DALNET

Screens Committee Meeting
Wednesday, August 25, 1993

Minutes

Present: K. Bacsanyi, WSU; J. Doyle, MCC; ; N. Piernan, UDM; W. Kane, DALNET;
            G. Oldani-Caruso, DPL.

1.   Announcements

•Genny announced that DPL has purchased some of the function key templates
from WSU, and has devised a way to install them on the terminals using
posterboard;
•the previously-distributed Committee charge has been reviewed and approved
(minus one typo).
•the librarians at MCC have not been receiving DALNET listserv
communications due to some murky BITNET problems on their end.

2.   Impact of NOTIS 5.1 / MDAS 1.3

Since the new release of NOTIS and MDAS was installed in mid-July, the
online screens have changed significantly, and the committee had been
charged with gauging user and staff reaction to these changes. For the most
part, people seem to be happy with the language and style of the screens over
which we have control. The line on the intro screen which says "type stop to exit
LUIS" could be revised so that it more obviously pertains to remote users.
Search examples now no longer appear on the first intro screen, and in fact are
on the so-called "explain search" screen, and that caused some concern for
some members. Also, there are some concerns about consistency, especially
in regards to three-letter command abbreviations still being referred to in their
two-letter abbreviation in some help screens, but overall there were no
significant changes recommended. Therefore, the screens will remain
essentially unchanged before the start of the Fall semester, when usage
increases dramatically.

3.   Review of "explain dalnet"

The committee approved of the menu format, and no objection was raised to the
content of these screens which provide telephone and hours information for
each DALNET library. Another series was suggested -- called something like
"explain circ" which presents the user with a similar menu of libraries, from
which to display information about borrowing privileges.

4.   Other "explain" screens

The committee was charged with reviewing the language of the new "hints",
(what's in) "luis", and "remote" explain screens.

5.   Hook-to-holdings

There was much discussion about this display. When a user selects a WILS record from a journal like SCIENCE, the "hook" will present the user with sometimes over 26 screens of holdings through which to sort. The holdings are displayed in alphabetical order by processing unit, and there's no easy way to select the holdings of only your institution. Could the system be tweaked to allow for a user to enact a command such as "hol ws", including the processing unit of the desired library? Could the user be presented with a LUIS-like index screen from which to choose a particular institution's holdings? Is the problem bad enough to warrant turning the hook off, thus compelling users to "choose luis", then look for the journal under the title? The answer to this last question, based on the committee's observations, is no. For the most part, then, once the bugs of the holdings display were cleared up, it is worth it for most journal entries, and really only creates a problem when displaying journals common to most DALNET sites.

6.   WILS Screens

The new version of MDAS allows for Brief and Long views to WILS records. Currently, both Brief and Long are identical. After discussion, the committee concluded that it might be best to leave them identical until such time as the Mark/Send/Dowloading features are implemented -- at which point the Long view would be the display default.

NEXT MEETING: planned for week of October 25, exact date to be announced.

Submitted by:
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