

WHY DALNET

1. In an online system the bibliographic record and its components only have to be stored once. Access for a patron to this one record can be accomplished by any number of searching strategies. Automated format will make for easier searching and retrieval. Word and Boolean searching available.
2. Libraries participate in OCLC interlibrary loan subsystem. Requests input by staff through this utility often take one to three weeks to be located and received through postal mail. With DALNET linkup, patrons will be able to access the information directly, ascertain whether resource is available and on the shelf in any of the participating DALNET member libraries, and travel to the correct location to pick up the material. In other words, we will be able to serve patrons better when it takes less time to locate desired materials.
3. Libraries' checkout procedures are cumbersome for patrons. Each item to be checked out requires a transaction card (call #, author, title, name, address, I.D. #, and telephone #) be written by the patron. New system allows a wand to be passed over barcodes on resources and patron's I.D. Time and effort saved cannot be calculated but patrons will be much happier with the elimination of the manual method.
4. Some library procedures are labor intensive (e.g. pulling/refiling circulation records) in order to prepare overdue and hold notices. System will be able to generate records automatically. This will reduce notification time, thus patrons will receive reminders faster and smaller fines will accrue. System will also calculate fines and provide a cumulative fine history on a patron.
5. To interfile new titles based on new cataloging rules into a catalog which has weathered the change in rules three times and which has not adhered to any of the three rule revisions with anything but a local viewpoint makes the card catalog very complex to use for the average person. Combined with these rules changes have been numerous changes in subject description due to new technology, social changes and time. The Libraries have managed to keep up with some of these changes, but with majority we have not. With an online system, the changing of numerous records simultaneously is possible and will make searching much easier for patrons.
6. There is a need to have a full union catalog for all five libraries at the University of Detroit. Space remaining for the additional catalog cards is inadequate and the time, effort, and cost to complete such a task is not warranted with the capabilities of state-of-the-art computer systems. In other words, the five libraries are separated geographically with no common bibliographic bond. A patron at any one of the libraries cannot look and see which titles each library has. A card catalog does not lend itself to be duplicated at each location. An OPAC will make this possible.

7. None of the libraries can make a judgement in terms of other's resources when buying additional resources. In the face of rising book prices and serial prices and limited resource budgets, this a pressing need.
8. System will encourage the development of specialized collections rather than the duplication of all materials in each library.
9. We produce our cards by computer now, but beyond this simple creation of a record is the necessity to file all cards produced. With an automated system all entries are incorporated instantaneously.