Frequently Asked Questions
(Library Employees)

UC Libraries employees should bring unanswered questions to their campus liaison or email AskSILS-L@ucop.edu directly.

1. There are so many acronyms and new terms! What do they all mean?
   - **SILS:** Systemwide Integrated Library System
   - **Expertise groups (EGs):** Six committees focused on specific subject areas. Each formed by 6-8 members from across the UC System. These groups are charged with drafting and vetting the RFP requirements.
   - **Campus Liaison (CL):** The campus representative. This person communicates between the working group, expertise groups, and their campus staff to provide feedback on the RFP Requirements from a campus perspective. They also lead groups at the campus level to keep library staff informed.

   Additional terms can be found in the SILS Project Abbreviations and Acronyms Glossary.

2. We just migrated to a new ILS. Does the SILS investigation mean that we are going to have to go through another migration/implementation?

   It's possible - it really depends on which system(s) are selected through the request for proposal (RFP) process. The UC Libraries' principles for the SILS project acknowledge that local campus ILS transitions have recently happened or may need to happen while we explore a systemwide ILS; those do not negate our collective commitment to a shared system.

3. We just completed an RFP for our recent ILS migration. Are we going to re-use that RFP for our SILS proposal?

   While existing RFPs (from within the UC Libraries and from other systems and consortia) have informed the SILS project, we are not reusing an existing RFP because we see this as an opportunity to transform existing library business processes and harmonize core library policies; building out our proposal requirements and consulting broadly with UC libraries experts will better enable us to do this.

4. Is the SILS project information confidential? Can I talk about the SILS project more broadly (i.e. with colleagues/others outside of the UC Libraries)?

    SILS cohort members and library employees are likely to have access to confidential information concerning the project and participating ILS suppliers. It is critical to avoid sharing such information outside the project so that we maintain the integrity of the RFP process and the confidence of suppliers entrusting UC with proprietary information. All information on the SILS website is public. If you are approached by vendor representatives, please direct them to the project's website.

5. Are the expertise groups (EGs) representative groups? How were EG members selected?

    No, the EGs are not representative of the system (i.e. they do not have representatives from each campus, the RLFs and CDL). In the interest of nimbleness, each EG has 6-8 members representing a specific set of knowledge and skills, one of whom serves as Chair and one of whom serves as Vice Chair (serving in the absence of the Chair to ensure continuity). EG members were selected because of their expertise in a given area. Direction and Oversight Committee (DOC) members consulted with their campus leadership teams and recommended nominees for the EGs. The SILS working group then reviewed all potential candidates and made the selection. The Campus Liaison Group (CLG) is a representative group. Each liaison acts as the single point of communication between their campus and the EGs.

6. Why can't I find our detailed request for proposal (RFP) timeline or other more specific project details on the SILS website?

    It is critical that the libraries avoid publicly sharing certain project details at this time, particularly details about the RFP. UC Libraries employees should contact their campus liaison or email AskSILS-L@ucop.edu directly if they have questions.

    The SILS website does include a project timeline with key dates and a high-level RFP timeline. While the libraries need to be sensitive to confidentiality and the integrity of our RFP process, we recognize that sharing a high-level timeline is important for stakeholders, project participants, library employees, and vendors.

These dates are public and may be shared. When sharing the timeline, please link to the website as the dates may change.