

9/5/2006

Reciprocal Borrowing Task Force:
MiLE, MeLCat and Other Alternatives

MiLE

The future of MiLE is still uncertain. Improvements to URSA 4.0 seem to indicate that the software can now adequately handle an implementation connecting to Horizon databases but there is still a problem with connecting and implementing an installation of the software that interacts with all previous MiLE member ILS softwares. The MiLE board has determined that because the software is still incapable of supporting the entire MiLE consortium, the project testing and implementation has been put on hold indefinitely.

If the DALNET consortium chose to do so, it may pursue the reinstatement of MiLE for only DALNET members using the Horizon software. This may be an option that is chosen if other participating consortium wish to completely abandon the project. MiLE testing on URSA 4.0 for DALNET members, among DALNET members, was working well enough before testing ceased.

MeLCat

The MeLCat model requires that database information for each library be loaded on a regular basis, including bibliographic records, items records, and patron/borrower records. Some libraries do not wish to participate in MeLCat until NCIP is operational so that patron records do not have to be loaded. For members that would like to, DALNET would like to participate in MeLCat but will be unable to do so until we have fewer databases to deal with.

OCLC WorldCat Interlibrary Loan

For DALNET members currently using OCLC interlibrary loan, the options for setting up Custom Holdings Groups and Custom Holdings Paths may be used. Then DALNET patron requests made in OCLC could first be routed to DALNET member libraries, including ILS and non ILS members of DALNET. Following the normal request process for OCLC interlibrary loans, the custom DALNET Group of libraries could be the first libraries that the OCLC request is sent to.

HIP/OPAC/Web Forms

Currently, HIPs can be configured to point users to an online web form that can be filled out and submitted to make an ILL request. This would work similarly to the Try MiLE buttons and text that would appear in several member catalogs when searching returned no results. Web forms or links to other services, such as OCLC, can be different for each member. DALNET could host web forms for those libraries unable to configure and host their own forms.

HIP/OPAC Requests

Once DALNET ILS libraries are in a single database, the shared DALNET OPAC could be configured to allow requests. Then DALNET patrons could search DALNET wide for items and request them through the shared HIP interface. This option would be possible in the future but many configuration settings would have to be agreed upon by all members.