

DALNET Board Minutes
Monday, April 22, 2002
1:00-4:00 p.m.
Detroit Institute of Arts, Board of Trustees Room

Board discusses ATLAS Project with Randy Dykhuis, ATLAS Steering Committee Chair

Randy Dykhuis, head of the Michigan Library Consortium and Chair of the ATLAS Steering Committee, reported on ATLAS, a statewide, multi-type resource sharing program intended to “level the playing field” for library services across Michigan. He said ATLAS will build on existing services such as AccessMichigan and the Michigan Electronic Library, and will include:

- A Web gateway or portal, which will be intended to serve as “the ‘Google of Michigan,’ the first place for Michigan residents to go when they get on the Internet.”
- A union catalog of holdings in participating libraries across Michigan. This catalog may be based on a single union catalog of holdings for libraries across the state, or it could be a “virtual union catalog,” based on Z39.50 connections of existing library catalogs statewide.
- Customer-initiated interlibrary loan, supported by expedited statewide delivery arrangements.

To be successful, ATLAS will need to offer appropriate levels of complexity, functionality and flexibility. Incorporating the right amount of local control and autonomy will also be essential, according to Dykhuis. “If we do this right, the way people access information – and the way libraries inter-relate – will change dramatically,” he noted.

To make ATLAS a reality, eight committees with statewide, representative membership have been working since last fall. Their reports on various components of ATLAS are nearing completion. In late April, committee chairs met with Dykhuis to begin the process of preparing a consolidated report reflecting findings and recommendations from the eight committees.

This report, which will be delivered to the Library of Michigan by mid-June, will outline a vision for ATLAS. The report will include suggestions of services (digital reference service, statewide delivery, etc.), along with proposed timelines and projected cost information. Then the Library of Michigan will begin the process of planning the project’s implementation and identifying sources of funding. Dykhuis said he hopes the Library of Michigan will designate a staff member to assume this responsibility.

Dykhuis anticipates that work on the ATLAS portal will begin sooner rather than later, since it is the least expensive piece and can be done in a stepped approach. Initially, the Library of Michigan will likely use federal funds to support ATLAS. To succeed in the long term, Dykhuis believes the Michigan Legislature will need to approve state funding for ATLAS. This will take time, given the realities of state economics and politics, he said.

What role will consortia like DALNET play in ATLAS? Dykhuis said DALNET could be a leader in helping ATLAS become a reality. He said there is a need for linking existing consortial catalogs so they can function in an interactive way, for example.

DALNET and other consortia can also help to address one of the most challenging aspects of building a statewide catalog: linking the 36 different flavors of integrated library systems currently installed statewide. By supporting standards such as MARC, Z39.50, and the National Circulation Interchange Protocol (NCIP), DALNET and other consortia can facilitate development of the statewide catalog by providing standards-based host sites for libraries in need of an integrated library system. DALNET can support ATLAS by continuing to help Michigan learn about the state of the art through leadership for demonstration projects such as the Michigan Library Exchange (MiLE) initiative as well.

Dykhuis invited wide participation in the ATLAS update videoconference, which is scheduled for 9 – 11 AM on 4 June 2002 in several sites statewide, including Laurel Manor in Livonia. This session will cover the ATLAS report, which will be almost done by that point, and will include time for questions and answers.

Board Okays proposed timeline for upcoming meetings

In response to a recommendation from the DALNET Planning Team, the Board approved the following schedule for using upcoming DALNET Board meetings to support the strategic planning process:

May 2002: The Board, Information Hub Development Committee (IHDC) and other DALNET stakeholders meet with *epixtech* representatives to discuss *epixtech*'s strategy for affording seamless access to diverse resources. Assess what we learned in meeting with *epixtech*. Prior to the meeting, Board members agreed to use a list of questions the IHDC has prepared for *epixtech* as a basis for this discussion, supplementing the list as appropriate. If *epix* is unable to send representatives to the May meeting, the Board will begin addressing the "big questions" from last year's planning retreat.

June 2002: Further assess what we learned in meeting with *epixtech*. Continue discussion on the gateway. Demonstrate gateway models. Act on Planning Team final recommendations for the revised committee structure. Begin devoting time at each Board meeting to discuss progress on big questions that came up in last year's retreat.

July - October 2002: Continue discussing last year's retreat topics. Finalize plans for retreat.

November - December 2002: Possible retreat to set DALNET's future goals and objectives.

2003: Implement plans developed as a result of the planning effort.

Board advises Planning Team on committee review process

One of the assignments for the Planning Team (Jerry Bosler, Scott Muir, Patricia Orr, Leo Papa and Michael Piper) is to review current DALNET committees, and then to present recommendations for a revamped committee structure. Before the Board meeting, the Planning Team submitted preliminary recommendations to the Board. Key aspects of the Planning Team's proposed approach include:

- An expanded, enhanced role for the Project Managers group.
- Fewer working groups.
- Written charges outlining clear expectations upfront.
- Defined terms for group members, along with clear deliverables within clearly articulated timeframes. Once a group completes its assignment, it will then be retired.

After discussing the Planning Team's preliminary proposals, the Board asked the group to:

- 1) Poll existing committee members to obtain their input before changing current committees.
- 2) Proceed with its proposed merger of the Budget/Finance Committee with the Executive Committee.
- 3) Drop the proposed vendor liaison committee. Michael Piper, DALNET Director, is responsible for providing liaison with *epixtech*, with assistance from the Board and from working groups, as needed.
- 4) Substitute the word "advises" for the phrase "reports to" in the Planning Team Committee's Reorganization Recommendations for re-structuring DALNET committees.
- 5) Consider making the group that reviews database standards a "Committee" rather than a "Task Force," since committees are ongoing and task forces are expected to retire once they complete their assignments.
- 6) Suggest that the Project Managers set up discussion groups to support networking among member librarians, help members stay up to date on new developments and features in Horizon modules, and to facilitate the dissemination of best practices among members.

The Planning Team will continue its work and report again at future Board meetings.

DALNET launches healthcalendar.org

Cathy Eames reported that the DALNET health calendar is live at www.healthcalendar.org. Dee Callaway has developed a publicity packet, which was distributed at the meeting, and which will be sent to groups throughout southeast Michigan. Additional copies of the packet are available on request from the DALNET office.

Next meeting: 20 May at Henry Ford Museum and Greenfield Village

The next meeting of the DALNET Board of Directors will be on Monday, 20 May, from 1 – 4 PM at the Henry Ford Museum and Greenfield Village in Dearborn. Meeting details will follow.

DALNET Board members present

Deborah Adams	Botsford Hospital
Jerry Bosler	Macomb Community College
Steven Bowers	Rochester College
Nancy Bulgarelli	William Beaumont Hospital
Marilyn Dow	Detroit Medical Center
Cathy Eames	Children's Hospital
James Flaherty	Wayne County Community College District
George Libbey	University of Detroit Mercy (representing Margaret Auer)
Jennifer Moldwin Gustafson	Detroit Institute of Arts
Patricia Orr	Henry Ford Museum Greenfield Village
Mary Ann Sheble	Oakland Community College
Nancy Skowronski	Detroit Public Library
Karen Tubolino	Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center
Frank White	Marygrove College
Sandra Yee	Wayne State University

DALNET staff

Duryea Callaway
Robert Harris
Elaine Hendriks
Scott Muir
Michael Piper

Guests

Louise Bugg	Wayne State University
Randy Dykhuis	Michigan Library Consortium
Ann Walaskay	Oakland Community College

Draft meeting minutes submitted 1 May 2002 by Elaine Hendriks and Michael Piper. Revised: 11 May 2002. Approved by DALNET Board: 20 May 2002.