

DALNET Steering Committee Meeting

Minutes

February 14, 2000
Botsford General Hospital

Present: D. Adams, K. Bacsanyi, L. Bugg, R. Call, G. Libbey, H. Masek, S. Muir
(via conference call), L. Papa

Excused: J. Flaherty, M. Sheble, N. Skowronski

Agenda and Minutes

- Reviewed briefly and approved minutes of 1/10/00 Meeting.
- Introduced Leo Papa, University of Detroit - Mercy.

ALA *epixtech* Update

- Horizon "Large Libraries" meetings at ALA are worth DALNET participation. Midwinter session mixed questions from libraries, *epixtech* reactions, and *epixtech* staff presentations. *epixtech* staff listened to comments. (L. Bugg mentioned *epixtech* considering a large library focus group in Chicago in March.)
- iPAC is Horizon's next generation WebPAC. This product includes a better search engine, broadcast searching, and is much faster.

Implementation Update

- One Group Four library signed off on installation.
- S. Muir will ask Systems staff to share DALNET's Updated workstation requirements with prospective DALNET members. S. Muir will find out whether Pentium I, II, or III chips in workstations that otherwise meet the requirements makes any difference for Sunrise installation and use.
- RSS draft timeline assumes that since 5.3 delayed, RSS will be installed next. It is unclear how many DALNET members will use RSS and how much use those members will make of it.

One issue involves interfaces. RSS will not communicate with DocLine and will only send requests to OCLC. (All responses to requests placed on OCLC and fees management must still be done on OCLC.) ILL charges between DALNET members represent another issue affecting use as well as each member library's decision on RSS being a mediated or unmediated service. RSS training comprises a third issue: DALNET staff may have to be trained before DALNET can address these issues.

The Steering Committee recommends training a select group of DALNET staff. This group then performs a pilot test to determine impacts. The group initially trained includes Systems Office staff and representatives from Wayne State University, Detroit Public Library, University of Detroit - Mercy, and the Detroit Institute of Arts. After training, the pilot test starts approximately May 1. Once pilot test results are known, further RSS installation depends on which DALNET member libraries are interested and ready to implement the module.

***epixtech* Support Update**

- Production release for WebPAC 1.3 is second quarter 2000. *epixtech* will provide two NT servers to support broadcast searching. DALNET staff is sizing NT servers now and projects installation as summer 2000. If the servers provided are not satisfactory, *epixtech* will replace and/or upgrade. DALNET's Website Committee will consider and revise as necessary the existing WebPAC design.
- Consolidated indexes will improve system performance for Wayne State. DALNET staff is considering whether enhancement improves performance for all DALNET databases and/or might be necessary to maintain searching consistency across the databases.
- L. Bugg discussing Shared Patron and SSN with Wayne State legal counsel. A legal opinion apparently exists that full SSN cannot be shared. We hope that means it must be suppressed from displaying but can be stored and used as a matching point. DALNET's Shared Patron File Committee is working on a specification to suppress display in the Shared Patron File.
- Horizon 5.3 software appears ready, but *epixtech* is still preparing documentation and release notes. DALNET installation now looks like early summer.
- *epixtech* now projects Horizon 6.0 production software available at the end of August. DALNET projects installation over Christmas break. *epixtech* is thinking about how to help large installations such as DALNET install software releases. (*epixtech* also requested DALNET beta test 6.0, but we declined. Beta testing is problematical at this time given DALNET's size and staffing issues.)

Functionality testing

S. Muir e-mailed the revised checklist to DALNET member libraries. Every delivery date on the schedule is now two weeks later than originally proposed. Initial responses are now due to L. Bugg by the end of February.

Committees and Task Forces

- DALNET will thank and dissolve the existing Acquisitions and Serials Task Forces rather than reformulating either group. S. Muir identified there are some operational issues DALNET could address. However, his consultations with potential Task Force members found no one willing to commit to more than one issue and/or one meeting involvement. S. Muir will ask DALNET staff to identify significant issues that merit convening temporary groups to consult on each issue.

- Information Hub Development Committee proposal was not presented to the Board. L. Bugg has nominations for only three potential members. The Committee needs at least five. Steering Committee members nominated two additional people at this meeting. The proposal will go forward.
- S. Muir will post to the listserv a draft Steering Committee Annual Report. Send comments to Scott within two weeks. Our aim is to present the annual report to the Board on March 20.

DALNET Staffing

- Chris Hall is on board as DALNET Web Master. He brings HTML background, but no Unix experience. He will need to attend both Steering Committee and Project Managers as well as visit every DALNET member library. In approximately one month, he will be ready to start consulting with DALNET members. He will advise DALNET member libraries, but is not responsible for maintaining/enhancing individual member library www sites.
- The Help Desk is live today. An announcement and procedures will be e-mailed via DHMT today.
- Draft Project Leader Goals were reviewed and S. Muir will revise. At the next Steering Committee meeting, H. Masek will advise Steering Committee on whether some of his tasks should be added to these goals.

Plans for Board Thank You Lunch

The idea of a reception for all staff and distributing a commemorative favor at that reception was dropped due to the inherent difficulties of assembling staff from multiple institutions. March 28th was proposed for just the luncheon, but seems not be working out. L. Bugg will check on availability of DALNET staff for other dates.

Announcements

- University of Detroit - Mercy's home page is at a new address, ids.udmercy.edu/library.
- L. Bugg reported DALNET, TLN, OWLS, and Macomb County representatives are meeting to investigate linking all groups into a local ILL network. A grant proposal could fund a prototype system. The planning group is investigating *epixtech* developed or owned software to link the consortiums. A grant proposal for 2001 funding must reach the Library of Michigan by March 21. If awarded, tests of a prototype network could start in January 2001. *April 28th*
- Next Meetings, March 13, April 10, and May 8, are all at Botsford. June 10 will be at University of Detroit - Mercy.

Minutes submitted by,

J. Randolph Call

March 3, 2000