

WSU Libraries
Ameritech Partnership Proposal Progress Report
March 1997

Wayne State University Libraries (WSUL), as the host site for the Detroit Area Library Network (DALNET), have made substantial progress toward a partnership agreement with Ameritech Library Services (ALS) for our next-generation library information system. A partnership proposal is to be presented to the DALNET Board in Spring 1997.

The goals of the proposed partnership include:

1. Migration from our mainframe-based NOTIS system to ALS's Horizon client-server system by the Year 2000; and
2. Development of key Horizon features required to provide a user-friendly gateway to our own, DALNET's and the world's resources and to become providers of unique local information useful to urban researchers and citizens thereby becoming an information hub for the Detroit metropolitan area.

Mainframe-based library systems, like NOTIS, are fast becoming obsolete as the next-generation client-server systems are delivered. It is obvious that ALS will have to stop major enhancement of NOTIS as more and more of their customers move to new systems over the next few years. We have no choice but to plan now to migrate to the next generation system; and, therefore, plan to freeze enhancement of NOTIS with Release 6.4 in 1998 which will carry us to the year 2000.

Ameritech Library Services is an ideal partner for WSUL/DALNET for its next system. Partnering with ALS will have these benefits for WSU:

1. ALS is experienced with DALNET and its implementation of the NOTIS system, which will expedite and improve our complex migration process and have the least amount of impact on users during the transition period;
2. ALS can bring other business partners such as IBM and Ameritech data communication services to the WSUL/DALNET partnership project;
3. ALS management is enthusiastic about our vision of becoming a major metropolitan information hub serving library users of all types. They see benefits to Ameritech in partnering with DALNET to showcase their systems for urban information delivery. This win/win situation will work far better to our advantage than buying an off the shelf product.

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4. There is no off the shelf product that fully meets our needs, so the partnership is the only good option for WSUL.

While cost estimates for our proposed partnership are not yet completed, it is already known that a shared client/server system with WSUL and DALNET will be less expensive than what a separate system for WSU alone would cost us. Furthermore, we anticipate reductions in central site costs, especially for hardware and software, so that resources can be redirected by WSUL and DALNET libraries to front-line user and technical support services, and our faculty and students benefit through greater ease of access to information available on and at all the DALNET libraries--a particular plus to commuter campuses.

By continuing a leadership role in a WSUL/DALNET, WSU benefits from:

1. Cost sharing for central site costs, commercial database licenses, and system development;
2. Expanding access for WSUL students, staff, and faculty to library materials owned by DALNET institutions;
3. Access to unique Detroit-area information and collections for WSU's researchers;
4. Visibility that attracts new students, transfers, and graduate students to WSU for continuing their educations; and
5. Local, state and national attention for the project that could result in grants and gifts to help us strengthen our information hub.

**Executive Level
Issues for Ameritech Library Services**

1. Commitment to Horizon enhancements

Louise checked with Bill Easton re. response of Tom Burns and Jim Wilson, the Horizon General Manager, to DALNET's requirements list. Bill has not yet heard from them, however, he is almost 100% certain there will be commitment to deliver the enhancements DALNET requests. (List attached)

2. Ameritech Advanced Data Services

- a) WAN design consulting
- b) WAN installation and support services
- c) Help desk development consulting

3. IBM services

NOTIS LMS management contract during transition

4. Cost information

- a) Ameritech Library Services software and services
 - Cost for DALNET (need flexibility for DALNET membership)
 - Costs for DALNET members to get their own systems
 - Concept of Ameritech project leader housed in Detroit area.
- b) WAN estimate
- c) Servers and other hardware
- d) Migration/transition costs
- e) Local site costs, e.g. desktop computers and LANs

L. Bugg/cmz
4/14/97