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November 10, 2016

Ms. Carol Hixson
Dean of University Libraries

Dear Dean Hixson,

I am writing today to express my support to the Tech Fee proposal for acquiring Spanish Language E-Books for our library through Digitalia Hispánica. I believe access to the books through this service supports the university's Diversity platform as outlined in the current strategic plan.

The diversity platform is defined in the strategic plan as *identifying and promoting opportunities to diversify the students, faculty, and staff – and to build institutional cross-cultural competencies*. Digitalia Hispánica is a platform that will be instrumental in providing our students with such opportunities as it focuses on access to scholarly e-books from Spain, Colombia, Chile, Argentina, Mexico, Peru, the Dominican Republic, among others. Our students will have easy and dedicated access to materials that would be otherwise unaccessible or not available as they would be able to simultaneously search or browse across multiple collections in subjects such as Architecture, Art, Caribbean Studies, Spanish Literature Criticism, and Religion.

Many of the university's actions and strategies to fulfill the Diversity platform include the commitment to foster a uniquely competitive and globalized student body through deep engagement with South Florida's global communities, becoming the national model for diversity of the student body, ensuring continual inclusion as a Hispanic Serving Institution, and pursuing diversity in all academic disciplines, leveraging proximity to Latin America and the Caribbean to internationalize enrollment.

Digitalia Hispánica is not only the best choice available in today's market for scholarly works in Spanish. As I pointed out, it also has the potential to advance a significant platform for our university.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrés Ramírez', with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Dr. Andrés Ramírez
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