

DALNET FOCUS Session with Colleges/Universities

July 13, 1995

Summary of comments/suggestions made:

I. *What concerns or suggestions do you have about our current DALNET services, including training, communications, and technical support?*

Training:

- would like more "nuts and bolts" training on technical areas for project managers, e.g., Ethernet planning, client/server, LANs;
- would like to do joint staff training on basic microcomputer use, including Windows, client/server applications, WordPerfect;
- could collaborate on developing user education materials, e.g., OU developing on Podium, UDM has a user manual;
- training for the new circ module will be critical, and written training materials are very important to take away from the training session;
- DALNET institutions' local computing staff could use training in IBM SNA network support;
- anytime staff across DALNET libraries need the same training we could do it jointly;
- could bring in workshops, such as U of I Chicago on community information resources, or distance learning, or UM SILS (Joan Durrance) on community information.

Communications:

- feedback from DALNET staff is not as quick as it used to be;
- need more frequent reports during lengthy downtime;
- would like more communication, in general.

Technical Support:

- some solutions take a long time when local computing staff not familiar with hardware;
- perhaps more direct help from WSU's Computing Center would help;
- could we get better prices for hardware and software by having joint purchasing?

Other:

- Circulation statistics for the weekend are lumped with Friday. Walsh needs them daily for the weekend.

Notis!
L V I S

II. *What DALNET Online System enhancements do you need most within the next few years while we do our long range planning?*

Databases:

- non-bibliographic databases, e.g., phone books, BIP (at least for staff);
- joint contract for FirstSearch;
- link to Carl Uncover;
- would like to mount some local files, e.g., UDM's folklore and marine databases.

Full-text:

- DocDirect.

Resource Sharing:

- could we honor each other's library cards and review the need for InfoPass?;
- work toward reducing ILL billing workload.

Location-based Catalogs:

- by institution would be fine;
- order of holdings display or highlighting your institution would help.

User Interface:

- need a "front end" menu for users on Pcs that enables them to access LUIS and other systems.

PACLink, i.e., Z39.50 Hookups:

- LOM and others in state;
- LTU and others in metro area;
- UDM does ILL with CMU and University of Toledo;
- UDM would like links to others in local Catholic consortium, including Marygrove;
- UDM has "articulation" agreement with Marion College in Indiana.

Reports and Statistics:

- DALNET could supply extracted data to libraries to create their own reports locally, e.g., using MS Access;
- get more SAS reports from other NOTIS libraries to adapt for DALNET use;
- serials/periodicals list is needed.

Circulation:

- expect release 6.0 to improve circ;
- would like more local control of circ functions.

III. *How do you think our cooperative efforts built around a shared online catalog can best benefit your institution and your library users?*

Distance Learning:

- delivery of online system access and full-text to distance learning sites.

Cost Savings:

- continue cost savings of a shared system;
- need more detail with the annual budget;
- could work for more grant funding for our cooperative efforts.

Future Online Systems:

- need to ensure that DALNET agreements do not tie us into a single vendor, i.e., Ameritech/NOTIS;
- need to broaden scope from automation of operations to provision of information services;
- need to find way to leverage investments in current system as we migrate.

Community Outreach:

- benefits citizens of the area to have a broadly-based OPAC of local resources;
- more local information could be built into the system.