DALNET Steering Committee
Flip Chart Notes
August 13, 2001

comment in your cover memo that you have done your best to represent the discussion and to relay comments from committee members, without editorial revisions.

Steering Committee Roles

- What is the Steering Committee role in the planning process?
- Does it have a role?
- Steering Committee currently only focused on Horizon.
- Should the Steering Committee's roles in DALNET be expanded?
- Steering Committee got bogged down with Horizon while IHDC was looking at vision
  - o Distance between two groups
  - o Who leads
  - o Who has oversight
- Board is currently reactive, not in a leadership role
  - o Exception is with Lana Porter's visits.
  - o Waiting for Steering Committee to bring something to them.
  - o Steering Committee could react to the Board's decisions and proposals
  - o Board could/will ask for our feedback.

Board Roles

- Board removed from day-to-day operations
- Board tends to rubber stamp what is brought forward.
- Board in reactive, not in a leadership role
  - o Exception is with Lana Porter's visits.
  - o Waiting for Steering Committee to bring something to them.
- Board can do clear vision and priorities, Project Managers can then discuss what is involved & required
- Individual Board members do not feel then have experience to set the direction-will react to plan, be guided
  - o Want to give Director a lot of responsibilities and leadership
  - o Have him help set future plans in motion
  - o Or should it be Board responsibility to do this instead?

Project Managers Roles

- Project Managers are key:
  - o Know staff
  - o Day-to-day operations
- Old model for Project Managers

- o Points of discussion at Project Managers and then had groups investigate and get back to them
- o Project Managers were not just report receivers involvement of front line people
- Board can do clear vision and priorities, Project Managers can then discuss what is involved & required
- Increased role for project mgrs
- Executive group of Project Managers-filters & screens information-does it instead of IHDC/SC
- <u>Importance of Leadership Role of Project Managers</u>
- We need to present ideas to Project Managers and get agreement before committing to them (projects)
- If we do not present information to Project Managers, then there is less involvement among all DALNET members
- Need one common set of well conceived filters to review DALNET projects

Suggested Committee Structure and Roles
- Review roles of IHDC and Steering Committee and see where we are
- Use focused task forces
- Use of working groups instead of standing committees
- Make sure new roles are clear, communicated.
- Task Forces allow more involvement
- More cooperative relationships
- Still need leaders to chair task forces, they would be more active, invested, communicate with DALNET staff and members
- People like to be professionally involved in DALNET, could get new roles
- Tapping same people: how many committees can owe person serve on and still be effective?
- People feeling stretched
- Fear or resistance to restructuring DALNET new roles for existing groups/committees
- Could problems be poor management v. existing structure?
- Need right mix of leaders, vision
- Current structure will not get us there

DALNET vision (Info Hub, New structures)

<u>Vision and Leadership</u>
- Problem with implementation of DALNET'S vision
- Need to revisit the vision and start from there.
- We need a better mission statement.
- Impatience with not being able to move ahead on the Hub
- DALNET looking at new services that require a technological base
- We need expertise, testing, and evaluation
- Tiered, decide what comes first: short, medium and long range

- Need to move slowly cautiously
- Management needs to come from DALNET Director and staff
- Leadership
- Fissure between library systems and traditional services - how to bridge and integrate
- DALNET has been very laissez-faire ---- needs more focus and control

Projects
- Three separate visions/projects
  - MiLE
  - Horizon
  - IHDC
- People start projects and then they become DALNET projects
- Mile was thought as a step to push DALNET forward, get enough members to begin
- How to log another project on top of what is happening.
- Have members really committed to Mile.
- Digitization projects were originally to bring in more community organizations, but specific projects many not fit into original plan.
- Need several projects going at some time
- What we lost is how the projects come together and service our community
- What do we need to accomplish this plan, e.g. what standards are being developed for Hub databases
  - Metadata T.F. is working on standards.
  - Metadata crosswalk but they need direction
- Did RPA well

Planning
- Where does 'DALNET' planning come into place, e.g. equipment for digital labs?
- Disconnect between technology & goals
- Ambiguity causes hard feelings
- What is leader's role supposed to be?
- People are confused.
- Need systematic plan.
- DALNET portal
- How to integrate these special collections
- DALNET putting money into MILE that is focused on books, printer & information
- Mile is one aspect of portal
- Do not loose value of print
- Students will use Internet instead of Libraries/DALNET
  - Our goal was to get them to use our resources
  - Would get access to many resources
  - This should still be our vision but how do we get there?

Member Services
- Some members DALNET is entire plan, others it is only a part
- This is a volunteering organization.

- Move for Service Bureau to Consortial Model
- What are benefits to members?
- What do members actually want individually
- Some members may only want base services, but like associating with fuller set of opportunities
- Have not built enough consensus among members

Horizon
- Library automation was the original reason for DALNET members coming together
  - This was first step away from purely library automation
  - Didn't get very far away from it
  - Got bogged down with Horizon technology
  - But couldn't even do top priority due to lack of technology
  - Small libraries looking to others figure out problems
- We picked a technology driver system, not a turnkey solution
- What are our priorities?
- Spending a lot of time on enhancements revisit priorities
- More opportunities than resources
- We set up communication process with *epixtech*
- Do we still need to focus so much energy on Horizon?

Retreat Process
- Too much blather at beginning of retreat
- More time needed for discussion at end; it was short changed
- Was hoping for something more definitive
- Planning the plan
- Need to start moving ahead on the planning process

Where Does this Fit?
Feeling same things as rest of DALNET

Edited by Scott P. Muir
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