MEMORANDUM

TO: Quebec University Library Staff

FROM: BCI Library Subcommittee

SUBJECT: Library Services Platform – Project Update

DATE: April 16, 2018

Background

Most of the Integrated Library Management Systems (ILMS) in Quebec university libraries will have to be replaced by 2020, at a time when providers are gradually moving away from this technological approach to focus on Library Services Platforms (LSP). As a result, the Quebec university libraries have been collaborating on a project to replace their ILMS with an LSP under the auspices of the Bureau de coopération interuniversitaire (BCI) since fall 2014.

Project advancement since December 12, 2017

The LSP Project recently achieved an important milestone when seventeen university libraries confirmed their participation through a process launched this past February.

- École de technologie supérieure
- École nationale d'administration publique
- HEC Montréal
- Institut national de la recherche scientifique
- Polytechnique Montréal
- Bishop's University
- Concordia University
- Université de Montréal
- Université de Sherbrooke
- Université du Québec à Chicoutimi
- Université du Québec à Montréal
- Université du Québec à Rimouski
- Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières
- Université du Québec en Abitibi-Témiscamingue
- Université du Québec en Outaouais
- Université Laval
- Université TÉLUQ

The LSP Project is the first step in a promising vision for the Quebec network of university libraries. The development of a user-friendly union catalogue is a major advance that will facilitate access to our print collections for users, and will pave the way to much closer collaboration between participating libraries.

The BCI Board of Directors met on April 6, and authorized the tendering process, although the working committee in charge of drafting the tender specifications had already begun meeting to lay the groundwork. If all goes as planned, the call for tenders will be published on the official tendering site of the Government of Quebec (Système électronique d'appel d'offres du Gouvernement du Québec – SEAO) at the end of June, and the contract with the chosen provider should be signed by the end of fall 2018. The LSP implementation phase will begin immediately thereafter with a target for launching the solution in libraries by mid 2020.

A second series of meetings was held on February 15 and 16 with the providers who had the most promising solutions. It was an opportunity for the working group members and university library representatives in attendance to find out more about the main features of these solutions, in order to finalize a list of core business needs that will serve as a framework for the preparation of the technical specifications in the tender. The University Library Directors adopted the final version of this list during a teleconference on April 13.

By early 2018, the project team was ready to support the working groups and Steering Committee in order to accelerate the pace. This team includes Mr. Roger Laframboise, Project Manager and Team Leader, Mr. François Charbonnier, Product Manager, and Ms. Sophie Valentin, Coordinator and Project Controller. The team's contribution is crucial to implementing the chosen solution within the established timeframe. Furthermore, a Business Analyst will be recruited in May, adding a fourth person to the team.

Finally, several Library Directors have or will meet with their teams in the upcoming weeks to review how the LSP Project is progressing. This will be a good opportunity to answer any further questions that you may have.

ON BEHALF OF THE QUEBEC UNIVERSITY LIBRARY DIRECTORS

Richard Dumont
Vice-chair of the BCI Library Subcommittee

Benoit Séguin
Chair of the LSP Steering Committee