

2019 Technology Fee Innovation Grant Proposal

Title: Multimedia Presentation and Collaboration Kits

Proposers:

Cindy Craig, Humanities and Social Sciences Library West, and Dr. Barbara Mennel, Director, Center for the Humanities and the Public Sphere

Contact:

Cindy Craig, Associate University Librarian, Library West
503 Library West, clcraig@ufl.edu, 352-273-2649

Sponsoring Organization:

George A. Smathers Libraries and CLAS Center for the Humanities and the Public Sphere

Purpose and Specific Objectives:

In order to meet the evolving and diverse educational needs of UF students, the George A. Smathers Libraries, in partnership with the Center for the Humanities and the Public Sphere (CHPS), respectfully request \$28,900 to purchase portable, indoor/outdoor presentation kits that will facilitate and improve students' and faculty access to educational technology resources crucial to collaborative learning and instruction. As a partner of the project, CHPS will assist with promotion, using their large, interdisciplinary network of campus partnerships (<https://humanities.ufl.edu/affiliated-organizations>) to help connect researchers, undergraduate, and graduate students across campus to these valuable resources.

Each kit contains all of the items necessary for an indoor/outdoor academic presentation (screen, projector, speakers, and related accessories) bundled in a small cart for ease of transport. Projectors will have HDMI, VGA, and composite hookups for all types of devices in addition to Wi-Fi capability for streaming media or presentations. The kits are designed to accommodate 20-100 audience members. This proposal also requests funding for DVD/Blu-Ray players, in addition to Nebula Mars portable projectors, which allow users to wirelessly cast media content from Android and iOS devices, and to view content from any HDMI or USB 3.0 device. The Nebula Mars projectors are highly portable and will cast against any white surface- offering the convenience of scholastic collaboration on the go.

The equipment will be available to check out from Library West, Architecture & Fine Arts Library, and the Education Library, which are locations with potential for the greatest impact. UF students and faculty would be able to check out these kits for up to seven days on a first come, first served basis. If demand is greater than anticipated, an online reservation system can be made available to allow students and faculty to reserve the kit of their choice up to a month in advance.

Impact/Benefit:

This equipment lending program supports several of the university's strategic goals and objectives (<http://president.ufl.edu/initiatives/uf-strategic-planning/>) in the following ways:

- By providing services that are accessible and available in a timely fashion (*Goal 2, Objective 2*) and that promote effective and accessible learning through innovation (*Goal 2, Objective 3*).
- By strengthening public engagement with increased outreach and public awareness of UF programs (*Goal 5, Objectives 1 and 2*).
- By contributing to a high-quality technology infrastructure that enables preeminence (*Goal 7, Objective 1*).

The Multimedia Presentation and Collaboration Kits will be a unique resource on campus. Although UF Academic Technology currently has an equipment rental service (<https://at.ufl.edu/service-teams/classrooms/services/equipment-rental>) that includes presentation equipment, access is unavailable to students and is restricted to current UF faculty with dean or director approval, and requires payment by their departments. Other UF campus offices/organizations (UF Student Activities and Involvement, UF Student Government Office, Digital Worlds Institute, Reitz Union) were contacted and confirmed they do not provide portable presentation equipment items. Some colleges restrict the use of smart classrooms outside of class periods. This equipment lending program will provide a flexible option for students outside of the classroom.

As a demonstration of benefit and impact, the Interdisciplinary Team-Teaching Program in the Humanities supported by the Center for the Humanities and the Public Sphere offers many courses that will benefit from this project. The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences lists over thirty specific undergraduate classes in which students could take advantage of the presentation equipment: https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/courses/film_and_media_studies/.

As evidence of need, the Libraries has also received direct requests from faculty in the College of the Arts and CLAS to provide their students with the means to review videos for classes in a group setting to allow collaboration on discussion topics. As most faculty and students' laptops no longer include disc players, DVD/Blu-Ray players are frequently requested at the Libraries' circulation desks.

In response to our proposal, Dr. William Bauer in the School of Music wrote:

"I think the kits would be useful to be able to share media in any place that doesn't have such capabilities. I am especially interested in the capability of the projectors to wirelessly project from iOS devices."

One of Dr. Bauer's Ph.D. students wrote:

"We have had several occasions this year where we have wanted to practice presentations with one another but had trouble finding a space that had the necessary equipment. Having portable equipment that we could borrow for this purpose would have been extremely valuable. Additionally, Dr. Sheridan and I were talking about how helpful it would be to have a way to project iPad screens for tutorial purposes when we work at the Boys and Girls Club...If we had the capabilities of displaying information for them using projectors/speakers/screen, I think the children would get a lot more out of our instruction."

Ferol Carysas, Lecturer in the Center for Arts in Medicine supported this proposal, writing:

"One of the assignments in my [Music and Health] course is that students have to interview International students so the idea of being able to create an impromptu collaboration space is wonderful. Students are also asked to compose an International Health Challenge song so having access to ... speakers would be great. Lastly, the idea of a student being able to check-out equipment and take the class outside or to another venue for student presentations is really appealing."

In a survey of 80 UF students, 80% reported that the proposed equipment would help them with their classes and other projects. One instructor wrote "...this would be great for disability accommodation and...group projects!"

Use-case scenarios:

- Art students can use the portable DVD player, projector, and theatre screen to showcase film projects for group critique and exhibition.
- A large study group of introductory chemistry students can view required video tutorials posted to Canvas.
- A group of students in an advertising course can use the projector and portable screen to develop their marketing campaign presentation.
- A student with low vision can view assigned films on one of the large portable screens.

- An art history student can use a portable projector to review images of paintings for an exam.
- Students in a speech class can rehearse their presentations and get feedback from a group of peers.
- A faculty member can present ethnographic film footage gathered from a research trip in a venue outside of the classroom.
- A student who cannot fit her wheelchair into a library screening room can use one of the portable projectors to view video tutorials in a larger space.
- A student-teacher as part of a required internship project, can use this equipment to show elementary students a film about how musical instruments are used in “Peter and the Wolf.”

Sustainability:

The Smathers Libraries support this proposal, will maintain the equipment as needed, and absorb maintenance costs. Scaling for the future may include the purchase of new and/or additional equipment as technology advances and funding permits.

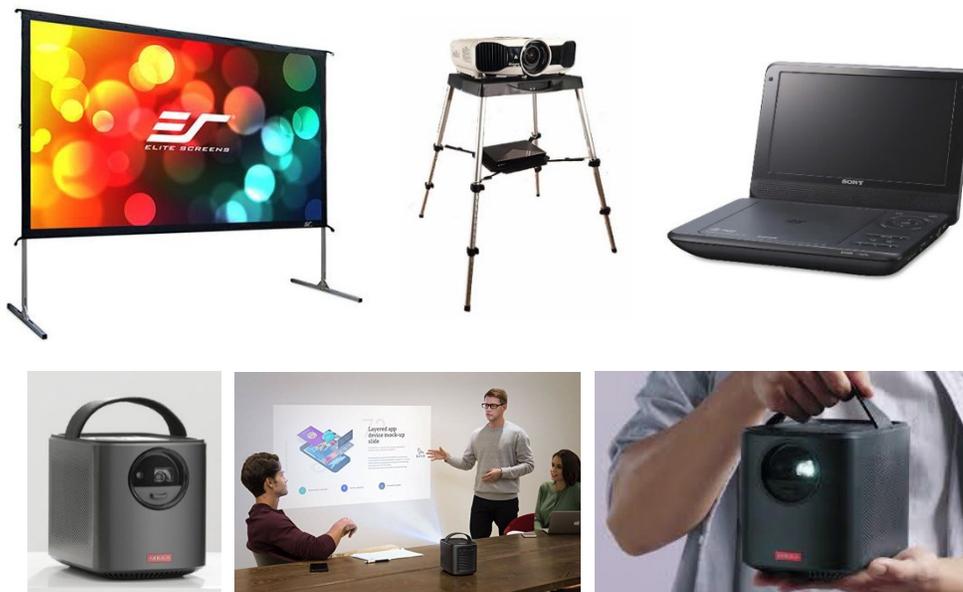
Timeline:

August – December 2019

- Purchase equipment and work with Library IT for UF Risk Assessment review of equipment items.
- Cataloging and tagging of equipment items.
- Testing of equipment and staff training.
- Advertising/Promotion, creation of signage and instructional handouts, update Library webpages and Library guides, including links to all instruction manuals.

January 2020 - Soft-launch of program.

February 2020 - Full-launch of program.



Top row: Portable screen, projector kit, and DVD-Blu-ray player. Bottom row: Nebula Mars II Projector and example of use.

