LIBRARY AUTOMATION PLANNING GROUP
PROGRESS REPORT
FEBRUARY 1985

1. LAPG–

    The LAPG met three times in February to work on the cost studies, project timelines, and central site planning needed for the DALNET Director's Meeting held February 7, and for various presentations within Wayne State University.

    Estimated local site and central site costs were completed for both the NOTIS and Geac systems, including telecommunications and central site preparations.

    Each library began work on refining its local start up and on-going costs for the Geac system after it was determined to be the system of choice.

    WSUL developed a reduced local Geac installation, with fewer terminals, printers, computer room furnishings, and dial-up lines. It was decided that staff needed to operate the WSUL Geac system could come from existing library positions.

    Comparative cost analyses for WSUL to automate by itself or as part of DALNET were prepared, with overall cash flow requirements for each option.

2. DALNET–

    DALNET Directors/Administrators met on February 7, and made these decisions:

    a. To proceed with Geac as the automated library system of choice;

    b. To establish DALNET as a not-for-profit corporation and proceed quickly with developing the necessary legal documents, including:

        1. Articles of Incorporation
        2. Bylaws
        3. Application for 501 (c)(3) status
        4. Membership agreement
        5. Contract with WSU to be the host institution;

    c. To proceed with developing grant proposals as recommended by the Grants Task Force;

    d. To evaluate the impact of Oakland University's joining DALNET at this time;

    and e. To assess another fee to DALNET libraries for planning money to hire legal help.

G. Alt, of Seyburn, Smith (et al.), has been asked for a written estimate of the costs of his services to create the needed legal documents.

Discussions began, and up-to-date data was collected, to refine the options for DALNET's cost sharing formula(s).

The Governance Task Force met to identify decisions needed to facilitate drafting DALNET's bylaws.

Oakwood Hospital officially joined the group in the same "alternate" status as Mt. Carmel Hospital.

A Sub-committee met to draft a letter to Oakland University asking them to submit their "application" with the needed data for an impact analysis.

3. System Procurement Progress—
    After DALNET Directors accepted the Site Visit Team Report and came to concensus on the Geac system, steps were initiated with WSU to get the approvals needed in order to proceed.

    Presentations were made at WSU to the Administrative Steering Committee (for Computing), to the Vice President for Administration and Finance, to the Provost, and to the President and Chief Legal Counsel.

    Approval has been received for WSUL to proceed with contract negotiations with Geac. Richard Boss, our library automation consultant, was contacted regarding his assistance during the negotiation process. Geac requested a pre-negotiation meeting to clarify the basis upon which we all will proceed.

4. Grants Task Force—
    Efforts of this group are on hold until various needed cost sharing and cash flow documents have been prepared.

5. Tapes Committee—
    This Committee has been working hard to determine the contents of and policies used on DALNET member's machine readable bibliographic record tapes. These vendors were already surveyed regarding their tape services: BNA, SOLINET, MLC, PRLC.

6. WSUL Retrospective Conversion Project—
    Conversion at Wayne State Libraries of 5,393 titles in February brought the total number of titles converted to date to 54,303.

    Louise Bugg

    Louise Bugg
    Assistant Director for Library Systems
    March 7, 1985

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INTRODUCTION TO DALNET

What is DALNET?

The libraries in the Detroit area have a long history of cooperation with one another. DALNET is the Detroit Area Library Network, a group formed January 27, 1984, to explore the feasibility of multi-type libraries automating jointly. The initial libraries involved are:

- Wayne State University Libraries
- Detroit Public Library
- Wayne County Community College Libraries
- University of Detroit Libraries, and
- eight representative hospital libraries from
- the Metropolitan Detroit Medical Library Group
- (Botsford General, Children's, Harper, Henry
- Ford, Mt. Carmel, Oakwood, Sinai, and William
- Beaumont.)

DALNET has designed a project to link Detroit Metropolitan Area libraries through a cooperative automation plan. The project will significantly improve service to library users and provide a cost effective method of automation for its participants. The project plans to use an Integrated Library System.

What is an Integrated Library System?

An Integrated Library System not only computerizes the traditional library functions for staff, but also provides patron access to the data. All the records required for the card catalog, for the management of borrowing by the patrons (circulation), for the purchase of library materials (acquisition), and for the control of periodicals (serials) form a joint database with access through terminals located almost anywhere. In an Integrated Library System, an online catalog is created that not only lists what a library owns, but whether or not it is available for use.

What are the benefits of DALNET for the participating libraries?

Sharing central site preparation, system personnel, system operation, and, of course, hardware and software reduces the costs of automating each library separately.

Shared databases, especially online catalogs and patron files, reduce duplication of work among the participating libraries.

Sharing staff and expertise in the process of automating pools the knowledge of staff in all the libraries.

A large, multi-institution, multi-type automated library network can be more attractive to external funding agencies than individual library automation projects.

Since libraries can no longer buy all the materials their patrons might need, it has become imperative that they share their resources to extend their collections. An Automated library network greatly facilitates such sharing.

Access to collection information at as early a stage as the acquisition process improves cooperative collection development and will reduce necessary duplication of materials.

Automated management information will enable each library to better analyze and control the use of the Detroit area's dollars for information resources.

A comprehensive, shared automated system will enhance the image of Detroit's libraries in the emerging Information Society.

What are the benefits of DALNET to the State of Michigan?

Libraries will have to automate to contain costs, to better manage their resources, and to provide better service in this age of technology. It costs more to automate each library individually than to automate jointly. Taxpayers' dollars can be saved through automating jointly.

DALNET will be another node in a statewide automated library network that with U. of M. Ann Arbor and Dearborn, WOLF, and UPRLC, could be formed.

What are the benefits of DALNET to the public?

Since the participants of DALNET share many of the same patrons, one system of library access for users to learn will prove easier than many. This can improve overall lifetime service to area patrons.

Using terminals at any participating library, or dialing in via a micro-computer from home or office, patrons will know:

- the materials owned by all participating libraries;
- where the materials are located in each library;
- whether those materials are checked out or on the shelf;
- which issues of periodicals have been received and are
- available for use.

A single patron I.D. card can be used at all participating libraries to:

- check out materials;
- place holds on materials;
- review a list of the patron's checked out materials.

Provision of automated inter-library loan capabilities among the participating libraries speeds delivery of materials to the library patron.

How will DALNET operate?

DALNET's legal structure will be that of a non-profit, non-stock corporation. It will operate as a network of the participants. The central site start-up costs will be shared among all the participants. They will jointly own the

central site hardware and licensed software. The members will contract with the network for services. A governing board, responsible to the members, will manage the staff who operate the system on a day-to-day basis.

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