed decisions regarding investments in electronic resources.

Statement of Need: The success of library consortia in facilitating collection development decisions for shared purchases depends heavily on the availability and analysis of usage data. In a 2014 survey conducted by the International Coalition of Library Consortia (ICOLC), more than 40 consortia representing thousands of libraries around the world articulated a mission-critical need for a usage data management system, yet solutions in this area are lacking in both availability and functionality.

Standards exist for libraries receiving usage data from vendors and publishers ([COUNTER](#)), but consortia have few options for tools to collect and analyze this data. Resources needed to build and maintain usage data systems are beyond what most have the capacity for in-house, while existing commercial alternatives are too costly and inflexible to address consortial needs. Additionally, libraries are hesitant to risk managing this vital decision-making data with services offered by non-library entities due to the competitive advantage the data provide. The lack of consortial tools and services makes gathering consistent usage data complicated and unsustainable, and often results in piecemeal duplication of effort to resolve identical issues.

A consortial solution would require: the robust management of many libraries' usage data through a single interface; automation of data harvesting, verification, ingest, and storage; and a common tool among consortia for data analysis, preservation, and distribution to member libraries. Consortia also reported a desire for tools allowing for deeper analysis, such as data visualization, and the ability to augment usage statistics by incorporating additional contextual data sources, such as cost, holdings, and institutional data, such as enrollment counts.

Impact: This adaptation of the [JUSP](#) tool and services has the potential for tremendous impact across thousands of libraries. By harnessing the collective power of the consortial community, this tool would: provide an open usage statistics platform to manage data for multiple libraries simultaneously; provide consortia greater leverage in procuring improved vendor usage data through the adoption of a standard, international platform; and improve the effectiveness and efficiency of library consortia by decreasing time spent managing systems, allowing for greater focus on the analysis and use of usage data for practical purposes, such as vendor negotiation, collection management, and resource sharing.

Relevance to IMLS Priorities: The proposed project relates directly to IMLS priorities as a national digital platform supporting exemplary stewardship of library services by: building on existing work, engaging with a user community, and promoting computational analysis through adoption of an open, internationally-accepted, standards-based tool that empowers libraries to make informed decisions about investments in electronic resources. This project leverages the collective knowledge of library consortia with decades of experience and a vested interest in usage statistics management, and directly addresses community-identified challenges with a digital infrastructure. By sharing an open, common codebase, consortia and member libraries will create efficiencies in time and effort, and encourage further innovation by pooling their diverse experience and expertise. As highlighted by the 2014 ICOLC survey, 40+ consortia from 16 countries indicated interest in supporting this effort. The partners listed here represent a select number of those consortia, and many more are eager to engage with platform testing, software sustainability, and associated services.

Proposed Workplan: CC-PLUS identified a trusted application developer who has agreed to work on this project. Project partners together with our selected developer created the following milestones and timeline to be achieved in approximately 12 months (including approximately 17 non-consecutive weeks of product development time), with an anticipated start date of June 1, 2017.

- Months 1-3: Set up hosting environment and code repository based on the existing Jisc software; install and configure Jisc software scripts, SUSHI code, and database schemas; customize the schemas, page templates, and harvesting scripts, as needed.
- Months 3-5: Construct a prototype consortial/institutional management interface; define resource and vendor connections to harvest data for testing purposes; begin harvest and ingest of vendor and/or uploaded datasets.
- Months 5-12: Construct a prototype reporting interface; conduct a sustainability analysis for the software and envisioned service; release a draft report and documentation for ICOLC community review; create a final report incorporating feedback.
- Throughout the project, partner consortia will communicate with stakeholders to refine community-based needs; perform testing and collect feedback on platform development; plan for future project phases and pilot implementations; and create and nurture a consortial usage data community, including developers and leaders for process and platform improvements.

Projected Performance Goals and Deliverables:

1. A modular, open technology, proof of concept platform for the collection, display, and analysis of consortial library usage statistics that may be locally deployed for use by any consortium and its member libraries, and may also result in a new hosted service
2. A full project report, including an evaluation of the proof of concept and recommended steps for future development, pilot service proposal, and sustainability plan
3. A project webpage and communication forum to facilitate collaboration among key stakeholders

Estimated Project Budget: \$50,000

- Wages: \$40,800 (Approximately 680 hours at \$60/hour to contract with an identified application developer, no benefits or overhead)
- Travel/Meeting attendance: \$2,400
- Web hosting services: \$1,800
- PALCI project administration/overhead: \$5,000
- In-kind contributions of time, expertise and other resources from partners (Although no match is required, we anticipate providing a competitive match amount.)