BENEFITS OF DALNET MEMBERSHIP

TO LIBRARY USERS:

▸ **Saves Time and Effort**
Users have electronic access to the holdings of all DALNET libraries through a single search not only from library terminals, but also from remote microcomputers dialing in from homes and offices. Article citations are linked to DALNET libraries' journal holdings to help users find the articles they need more quickly. In fact, DALNET PrinText service provides high quality printouts of articles upon request by users, so they don't need to photocopy them from the journals.

▸ **Timely Information**
Users have online access to current information for most DALNET libraries about the availability of library materials, including circulation status, on-order status, and issues of journals received.

▸ **Increased Access to Information Resources**
Users have increased access to resources not located in their home institutions through interlibrary loan and document delivery. DALNET's gateway to online catalogs of other libraries in the metro area and the state provides users with familiar searching techniques to expanded information resources.

▸ **Fast, Efficient Service**
Computerized checkout and prompt overdue notices allow all users to know the status of library materials. As a matter of fact, a user can check on items borrowed and fines owed at any DALNET library that uses computerized circulation.

▸ **Consistent Information Retrieval System**
Once users learn to search the DALNET online catalog in one library, they can use those same skills at any DALNET library and for any DALNET database. Children can learn at the public library and carry their skills to the community college, to the University, and on to their careers in the metro area.

TO MEMBER LIBRARIES:

▸ **Cost-sharing**
Members share electronic database licensing costs and an automated library system which provides more capabilities than most libraries could afford on a stand-alone system.

▸ **Cooperative Collection Development**
Members have an opportunity to participate in cooperative collection development which can reduce duplication of library materials and give libraries more value for their acquisitions dollars, especially for electronic library resources.

▸ **Shared Staff Expertise**
Members are able to depend on DALNET staff to run the central system, install upgrades and fixes, and provide timely responses to their technical needs. Members also have the option of contracting with WSU, the DALNET host institution, for such services as cataloging and database management. DALNET members also share their expertise with each other and participate in joint staff development opportunities to help each other keep up with technology and learn new skills.

▸ **High Quality Shared Online Catalog**
Centralized database quality control provides enhanced database access that is consistent and follows national standards. Database maintenance tasks are done once to update records for all libraries.

▸ **Resource Sharing**
Through DALNET, members have electronic access to information about a wide variety of materials held in the metropolitan area, as well as an electronic gateway to the collections of other local and state libraries and to vendor-supplied digitized library resources. This helps members get materials to their users faster and more cost effectively through such services as interlibrary loan, document delivery, InfoPass and reciprocal borrowing.

▸ **Institutional Benefits**
By joining DALNET, members participate in an established multi-type library consortium, which can be an important factor in both internal and external fundraising efforts. In addition, institutions benefit from DALNET's role in regional and statewide initiatives, such as those that seek to connect educational institutions via the "information superhighway." Other advantages include expanded capacity to serve their communities as a gateway to information resources.

▶ **Flexibility for Individual Members**
DALNET provides optional electronic databases and services from which individual member institutions can select to meet their users needs. Local site hardware and networks can vary as long as they meet baseline standard requirements for the DALNET Online System.

▶ **Proven, Reliable Systems**
As the host institution for DALNET, WSU delivers excellent system reliability and up-time for all members. New online services and databases are often implemented first by WSU or a small group of DALNET members. This enables the rest of the members to try out and choose from proven, established online services and databases.

▶ **More Rapid Innovation**
DALNET libraries can enter into projects that use leading edge technology sooner than many individual libraries could do on their own.

▶ **Membership Organization**
DALNET is a membership organization that provides its member libraries a voice in governance and decision making.

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