Meeting with Macomb Community College librarians
April 19, 2005

Present: Margaret Auer, Sara Martin, Jerry Bosler, Lois Grogan, Kris McLonis, David Moody

The meeting began at 1:40 with some discussion about the institutional order of the loading of bibliographic and authority records. Since UDM has been at the forefront of maintaining authority records, a point was made that it should be guaranteed the UDM's records be loaded last.

There was some discussion about the option of buying a product that would check, and possibly correct, authority records in the system.

Lois Grogan passed around examples of bibliographic records from the MCC test database that have problems:

several instances of the exact same bibliographic record not merging in the database

item information for copies at different campuses not displaying (Possibly the use of an algorithm that provided for matching records based on a hierarchy of criteria is responsible for these repeated instances of bibliographic records.)

some institutions have very scant bibliographic information compared to others

no apparent way to limit the search for holdings by institution (Those institutions further down in alphabetical would have to scroll through the lists of holdings at other institutions.)

screen prompts for refining searches apparently not working

Besides these and other cataloging issues, there are issues related to circulation (e.g., whether an item from one institution can be checked in at another; confidentiality of patron records between institutions) and acquisitions (maintaining the integrity and confidentiality of the budgets of each institution) in the event that the institutions move to a shared database.

Margaret Auer suggested that someone from Dynix be brought in to consult with about the kinds of parameters that would be needed to load up each institution's records to everyone's satisfaction. (So far the staff at DALNET hasn't been able to provide a definitive test database for each institution to try out.)

The most important point is that the libraries need the complete truth as to whether a merge would inevitably result in the loss of data unique to several institutions. If this outcome is unavoidable, then the preference is to maintain separate "silo" databases. Jerry Bosler said that this issue would be addressed at the project managers' meeting on May 16. There also needs to be a meeting with the PALNET folks as well as a meeting with the DALNET Board.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30.