

Migrating 110 colleges to Alma & Primo VE

The California Community Colleges
Statewide Library Services Platform
Implementation

Glenn S. Tozier, Monterey Peninsula College
Stephanie M. Roach, San Mateo County Community College District

Originally published as: Roach, S.M., Coyne, A.R., Tozier, G.S., Wahl, M., & Casey, K. (2025). From Zero to One Hundred Ten: The California Community Colleges Statewide Library Services Platform Implementation. In J. Pinkley & K. Casey (Eds.), *The Community College Library*. ACRL.

Overview

- Background of California's Community Colleges & Libraries
- Purpose and funding
- Migration project
- Library Services Platform Program
- Program Impact

Background of California's Community Colleges & Libraries



Background of California Community Colleges

First college founded in 1907

Grew to 21 colleges by 1918

Rapid expansion post-war¹

Current reach:

- 116 colleges
- 2.1 million students²

CCCs serve a diverse group of students from rural to urban communities pursuing a wide range of educational goals³

Purpose and Structure of CCCs

Provide college opportunities to all Californians regardless of geography or income⁴

Locally controlled, statewide legislation drives development and standardization

Funding and resource disparities⁵

Libraries in California Community Colleges

Diverse in size, funding,
collections, staffing

Problem: unequal services to
student population

Purpose and funding



Purpose of the Library Services Platform Project:

Problem Statement

CCC's library technology was unequally distributed, largely obsolete, and too expensive.⁶

Too many students were not being prepared for university level research on transfer.⁶

Proposal for an LSP

Objectives:⁶

- Improve student success and equity
- Enhance online education initiatives
- Benefit from collaboration on a modern cloud-based LSP
- Reduce costs

Other benefits:⁶

- Uniform experience for faculty and students teaching or attending multiple colleges
- Provide discovery platform similar to those at California public universities

Proposal Accepted:

Library Services
Platform
Implementation
Project

- Proposal approved for the 2017-18 Fiscal Year⁷
- One-time \$6 million grant⁷
- Funds to be spent within 3 years, before the end of the 2019-20 Fiscal Year⁸
- Ongoing funding secured from the state later \$4 million per year⁹

Migration project



Migration project: Key milestones

Existing organizations
within the state allowed
us to launch the project
quickly

The three year grant & contract details set the timeline

- Fall 2017: Planning started
- Apr 2018: Vendor selected
- Aug 2018: Contract with Ex Libris
- Sept 2018: “Vanguard” phase begins
- Dec 2018: 110 participating colleges
- Feb 2019: Project kickoff
- May 2019: Production environments
- Oct 2019: Technical Services & Configurations Freeze
- December 2019 & January 2020: Cutover & Go-Live

Phase	Activity	2017 Q3	2017 Q4	2018 Q1	2018 Q2	2018 Q3	2018 Q4	2019 Q1	2019 Q2	2019 Q3	2019 Q4	2020 Q1	2020 Q2
Planning	Planning; Vendor selection; Contract: August 2, 2018; Institution Participation Agreements	X	X	X	X	X	X						
Vanguard	Vanguard kickoff; forms & integrations; adjust plan					X	X	X					
Migration	General kickoff; forms; data extracts & delivery; Network Zone load; PCI activations; test load; production environment							X	X				
Migration	Data review & integrations; Weekly check-ins / support; Staff training								X	X	X	X	
Migration	Cutover & Go-live preparation; Technical Services freeze; Configurations freeze									X	X		
Launch	Cutover: Deliver, review & accept data; Go-live; Data Cleanup; Post Go-live Functionality Reviews										X	X	
Launch	Moved to Regular Customer Support												X

Key milestones from p 215-217 and table. Table adapted from Roach, et al. "From Zero to One Hundred Ten," (2025): p 237-239. Table B1 and Table B2.¹⁰

Migration Timeline 2017 - 2020

Vanguard Libraries

Vanguard libraries tested migration prior to the main group.

This informed and supported the implementation.

Representative of:¹¹

- Previous ILS and link resolver
- Collection size
- College and library staff size
- Geographic location
- Student demographics

General Migration

All libraries joined this phase of the migration project.

Vanguard libraries joined the general migration to complete their migration.

- February 1, 2019: Kickoff event for project leads¹²
- Libraries were grouped by previous ILS

Data extracts

- February 15, 2019: First data extracts due
- Delivered via file exchange
- ILS group support was useful: Instructions to extract data varied by ILS vendor
- Bibliographic records
- Holdings records
- Fines and fees
- Items
- Loans
- Patron records

Migration and field mapping forms

- Due March 8, 2019
- Forms must be validated during the submission process

Link resolver & electronic resources activations forms were also completed at this time

Various elements (for example):

- Libraries and campuses
- Shelving locations
- Fines and fees
- Item policy
- Loans
- User groups, statistical categories, blocks, etc.

Alma configuration forms

- Draft due April 12, 2019
 - Final due April 19, 2019
 - Requires validation
- System configurations
 - Policies, terms of use
 - Fulfillment tables, block preferences, user groups
 - Circulation desks, printers
 - Barcodes, local 9XX, etc.
 - Acquisitions relationships, currency, etc.
 - Libraries, locations, and more

Training, support, and other projects

Training and Support

- Training due dates
- Use of learning management software “Canvas”
- Weekly online meetings
- Ex Libris, state project staff, colleagues for support

Other projects¹³

- Fine/fee forgiveness; user record purge
- Cleanup projects varied (deselection, location updates, MARC record cleanup, policy updates, etc)
- Promotions & partnerships for campus stakeholders

Production & testing

May 2019:

Production environments delivered

- Review period
- Testing data and workflows
- Integrations (SIS, authentication, self-check, etc)
- Staff gains familiarity with Alma and Primo VE

Sept - Oct 2019:

Preparation for Go-live

- Staff preparation / certification
- Configurations menu opens
- Final configuration decisions
- Final forms & data loads
- Technical Services Freeze / Alma Configurations Freeze
- Go-live dates assigned

Cutover and Go-live: Dec 2019 or Jan 2020

Cutover

- Fulfillment cutover
 - Transfer previous ILS circulation data since the technical services freeze
 - Use offline circulation during cutover
- Verify & accept migrated data

Go-live

- Accept production environment
- Reconcile fulfillment activity
- Functional review begins

Library Services Platform Program



LSP Program Governance and Infrastructure

LSP Program Governance:

- LSP Governance Committee
 - Advise and Guide LSP Program
 - Representative Committee
- Work Groups
 - Provide expertise and recommendations
- LSP Task Force
 - Operations oversight
 - Organize and Support Governance Committee initiatives

Governance Committee

Representative membership:

- Small, medium, & large participating colleges
- Work Group leads
- Representatives from statewide CCC organizations

Charge:

- Develop and approve policies
- Set direction and priorities of LSP Program

Work Groups

Membership:

- Volunteers from throughout the LSP Project colleges
- Generally align with member's expertise
- Organized around functional areas of library services

Charge:

- Identify best practices
- Identify needs or areas for improvement
- Make recommendations to Governance Committee

Work Groups

Current Work Groups:

- Analytics
- Cataloging
- Circulation
- Discovery & User Experience (UX)
- Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Anti-Racism, & Accessibility (DEIAA)
- Electronic Resource Management (ERM)
- Instruction
- Systems

LSP Taskforce

Membership:

- Governance Committee co-chairs
- Council of Chief Librarians board
- LSP Project staff

Charge:

- Provide operations oversight
- Support staff in the management of the program
- Implement Governance Committee recommendations
- Liaise with CCC Chancellor's office

Staffing and Additional Software

LSP Project staff:

- LSP Program Manager
- LSP Network Zone Administrator
- Community College League of California Consortium Director

LSP Program :

- OCLC EZProxy (Hosted)
- OCLC Cataloging & Metadata
- Classification Web
- Third Iron LibKey Services & BrowZine

Program impact



Did we meet our objectives?

110 colleges, and their students have access.

More data is needed.

1. Improve student success and equity¹³
2. Enhance online education initiatives¹⁴
3. Benefit from collaboration on a modern cloud-based LSP¹³
4. Reduce costs^{6,9}

Other impacts

Students

- Use of the same discovery layer across the CCCs and public state universities
- More equitable access to electronic resources

Library staff

- Jobs have changed
- Decision making and policies
- Reduced local control
- Some central control

Thank you!

Glenn S. Tozier, MLIS
Digital Services Librarian
Monterey Peninsula College (Monterey, California, USA)
gtozier@mpc.edu

Stephanie M. Roach, MLIS
Library Systems and Applications Developer
San Mateo County Community College District (San Mateo, California, USA)
roachs@smccd.edu

Originally published as:

Stephanie M. Roach, Ashley R. Coyne, Glenn S. Tozier, Mary Wahl, and Kaela Kasey. "From Zero to One Hundred Ten: The California Community Colleges Statewide Library Services Platform Implementation." In *The Community College Library. Collections and Technical Services*, edited by Pinkley, Janet, and Kaela Casey. Chicago, Illinois: Association of College and Research Libraries, a division of the American Library Association, 2025. Chapter available from [College of San Mateo Faculty/Staff Collection](#).

Resources

1. George R. Boggs, "Beginnings," in [A College for All Californians](#), edited by Boggs & Galizio (2021); Allen A. Witt et al. [America's Community Colleges: The First Century](#), (1994)
2. California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office [Key Facts](#)
3. George R. Boggs, "Mission Evolution," in Boggs & Galizio (2021)
4. CCC Chancellor's Office [Vision 2030](#)
5. Joe Newmyer, "California Community College Finance History," in [A College for All Californians](#), edited by Boggs & Galizio (2021)
6. Report on Statewide ILS Proposal. Council of Chief Librarians, CCCs, [Deans & Directors Meeting \(2016\)](#)
7. "Figure 12, Proposition 98 Changes," in 2017-18 Budget, Proposition 98 Education Analysis. [California Legislative Analyst's Office](#)
8. ["About the Library Services Platform Program"](#) (2021 - Present), Library Services Platform Program, CCC Libraries; Butte-Glenn Community College District Board of Trustees, ["Agenda,"](#) Butte College.
9. Valerie Lundy-Wagner, [Memorandum DII 21-200-05](#), RE: Restoration of Library Services Platform Funding.
10. Roach, et al., ["From Zero to One Hundred Ten,"](#) in *The Community College Library* edited by Pinkley & Casey (2025): p 237-239. Tables B1 & B2.
11. "Vanguard Phase," in Historical LSP Project Migration Archive (2017-2020), [LSP Project History](#); Doug Achterman, "Library Services Platform Pilot Colleges Selected," Council of Chief Librarians CCL-All listserv, February 12, 2018.
12. "2/1 Kickoff Materials," in LSP Project History.
13. Roach, et al. Survey responses.
14. James Todd, [Memorandum ESS 25-43](#), July 22, 2025, RE: Burden-Free Access to Instructional Materials: Regulatory Provisions.

Other resources

- [Library Services](#)
[Platform website](#)
- [CCCs full time enrolled students \(FTES\)](#)
- [Directory of LSP participating colleges](#)
- [LSP Program Background](#)

Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge that the California Community Colleges exist on the unceded ancestral territory of over 109 federally recognized tribes and the dozens of tribes throughout the state who are seeking recognition. Our institutions were founded upon exclusions and erasures of Indigenous peoples. We honor and are grateful for the land we occupy and recognize the ongoing damage of settler colonialism. A land acknowledgment is an opportunity to restate our investment to a larger landscape of individual, collective, and institutional commitments. We strive to strengthen our awareness of historical and contemporary issues in California to reckon with our institutional legacy and its impact on the people, lands, and waters.

We personally acknowledge the [Ramaytush Ohlone](#), the original peoples of the San Francisco Peninsula, and the [Rumsen Ohlone](#) and [Esselen peoples of the Greater Monterey Bay Area](#).

Adapted from: [CCC Chancellor's Office land acknowledgement](#)