

WSUL and DALNET

RFP Response Evaluation Criteria

System: Data Research Associates (ATLAS)

1. Overall suitability to WSU and DALNET:

Of the DEC hardware configurations received, DRA's is the most attractive, however, the DRA software does not ever plan to provide some essential components of a WSUL and DALNET system. Missing, and not to be supplied, are the capabilities to handle MESH subjects and uniform titles and series in the system. MESH subjects are essential to WSUL's Medical Library as well as to the hospital participants.

2. Compliance with specifications (Sections 3-9) of the RFP:

DRA's system scores fairly well in circulation and acquisitions, though not as well as Geac or CLSI. Online catalog enhancements due in early 1985 include authority control and keyword and Boolean searching. Circulation enhancements and all of serials control are due Summer 1985. And acquisitions enhancements, essentially for financial components, are due late 1985.

DRA proposes a union database operating on a total of 5 DEC VAX 785 processors with fifteen disk drives in five cabinets.

	Section	Yes	Yes/d	Yes/f	No	Cust	Clar
3.	OPAC	185	7	83	25	0	39
4.	CIRC	376	46	94	57	0	54
5.	ACQ	385	0	185	42	0	19
6.	SERIALS	11	0	232	0	0	96
7.	Hardware	103	15	0	9	0	0
8.	Software	51	7	0	11	0	0
9.	Training	40	2	0	1	0	3
	Total	1151	77	594	145	0	211

3. Total cost over 5 years:

This five year configuration of 5 DEC VAX 785's is sizable, but smaller than the Ulisys VAX configuration. The promise of next generation VAX equipment to reduce the number of processors is attractive. Without a more powerful VAX, the equipment would require one of the larger computer rooms at a cost of \$250,000 to \$300,000, and might require more computer operators than other systems.

4. Vendor's reliability:

The vendor is well established with 8 years of experience, revenue of \$3.2 million, and 27 employees. Experience with networks is growing with Cleveland Public their largest project to date. They are an authorized DEC distributor.

5. Delivery and installation schedule:

The proposal suggests realistic schedules based on the vendor's experience. Online catalog enhancements crucial to us should be available on time, as well as some circulation components like reserve room and inventory control.

6. Software development required:

A fair amount of development is required to meet our needs, including authority control, keyword searching; reserve room and inventory control; many enhancements to acquisitions, especially the financial control components; and all of serials check-in. Most are targeted for mid to late 1985, which seems ambitious.

7. System's reliability and performance:

DEC VAX equipment is, of course, highly regarded as reliable and up-to-date. DRA uses off-the-shelf equipment, unlike CLSI. Service would be available in Detroit. The Cleveland Public installation is on multiple VAX processors and is functioning very well. Having multiple cpu's provides redundancy and built-in system backup.

8. Expandability:

The system limits are over 48 disk drives and over 2,000 terminals, which should more than accommodate our needs.

9. Flexibility:

Some key features, such as the lack of ability to use MESH subjects, make the software less flexible for us. Also, only 45 patron types are available, requiring that we jointly agree on their use.

10. Ability to link to local computing networks:

IBM links are possible. DEC links are a certainty.

LB/ff
10/1/84