

**DRAFT**  
**Information Hub Development Committee**  
**Board of Directors - Executive Summary**

The Information Hub – Im@gine - represents a radical new direction for DALNET. Instead of concentrating exclusively on Horizon and building and maintaining a union catalog, DALNET will begin the process of synthesizing, creating, and publishing diverse electronic information resources in the metro-Detroit area – turning the vision into a working model.

The Information Hub is like a wheel, with each of the aspects (below) its spokes.

*What is the Information Hub?*

- Common interface across multiple types of databases – Value added
- Local interest information: community information; health resources, business and economic development; museums, archives, and other cultural institutions
- Links to high quality Web Sites containing valid information with ongoing evaluation process to ensure standards.
- Horizon Online Catalogs
- Links to indexes, abstracts, and full-text databases
- Links to other library systems, e.g. for resource sharing
- Integrates traditional with non-traditional resources
- Create and publish digitized databases, including: image, sound, video, text, finding aids, numerical/statistical data

*Potential characteristics of the Hub:*

- Marketable databases because they are high quality (some may be fee-based) Some databases will have restricted access based on suppliers' practices
- Multi-level resource, incorporating primary resources, mid-level and first level metadata
- Opportunity to gather and “publish” local information – including museums and archives—together with links to related resources whose scope may go beyond the region
- Geographic Information Systems (GIS) capability to manipulate data with geographic representation
- Partnering opportunities with other institutional information providers/producers in the metro area, not necessarily limited to DALNET members

*The Information Hub is NOT:*

- Just links to Web Sites
- A duplicate of MEL
- A duplicate of CORC
- A duplicate of Access Michigan
- A homework helper line
- A duplicate of community information systems in local public libraries

*The Information Hub will be defined by:*

- Architecture
- Access and indexing
- Content
- Legal and contractual issues regarding its resources
- Financial costs to DALNET
- Staffing

*Who are our clientele?*

- Users of DALNET libraries: registered, potential, remote
- Community and business agencies and operations; many will overlap with the DALNET users above, but may access the Information Hub for different reasons

*Need to establish several task forces reporting to the IHDC:*

- Health Sciences Task Force
- Cultural Task Force
- Economic Development Task Force
- Metadata Standards Task Force

*Need ability to establish ad-hoc working groups as needed. (Examples):*

- GIS
- Authority Control
- Web Searching
- Database Architecture.

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