

REQUESTER / SPONSOR INFORMATION**Requester** Monty Mola **Ext** 5328 **E-mail** mmm67@humboldt.edu**Sponsor** Steve Smith / Dale Oliver (Acting Dept Head) **Ext** 5475 **E-mail** ss7006@humboldt.edu

A statement of sponsor support should accompany all project requests and must be received by the proposal deadline.

PROJECT INFORMATION**Title** CNRS/Chemistry Stockroom Inventory Database**Level** Multi-Division / College **Type** Replace **Application****Purpose***The problem of*

The Chemistry Department stockroom database needs a complete overhaul from the ground up. The current system was created over the last 30 years by a Chemistry stockroom expert using a Macintosh database program, Helix. There is no Helix support currently at HSU.

affects

The current Chemistry stockroom clerk is unable to use all of the functionality provided by the Helix program. Other offices on campus that use chemicals are also unable to efficiently share their inventories.

the impact of which is

Chemistry courses and chemical reporting needs are reliant on a system that has very little support.

a successful solution would be

A centrally managed MySQL-PHP-HTML database accessible by all equipment technicians and stockroom managers within and outside of CNRS if necessary.

Alternatives

Continue to use Helix with little to no support and eventually resorting to Access or Excel if/when the Helix-based system fails.

Alignment with Strategic Objectives

A revamped inventory database that can be scaled up to include all of CNRS beginning with the Chemistry Department would greatly increase inter-department efficiency by reducing time wasted on maintaining an outmoded system.

Deadline Date **No Hard Deadline** **Deadline Reason**

The current Helix-based system is only able to run on Mac OS 10.4 which will reach end of life support within the next year.

Considerations / Dependencies

The current system is in the intermediary process of getting converted over to Excel and is expected to be complete by the end of the semester

Resources

CNRS ISTs/stockroom managers, Chemistry Dept, Sysadmins, Campus ITC, Applications Development

Estimate (Hard Costs Only)**Initial****On-going****Budgeted****Comments****Affected System / Module****Other**

Increased efficiency in the dissemination of inventory data across departments will continue to be hindered without a complete overhaul of the current system.

Email completed project request form and written indication of support from the project sponsor to the ITS Project Office at itspo@humboldt.edu



Office of the Dean
College of Natural Resources and Sciences

March 9, 2012

Anna Kircher
Chief Information Officer
Humboldt State University

Dear Anna,

The CNRS Dean's Office Stands in support of the proposal to replace the existing database and inventory system for the Department of Chemistry. The existing database system (Helix) was constructed and customized by a now-retired employee, and his expertise has not been easy to duplicate. Moreover, there is little hope that this system could be transformed into something that allows the university to combine chemical inventories across units of the university.

Because of the tightened regulations regarding documentation, use, storage, and disposal of hazardous materials, we need a mechanism by which chemical and other inventories are available to stockroom managers, hazardous waste personnel, and appropriate administrators across the university. In particular, we need to be able to link these inventories to their specific locations so that emergency response personnel know the nature and magnitude of hazards in the event of a natural or other disaster. Our current system is not adequate for these expectations. We need to think hard about how to adopt a new integrated system that can satisfy these concerns and be portable, secure, and accessible as well. The CNRS stockroom managers, in consultation with Mason Long, have proposed a common SQL approach.

Beyond concerns about utility, replacing the existing is critical for the efficient work of our stockroom managers and their support staff. We are simply using too many person hours to maintain our existing system in Chemistry.

I urge you to give this proposal your serious consideration. Please contact me if you require additional information

Sincerely,

Dale R. Oliver
Interim Associate Dean, College of Natural Resources and Sciences
Humboldt State University

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