

ABA Update on Business Intelligence Tools

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ABA IT Committee Report: 2012

- Identified critical need for high-quality business intelligence (BI) tool to enable managers to perform ad hoc queries & reports without help from programmer to run them
- Related requirements include:
 - Ability to merge campus data with locally maintained data
 - Need to revamp some existing data structures
 - Develop shared databases that contain superset of what everyone wants
 - Expectation that individual units with unique needs should devote their own resources to meet specific needs

ABA IT Committee Report: 2012

- Confirmed already known Student Data issues
 - Some campus data sets not well-organized or well-defined
 - Some student data not being put into the campus Datawarehouse thereby making them unavailable for dept use
 - Colleges already have robust IT infrastructure to meet college's needs & some of their tools may be useful for other depts
 - Need to define what data should be in canned reports vs. ad hoc reports
 - Jonathan Whitman has made progress in this area

ABA IT: Analysis of BI Tools

- **Cognos** (*acquired by IBM in 2008*)
 - Pros: can operate across multiple databases & is “free” since ACT purchased a campus license
 - Cons: difficult or impossible for dept business users to do ad hoc reporting without significant assistance and time investment from programmers with in-depth knowledge of SQL who would need to create pre-defined data “cubes”
 - Conclusion: Cognos is overly complex for average dept end-user (for ad hoc reporting) and requires more dedicated/ sophisticated programming support than is typically available in most units
- **Campus Business need and progress with Cognos:**
 - Central campus is using Cognos to help make educated decisions in fund raising (identifying potential donors & predict their donation amounts)
 - ACT using Cognos to replace legacy home-built QueryLink & ReportLink tools
 - Cognos may eventually be available to campus depts using pre-defined data sets for canned reports

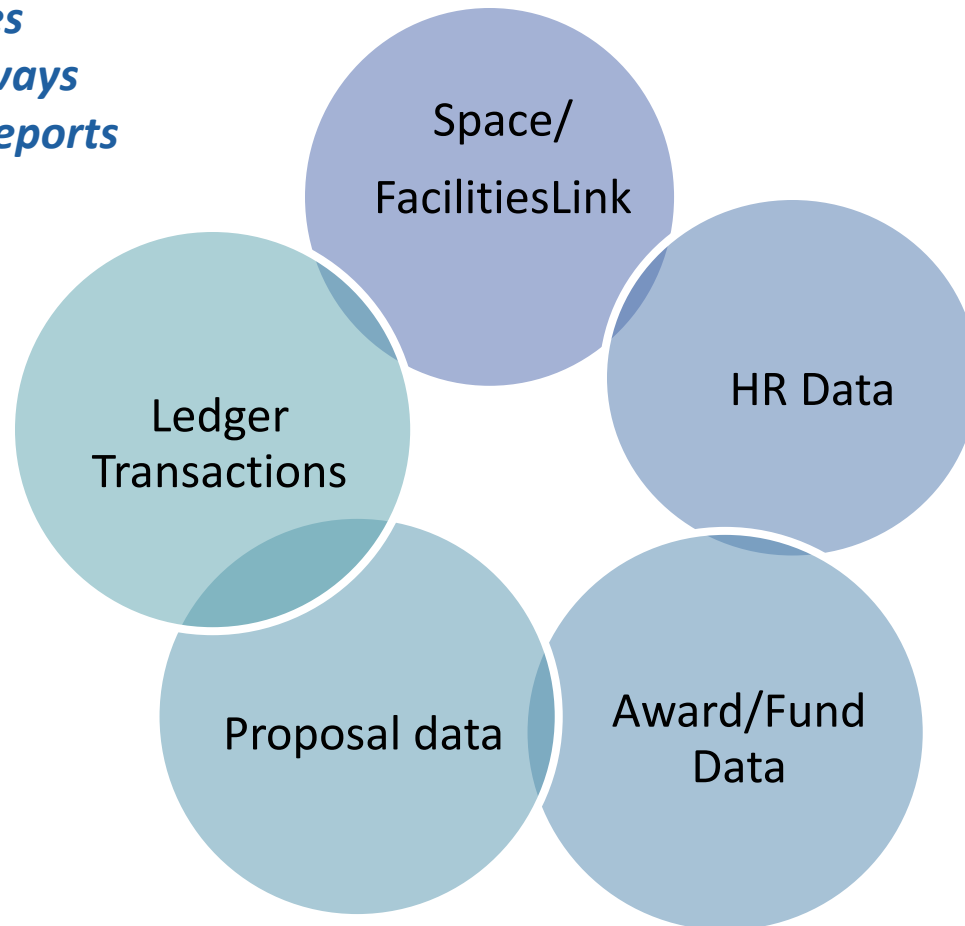
ABA IT: Analysis of BI Tools

- **eThORITY** (*acquired by Equifax in 2011*)
 - Has fairly intuitive interface that allows for easy ad hoc reporting and the creation of end-user dashboards that can be relatively easily customized on the fly, per user requirements
 - Scalable solution with small upfront cost & time investment (as compared to Cognos)
 - Supercomputer starting using eThORITY in 2009 and has helped other units pilot & adopt this solution (via recharge)
 - Colleges
 - Libraries
 - SIO
 - Campus Budget Office
 - Disbursements (pilot pending)

How SDSC uses eThority

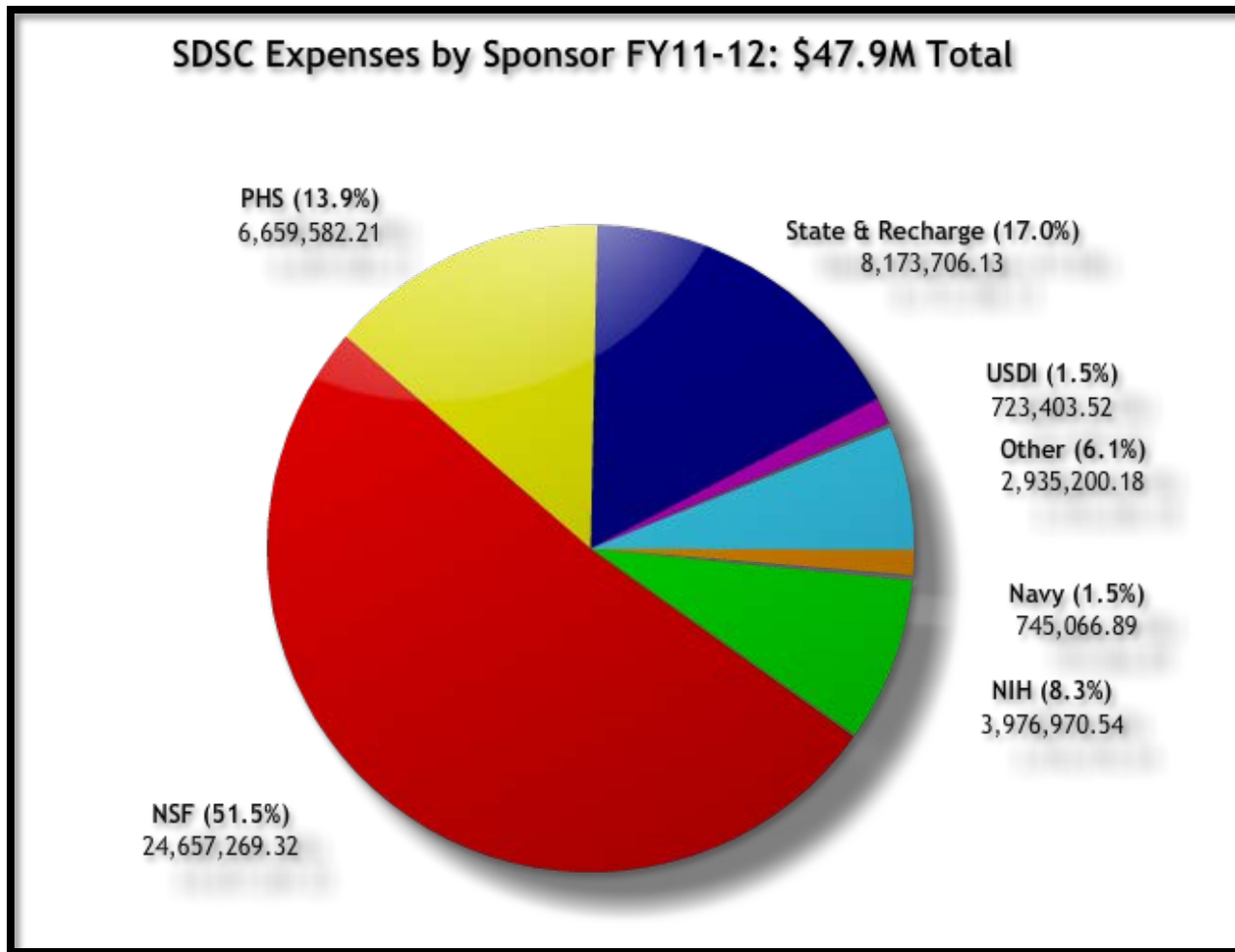
eThority is used to connect data from separate systems to:

- *Perform ad hoc queries*
- *Analyze data in new ways*
- *Supplement campus reports*



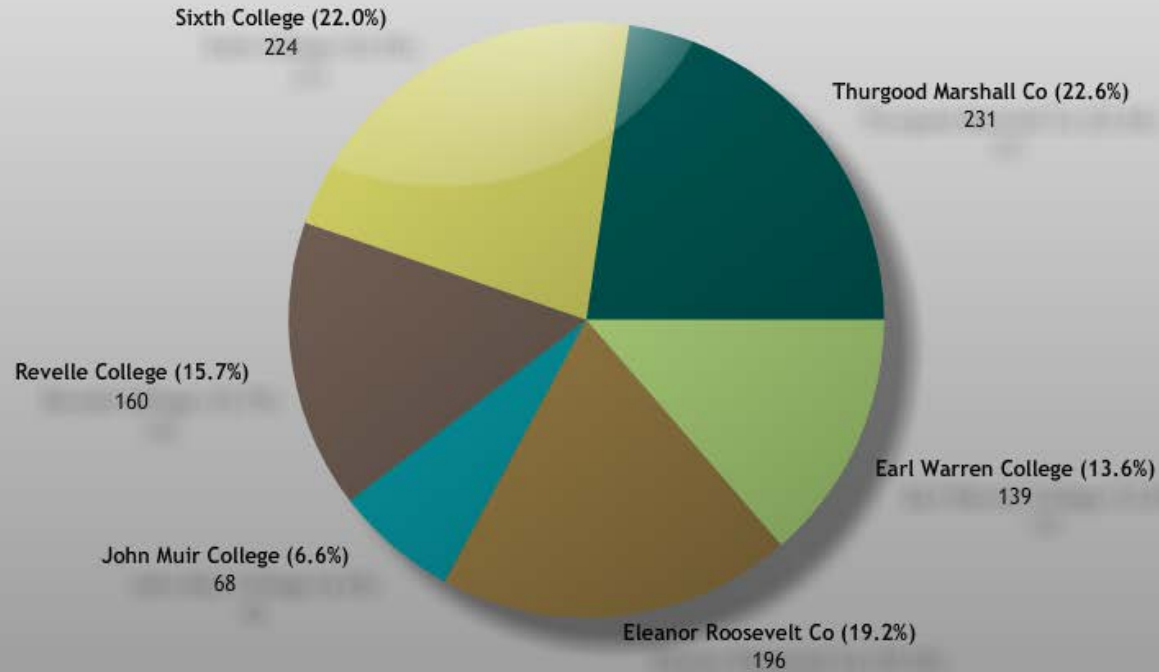
Combine Data from Separate Systems

- Combine Coeus award data and FinancialLink ledger data
- Display a breakdown of federal funding by agency using expenditure data



Quickly Evaluate Student Data

International Non-Residents Incoming FA12 Class



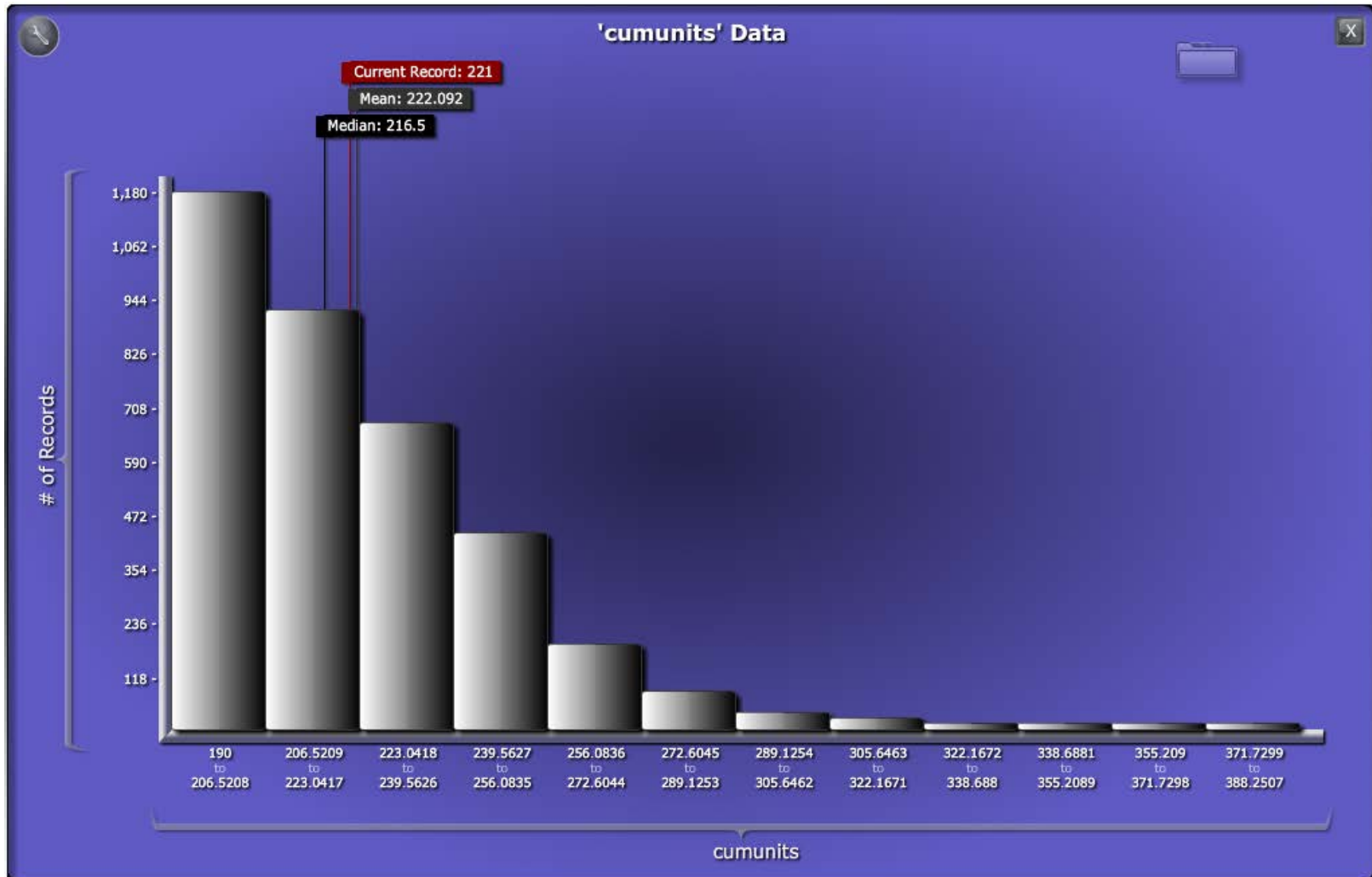
International Non-Residents Incoming FA12 Class

Earl Warren College	139
Eleanor Roosevelt Co	196
John Muir College	68
Reville College	160
Sixth College	224
Thurgood Marshall Co	231

Total: 1,018.00

Student Data: Cumulative Units Report

Histogram of Sixth College students with at least 190 units. The “current record” label shows where the selected student record resides in the histogram.



BI Next Steps

- Jonathan already gave eThORITY demo using student data to broader audience including Assistant Deans, Bobb Barille, Kathleen Johnson, and student affairs colleagues from SIO & Rady
- ABA IT Committee to submit recommendation to EVC/VCAA office
- VCAA may want to pilot eThORITY to see if it could be made more widely available to Academic Affairs units using shared datasets