University of Maine System
Digial Migration Services - RFP# 2016-62
ADDENDUM #01

QUESTIONS

1. We do not understand this sentence: “By moving to a cloud storage system we eliminate the need to re-code the MySQL web application.” **Explain cloud database services more.** And, here’s a bit more info: Amazon Web Services has a variety of cloud-based database services, including both relational and NoSQL databases. Amazon Relational Database (RDS) run either MySQL, Oracle or SQL Server instances, while Amazon SimpleDB is a schema-less database meant for smaller workloads. On the NoSQL side, Amazon DynamoDB is its solid-state drive (SSD)-backed database that automatically replicates workloads across at least three availability zones. Amazon also offers a variety of auxiliary data management services, such as Redshift and Data Pipeline that helps to integrate data from multiple sources for easier management. **Help us to understand what data cloud services you are referencing.** Typically, moving MySQL to the cloud makes the database more redundant. Moving to the cloud does not have much impact on application coding. We agree that the database layer needs to be restructured and positioned into the cloud prior to any application coding work. In addition to Amazon, clients often use Google, Microsoft Azure, and the Rackspace cloud.

   ANSWER: The answer to this question can be found in section 1.1.3 of the RFP. We are looking for a two-phase solution. Phase one is migration of the website from U-Maine servers to a cloud hosted server (primarily for increased website speed and the ability to host high resolution images) and the migration from FileMaker to a new collections management database that will eliminate the MySQL web application by being able to link directly to the online display of the website with out the need of an intermediate web application. Phase two involves metadata strategy and clean up.

2. We worked for a short time with Osher staff reviewing various systems/platforms and the hierarchy of the how the systems/database interact with each other (Filemaker, MySQL, website/application, etc.). We found the overall system structure convoluted, producing two-tiered search (site and maps). Now looking at the front-end: once the user finds the “map search,” it contains an unintuitive search, including an unnecessarily complex advanced search to find maps and other antique assets. Staff has shared that many users abandon the site, frustrated that they are unable to find treasured maps and other antique assets. **How will continuing to retain the MySQL databases avert these issues?**

   ANSWER: We are specifically seeking a hosted solution that will eliminate the MySQL web application. We are in no way seeking to retain any portion of the MySQL.

3. **What cloud platform do you plan to use?**

ANSWER: The cloud platform used will be determined by the selection of a vendor through the RFP process.

4. **What database will you use in the cloud?**

ANSWER: The database system used will be determined by the selection of a vendor through the RFP process.