

Consortium to build information hub for southeast Michigan

The Detroit Area Library Network (DALNET) will develop the "Southeast Michigan Information Hub," a dynamic user-friendly online information system that will house unique information from a variety of community resources, such as government organizations, chambers of commerce, trade associations, museums, and more.

The DALNET consortium—made up of 21 libraries, including public, community college, university, medical, law, and art libraries located in Southeast Michigan—will team with Ameritech Corp. to build the hub using Ameritech Library Services' Horizon library automation system and an Ameritech managed frame relay network. The hub, expected to be fully operational by the year 2000, will offer access to traditional library resources as well as resources of economic development, healthcare, social service, and community information.

Registration materials for ACRL's 9th National Conference, "Racing Toward Tomorrow" April 8–11, 1999, in Detroit have been mailed and are available on the Web at <http://www.ala.org/acrl/preindex.html>. Get on the fast track for change and equip yourself with the skills you need to stay on course as we "Race Toward Tomorrow." Highlights of the conference include:

- an open forum on copyright and intellectual property issues between Pat Schroeder, president of the Association of American Publishers, and James Neal, director of libraries at Johns Hopkins University;
- keynote addresses by K. Wayne Smith, president emeritus of OCLC, and Blenda J. Wilson, president of California State University, Northridge;
- a choice of 225 programs exploring the current issues of academic librarianship such as scholarly communication, electronic publishing, distance learning, outcomes assessment, and information literacy;
- more than 200 exhibitors displaying and demonstrating their latest products and services;
- preconferences on leadership, instruction, Myers-Briggs, the networked environment, patents/copyrights, telecommunications, and buildings.

Register by January 18, 1999, and realize substantial savings over the regular conference rate.

"The Southeast Michigan Information Hub is designed to serve people throughout the seven-county Detroit regional area in their lifelong educational, cultural, research, professional, and recreational endeavors," said Patricia Senn Breivik, DALNET president and dean of the Wayne State University Library System. "It will enable DALNET libraries to reach beyond the walls of the library and deliver text, images, sound, and video to the desktop level and eventually to public kiosks."

Already, plans are underway to get the Detroit Public Library and its 24 library facilities throughout the city connected to the system in spring 1999. DALNET Vice-Chair and Detroit Public Library Director Maurice Wheeler said, "The Detroit Public Library is uniquely positioned to deliver community access to all the wonderful information in the Southeast Michigan Information. In this way, customers who do not have in-home or at-work Internet access can take full advantage of these resources."

Margaret Auer, dean at the University of Detroit Mercy Libraries (UDM) and chair of the DALNET Board, said the new system is a hit already at UDM. "We are getting enthusiastic feedback from students and faculty," said Auer. "They are finding it easy to use and understand. We anticipated this reaction and are very pleased it has proved to be so positive."