

WSUL/DALNET Automation Project
Progress Report
October - December 1988

DALNET Database Loading

About 118,000 Center for Research Libraries' (CRL) bibliographic records were loaded into LUIS as a separate processing unit file in November. It is anticipated that use of CRL materials by Wayne State researchers will increase as a result of this expanded bibliographic access.

Another batch of Wayne State MICROCON and Kellogg project Retrocon records was loaded in mid-December, adding approximately 24,000 records to the Wayne State file.

The second load of Detroit Public Library monographic records added about 40,000 records to the DPL database in December representing materials cataloged on OCLC between January 1987 and September 1988.

In December, three new processing units were created for these DALNET hospital libraries: Beaumont, Royal Oak (BR); Children's Hospital of Michigan (CH); and Harper Hospital, Detroit (HH). Bibliographic, holdings, and item records for these libraries were extracted from the Health Science file and loaded into the new processing unit files. The remaining records in the Health Science file, representing the holdings of non-DALNET hospitals were removed from LUIS display.

The University of Detroit was testing its first OCLC monographic loader during late December. Macomb Community College's Brodart record loader was in the design stages.

LC name and subject authority records for the Detroit Public Library, Oakland University, and Wayne County Community College were test-loaded the third week of December. Authority records for Macomb Community College's unique name and subject headings were received in October.

Negotiations with the selected vendor to supply bibliographic records for U.S. government documents obtained on deposit resulted in agreement on contract language by the end of December. A signed contract is anticipated in early January.

Final testing was underway at the end of December for the loading of Wayne County Community College's student and employee records into the DALNET patron database.

Hardware, Software, and Performance

The new Amdahl disk controller and two double density disk drives were received in October and installed in November, effectively doubling the storage capacity of the NOTIS central site hardware.

NOTIS Release 4.4.4 was put into production in early November. Release 4.5 was received in October and a plan developed to put it through the three-stage testing needed before it can be installed in production. Stage One is testing in the Wayne State test region; Stage Two is modifying the software to test it in the multi-processing unit DALNET test region; and Stage Three is to move the release into the DALNET training region for staff training and practice before putting it in production.

All remaining central site software and hardware maintenance renewals for fiscal year 1988/89 were done, including IBM hardware, IBM software, Landmark Systems, and Computer Associates, International.

An IBM 4224 system printer was received in mid-December for use by the Wayne State Libraries for distributed printing. The IBM 4234 also ordered had not yet arrived. They will also be used as backup printers for DALNET libraries.

Weekly system performance reports were begun in October. All WSU and DALNET libraries deliver or fax their terminal logs to the Systems Department every Monday. System performance problems can now be more quickly addressed.

NOTIS Implementation at Wayne State

The Database Management Section completed final testing of the "globs" programs, with the modifications needed for multiple processing unit files. Caere barcode readers were received for the IBM 3191/92 terminals, used primarily in Cataloging and Database Management.

The Federal Mogul Library Annex, used for remote book storage, was equipped with OCLC and Telex terminals for use by Kellogg Retrocon project staff. Having the catalogers working at the Federal Mogul building greatly reduces the number of books that need to be transported to Technical Services for conversion processing.

In Acquisitions, ordering began on the new fiscal year that started in October. Plans were put in place to transfer payment processing to the Libraries' Business Office in early 1989.

A total of 9,398 serials subscriptions were converted from manual records for online check-in by the end of the year. The first pass through the periodicals kardex records was completed for the Law, Medical, and Purdy/Kresge Libraries. Staff effort was shifted to the Science/Engineering Library in December to get their first pass accomplished as quickly as possible.

In Circulation, policies for guest borrowers were reviewed, with changes recommended for implementation January 2. Some libraries discontinued doing recalls because of the negative user reaction to having loan periods shortened. New, separate circulation discharge stations were installed for the two largest libraries -- Purdy/Kresge and Science/Engineering.

LUIS access was increased with the addition of more terminals in the Purdy/Kresge, Science/Engineering, and Medical Libraries. Public terminals were installed on the upper floors of these libraries, and some were added to the main floors. LUIS training, including staff mode record retrieval, was conducted for new public service staff in the Science/Engineering and Purdy/Kresge Libraries.

To enable the installation of additional terminals, five more IBM controllers were received, adding 144 ports to the total capacity of the WSU Libraries.

NOTIS Implementation at Other DALNET Libraries

Oakland University began using the Acquisitions module in production in November, after creating their vendor and fund records. They are the first library to "share" the vendor file with Wayne State.

Botsford Hospital completed training and testing of the acquisitions and serials control modules by year's end. They are scheduled to go "live" with these modules January 4, 1989. Botsford will be the first DALNET partner library to have all NOTIS modules operational.

Both Beaumont, Royal Oak, and Children's Hospitals completed testing the circulation module and began creating patron records prior to going "live."

Wayne County Community College also completed testing the circulation module in December, and is scheduled to go "live" in early January.

Four demonstration LUIS terminals were installed in the Detroit Public Main Library card catalog area. Staff serving public in that area received LUIS training, and detailed demonstrations of LUIS were presented to all Main Library Reference Service and Branch Chiefs. DPL began working on the circulation module with demonstrations for key staff and orientation sessions on completing the required NOTIS tables.

Oakland County Law Library had its telephone line and equipment installed and operational by mid-December.

The University of Detroit's Telex terminals were up and running in mid-November. Their staff completed cataloging and authority training.

Macomb Community College had its phone line installed and equipment on order by the end of the year. Their detailed implementation schedule was completed.

Harper Hospital's plans to install an IBM Token Ring LAN were submitted to the WSU Computing Center for approval. Their detailed implementation schedule was also completed.

A DALNET Board meeting chaired by Jean Curtis, was held at the Detroit Public Library on December 7. Reports were received from the Database Standards Committee, and the Acquisitions and Circulation Task Forces. Proposed standards for the DALNET bibliographic and authority databases, as well as for the shared vendor file, were distributed at the meeting.

Other Activities

Louise Bugg attended the Second National Library and Information Technology Association (LITA) Conference in Boston, October 2-6, and a workshop on implementing NOTIS Release 4.5 held at NOTIS headquarters in Evanston, Illinois, on November 10-11.

Representatives from the three members of the Oakland Library Consortium--the University of Pittsburgh, Carnegie-Mellon University, and the Carnegie (Public) Library of Pittsburgh--visited the WSU/DALNET NOTIS site on October 19.

Louise Bugg presented a dial access LUIS demonstration called "Paths of Access to DALNET" to about forty-five attendees at the Fall Southeast Michigan League of Libraries meeting, held at Lawrence Institute of Technology on November 4.

Charlene Wecker traveled to the University of Regina, Saskatchewan, to make a presentation on the development and operation of DALNET at a colloquium on "The NOTIS Library System Consortium Options" on November 16.

Submitted by:
Louise Bugg
Assistant Director for Library Systems
Wayne State University