

Proposal for CLSA Grant No. 1617-03, Cross-platform eBook Discovery App & Reader Pacific Library Partnership (PLP)

Exhibit A: Project Summary & Scope of Work

Project Summary/Abstract

Briefly describe the long-term goals of the project.

The California Library Services Board has designated \$200,000 in one-time FY 2016/17 California Library Services Act (CLSA) funds to be used to facilitate the eventual statewide deployment of SimplyE, an open source app allowing for the discovery and reading of eBooks from multiple eBook platforms like Overdrive and 3M's Biblioteca, for California libraries.

The SimplyE app was jointly funded by New York Public Library (NYPL) and the Institute of Museum and Library Services and developed to be a cross-platform eBook reading app. Although the application is open source and is in general release for all libraries, the current model calls for each library to host its own installation, its own servers, purchase an Adobe Vendor ID, a Radium license, and perform some development in order to customize the app to work with the eBook platforms to which they subscribe and with their ILS. This is a barrier for many libraries who do not have the in-house expertise to setup the service or who do not have the funds to license and host the service.

To simplify the process for libraries in California and further develop this application, the Pacific Library Partnership (PLP) will work with Califa to lay the groundwork for easier deployment for California libraries and integrate the enki library into SimplyE.

The Pacific Library Partnership is submitting this proposal for the \$200,000 in designated one-time only CLSA funds, with no additional subsidies from CSL, to conduct this project, formally known as the "Cross-platform eBook Discovery App & Reader." Goals include:

Goal #1 – Customize the SimpleE eBook discovery app for California public libraries. As project lead, PLP will work with Califa to provide the technical and administrative expertise necessary to setup SimplyE (Library Simplified) for easier deployment in California libraries. This will include a statewide purchase of a Radium license for the app, a statewide Adobe Vendor ID, and the installation of centralized servers in the cloud. This centralized purchase and development would support the discovery and reading of all of the eBooks that California libraries purchase, regardless of vendor.

Goal #2 – Make enki library a discoverable platform for the SimplyE app. Currently, the app only works with Overdrive, 3M Cloud, and Axis 360 platforms. Through this initiative, work will be done with development partner NYPL to integrate the enki library into SimplyE as a discoverable platform and help libraries play a stronger role in ensuring patron privacy.

Scope of Work

Describe the goals and specific objectives of the proposed project and summarize the expected outcomes. If applicable, describe the overall strategy, methodology, and analyses to be used. Include how the data will be collected, analyzed, and interpreted as well as any resource sharing plans as appropriate. Discuss potential problems, alternative strategies, and benchmarks for success anticipated to achieve the goals and objectives.

To meet the goals above, PLP will collaborate and contract with Califa to provide technical and administrative expertise to create a platform-agnostic reading app with enki library integration for California libraries. The following methodology will be used to implement the project:

- 1) PLP will contract with Califa to work with a qualified implementation partner, such as Datalogics, to assist in the initial development and deployment for a pilot library, from setup on Amazon Web Services (AWS) Cloud Service through server software deployment, to ILS authentication and eBook platform integration. Other companies, such as Bibliolabs and Webqem, were considered for partnering, but they have not actually set up the app before and Datalogics is the furthest along in actually working with the software and knowing how to set it up for deployment in a consortial situation.
- 2) At least six California public libraries will be identified to pilot the statewide reading app. These pilot libraries should already be subscribed to an eBook platform, the enki library, and agree to provide circulation data to demonstrate improved discovery of eBooks on the SimplyE app.
- 3) Purchase of a statewide Radium license for the app, purchase of a statewide Adobe Vendor ID, and installation of centralized servers in the cloud to simplify deployment of SimplyE for California libraries.
- 4) Programming work to configure enki eBooks to be accessible on the app. Work will be done with development partners (Datalogics and NYPL) to integrate the enki library into SimplyE. The process is estimated to take four months, and the end result is that California's enki library will be added as a discoverable platform for the app.
- 5) Development of a sustainability plan for the app. This includes creating an affordable cost-recovery pricing model for participating libraries to maintain the app and is offset by the benefits to the libraries for proactively promoting and advocating for patron privacy, increasing the discovery of library-purchased eBooks, and simplifying the experience of reading library eBooks.

This project's outcomes will include the creation of a cross-platform eBook reading app for California libraries with enki library integration, improved discovery and circulation of library eBooks, and will make it easier for patrons to find and read library eBooks. PLP may alter project plans/objectives as needed throughout the course of the project, with the CSL grant monitor's approval.

Benchmarks for success include the following:

- Integration of enki library to the cross-platform eBook discovery app and reader
- Production of a statewide cross-platform eBook reading app that will be freely available and downloadable on Android and Apple devices and has a searchable interface in which patrons can find all eBooks available through their library
- Circulation statistics report from pilot libraries to model how other libraries will be able to track their usage statistics on the app
- Sustainability plan for app maintenance, support, and deployment to more libraries

Progress on these benchmarks will be included in the corresponding semiannual narrative reports to the State Library.

Collection and compilation of data required for the deliverables (progress reports, financial reports, and sustainability plans) will be the responsibility of the project manager. Methods used may include data from financial systems used by PLP or Califa Group; meeting minutes; etc.
