

WSUL and DALNET

RFP Response Evaluation Criteria

System: Universal Library Systems (ULISYS)

1. Overall suitability to WSU and DALNET:

The Ulisys software overall is weaker than the other major turn-key vendors. That, coupled with the very high price bid for the total WSUL and DALNET configuration, puts Ulisys on the low end of an overall ranking of proposals received.

2. Compliance with specifications (Sections 3-9) of the RFP:

Ulisys did well in meeting specifications for the online catalog and circulation components. Enhancements to the online catalog due by 1985 include keyword and Boolean access. All components of the acquisitions and serials subsystems are in development and targeted for 1985.

The Ulisys proposal can accommodate a union database, but recommends a split database to improve response time. It is configured on 7 DEC VAC 785's with up to 29 disk drives over 5 years.

	Section	Yes	Yes/d	Yes/f	No	Cust	Clar
3.	OPAC	230	13	31	8	12	40
4.	CIRC	475	3	19	3	17	63
5.	ACQ	0	0	634	1	0	0
6.	SERIALS	0	0	347	0	0	0
7.	Hardware	107	2	0	9	0	10
8.	Software	54	1	0	4	0	0
9.	Training	53	0	0	1	0	1
	Total	<u>919</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>1081</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>424</u>

3. Total cost over 5 years:

The Ulisys configuration proposed is the most expensive bid received, being \$1,200,000 more than the second highest. It is more expensive because it has so many VAX's and disk drives and because Ulisys charges a high price for software licenses on each cpu.

The computer room required would be the largest of all, many operators would be needed, and the system operates with an 8 hour overnight backup and housekeeping routine.

Ulisys, like DRA, offers us the next generation VAX hardware when, and if, it becomes available, which should reduce the number of VAX cpu's required.

4. Vendors reliability:

The vendor compares well to DRA, with 8 years experience and a similar number of installations. Their largest is San Diego County which will grow to 4 VAX's and 400 terminals.

5. Delivery and installation schedule:

Circulation and online catalog delivery could proceed on target. Acquisitions and serials control are more doubtful, since no parts of them are in place yet.

The VAX "Venus" may be available to replace the 785's in a timely way.

6. Software development required:

Development of the online catalog, including enhanced searching, is due in 1985, along with circulation enhancements.

The dates for acquisitions and serials availability seem ambitious, but they may be there by the time we need them.

7. System's reliability and performance:

The DEC hardware is highly regarded as reliable and up-to-date, with service available in Detroit.

Of concern is the 8 hour overnight backup and housekeeping routine which may keep the system down too long for us.

8. Expandability:

Additional VAX's could be linked to the system for growth, along with additional disk drives.

Expanding a split database may be more difficult.

9. Flexibility:

The system does not accommodate MESH headings very well and may have limitations in the joint borrower file design that affect networking.

Barcodes have to be purchased from Ulisys because they pre-address them to sectors on the disk for quick record retrieval.

10. Ability to link to local computing networks:

Links to IBM are supposed to be possible. PC's can dial into the system and IBM 3270's can access the system.

LB/ff
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