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| Applicant Organization: <b>VIVO</b>  | Amount: \$18,688.00 |
| Proposal Title: <b>Surveying VIVO Stakeholders to Promote Easier and Wider Adoption</b>  |                     |
| Project Goal: To strengthen the VIVO-Lyrasis partnership and help set the stage for Lyrasis members, OSS community partners and future adopters to share in the direction of VIVO development and future cloud services. |                     |

### Project Need:

Since 2009, the VIVO Open Source Software (OSS) community and installations have collaborated to build networks of scholarly and expertise data from diverse sources. Today, VIVO can utilize both internal and external data sources for colleges, universities, research institutes, and any organization wanting to participate in showcasing institutional and professional activity data. Information that can be organized through VIVO includes scholarship, grants, creative activities, teaching, mentoring, community engagement/service, facilities, social media and other important profile and data attributes related to personnel. Yet resources needed to prototype and build VIVO installations can be considerable and involve multiple technical skillsets.

In keeping with Lyrasis being “fundamentally committed to strategies that prioritize sustainability,” (*Lyrasis in a Landscape of Radical Interdependence*, May 30, 2023), and to ease start-up and expand the number of adopters, the VIVO Leadership Group (LG) has developed consensus for a new product called **VIVO-in-a-Box (VIAB)**. VIAB will be designed for easier and more cost-effective deployment at institutions with limited human and financial resources. The LG also has proposed new features in VIAB to simplify initial population of data and customize VIVO’s look and feel to align with an institution’s branding. A needed modular re-development of the VIVO codebase will benefit from feedback based on survey data from current and prospective VIVO users. Additionally, survey data will help discern potential future data pipelines and synergies between VIVO and other OSS platforms under the Lyrasis umbrella.

The proposed survey will build upon the *Lyrasis 2022 Research Information Management Survey Report*, which focused on research as defined by earlier OCLC reports beginning in 2018 and expanded to include the various OSS Lyrasis groups. The 2022 survey revealed that, among Lyrasis surveyed institutions, Research Information Management (RIM) systems were a clear strategic priority in 35% of respondent organizations. New data is needed to assess what is driving, and likely to drive, growing interest and greater functionalities in these systems, and to help understand still evolving definitions of RIM and Expert Finder Systems (EFS).

Although Lyrasis “...is not currently ready to deploy a hosted Research Information Management (RIM) System (e.g. VIVO),” its parallel statement of optimism and interest that it will be “ready to do so on behalf of the community in the future” (*Building for the Community: Realigning Systems and Services to Increase Your Impact*, Jan. 19, 2024) is central to this Catalyst Fund proposal to grow survey data beyond prior surveys. There also is an opportunity to ask additional market related questions stemming from Artificial Intelligence (AI) trends, IMLS and NSF funded RIM/EFS conference attendees in 2024, and indicators of evolving needs across the US, Europe, and South America.

### Project Plan:

The project will acquire and analyze survey data to 1) help re-frame VIVO architecture and LG goals for the next three years; 2) define and schedule VIAB development; 3) assess possible cloud services to Lyrasis institutions and other OSS users; 4) and strengthen future major North American federal or foundation grants to expand the VIVO open source community.

The project will gather and assess survey data from three groups. **Tier I** will receive a survey designed for current VIVO institutions and stakeholders. **Tier II** will be distributed to Lyrasis customers and OSS user institutions that partner under the Lyrasis umbrella -- as potential new VIVO/VIAB users or interested future stakeholders. **Tier III** will include non-Lyrasis institutions in select states. Tier III survey data also will include assessing feedback from other organizations that have expressed some interest in VIVO as potential solution to current state challenges, such as **Florida Expert Net** and **Ohio Innovation Exchange** and their contributors; plus, other cooperative or state-wide entities that might demonstrate interest in VIVO / VIAB solutions, such as **Independent Colleges & Universities of Florida (ICUF)**.

English and Spanish language surveys will be developed and will be offered to European VIVO users who have expressed interest in translating for use in their own national VIVO communities. (Note: European privacy laws through the GDPR would be handled by any European entities that choose to use the funded surveys). Tier III market assessments ideally will include questions related to emerging areas of use. This includes possible new markets, including the increasing potential for VIVO to aid student advising through early discovery of resources and paths supporting successful navigation of academic environments, helping to drive increasingly important retention and graduation metrics for universities and colleges. Organizations such as **NACADA (The Global Community for Academic Advising)**, with its six North American regional affiliates, will be approached re: their interest in the survey, along with **CINECA**, in Italy, which already is represented in the VIVO LG and is pursuing broader uses that extend beyond VIVO’s original focus on grants and citation data.



Dr. Bryan Cooper, VIVO LG Chair and Associate Dean for Engagement & Innovation in the Florida International University Libraries is the Principal Investigator. He will work with Mr. Brian Lowe, VIVO LG Vice-Chair and owner of Ontocale – a VIVO service provider – to lead the project in collaboration with LG officers and the **University of Florida’s (UF) Bureau of Economic and Business Research (BEBR) and Survey Research Center (SRC)**. Scope of work from the BEBR/SRC includes: 1) assistance and iterative feedback on survey development; 2) programming and testing of survey instruments; 3) online survey administration. The same survey questionnaire will be used for all groups, but certain questions will be tailored / displayed only to certain groups. The addition of a group or additional individuals in a Tier will not impact costs as long as one developed questionnaire is used. The resulting Qualtrics Survey can either be hosted at UF or Lyrasis. Average survey time should be 12 minutes, or between 36 and 45 questions, dependent on complexity. Survey time testing will be performed by UF. Notification and/or invitation emails will include Lyrasis and/or VIVO endorsements for the survey. Per UF BEBR protocols, the project must be run through the UF IRB (Institutional Review Board) for approval or exemption, and there is high confidence this project will be exempt because surveys have a high exemption rate at UF. Email template spreadsheet files will be used to assure survey recipient contact information is organized in proper format to efficiently reach thousands of people and multiple organizations.

**Timeline:**

- 1) **June – July:** Protocols established for security of data that Lyrasis and/or VIVO might consider proprietary to its non-profit interests and client base.
- 2) **June – Aug.:** LG officers or their representatives will oversee authoring of questions and will communicate with the Lyrasis liaison on the VIVO LG and other entities.
- 3) **June – Aug.:** UF assistance with survey and demographic data planning, and related services for **Fall launch**.
- 4) **Aug – Sept.:** A status summary for interested stakeholders, including for presentation at an upcoming 2024 Lyrasis organized webinar and panel in September.
- 5) **Jan. – Feb.:** The entire VIVO LG will provide feedback and interpretation on the data acquired, allowing the LG Chair and Vice-Chair to begin to author a report.
- 6) **Spring 2025:** Final report and proposed three-year plan for software development, including data assessments comparable to SWOT analysis, with careful attention to VIVO community and **ITAV documents (It Takes a Village)**.
- 7) **Spring 2025:** In keeping with acquired survey data, LG Chair and Vice-Chair will propose to VIVO LG a task force to establish a VIVO-VIAB architecture and modular 3-year development plan attentive to ITAV expectations.
- 8) **Spring/Summer 2025:** Operationalization of a 3-year plan by LG vote according to the OSS community standards as reflected in current VIVO organizational documents and ITAV.
  - a. VIVO LG formal positions / decisions require a simple majority (51%), to select a 3-year direction or official plan to address the findings and needs identified in the survey data.
  - b. Task Force(s) are formed/appointed by the LG and are respectful of **W3C**, and **Research Data Alliance and Apache Software Foundation** guidelines and alignment with VIVO LG bylaws, which include:
    - i. VIVO LG selects Task Force members.
    - ii. VIVO Taskforce(s) align their work with:
      1. Approved “high priority goals” decided on by the VIVO LG.
      2. Their function to “prioritize the work of the community.”
- 9) **Spring/Summer 2025:** Ideas for re-structuring of the current VIVO website will be solidified using the survey data findings, including toward more informative user information and basic understanding as to the initial institutional work required to jump-start a VIVO-based platform.

This is a short-term, one year project. Completion of identified activities will help re-frame VIVO architecture and goals for the next three years to build the VIVO user base. VIVO uses the **ITAV model and toolkit** to look at its Resources, Governance, Technology and Community Engagement and LG officers will be constantly looking at what phase they may be in in each area. Resource requirements are established in the budget, as derived from UF’s BEBR.

| Line  | Basis  | Cost        |
|---|--|-------------|
| Survey development, testing, administration.                | Flat Rate  | \$15,688.00 |
| Phone follow up for online non-completes; or scope changes. | 500 record random phone follow ups to non-respondents @ 3 attempts per record. | \$3,000.00  |
| Total Budget Request  |  | \$18,688.00 |