

## **AGENDA**

**DALNET Collection Development Committee**

**March 30, 1999**

**9:30-11:30**

**University of Detroit McNichols Library**

1. Approval of minutes
2. Review final Statement to Dalnet Board
3. Trials: procedures, discussion of current trials, evaluation forms
4. Survey
5. Cinahl
6. Miscellaneous
7. Schedule

## DALNET's Role in Future Electronic Resource Acquisitions

The Collection Development Committee views the future role of DALNET within the electronic resources environment as being one of facilitator in acquiring shared statewide agreements, of independent negotiator, and of a supplemental negotiator for databases not under consideration by MLC.

The current electronic resource environment is highly volatile for a number of reasons:

- ◆ Many vendors are exploring new ways of pricing their electronic databases;
- ◆ Some vendors, accustomed to dealing with one institution type (i.e., public libraries), are experiencing difficulties in adapting to the needs of other institutional types;
- ◆ Price quotes for a particular resource may vary by vendor representative, or by pricing structure (i.e., FTE v. simultaneous users), so that an institutional agreement may be more advantageous than a consortial agreement;
- ◆ The Internet and WWW have created opportunities for a library or consortium to partner with other institutions regardless of geographic boundaries; as a result, acquisition efforts by individual libraries, as well as consortia, have overlapped.

As a result of this unstable environment, library administrators must be vigilant in pursuing all licensing possibilities in order to identify the most advantageous agreement for their institutions. At present, DALNET's role has been to act as one more consortium entering the confusing fray of the licensing world.

However, as the electronic resources environment evolves into a more stable arena, the licensing process should become simplified. Ideally, then, the Michigan Library Consortium (MLC) will act as primary negotiator for most electronic resources: because MLC represents a statewide effort, it should be able to provide greater opportunities for individual libraries to purchase electronic resources by partnering with many diverse and sometimes geographically distant institutions. In this capacity, DALNET can assist MLC by, in effect, by representing a large and diverse set of institutions.

Until that time, DALNET should keep its role as a purchasing unit. Currently, DALNET is still occasionally able to negotiate a better purchase price than that offered by MLC. There is also a role for DALNET to investigate pricing for databases that MLC will not be offering.

DALNET Collection Development Committee

## Procedures for DALNET Electronic Resources Trials (4<sup>th</sup> DRAFT 2/99)

1. An opportunity to pursue an electronic database is presented to the DALNET Collection Development Committee (CDC) through contact with vendors, either initiated by the vendor or by a member of the CDC. DALNET institutions that are not represented on the CDC but are interested in pursuing a group license for a particular database will forward pertinent information regarding that database to the Chair of the CDC.
2. If any DALNET member institution is interested in pursuing a trial, the CDC will contact the vendor and initiate a free trial period. The DALNET office will be notified of the trial by the DALNET office liaison to the CDC.
3. The CDC will notify the designated liaison from each institution about the free trial, including the trial period and access methods (i.e., IP address, password, etc.).
4. The CDC will distribute an electronic resources evaluation form to each collection development liaison, along with any documentation that is available for the product. Institutions are required to complete and return this formal evaluation to the CDC within one week after the trial period ends. At this time, institutions must determine whether they are interested in pursuing a group license.
5. Based upon evaluation results and interest level, the CDC will then forward to the DALNET office a list of interested member libraries, and the name of the contact person at the vendor. The DALNET office will then pursue group licensing for the product.
6. Within two weeks from the time that the purchase decision is forwarded, the DALNET office will negotiate with the product vendor and respond to the CDC, and to those interested in subscribing, with a status report on the negotiation process.

# EVALUATION FORM

## for DALNET Trial Databases

DALNET Collection Development

Please return the completed form to the Collection Development Committee by: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Institution: \_\_\_\_\_

Database Tested: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please rate the database on a sliding scale on the following areas (if needed, attach additional pages):

1. Coverage/currency of database:  
 excellent 1    2    3    4    poor 5
  
2. Search interface:  
 excellent 1    2    3    4    poor 5
  
3. Ease of use/navigation:  
 excellent 1    2    3    4    poor 5
  
4. Availability/usefulness of help screens:  
 excellent 1    2    3    4    poor 5
  
5. Appropriateness for your institution's patrons:  
 very appropriate 1    2    3    4    inappropriate 5
  
6. Stability/Reliability/Ease of access:  
 excellent 1    2    3    4    poor 5
  
7. Does this product's coverage/value overlap a product (i.e., a print version) held by your institution that can be canceled?  
 Yes                      No
  
8. Do you think this product should be a high/medium/low priority purchase for DALNET? Please explain.  
 High                      Medium                      Low
  
9. Other comments/suggestions for other databases DALNET should evaluate: