

DALNET Steering Committee Meeting September 11, 2000 Minutes

Present: K. Bacsanyi, L. Bugg, R Call, J. Emahiser, S. Muir, L. Papa, K. Sanders, M. Sheble

Finance Committee

Equipment Request. A review for capacity planning and upgrade is underway. Five options are being studied:

- 1) keep current structure, but make the two servers equal
- 2) move both servers to one site and add a manager to equalize workloads between servers as well as automatically shift workload if one server fails
- 3) replace two current servers with one big server
- 4) keep current two servers plus additional servers at member library sites
- 5) contract out everything

IHDC Budget Request. These requests are for equipment and people necessary to move beyond current status. The experiment cannot move ahead without additional resources. Finance Committee and the Board need to see these proposals to set DALNET's overall priorities. If DALNET decides to provide additional resources to IHDC now, DALNET will re-allocate money/positions within the already approved budget.

Steering Committee expressed concerns about DALNET dividing attention and resources between Horizon and the Information Hub. Horizon is not yet fully functional. DALNET already appears understaffed. Unused resources in the budget could also be re-allocated to finish Horizon.

Given that Steering Committee does not have access to all the available information, it requests an opportunity to react to Finance Committee's recommendations. Scott Muir will see if that is possible for Steering Committee's October meeting.

Functionality Acceptance and Payment. Finance Committee recommended DALNET withhold \$100,000, roughly 1/3, of the acceptance payment. Continuing the acceptance and functionality testing process remains a very high priority for both DALNET and *epixtech*. Although DALNET staff feels less pressured now, they are and will continue under pressure as long as the process continues.

Horizon 5.3 Migration Status. The last four databases on the Wayne State University server migrate the weekend of September 16-17. The Detroit Public Library server plans to migrate approximately October 1.

Horizon Enhancements.

Timelines for specific enhancements can and do change weekly. Rather than distribute changes as they happen, the Steering Committee will see a revised compilation before each meeting.

Reportsmith Security seems solved. Each database will have three Sybase passwords, one for the institution itself, another allowing other member libraries to derive bibliographic records, and a third known only to DALNET staff.

epixtech's proposal for structure of a **Shared Patron** record looks promising. The record must store multiple barcodes. Specifications will be created for how the shared file interacts with local files.

DALNET agreed to *epixtech's* summary of the **Union Catalog** statement of needs. *epixtech's* proposed solution may involve an architecture issue, stored union catalog and resource authority database in one file or in separate files. If it is proposed, this architecture issue merits discussion in the Steering Committee as well as in the Task Force.

Search Engine Task Force Report outlines features for DALNET's search engine. The children's OPAC task force needs to identify which of these features are important enough to become additional requirements for the DALNET children's OPAC. Children's task force plans evaluating iPAC 1.0 by October 18. After that, they will review this report and prioritize. In the meantime, DALNET will send this preliminary report to *epixtech* and ask them to react in terms of which features are most productive.

Horizon Fall Projects

DALNET has no idea what will be necessary for **iPAC 1.0** training. Assuming a rolling conversion, the process of testing and installation could take three to four months.

In terms of **RSS**, DALNET will hear the response to its grant request by the end of the calendar year.

Bringing **Broadcast Searching** up for testing runs into one technical problem after another. No effective documentation exists and *epixtech* has trouble answering questions. This does not look like a robust product. If we can test it, if it meets our requirements, Broadcast Searching could be a useful interim before IPAC 1.0. If technical problems continue, Broadcast Searching's priority becomes lower the closer DALNET comes to installing iPAC. A realistic IPAC installation schedule could eliminate Broadcast Searching as a priority.

WebPAC Editing: Policies and Procedures. George Marck is making sure library by library that each DALNET member has necessary access. Some members cannot access important template files.

Horizon Priorities. Scott Muir will combine enhancement timelines with the fall schedule and distribute to Steering Committee.

IHDC Report. The grant supports meetings with three assessment groups and demonstration projects incorporating needs identified by each group. DALNET held assessment meetings with medical and cultural leaders. One meeting remains, business leaders. DALNET contracted with Strategic Staffing Solutions for the first demonstration project, health science needs.

Next Meeting: October 16, Wayne State University, Purdy-Kresge Conf. Room

Future: November 13, Oakland Community College, Royal Oak Campus
December 11, University of Detroit Mercy, McNichols Campus

Minutes by J. Randolph Call