

DALNET

Screens Committee Meeting Wednesday, March 9, 1994

Minutes

Present: P. Beavers (Chair), WSU; A. Forte, WA; L. Hildebrand, OU;
W. Kane, DALNET; G. Oldani-Caruso, DPL; N. Piernan, UDM.

1. Announcements

- P. Beavers introduced himself as the new Chair of the committee, and there was a general discussion of the committee's immediate charge and history.
- The committee was updated on the progress of the MRLT OPAC linking project.
- P. Beavers will investigate MRLT's impact on screen design, and report to the committee his findings.
- P. Beavers will request that WSU's Education Librarian independently review the now-shared ERIC screens. This is to be the first phase of establishing periodic reviews of all LUIS/LUIS PLUS screens.

2. Review and discussion of recent screen changes

- The headers which distinguish the LUIS OPAC from the MDAS databases on the database selection menu seem to be working well.
- No further changes were suggested for the one-line database description which was recently added to each database's introduction screen.
- The hook-to-holdings prompt language change (i.e., "Type HOL for DALNET libraries' holdings information") is helpful in alerting patrons to the possibility of multiple screens for this display.

3. General discussion, proposed solutions

- The "explain dalnet" screens are useful, but still difficult for patrons to locate. Is there an easier way that patrons can be clued into the locations of the LUIS locations? That is, once a patron has a display for a book that has a location of, say, OU KRESGE LIBRARY on the screen, how can that patron more simply glean information (e.g., hours, phone numbers, address) for the holding library? The "explain dalnet" prompt is more or less buried on the second introduction screen. In addition, the committee is still collecting useful address, loaning policies from each DALNET site, with the intention of inputting same into a series of screens, possibly named "exp circ". At least, vis a vis the MRLT agreement, the DALNET screens already identify the institution within the consortium (unlike U-M and MSU's OPACs, which can have more generic locations, such as CHEMISTRY LIBRARY).
- The committee is coming to agreement to approve a change in the name of the OPAC from LUIS to DCAT (for DALNET Catalog). This change would bring DALNET in line with the U-M and MSU's OPACs (named MCAT and LCAT, respectively), as well as eliminate the rather unsuccessful concept of LUIS

PLUS, all without losing the well-known name of LUIS. LUIS, then, would represent the whole online system, which would include DCAT. The committee suggests that no such change be done without plenty of advance notice, giving all sites time to revise signage, leaflets, etc., and to inform users. Fall '94 was targeted.

- Patrons continue to be stumped by the database selection menu, often entering a search before selecting a database. Perhaps the message which currently is automatically displayed in such instances, "Ambiguous command", could be revised to something more meaningful, such as "You must select a database before entering a search." W. Kane will investigate with Systems Office programmers.
- LUIS users currently have no online source of information regarding complaints or suggestions about the LUIS screens. P. Beavers proposed that a name and address and e-mail information be provided online for users wishing to provide feedback. The committee approved, and P. Beavers and W. Kane will initiate.
- It was noted that not all advance keyword qualifiers which appear on the leaflets appear online -- particularly for WILS. W. Kane will explore further, and add the abbreviations (ssi, rga, lib, etc.) for Index Code (.ic.) qualifiers.
- Some subject fields (651, 653, 654) in ERIC were not being picked up by the keyword index. W. Kane reported that the DALNET programmers have resolved this problem, and that he will announce more generally this fact via the DALNET listserv.
- For serials holdings records, from where is the message "See following/previous copy for holdings on paper/fiche" generated? The concern is over the word "copy", since no where else onscreen is the patron prompted to look for another copy (as opposed to onscreen prompts for next/previous "page" and/or "record". W. Kane will look into this.
- In general, do we want to reorganize the LUIS introduction screen? The committee will discuss this further, and report back at the next meeting.

NEXT MEETING: planned for week of June 13, exact date to be announced.

Notes by:

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