

AGENDA
DALNET Collection Development Committee
September 29, 1998
9:30-11:30
University of Detroit Mercy McNichols Library

1. **Introductions**
2. **Approval of Minutes**
3. **Review second draft of Statement to Dalnet Board**
4. **Review Procedures draft**
5. **Miscellaneous**
6. **Scheduling of meetings**

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Oct

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DALNET's Role in Future Electronic Resource Acquisitions (Draft #2--6/98)

The current electronic resource environment is highly volatile for a number of reasons:

- ◆ Many vendors are exploring new ways of pricing their electronic databases;
- ◆ Some vendors, accustomed to dealing with one institution type (i.e., public libraries), are experiencing difficulties in adapting to the needs of other institutional types;
- ◆ Price quotes for a particular resource may vary by vendor representative, or by pricing structure (i.e., FTE v. simultaneous users), so that an institutional agreement may be more advantageous than a consortial agreement;
- ◆ The Internet and WWW have created opportunities for a library or consortium to partner with other institutions regardless of geographic boundaries; as a result, acquisition efforts by individual libraries, as well as consortia, have overlapped.

As a result of this unstable environment, library administrators must be vigilant in pursuing all licensing possibilities in order to identify the most advantageous agreement for their institutions. At present, DALNET's role has been to act as one more consortium entering the confusing fray of the licensing world.

However, as the electronic resources environment evolves into a more stable arena, the licensing process should become simplified. Ideally, then, the Michigan Library Consortium (MLC) will act as primary negotiator for most electronic resources: because MLC represents a statewide effort, it can provide greater opportunities for individual libraries to purchase electronic resources by partnering with many diverse and sometimes geographically distant institutions. As a result, no longer should DALNET need to pursue shared licenses to information.

Nevertheless, a role in this simplified environment will exist for DALNET. Specifically, the Collection Development Committee views the future role of DALNET within the electronic resources environment as being one of facilitator in acquiring shared statewide agreements. In this capacity, DALNET can assist MLC by, in effect, bringing to the negotiation table, a large and diverse set of institutions. (Get rid of this paragraph??)

More importantly, though, the Collection Development Committee believes that DALNET should undertake a more active role in the electronic information environment: that of creating and distributing information. DALNET institutions have developed special collections and own a wide variety of valuable resources; these resources should be tapped, with DALNET acting as vendor for locally produced databases created from these materials and collections. Collections such as the TIP collection at DPL, or the materials available at Wayne State University's Center for Urban Studies, would yield important resources that would be valuable to other libraries in the state, the region, and even worldwide. DALNET's strengths in the areas of urban studies, automotive and manufacturing issues, and Michigan history should be exploited. In sum, DALNET's future value as a consortium lies in creating and providing access to its own unique collections.

**Procedures for DALNET Electronic Resources Trials
(2nd DRAFT 6/98)**

1. An opportunity to pursue an electronic database is presented to the DALNET Collection Development Committee (CDC) through contact with vendors, either initiated by the vendor or by a member of the CDC. DALNET institutions that are not represented on the CDC but are interested in pursuing a group license for a database will forward pertinent information regarding that database to the Chair of the CDC.
2. If any DALNET member institution is interested in pursuing a trial, the CDC will contact the vendor and initiate a free trial period. The DALNET office will be notified of the trial by the DALNET office liaison to the CDC.
3. The CDC will notify the collection development liaisons from each institution about the free trial, including the trial period and access methods (i.e., IP address, password, etc.).
4. The CDC will distribute an electronic resources evaluation form to each collection development liaison, along with any documentation that is available for the product. *Institutions are required to complete and return this formal evaluation to the CDC within one week after the trial period ends.* At this time, institutions must determine whether they are interested in pursuing a group license.
5. Based upon evaluation results and interest level, the CDC will make a purchase decision, and then forward to the DALNET office a list of interested member libraries. The DALNET office will then pursue group licensing for the product.
6. Within two weeks from the time that the purchase decision is forwarded, the DALNET office will negotiate with the product vendor and respond to the CDC with a status report on the negotiation process.

EVALUATION FORM for DALNET Trial Databases

Please return the completed form to the Collection Development Committee by: _____

Name: _____ Institution: _____

Database Tested: _____ Date: _____

Please comment on the following areas (if needed, attach additional pages):

1. Coverage/currency of database:

2. Search interface:

3. Ease of use/navigation:

4. Availability/usefulness of help screens:

5. Appropriateness for your institution's patrons:

6. Stability/Reliability/Ease of access:

7. Does this product's coverage/value overlap a product (i.e., a print version) held by your institution that can be canceled?

8. Do you think this product should be a high/medium/low priority purchase for DALNET? Please explain.

9. Other comments/suggestions for other databases DALNET should evaluate: