

**DALNET Steering Committee**  
**December 11, 2000**  
**UDM, McNichols Campus Library Conference Room**  
**8:30-11:30 a.m.**

Present: K. Bacsanyi, R. Call, J. Emahiser, J. Flaherty, G. Libbey, S. Muir, L. Papa, K. Sanders, M. Sheble

**Minutes**

Minutes of the November 13<sup>th</sup> meeting were approved.

**Review: Joint IHDC and Steering Committee (SC) Meeting**

Members of the Steering Committee who participated in the 11/29/00 joint meeting reviewed the following outcomes:

- Established liaisons between the two committees (G. Libbey from IHDC to SC, with K. Tubolino as alternate; L. Papa from the SC to the IHDC, with J. Emahiser as alternate). This should facilitate better communication between the two groups.
- Drafted an organizational chart of current DALNET committees and task forces, examining relationships and reporting lines.
- Discussed establishing the IHDC as an over-reaching (steering) committee to coordinate the entire DALNET information “scene” – both Horizon and “hub” development pieces.

S. Muir reminded SC members that minutes of the joint committee meeting were distributed to the SC prior to the 12/11/00 meeting, and should be reviewed for additional information.

Several related issues were discussed by the SC:

- The extent to which the SC can assume other functions and evolve into a Horizon advisory group, since the role of the SC is defined by contract and is designated to continue through the implementation of the enhancements.
- If the SC remains with the more limited contractual activities, a suggestion was made to meet less frequently and only when input is requested from the Board or when there are definite action items.
- It was the consensus of the SC to wait to recommend changes in their role until the new DALNET Director has been hired and has a chance to review the DALNET committee and task force structures.

### **Horizon Priorities**

S. Muir reviewed a list of current/projected Horizon projects and ongoing Horizon activities with the SC. Per the direction of the DALNET Board, the SC discussed and prioritized the items on the list. Priorities were established by perceived importance to DALNET as a consortium:

**#1 Systems maintenance:** Includes keeping the infrastructure accessible and running, and hardware and software upgrades. This is considered a core service that must be offered.

**#2 Systems support for members:** Includes training for new releases, new members, new staff of current members; assistance with implementation of new releases and ongoing support for Horizon work/troubleshooting.

**#3 Horizon release 6.0 implementation:** It is the consensus of the SC that 6.0 should be recommended as a high priority. As recommended by the SC, planning should begin as soon as approval is obtained by the Board, with a target date of 3/31/00 for having at least one site in production. *epixtech* maintains that numerous functionality problems (dataload and otherwise) will be resolved by 6.0. *epixtech* is pressing the Board to have DALNET install and test 6.0, and deliver held-back payments for DPL and WSU dataloads. *epixtech* also maintains that several DALNET contractual enhancements are not feasible without 6.0 in production. The SC did not prioritize releases 7.0 (5/31/01) and 7.x (4<sup>th</sup> quarter, 01) because not enough information is available on either to determine if these releases are crucial to DALNET.

**#4 iPAC:** Since broadcast searching is working in a basic form with WebPac, the SC perceives less pressure to implement iPAC for broadcast searching. However, iPAC functionality may resolve some of the searching problems for larger databases and will allow DALNET to implement the Horizon 6.0 fix for MARC tags 6xx subfield v. S. Muir noted that testing for iPAC 1.0 could begin as early as January. Currently, there a lack of information about the following:

- It is uncertain if it is possible to run 40 copies of iPAC 1.0 on the DALNET PAC server.
- Although *epixtech* has indicated that iPAC 1.1 will permit multiple libraries on a single copy of the software, documentation is not yet available to verify this.
- There is some uncertainty about the availability of a children's iPAC in version 1.1.

**#5 New members:** Currently, implementations for Sinai-Grace, Marygrove, and Mt. Clemens are pending. The Detroit Professional Library closed this fall and cancelled their contract. It was the consensus of the SC that contractual timelines for new libraries should be respected.

**#6 Contractual enhancements:** Report security is currently working as projected. The deadline for libraries to make the switch to new Sybase security for library specific access is 12/18/00. The majority of *epixtech*-DALNET work on enhancements completed to date has been "on-paper" and it has been conceptual. Detailed specifications will need to be completed by DALNET task forces and committees.

**#7 Add-on products (epixtech):** Examples include the serials binding module, Homebound, Reportsmith, and Booking Module.

**#8 Add-on products (non-epixtech):** An example is the 3<sup>rd</sup> party e-mail product being tested at WSU. – required to make the Horizon e-mail circulation notice feature operational.

S. Muir will compile a list of the rank-ordered priorities and present it to the Board at their 1/22/00 meeting.

Members of the SC noted that Horizon projects do not present a comprehensive picture of DALNET staff obligations because projects of the IHDC are not included in this list. G. Libbey noted that the IHDC plans to do a similar list of priorities following an analysis of a questionnaire, designed to assess projects and contributors.

#### **Confirm Approval: Annual Report and Goals for 2001**

S. Muir reviewed the annual SC report with the committee. Revisions requested by the SC have been incorporated.

Goals for 2001 were reviewed. S. Muir suggested constructing the 2001 annual report around this list of goals.

Approval for both documents was confirmed by members of the SC. Both documents will be sent to the Board for review.

#### **Shared Patron File Enhancement**

S. Muir reviewed the major points of a 12/8/00 conference call between *epixtech* and DALNET office personnel. *epixtech* is proposing the use of the NCIP (NISO Circulation Interchange Protocol) standard to address the DALNET-*epixtech* contractual specifications for a shared patron file. S. Muir noted that the conference call focused on conceptual issues, rather than detailed specifications. As outlined by *epixtech*, this approach to a DALNET-wide patron file would satisfy the specification of allowing access to the same patron in different library files through a single login. SC discussion of this option focused on the following points:

- This approach would not provide a linking function between patron files. Patrons could be tracked across multiple-library patron files only if they provided information about cross-DALNET registration.

- The feature that would permit DALNET libraries to locate patrons in another DALNET library patron file and save the information as either a temporary or permanent record would provide time-savings for some libraries.

SC members discussed how the proposed option would work with DALNET authentication requirements, focusing on the required link between Remote Patron Authentication (RPA) and the proposed patron enhancement. More information on specifications is required to make an informed judgment.

S. Muir noted that next steps will involve reviewing the proposal with the Circulation Standards Committee. Input from the Committee will be reviewed by the SC, and recommendations will then be forwarded to the Board.

#### **Next Meeting(s)**

SC members were asked to reserve the 1/8/00 meeting date on their calendars. The meeting will be canceled unless there are specific tasks to address or issues that must be discussed prior to the 1/22/00 Board meeting. If held, the meeting will be from 8:30-11:00 a.m. at DIA.

The 2/12/00 meeting will be held from 8:30-11:00 a.m. at the OCC Southfield campus. M. Sheble will send information on room assignment, a map, and directions to the campus prior to the meeting.

*Notes by: M. Sheble (12/12/00)*

*Distributed to: Members of the SC, L. Bugg, G. Libbey, S. Muir*