

WSUL and DALNET

RFP Response Evaluation Criteria

System: Carlyle (TOMUS)

1. Overall suitability to WSU and DALNET:

Carlyle's use of leading-edge technology is very attractive, especially with its low price, however, the only subsystem currently available is the online catalog, without authority control. While that may provide a good foundation, too much development is required to meet our needs. Also, the vendor is such a new entrant in the field that contracting for a very large installation would be a big risk.

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

Carlyle proposed a system operating on multiple-microprocessors. It is an efficient configuration with remote processors formatting searches before they are sent to the database processors. It runs more efficiently on this equipment than on a mainframe configuration.

Carlyle only has an online catalog to offer at this time and it has no authority control yet. All other functions are future offerings, although they are targeted for 1985.

| | Section | Yes | Yes/d | Yes/f | No | Cust | Clar |
|----|----------|-----|-------|-------|----|------|------|
| 3. | OPAC | 165 | 4 | 143 | 15 | 3 | 0 |
| 4. | CIRC | 0 | 0 | 608 | 9 | 0 | 12 |
| 5. | ACQ | 0 | 0 | 620 | 19 | 0 | 0 |
| 6. | SERIALS | 0 | 0 | 322 | 9 | 0 | 0 |
| 7. | Hardware | 125 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 8. | Software | 50 | 2 | 6 | 2 | 5 | 4 |
| 9. | Training | 45 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| | Total | 385 | 6 | 1701 | 54 | 9 | 16 |

3. Total cost over 5 years:

Carlyle has by far the lowest start up cost for Wayne State. Because of the microprocessor configuration, a library only buys as many processors as needed to start and adds more as the system expands. The total price for WSUL and DALNET is still on the low end.

The computer room and staff needed to operate a Carlyle system would be modest compared to all the other systems bid.

4. Vendors reliability:

Steve Salmon, the President and CEO of Carlyle, has an excellent reputation and has assembled a strong team to develop their system.

Unfortunately, since all sites are testing the system and have rather small installations, there is little evidence of the vendor's reliability to date.

The company has been operating only one year and has been financed by private investors.

5. Delivery and installation schedule:

The schedule of software development seems very ambitious, with all new components expected by mid-1985, including circulation, acquisitions, and serials control.

The ability of vendor to deliver has not yet been tested.

6. Software development required:

Substantial development is needed to meet our requirements, including authority control, and all of circulation, acquisitions, and serials control. The development schedule seems very ambitious.

7. System's reliability and performance:

The microprocessor hardware proposed is on the leading edge of technology and seems to be an efficient, cost-effective configuration. Unfortunately, performance on a very large installation has not yet been demonstrated.

8. Expandability:

The system seems easily, and efficiently, expandable.

9. Flexibility:

The system is especially designed to accommodate variable length records with varying numbers of variable length fields and subfields to provide flexibility.

10. Ability to link to local computing networks:

The proposal indicates that links to IBM are available.

LB/ff
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