

Dalnet ✓

DALNET

Screens Committee Meeting
Thursday, April 23, 1992

Minutes

Present: K. Bacsanyi, WSU; J. Doyle, MCC; L. Hildebrand, OU; S. Homant, UDM;
W. Kane, DALNET; G. Oldani-Caruso, DPL.

1. Announcements

- the DALNET Board is interested in receiving and reviewing meeting minutes;
- a listserv discussion list has been created by the Systems Office to facilitate communication among the DALNET libraries and librarians -- the group agreed to subscribe and to encourage others to do the same;

2. Impact of NOTIS 5.1

Bill reported that the next release of NOTIS -- tentatively scheduled to be installed mid-July -- will have a significant impact on all online screens. Since the screen "footer" information in this forthcoming release will be two lines longer than in the current release, the body of the screens will consequently be two lines shorter. Each of the over 100 "help" and "explain" and "informational" screens will have to be edited accordingly. Further, this new footer information will include prompts which explicitly indicate the functionality of function keys in LUIS. Bill distributed a copy of a sign that WSU is proposing be installed directly above the function keys. Finally, the next release includes a "mark and send," or downloading feature. Even though this feature will require a great deal of testing before being made available, it is not too early to begin thinking of its potential impact on sites' current hardware. Finally, it was announced that with this release, LUIS and LUIS PLUS will be merged, enabling users to search the OPAC and the periodical databases from the same terminal. Many menu options are available and were discussed.

3. Review of "explain hours"

The committee agreed that the "explain hours" and "explain dalnet" screens should be combined, such that a user would type "exp dalnet", receive a menu of the DALNET libraries, each having a set of screens with hours, phone numbers, locations, borrowing policies, etc. Bill agreed to begin work on the hours and phone numbers at least immediately.

4. Other "explain" screens

The committee suggests the creation of an "explain status" series of screens which would offer online definitions of the various status messages which appear in LUIS (e.g., check shelf, not charged out, charged, on order, etc.).

Also, there was a suggestion to include a "explain remote" set of screens offering information about dial-in and/or Internet connections.

5. Introductory screens

The group agreed to consider a re-design of the introductory screens, with a goal of making the intro screens more attractive, easier to read, and better able to lead users to other important informational screens. The committee looked at sample screens from the University of Pittsburgh's PITTCAT, and recommended following that model as long as we continue to include example searches on the initial screen.

6. WILS Screens

Earlier, Bill had distributed print-outs of each WILS screen appearing online now, asking for the committee's careful scrutiny. Those suggestions were collected at the meeting, again paying close attention to the intro screen.

NEXT MEETING: week of July 5, exact date to be announced.

Submitted by:

William P. Kane

4/23/93

577-6439