WSUL and DALNET

RFP Response Evaluation Criteria

System: Bibliotechniques (BLIS)

1. Overall suitability to WSU and DALNET:

BLIS has the strengths of IBM hardware and an excellent, proven
networking capability that make it well suited to the WSUL and
DALNET needs. However, the 1986 delivery date for circulation is
a serious weakness for all libraries involved. There are also
concerns about the "friendliness" of the online catalog screens
and about the reliability of the vendor, given a rather brief
track record.

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

BLIS   proposes   a   system   for   WSUL   on   one   IBM   4381
super-minicomputer, with expansion to a second IBM 4381 for
DALNET. A single database would be maintained using up to 10
disk drives over five years.

The BLIS system has very strong networking and database
management capabilities, which are reflected in their responses
to the specifications. Their online catalog screens can be
modified to some extent by the user to accommodate local needs.
Their circulation subsystem is in development and will not be
available until 1986. The acquisitions susbystem is currently
operational, but serials control is planned for 1987.

	Section	Yes	Yes/d	Yes/f	No	Cust	Clar
3.	OPAC	260	5	21	11	5	2
4.	CIRC	226	1	260	11	18	0
5.	ACQ	452	37	25	68	2	9
6.	SERIALS	0	0	331	0	0	0
7.	Hardware	94	3	9	2	0	7
8.	Software	55	3	4	3	2	2
9.	Training	36	2	1	7	0	0
	Total	1108	81	797	102	39	31

3. Total cost over 5 years:

The BLIS proposal has the highest cost for the WSUL installation, but the total cost for WSUL and DALNET is competitive.

In a conversation with Bibliotechniques, we learned that they bid conservatively by starting with an IBM 4381 cpu. The WSUL initial configuration could be handled by an IBM 4361. Also, contracts WSU has with software AG would reduce the license fees for the BLIS installation.

A modest computer room would be required to house the proposed hardware. Operation is not supposed to require a programmer, however, use of NATURAL for reports may be facilitated with one on staff.

4. Vendor's relability:

Bibliotechniques has been in business for four years and showed a loss last year of over $280,000, however, they have signed contracts with an impressive group of customers in 1984 and behind them is WLN. The 1984 customers now include: U of C; San Diego; Columbia; Johns Hopkins; Indiana Univ.; Univ. of Cincinnati; and Metropolitan Toronto.

5. Delivery and installations schedule:

Since all their installations are still in process, they have not yet demonstrated their ability to deliver. BLIS planned their growth in 1984 to six customers and has, indeed, signed with six.

Installation of the online catalog may be delayed pending local development of displays.

A serious concern to DALNET is the expected 1986 delivery of the circulation subsystem.

6. Software development required:

    The BLIS system would require this software development: a few MARC formats, the upgrade of Washington State's circulation software, enhancement of acquisitions, and development of the serials control subsystem. Current customers have joined together to develop the circulation software which is targeted for 1986.

7. System's reliability and performance:

    The IBM hardware proposed is, of course, highly reliable. The software is performing well at WLN, Illinois, Missouri and in other WLN replications. The performance of the new circulation subsystem to be available in 1986 is expected to be good, since it is founded on a functioning system at Washington State University.

8. Expandability:

    The system seems easily expandable.

9. Flexibility:

    The software has maximum flexibility for a network database and individual library parameters. The online catalog screens may not be able to be modified as much as we would prefer.

10. Ability to link to local computing networks:

    Linkage with IBM networks and equipment is assured. Other online linkages, e.g., with DEC, would be more complicated.

    The system could be operated on a shared IBM compatible computer at WSU's Computing Center temporarily, to test the software while the Library's computer room was being built. This would speed up installation of the system.

LB/ff
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