WSUL and DALNET

RFP Response Evaluation Criteria

System: Northwestern University (NOTIS)

1.   Overall suitability to WSU and DALNET:

The NOTIS proposal met the most specifications of our RFP. Their
responses to circulation were based on expected availability in
1985. NOTIS does a fairly good job on the networking criteria.

The IBM hardware is ideally suited to the needs of WSU Computing
Center, although more than one IBM 4381 processor may be needed.

Concerns about NOTIS center on their not being a "turnkey"
vendor. Since contracts for all hardware and many pieces of
software would have to be handled separately, several pieces of
software would have to be integrated locally, much of the
training would have to be done locally, and customization would
have to be done locally, the NOTIS installation would require
more computer staff and would probably take longer to install
than a "turnkey" system.

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

The NOTIS bid made the best showing of all proposals received in
complying with our specifications. It has a strong online
catalog and good acquisitions and serials componets. Circulation
is not yet available, however, it is up and running at their
test site. Many enhancements to circulation will still be
needed, e.g., a complete fines and fees system.

The NOTIS proposal is a software only bid to be run on IBM 4361
or 4381 super-minicomputers. A union database design in a
network environment would be used, although no direct access to
individual libraries' holdings is available yet.

	Section	Yes	Yes/d	Yes/f	No	Cust	Clar
3.	OPAC	247	14	62	4	3	0
4.	CIRC	381	133	88	12	3	1
5.	ACQ	516	17	78	8	2	0
6.	SERIALS	260	3	38	33	3	0
7.	Hardware	118	2	4	5	0	0
8.	Software	56	1	4	7	0	0
9.	Training	21	2	0	4	0	19
	Total	1599	172	274	73	12	20

3. Total cost over 5 years:

    While the NOTIS bid is overall the lowest received, there are
    many costs not included in it, e.g., shipping, installation,
    insurance, telecommunicationsequipment, and portable terminals.

    The NOTIS hardware would require a modest computer room, but
    would require the largest on-going staff to put all the software
    pieces together and make them work.

4. Vendors reliability:

    The NOTIS system has been successfully replicated at several
    sites, but each site has had to do considerable customizing and
    enhancement of the software on its own. The staff at
    Northwestern is limited in its ability to support replications.
    They are not a "turnkey" vendor.

5. Delivery and installation schedule:

    Installation may take longer than turn-key systems since the
    vendor can offer limited help in such areas as database loading,
    training, etc.

    All hardware would have to be selected and purchased separately.

    Installation could be speeded up, however, by starting and
    testing on the WSU Computing Center's hardware in a shared
    environment - while the Library's computer room was being
    prepared.

    Delivery of the first component of the circulation subsystem
    should be on time to meet our needs. The enhancements, including
    fines and microcomputer backup, will be later than we require.

6. Software development required:

    Circulation needs to be made available and developed further.
    The online catalog searching/indexing enhancements should be
    done on time for us. The Acquisitions financial upgrade is being
    done by Harvard and would have to be added, somehow, to the
    NOTIS package.

    Enhancements being made locally to the software are designed by
    committees of Northwestern staff.

    Several pieces of software NOTIS does not plan to design, would
    have to be selected and integrated locally, e.g., report writer
    and booking.

7. System's reliability and performance:

    The Northwestern installation has a fine performance record. The
    IBM configuration should have excellent local support from IBM
    and WSU's CSC staff.

    There is concern that one IBM 4381 may be inadequate to the
    operation envisioned for WSUL and DALNET. We would also be
    interested in the MVS version of the system rather than the
    version bid.

8. Expandability:

    Presumably, an additional IBM 4381 could be linked to the system
    to expand its capabilities. We may have to figure out how
    locally.

9. Flexibility:

    The system meets networking needs fairly well, including the
    ability to use MESH subject and to have individual circulation
    parameters. The inability to search one library's holdings
    before viewing a union display of the online catalog is a
    concern.

10. Ability to link to local computing networks:

    Links to IBM systems are assured.

LB/ff
10/1/84