MiLE Update
6/15/2006

Several of you may have read the news about MiLE, posted 6/14/2006 to the MUSCLE listserv by Tammy Turgeon, Chair of the MiLE Board. For those of you who have not, the MiLE Board has unfortunately been forced to make the decision to cease testing of the URSA 4 software, and the reimplementation of MiLE, because the software currently, still, does not work well enough to use. Also unfortunate is the fact that the vendor, SirsiDynix, lead us to believe, last year, that the software was ready to use in a production environment for a project such as MiLE. The MiLE Board has decided that the participating consortiums can no longer invest staff time in testing URSA 4 for SirsiDynix product development. If, by some turn of events, SirsiDynix is able to fix major problems with the software in the near future, MiLE could possibly be reinstituted, but for now, MiLE services will be discontinued indefinitely.

Since MiLE will likely be down through the entire current fiscal year, the MiLE Board has decided to not charge MiLE member consortiums for participation for this fiscal year. The Board has also withheld payment to SirsiDynix because a stable version of the URSA 4 software has yet to be delivered for use.

DALNET will likely not be billed for MiLE, at all, for this fiscal year. The DALNET MiLE participation fees included two days of MeL Delivery for participating members. Members will still be billed for MeL Delivery since this is a separate service. The Board will have to determine how the consortium and our members will have to pay for MeL Delivery fees, this fiscal year and in the future.

Billing aside, the loss of MiLE last October was a loss of a successful multi-consortium project that was important to our patrons. The DALNET Reciprocal Borrowing Task Force is currently convening and will be examining reciprocal borrowing options, as well resource sharing alternatives for a MiLE alternative, for DALNET members. The Task Force is scheduled to complete work by August 2006 so that recommendations may possibly be implemented by September 2006, in time for the start of a new academic school year for our college and university members. The MiLE Board is purportedly also investigating possible software alternatives to use for MiLE services.

If DALNET members have additional questions about MiLE they may contact me at their convenience. I would like to thank all of our members that participated in MiLE, for helping to create such a great cooperative service for out patrons.

Sincerely,

Steven K. Bowers
Director
DALNET