

**DALNET Visioning meeting with *epixtech***  
**August 18, 2000**

DALNET is moving toward its vision of becoming the Information HUB for Southeastern Michigan. DALNET's Im@gine gateway will offer one-stop shopping to a wide range of databases. The first step in accomplishing this vision was to migrate from NOTIS to Horizon. While there are still some deliverables, this process is underway.

Now DALNET is focusing on databases beyond the member libraries' online catalogs. DALNET's first implementation of this process was creating MARC-like records in Horizon and linking them to images. This process has worked well, but it is costly to implement and maintain, especially in terms of staffing resources.

The DALNET Information HUB Development Committee is charged with implementing the next phase. The IHDC envisions a new, top-level, integrated search engine that will search across all types of metadata – moving beyond the traditional Z39.50 search engines. This product will be able to search, compile, and present results from a query that includes the following types of databases:

- Relational database products: MS Access, FileMaker Pro, etc.
- Statistical data: Census data
- Geographic Information Systems
- Multimedia
- Marked-up data: XML
- Horizon Catalogs
- Z39.50 resources: citation databases, library catalogs

A survey of the marketplace demonstrates that a number of vendors are developing integrated search engine products. DALNET is seeking a discussion with *epixtech* that will determine if *epixtech* is interested in partnering with DALNET on the delivery of a similar product. If the answer is yes, the discussion will need to include realistic timelines and costs.

Scott P. Muir, chair  
Information Hub Development Committee  
August 11, 2000