DALNET

Local Information ~ Global Reach
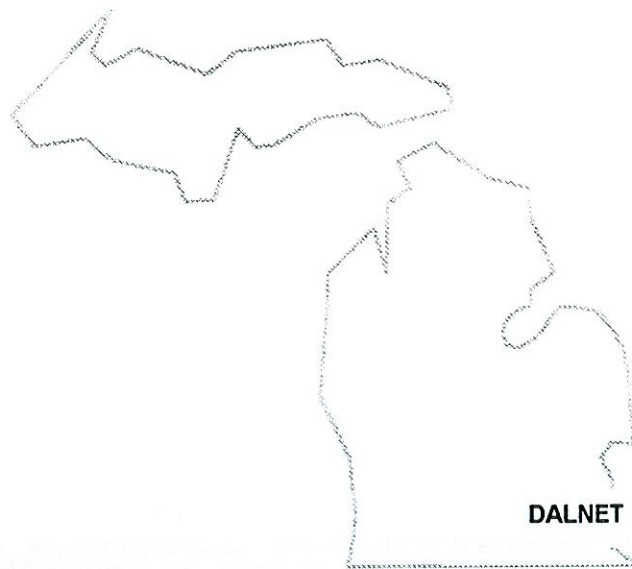
DALNET

Serving Southeast Michigan
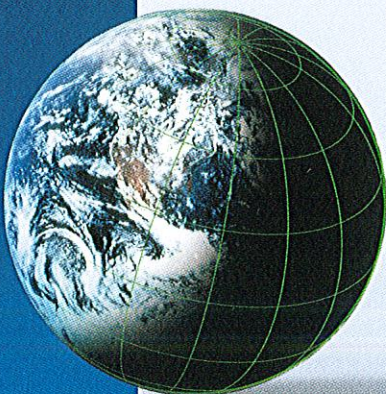
DALNET
A Leader in Library Partnerships

DALNET is a consortium of academic, public, and special libraries located in Southeast Michigan. Founded as a nonprofit corporation in 1985, DALNET enables its members to better serve the information needs of their users through cooperative efforts among multi-type libraries in the Metropolitan Detroit area, and by sharing advanced library automation applications.

DALNET has over ten years of experience running a shared integrated library system and fostering cooperation and innovation in a complex environment. As a leader, DALNET is constantly finding new ways to broaden services and access, incorporating advances in technology into the system in an efficient and cost-effective way. Membership in DALNET opens the door to a wealth of technical and human resources far beyond what is available to any single institution.

The Partnership and Cooperation

DALNET policy is set by its Board, with officers elected annually for the positions of Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary. Member institutions sign individual service agreements to participate in the DALNET Online System. Decision-making is accomplished with every full member institution having representation on the DALNET Board and, if desired, in various policy-making committees and task forces. Membership is open to academic, public, school, and special libraries as well as other information organizations in seven southeast Michigan counties. To make the regional information hub possible, DALNET members agree to share an online system, contribute to its database, and are committed to resource sharing.

DALNET's business principles maximize members' investments. DALNET strives to engage in cost-effective practices; to share local and central site expertise; to be efficient in all operational areas; to gather, evaluate and distribute relevant information before reaching a decision; to respect local institutional values/principles and operational priorities; and to develop effective group processes for good decision-making.

The Vision

By the year 2000, DALNET will be widely recognized as a model cooperative information services provider, one that anticipates and supports the information needs of a diverse community of users in southeast Michigan. DALNET will be a regional information provider of unique resources to members and their communities. DALNET members will continue to be advocates for access to the global knowledge-based opportunities at the local community level.

To implement this vision DALNET libraries are currently migrating from the main-frame LUIS system to a new, state of the art system. The new system called Im@gine uses Horizon© software a product of Ameritech Library Services. Horizon employs client-server architecture and is fully integrated with the World Wide Web.

Some of the features of Im@gine are:

- Graphical display with a point and click interface.
- Access via the World Wide Web from home, office or worldwide.
- Works with popular World Wide Web software such as Netscape© or Internet Explorer©.
- "Search redirection" — click on a title, author or subject heading to submit a new search on that heading.
- Gateway to World Wide Web resources world-wide-integrating remote resources within the local system.
- Ability to directly link catalog records to multimedia sources including full text and images.

Improving the Means To Access Tomorrow

Through the partnership between DALNET libraries and Ameritech further product enhancements are being developed for Im@gine. These enhancements will:

- Provide a children's OPAC client that is easy-to-use graphical interface for children, which includes the following features: a set of librarian-designed canned searches, spell-checking, ranked retrieval sets, and concept searching.

- Enable DALNET libraries to share a single patron record for users with differing circulation privileges at multiple libraries.

- Provide an authentication system for users who belong to multiple user groups with access to different databases, whether locally housed or remotely accesses via Web or Z39.50 interfaces.

- Enable DALNET libraries to use a single, shared authority file efficiently in a multi-institution configuration, with appropriate display of references in location-based catalogs

- Enable staff at DALNET libraries to easily run their own ad-hoc management and statistical reports with minimal central site support.

- Add an integrated booking module including full patron empowerment and staff management features.

- Enable handling document requests from patrons with variable privileges in a multi-type consortium environment, with interfaces for both the OCLC and DOCLINE interlibrary loan systems.

PARTICIPATING DALNET INSTITUTIONS	Registered Patrons (3/99)	Migration to Imagine
Botsford Hospital	1,289	Mar 1999
Children's Hospital of Mich.	1,828	Sept 1999
Detroit Institute of Arts	**	June 1999
Detroit Public Library (Including Highland Park)	395,046	May 1999
Detroit Public Schools- Professional Library	Contract Pending	Dec 1999
Detroit Receiving Hospital φ♠	1,600	Sept 1999
Grace/Sinai Hospital φ♠	1,500	Dec 1999
Harper Hospital	2,038	Sept 1999
Huron Valley Hospital φ♠	**	Dec 1999
Hutzel Hospital φ♠	300	Sept 1999
Macomb Community College	64,264	Sept 1999
Mt. Clemens General Hospital	Contract Pending	Dec 1999
Oakland Community College	63,888	Sept 1999
Oakland County Law Library	**	June 1999
Rehabilitation Institute φ♠	**	Sept 1999
University of Detroit Mercy	14,456	Sept 1998
Veterans Adm. Med.Center φ♠	939	June 1999
Walsh College	7,400	June 1999
Wayne County Community College	13,087	June 1999
Wayne State University	105,177	Mar 1999
William Beaumont Hospitals	4,006	Sept 1999
TOTALS	676,818	

φCirculation Module Not Yet Implemented

♠ Public Access Equipment Not Yet Installed

*Figures do not include remote access transactions

**No patron registration; items do not circulate
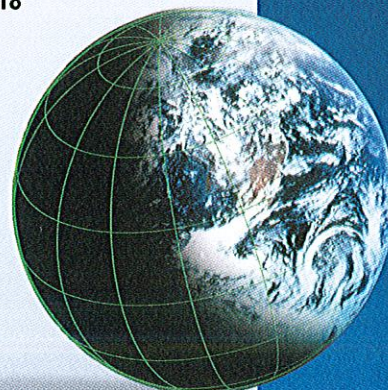
Benefits for DALNET Libraries and Information Providers:

- **A better, more powerful system** than a single library could obtain.
- **Technical staff** -- the cost of highly skilled technical staff is shared; their expertise is a resource available to all.
- **Efficient automation** of behind-the-scenes operations.
- **Maximize investments** in collections and resources through resource sharing.
- **Consortium discounts** through shared database licenses.
- **Collegial cooperation** and knowledge sharing.
- **Links to regional and national networks** to expand access beyond our region.
- **Standards** for linking to other systems and data formats to ensure future transferability.
- **External funding opportunities** for library network participation.

Benefits for DALNET Library Users:

- **From any library's Im@gine catalog** users can retrieve the holdings and up to the minute status information for all other DALNET libraries.
- **Same interface** for all Im@gine catalogs.
- **Expanded access** through resource sharing.
- **Search from anywhere** -- home, office, or worldwide via the Internet.
- **Familiar searching** -- when visiting other DALNET libraries, the system will be familiar.
- **Gateway to WWW resources** — links from online catalogs to full-text, images and websites.
- **Providing Web-based multi-type library services** to citizens of our region.
- **Users of Im@gine** save time and energy getting the information they need.

To Learn More

If you'd like to find out more about the services and benefits that DALNET membership provides, please contact the DALNET office at Wayne State University in Detroit.

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We also encourage you to visit the DALNET Home Page at http://www.lib.wayne.edu/dalnet/. This home page is located on the Wayne State University Library System's web server and is maintained by DALNET staff. Our web page gives you access to Im@gine, DALNET's information system, along with links to DALNET member websites.

The DALNET Office is located at Wayne State University,
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