

DALNET

Screens Committee Meeting Wednesday, November 17, 1993

Minutes

Present: K. Bacsanyi, WSU; J. Doyle, MCC; A. Forte, WA; L. Hildebrand, OU;
S. Homant, UDM; W. Kane, DALNET; G. Oldani-Caruso, DPL;
C. Yonovich, WC.

1. Announcements

- The committee welcomed its two new members: Anne Forte of Walsh College and Cindy Yonovich of Wayne County Community College (replacing A. Brown, WCC's former committee rep);
- The committee was updated on the progress of the WSU/U-M/MSU PACLink project with the goal to have MIRLYN and MAGIC OPACs alongside the LUIS catalog from OPAC terminals;

2. Database Selection Menu

There was much discussion about this intro screen, which lists the OPAC and the MDAS databases. Patrons seem to have difficulty distinguishing which database contains what kind of data. Further, there's some confusion about the name LUIS for the OPAC, since LUIS is sometimes regarded as the name of the entire online system (as LUIS PLUS doesn't seem to be catching on). Since Univ of Michigan names their MIRLYN OPAC "MCAT" and Michigan State Univ names their MAGIC OPAC "LCAT," what will be the effect of continuing to name the OPAC LUIS (rather than, say, "DCAT") when the PACLink project is complete?

Meanwhile, the committee adopted a new look to the menu screen, which includes makeshift headers, categorizing the kinds of databases available (i.e., catalogs of books vs. databases of periodical articles). Further, the committee suggested that each database's intro screen include a one-line description of its contents. These changes were implemented practically immediately.

3. Messages

The committee had suggested that the onscreen message for the hook-to-holdings be modified somehow to better indicate that the holdings displayed will most likely be on multiple pages. The programmers in the DALNET Systems Office have identified the program that controls this message and, after much discussion, the committee suggested the following message replace the current "held by library--type HOL for holdings information": "Type HOL for DALNET libraries' holdings information."

4. Review of "explain dalnet" and the proposed "exp circ"

A document distributed by K. Bacsanyi was discussed as the solution to the format for the "exp circ" series of screens. This document for WSU contained information in the following categories: library cards, loan periods, renewals, overdue books, and reserving books. It was suggested that another category be added -- guest borrowers. Meanwhile, the committee reviewed a draft version of the proposed DALNET Directory, which seems to be summarizing this very same information. J. Doyle will obtain a final copy of the Directory and forward it to the Chair, who will review for input online. The committee also decided to include this circ information in the existing menu of "exp dalnet", which would save users from having to memorize and use two distinct commands to get the information.

5. ERIC, other MDAS Screens

Most DALNET sites now display ERIC as a choice on their LUIS PLUS workstations, and the committee was urged to review these screens. Further, the committee was encouraged to take a look at CCAR/CCJR, as ISI plans to permit non-licensing DALNET libraries a free three month trial starting in January.

NEXT MEETING: planned for week of February 21, exact date to be announced.

Submitted by:
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