DALNET Project Report
19 February 2007

Personnel

The office is happy to report that we are once again fully staffed. Steven Bowers is working on administrative and systems work as the DALNET Director, George Marck continues his work as Lead Systems Analyst, Cathy Wolford is our new Systems Librarian, and Kristy Wells is now full-time as our Office Manager and Systems Assistant. We are pleased to have four full-time staff members again as we strive to meet the needs of all our members. We are also happy to have Pam Bayer, student in the Wayne State University Library and Information Science Program, as our regular volunteer. Everyone has a lot to work on.

MiLE

At their November 27, 2006 meeting, the DALNET Board decided to discontinue pursuing MiLE reimplementation because of continuing configuration problems, the dwindling number of institutions willing to participate, and the advent of MeLCat. The project was recognized as a successful, multi-consortium effort for providing patron-initiated Interlibrary Loans. MiLE has been completely disbanded and DALNET has received its proportion of remaining funds from the MiLE consortium.

The DALNET office has created a document of "MiLE Alternatives" for members, appended to the end of this report. The Board has also asked the DALNET office to prepare information on creating a DALNET Custom Holdings Group for OCLC ILL. A link to information is included in the "MiLE Alternatives" document.

Additionally, the Executive Committee and Board will be reviewing MeL Delivery as part of the DALNET budget.

Reciprocal Borrowing

After formal review by the Board, it was decided that DALNET shall not host any formal Reciprocal Borrowing program since most members interested are already members of MichiCARD. Member institutions that wish to have reciprocal borrowing programs with other member institutions are encouraged to participate in MichiCARD, or its successor.

Member institutions are also, of course, still at liberty to form their own reciprocal borrowing arrangements with others within the consortium.

The Board asked the DALNET office to post a Reciprocal Borrowing table on its web site, as created by Laura Mancini of the Oakland County Library. The document has been posted in the DALNET Information Gateway and will later be made into a DALNET web page: http://www.dalnet.lib.mi.us/gateways/reciprocal/privileges.doc

Single Database

Lewis College of Business, Mt. Clemens Regional Medical Center, Detroit Medical Center, The Henry Ford, the Detroit Institute of Arts, and the Arab American National Museum Library and Resource Center are now all part of the single database.

Members are continuing to help identify any settings and configurations that may need to be altered in the single database environment. The DALNET office is pleased with how the single database is functioning.

The biggest obstacle of the project has been in implementing the single database HIP/OPAC. Because of customizations and individualized displays, the single HIPs are still lacking some functionality, most notably some browse searches. Despite the lack of some browse searches, a problem which SirsiDynix is still attempting to remedy, most libraries are now live on their new single database HIPs.

We are grateful for the patience and understanding of the first group of libraries that are in the single database. The DALNET office will work with the DALNET Board and SirsiDynix to determine the next steps for the project. DALNET staff members are currently studying Horizon Acquisitions in preparation for the next group of libraries that may enter the single database. Because of the multiple elements involved, the project will likely not move forward until specific solutions are designed to answer current questions.

Please contact Steven Bowers with questions at sbowers@wayne.edu or 313-577-6789.

eLibrary

The DALNET eLibrary is a project to catalog open access materials available on the Internet. The eLibrary Committee is moving forward with work, including preparations of specifications for project participation and construction of a demo web site: http://catalog.dalnet.lib.mi.us/ipac20/ipac.jsp?profile=elibrary

The committee has been meeting monthly and has scoped the initial project to include cataloging for public access books, journals, government documents, and reports. A participant training day is being planned for later this year.

Please contact Steven Bowers for more information.

Authority File

An initial meeting date for the Authority File Task Force has been set for Wednesday, March 28, 2007, from 10-11:30 am at the University of Detroit Mercy.

If you are interested in participating in this group and have not yet notified the DALNET office, please contact Kristy Wells at kawells@wayne.edu or 313-577-0234.

Government Documents Task Force

The Government Documents Task Force has been meeting to examine the feasibility and possible benefits of doing joint purchasing of government document MARC records for the consortium. The Committee will be preparing a report with recommendations.

The committee's previous meeting was canceled due to inclement weather. The next meeting of the committee is planned for the end of March.

For information on this and all other meetings, members should always consult the DALNET Upcoming Events listing available online at: http://www.dalnet.lib.mi.us

Concordia University

The DALNET office is pleased to announce that the Board has approved the membership application of Concordia University, Ann Arbor, Michigan. DALNET staff is working with Concordia University representatives in the hopes of finishing contract details.

Assuming that all goes well, the DALNET office will be working with Concordia University to add them to the single database this winter/spring, as DALNET's newest member institution. This work would allow staff to add another member to the single database while continuing to study other issues affecting the addition of members using acquisitions. Since the implementation of Concordia's HIP/OPAC would be a new installation problematic customizations can be avoided in their profiling.

DALNET office Memberships and Registries

DALNET has joined the Michigan Library Consortium so that office staff members may take advantage of MLC membership. Membership will also allow the consortium to participate in member only services, training, and purchases.

DALNET has now been registered for a national barcode number as Kristy begins to catalog our collection of office materials. Theses resources will be available to members and will be included in the new single database. Kristy and Cathy have also been busy cataloging web sites and other online content.

The DALNET Executive Committee and Board will be examining OCLC membership for the consortium office, including full-cataloging access and a DALNET OCLC symbol assignment. The DALNET office feels it would be better able to serve its members if it has access to the OCLC software. Some future projects such as the eLibrary would also allow DALNET to provide access to materials to a much broader audience if records for such projects were loaded to OCLC WorldCat with a DALNET OCLC holdings symbol.

More information will be forthcoming after examination by the DALNET office, Executive Committee, and Board.

DALNET Project Planning Committee

The DALNET Board requested at their November 27, 2006 meeting that a new committee/task force be created to make recommendations for possible new projects and purchases that would make use of special reserves funds. The Executive Committee and Board will be reviewing proposed creation of a standing "Project Planning Committee" to investigate propose new projects for the consortium to pursue, including project description and funding proposals.

Recommendations of the proposed group would likely be reviewed by the Executive Committee and Board. After proposed plans were approved the DALNET Project Managers and DALNET office staff members would assume responsibility for implementing and managing the approved new projects.

More information will be forthcoming after examination by the DALNET Executive Committee, and Board.

SirsiDynix/Horizon Update

SirsiDynix recently announced that it was acquisitioned by Vista Equity Partners; the company was previously owned by another venture capital company:
http://www.sirsidynix.com/Newsevents/Releases/2007/20070117_vista.pdf

Also, Pat Somers, Chief Executive Officer, has resigned:
http://www.sirsidynix.com/Newsevents/Releases/2007/20070216_sommers.pdf

After speaking with SirsiDynix, DALNET office staff members have been told that certification of operability for Horizon 7.X and Windows Vista operating system will not be tested until after certification for Horizon 8.X is verified. Testing for 8.X will occur in the following months.

Horizon/Corinthian 8.X is currently still in Beta testing, with projected official release to test partners sometime soon. A general release date is still not projected. HIP 8.X has been redesigned again, as late as December 2006/January 2007. As of last report received, HIP has reverted to Alpha testing since it has be recreated on a new platform.

Reports now suggest that Horizon/Corinthian 8.X should be thought of as a new product, and therefore customers should not see implementation of 8.X as a software upgrade, but rather as a product migration.

In light of the product release delays, the redesign of the software as a new product, associated costs of migrating to a new product, state-wide library projects, the disbanding of the MiLE Consortium, possible new DALNET projects, and the work of the DALNET single database, the DALNET office will likely be working with the Executive Committee and Board to examine all options and next steps for the consortium, in light of DALNET strategic planning. More information will be forthcoming.

Server Maintenance

George Marck of the DALNET office successfully negotiated new server maintenance contracts for the consortium. New contracts are with the same company used by Wayne State University and cost savings were enough to add maintenance on some secondary machines that were previously not covered.

Online Member Services Upgrades

Because of more pressing assignments, planned upgrades to online member services have been delayed. An upgrade to the FootPrints helpdesk software is still planned, as well as a web site review and web site search capabilities. In the interim, the web site and its content are still being updated and suggestions from members are being incorporated.

AANM Community Resources Directory

The AANM has created a new Arab American Community Resources Directory using their new DALNET catalog. The directory is listed on the DALNET digital projects and is available at:

http://catalog.dalnet.lib.mi.us/ipac20/ipac.jsp?profile=aanm&menu=tab166

The AANM catalog is at: http://catalog.dalnet.lib.mi.us/ipac20/ipac.jsp?profile=aanm

We are excited to have the AANM creating new resources with DALNET.

New Digital Projects

In addition to the AANM project, the DALNET office has received proposals from Marygrove College, University of Detroit Mercy, and expects proposals from other members for new digital projects. Digital projects continue to be a unique benefit of DALNET membership.

Many new projects will use the Horizon system instead of other platforms, to take advantage of a known MARC environment system, the flexibility of the HIP/OPAC interface, and the ability to search new collections with a library's existing collections. Implementation of new digital collections in Horizon also involves much less time for the DALNET office and collections of MARC records will presumably be easier to migrate to new MARC systems, or to crosswalk to other metadata systems.

Members interested in creating a digital project are encouraged to see online documentation available at: http://www.dalnet.lib.mi.us/dalnet/docs/docs_digital.html

A project proposal form is available at:
http://www.dalnet.lib.mi.us/dalnet/docs/digital/digital_proposal.doc

Appendix: MiLE Alternatives

The DALNET office has created this document for members who may be seeking an alternative to MiLE services which have ended.

OCLC WorldCat Interlibrary Loan

For DALNET members currently using OCLC interlibrary loan, the options for setting up Custom Holdings Groups and Custom Holdings Paths may be used. Then DALNET patron requests made in OCLC could first be routed to DALNET member libraries, including ILS and non ILS members of DALNET. Following the normal request process for OCLC interlibrary loans, the custom DALNET Group of libraries could be the first group of libraries that an OCLC request is sent to.

Information on how to set up a Custom Holdings Group is available at:
http://www.oclc.org/support/documentation/resourcesharing/customholdings/default.htm

HIP/OPAC/Web Forms

Currently, HIPs can be configured to point users to an online web form that can be filled out and submitted to make an ILL request. This would work similarly to the Try MiLE buttons and text that used to appear in several member catalogs when searching returned no results. Web forms or links to other services, such as OCLC, can be different for each member. DALNET could host web forms for those libraries unable to configure and host their own forms. Members interested in implementing this service should contact Steven Bowers at sbowers@wayne.edu or 313-577-6789.

HIP/OPAC Requests

Once DALNET ILS libraries are in a single database, the shared DALNET OPAC could be configured to allow requests, if desired. Then DALNET patrons could search DALNET wide for items and request them through the shared HIP interface. This option would be possible in the future but many configuration settings would have to be agreed upon by all members.

MeLCat

The MeLCat model requires that database information for each library be loaded on a regular basis, including bibliographic records, items records, and patron/borrower records. Some libraries do not wish to participate in MeLCat until NCIP is operational so that patron records do not have to be loaded. For members that would like to, DALNET would like to participate in MeLCat but will be unable to do so until we have fewer databases to deal with.