

DALNET STUDY GROUP
NOVEMBER 11, 1985

Present: J. Williams (WSU) Chairman, J. Flaherty (WCCC) E. Hitchingham (OU)
B. Johnson (HH) M. Klein (CHM) N. Skowronski (UD) J. Smith (WBH)
A. Walaskay (UD)

L. Bugg and C Wecker of WSUL Automation Project were present to present reports.

J. Williams distributed the following documents:

DALNET Study Group Minutes, Oct. 21, 1985
DALNET Study Group Minutes, Oct. 28, 1985
WSU. CSC. Memorandum re NOTIS site visit 10/17/85
WSUL Automation Project. Progress Report. Oct. 1985
DALNET Online Systems Agreement (Draft)
DALNET Online Systems Agreement for Subscribers (Draft)
DALNET ONLINE Systems Agreement for Dial Access Users (Draft)
DALNET Capacity Requirements July 1986-July 1990
Expenses for DALNET and WSUL - 1st year

C. Wecker reported on the activities of the DALNET Tapes Committee. The Committee has met twice and expects to meet again on November 13. Three vendors, BNA, UTLAS and OCLC have been contacted about processing our tapes. The last named vendor will not meet our needs and has been eliminated from consideration. Autographics is another possible contender.

Cost figures have been obtained from BNA and UTLAS. More statistics are needed from the libraries but it is hoped that all cost figures may be determined by the November 13 meeting. BNA quotes a cheaper price but lacks some desirable features. It offers no discount but can guarantee prices for a year. UTLAS was contacted through MLC. It promises a discount (although it did not want to be tied to prices until our RFP was received) and MLC will obtain an additional five per cent discount for us. Subject and authority files are more up to date at UTLAS but BNA has a larger retrospective file. We do not know if UTLAS has ever done anything for an OCLC library. It probably does not have MESH. It has a "local authority file" which may take precedence. BNA will dedup and flip all records, then merge for 1/4 cent per record, run all records against authority file and pull off unique records only once. It is not known if UTLAS can do this.

Some libraries may want to have barcodes added by a vendor; both BNA and UTLAS can do this. Wayne originally wanted to have barcodes added by NOTIS since it is more thorough and less expensive. BNA assigns a barcode for each title not for each copy. Wayne may decide to go with BNA, however, because it is faster.

There is another time constraint. BNA takes four or five months to do authority work; UTLAS probably does not take as long. We do not believe that all NOTIS users have done authority work. E. Hitchingham asked if there were disadvantages in going without an authority file until later. Could there be problems with the data base? The timing of work on the authority file and a method of distributing costs must be worked out.

J. Williams summarized the prolonged discussion and stated that we must:

1. Review our standards document to see what it says about the authority file
2. Determine effects of loading flipped and deduped records

and waiting to load the authority file until later.

3. Investigating other vendors;

M. Klein stated that her institution's share of costs for tape loading etc. must relate directly to the size of its collection.

L. Bugg reported on the status of the Screens Committee. It has not yet been formed ; members will be selected primarily from public service staffs. Louise will get copies of all screens including the modifications made by the University of Illinois at Chicago and the University of Indiana. E. Hitchingham and F. Buckley reported that members of their staffs had accessed the online catalog at North-western without any particular difficulty. Members of library staffs are accustomed to assisting users with card catalogs so it is reasonable to expect that they will continue to do so with online catalogs. The Screens Committee may conclude that no extensive revision is necessary.

B. Johnson referred to our earlier discussion of use of Social Security numbers as patron identification in our system. Her research confirmed our earlier opinion that their use would not be feasible.

The Expenses for DALNET and WSUL - 1st year was reviewed. It represents a first effort at listing costs to DALNET libraries and includes charges from CSC and outside sources. Many costs are still unknown; the zeros on the Expense Sheet indicate that cost figures are as yet unavailable rather than that there will not be any. The Expense sheet does not acknowledge the value of planning work done by DALNET members. This will be taken into account when charges to individual libraries are calculated. F. Buckley stated that it would not be appropriate to charge DALNET members for IBM hardware at full price since Wayne has used it for a year and depreciation should be taken into account.

F. Buckley reviewed the DALNET Capacity Requirements Tables July 1986-July 1990. Beaumont's 1990 total of terminals was reduced from 7 to 4 at J. Smith's request.

Consideration of the two abovementioned documents lead to prolonged discussion of voting rights, system capacity and methods of payment. Most of the concerns have been aired before but DALNET members are still searching for answers. It is recognized by all that Wayne has acted as the host institution and its rights must be protected but the members wonder if 51 percent ownership reserved to Wayne is the only way. F. Buckley stated that he favored cost and votes tied to capacity requirements but this could be a problem since Wayne would find itself in a minority position. We must be able to maintain the interests of the major stockholders but protect the interests of all. E. Hitchingham said we must be able to define clearly what a member will get for the money it pays. Voting variations such as reservation of veto power to the two largest stockholders or a provision that no action could be taken unless the two largest stockholders agreed were considered. It is essential that contracts with DALNET members specify performance and functional minimums. A timeline for members to load their data into the DALNET system must also be drawn up. J. Williams said he would meet with Wayne's lawyers that afternoon (Nov. 11) to discuss the matter of DALNET voting rights.

ACTION

Members were asked to read the three draft DALNET agreements received at this meeting before the next Study Group meeting, scheduled for November 18, 9.00 AM in the Director's Conference Room, WSU.

Joan Smith
Recorder