DALNET STUDY COMMITTEE
Minutes - September 9, 1985

Present: J. Williams (Chair), D. Adams, F. Buckley, L. Bugg, J. Flaherty,
            E. Hitchingham, J. Houghton, B. Johnson, D. Nameth, J. Skonieczny,
            N. Skowronski, J. Smith, P. Spyers-Duran, F. Van Toll.

J. Williams welcomed J. Skonieczny from Mt. Carmel Hospital.

Minutes from the August 28 meeting were accepted as written.

The agenda was approved to include the following items:

        1.   DALNET memo dated 9/6/85 from P. Spyers-Duran
        2.   Summary of the functional subsystem of NOTIS
        3.   Further discussion

After a brief introduction to his memo of September 6 which was mailed to the
Directors, P. Spyers-Duran welcomed any questions or comments from the group.

E. Hitchingham expressed her support of a cooperative venture in library auto-
mation. P. Spyers-Duran stated that DALNET libraries' costs would be less for
NOTIS than for GEAC. B. Johnson requested that a more detailed cost analysis
be made and presented to the Directors. She also observed that the governance
structure seems to have changed to a service bureau. Future fund-raising will
be a necessity. P. Spyers-Duran agreed that fund-raising is a major objective
and a more detailed cost analysis is being developed and should be ready in a
couple of weeks. D. Adams expressed some concern that the CSC usually charges
for connect time which would be unacceptable for the libraries since we would
be connected constantly. It was explained that the CSC defines connect time as
only transaction time and not when the terminal is "on".

F. Buckley stated DPL's commitment to a cooperative venture but the system must
be adequate functionally and feasible for them to implement. He is not comfort-
able with the idea of a total service bureau. Fund-raising will be more diffi-
cult with a service bureau since it is hard to raise funds for operating costs.
P. Spyers-Duran said he envisions a mixture of some service bureau services and
some capital expenditure. It was suggested that DALNET needs to bring forward
its concerns so these may be incorporated into the WSU contract with DALNET.

ACTION: The options for a governance structure, presented by G. Alt, will be
reviewed at the next DALNET meeting. B. Johnson asked how WSU fits into the
new DALNET structure and what is WSU's role. P. Spyers-Duran sees DALNET
presently as an empty shell which still needs to be built. WSU Libraries are
participantes in DALNET, just as each of the other libraries are. The CSC
would sell services to DALNET.

J. Flaherty is concerned about the operating costs being more expensive for
NOTIS under a service bureau. He also stated that the DALNET governance must
be clear. The WCCC patrons are not sophisticated in using libraries so the

system chosen must be easy to use. L. Bugg explained that the screens could be changed system-wide by a programmer. She also suggested that there are financial options which would allow the costs to show up as capital.

E. Hitchingham was concerned that, since WSU Libraries are preferred customers of the CSC and other DALNET libraries are not, DALNET would have little control over their work. P. Spyers-Duran explained that since the central computer hardware would be owned by one or more DALNET libraries, it could be removed from the CSC at any time.

J. Flaherty restated that governance must be clearly defined so that WSU does not control DALNET or any participating library. P. Spyers-Duran stated that DALNET would negotiate with CSC for services, that DALNET would have its own governance structure, and DALNET could hire its own programmers dedicated to DALNET.

J. Flaherty questioned who controls the programming. It was explained that there are two aspects of programming, that which is done for individual libraries and that which is performed on the overall system. L. Bugg said any work done on the overall system, such as screen displays, would be governed by DALNET.

L. Bugg discussed a possible WSU timeline for implementation. Plans include negotiating with NOTIS in October, installation in December, bringing up OPAC in the spring, and circulation in the fall. They plan to send their tapes out in a couple of weeks for dedupping, etc. Screen decisions would need to be made by January so the DALNET structure may need to be in place in December. N. Skowronski stated that with separate databases, as proposed by NOTIS, loading is easier. DALNET libraries should be able to implement OPAC quicker than the original plan of six months after WSU. An applications program needs to be written to load each database. L. Bugg stated that a load takes about three months.

B. Johnson stated that Harper cannot afford to wait any longer, nor can they afford the staff time to organize and implement such a large, complex system. She cannot see any benefit for Harper library in the new DALNET structure or the NOTIS system. She will be recommending Harper's withdrawal from DALNET.

D. Nameth supported B. Johnson's position and is withdrawing Henry Ford at this time. Due to the fact that Henry Ford is growing tremendously, they estimate they will need about 20-30 terminal sites. They will be automating on their own and would purchase dial up access to the DALNET database if reasonably priced. Their primary use for the DALNET system would be access to materials. They have no plans to load their database onto NOTIS during this time but may reconsider joining a few years from now.

The committee chairs reported on the subsystems of NOTIS. F. Buckley described the database configuration which NOTIS recommends for DALNET. It consists of separate databases for each library or processing center with union indexes. With the upcoming index redesign, each library will have access to the other

databases in the system. Index redesign is behind schedule but is due 3/86.
N. Skowronski also reported that NOTIS has purchased the BRS search software
which is based on BRS After Dark. This will allow Boolean searching in a menu-
driven format. Other OPAC considerations included 1) NOTIS screens can be
changed by a programmer, 2) function keys may be programmed to facilitate
searching if programmable terminals are used, 3) global changes are not yet
available in the MVS version, 4) there is no working OCLC transfer in MVS yet,
5) NOTIS accommodates several different subject authorities either separately
or in one list, and 6) there is no problem in the number of book locations
available. The system does store all duplicates as databases are loaded which
will require additional storage. There is no union catalog, only union indexes
which will guide you through different steps to reach the appropriate database.

F. Buckley reported that NOTIS is committed to bringing both the MVS and VSE
versions to the same level and maintaining them both. The NOTIS staff has
tripled in the past year and has acquired valuable experience in installing
their system in many libraries.

D. Adams reported on the circulation subsystem. The following points were
made: 1) The circulation status is now displayed in the catalog, 2) plans are
to develop a micro backup but date given was a shaky mid-1986, 3) fine and
payment histories linked to patrons are due 7/86, 4) professor and course lists
in the reserve system are due 12/85, 5) there is no booking system in NOTIS
with no plans to develop one, 6) the system does not handle ILL or electronic
mail---separate packages would have to be purchased, 7) there is no allowance
for inventory control in the stacks or for counting usage of materials found on
tables--NOTIS is willing to help develop this at no additional charge, 8) the
audit trail should be completed when the financial system is done, 9) overdues
and invoices are now printed separately for each institution, 10) a report
writer must be purchased separately, and 11) parameters can still only be
changed by a programmer. Jane Burke was asked if the patron ID number could
be the same in all the patron subrecords. She will send us the answer soon.

J. Houghton reported on serials and acquisitions. There are plans to overhaul
the serials check-in to make it more automatic. The patron can see summary
holdings in the catalog. NOTIS has offered, for a fee, to write a program to
convert the OCLC union list snapshot tape for loading.

NOTIS staff are adapting the Harvard acquisitions enhancements to a standard
package for the NOTIS system. This is due in 7/86. Our major concerns identi-
fied last January have all been addressed by the Harvard enhancements.

L. Bugg recommended that 10% be added to the NOTIS local site cost estimates
provided to members in February to be used as a current estimate.

IBM PCs can be used as terminals in the NOTIS system but require some additional
hardware to attach a scanner.

ACTION: Committee chairs should provide L. Bugg with wish lists for those
important items which need to be negotiated during contract discussions with

NOTIS. They should be statements which include a date (ex. "we want _____ by _____"). She needs these lists by September 24. Items which will be necessary before final acceptance of the system should be so indicated.

The next DALNET meeting will be held Sept. 16 at 9:00 am. The discussion will include options for governance and other DALNET alternatives.

J. Williams offered additional tours of CSC if there is interest. Please call him this week.

Minutes Prepared By:

D. Adams