**Report of the
RACL / WebCT
Working Group**

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**Executive Summary
Recommendations for a USG Solution for
Integration of Library Resources in
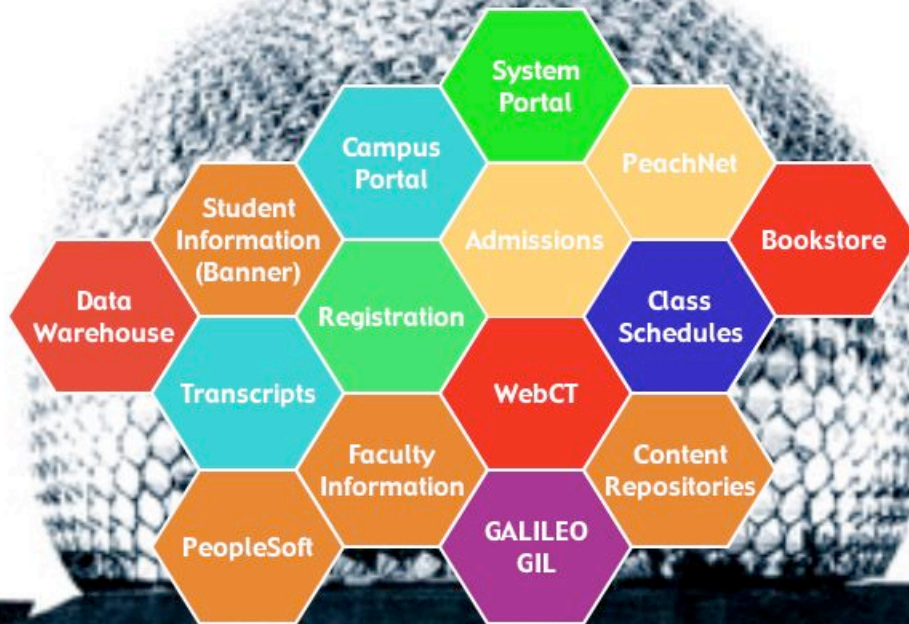USG WebCT / VISTA Environments
August 30, 2004**

Overview

➢ It is imperative that the USG vision for the integrated learning environment leverage the campus and System (GALILEO and GIL) investments in library resources, particularly for presentation within the WebCT VISTA online course management system that is in the process of a system-wide implementation.

➢ Increasingly, online course management systems and campus portals are shaping the students' view of their learning environment and the content resources available to them. In addition, students (and busy faculty too) expect convenience, ease of use, and seamlessness in all aspects of their lives.

➢ The majority of the subscription-based online library content in which institutions invest for support of learning is not as simple to access as Google, requiring authentication and additional searching in multiple interfaces. Students are relying instead on Internet-based content that may not be reputable or of appropriate quality. USG libraries must explore ways to establish service points within this virtual campus in order to ensure that appropriate materials and resources are easily accessible, recognized, and utilized by students in their learning and research.

The complete document addresses the features and products necessary to ensure seamless access to library resources and services from within WebCT Vista courseware and campus portals, including immediate measures as well as requirements for future technical architecture. These needs must be addressed if the USG is to become a major provider of quality online courses with a truly integrated learning environment serving an ever-increasing enrollment.

Benefits

➢ Quality: value added to courses through utilization of high-quality electronic and print materials already identified and purchased on behalf of the institution, including essential, verified, and scholarly content selected by faculty in consultation with librarians

➢ Ease: a personalized learning environment that seamlessly integrates all services to which a student has rights, including registration, email, library resources, and courses themselves

➢ Accountability: copyright compliance and best utilization of resources

University System of Georgia Integrated Learning Environment
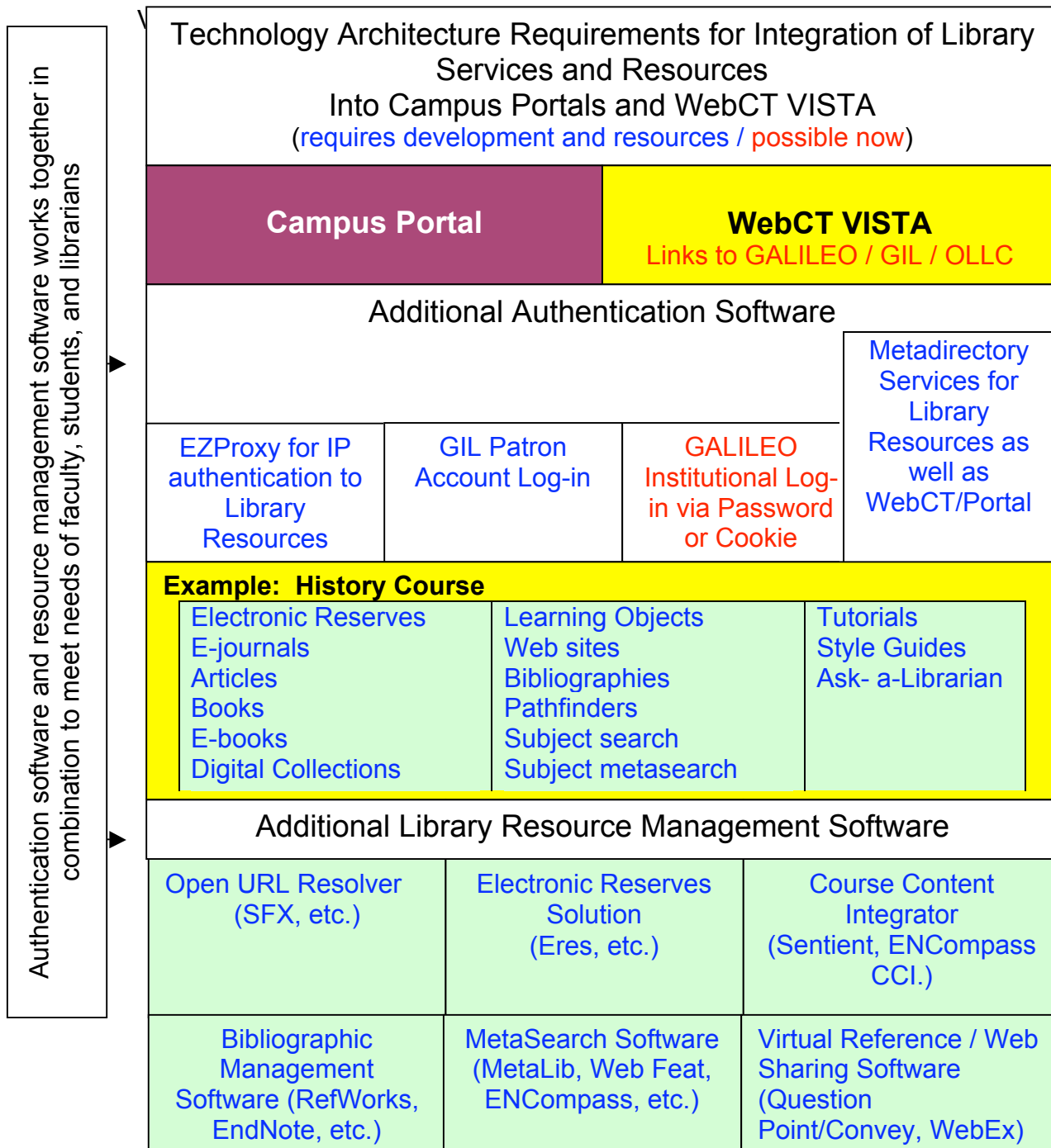
USG Integrated Learning Environment

Many pieces of the campus technology infrastructure are beginning to converge in support of a vision in which students, faculty, and staff sign-on once to one place to receive access to all campus content and services to which they are entitled. No single solution or service can do this alone anymore and campus-wide collaboration is essential for interoperable and easily accessed services.

The initial funding which established GALILEO and GIL also established the benchmark of system-wide standardization and equity of access that is inherent in the USG vision for an integrated learning environment. It is important at this juncture to note that funding for USG library resources has not increased since the inception of GALILEO and GIL, while costs and enrollments are increasing and new resources and technologies are creating additional demands. The result is that access to core materials for all institutions has been reduced and equity of access to core library resources for all institutions is threatened. The vision must also ensure the continuing support for these shared resources.

Additional Technical Architecture

The requirements for the technical architecture to ensure library resource management and integration include:

- ➢ Authentication support (software proxies such as EZ Proxy and metadirectory sign-on support)
- ➢ Open URL resolver
- ➢ Metasearch solution
- ➢ Electronic reserves solution
- ➢ Course content integration solution
- ➢ Bibliographic citation management software

	Technology Architecture Requirements for Integration of Library Services and Resources Into Campus Portals and WebCT VISTA (requires development and resources / possible now)		
Authentication software and resource management software works together in combination to meet needs of faculty, students, and librarians	**Campus Portal**	**WebCT VISTA** Links to GALILEO / GIL / OLLC	
	Additional Authentication Software		
	EZProxy for IP authentication to Library Resources	GIL Patron Account Log-in	GALILEO Institutional Log-in via Password or Cookie	Metadirectory Services for Library Resources as well as WebCT/Portal
	Example: History Course		
	Electronic Reserves E-journals Articles Books E-books Digital Collections	Learning Objects Web sites Bibliographies Pathfinders Subject search Subject metasearch	Tutorials Style Guides Ask- a-Librarian
	Additional Library Resource Management Software		
	Open URL Resolver (SFX, etc.)	Electronic Reserves Solution (Eres, etc.)	Course Content Integrator (Sentient, ENCompass CCI.)
	Bibliographic Management Software (RefWorks, EndNote, etc.)	MetaSearch Software (MetaLib, Web Feat, ENCompass, etc.)	Virtual Reference / Web Sharing Software (Question Point/Convey, WebEx)

Features and Functions to Integrate Library Resources
Required features and functions for students, librarians, and faculty include:

➢ facilitation of user authentication and single sign-on

➢ durable linking capabilities for ease of embedding links to specific licensed materials

➢ metasearching capabilities for ease of embedding dynamic searches to retrieve the most recent subject-related licensed materials from multiple sources

➢ electronic reserve capabilities for ease of embedding links to and managing clearances for copyrighted materials

➢ facilitation of collaboration and use

Items for Immediate Action
Steps that can be taken immediately include:

➢ the participation of libraries in the implementation of campus portals and course management solutions

➢ placement of links to GALILEO, GIL, the library website, Ask a Librarian, the Online Library Learning Center tutorial, and citation style guides at the My WebCT level for each student at every campus

➢ training of designated librarians in the use of the WebCT VISTA course designer tools

➢ ensuring that librarians are available to collaborate with faculty in the development and support of their online courses

Other Recent Studies
"Interoperability between Library Information Services and Learning Environments - Bridging the Gaps"
http://www.imsglobal.org/digitalrepositories/CNIandIMS_2004.pdf

"Libraries and the Enhancement of E-learning"
http://www.oclc.org/index/elearning/default.htm