November 9, 1999

To: DPL Children's OPAC Committee & DALNET Children's OPAC Committee
From: Ruth Biersdorf
Subject: Notes from the DPL Children's OPAC Committee Meeting, November 3, 1999

Present: Paula Beaudoin, Ruth Biersdorf, Karen Johnson, Gail Orange, Scott Muir

With the help of Sandra Bialek, DPL Internet Training Lab Librarian, we reviewed the adult version of DPL's WEBPAC, and made the following suggestions for changes appropriate for a Children's version (some of which we realize are under local site control, not things we would ask Ameritech to program):

In Author Search - have separate boxes for last name and first name of author.
include graphics, perhaps a person reading or writing a book, be sure both male and female figures are included and include children.
In all search areas:
Include instructions to "Read the Search Tips before you start typing."
Include graphics of books with titles.
Use a friendlier font, i.e. Comic sans or something similar.
In search tips, highlight verbs or other key words in the instructions. (See Allen County catalog)

In Subject search:
Default should be juvenile subject headings, with instructions to click on the arrow for other subject heading sources.
Graphic idea: a kid with a thought bubble "What do I want to read about?"
Wording: "choose" or "pick" instead of current language.
Results screens: use graphics to accompany the choices; ie arrows for forward and back.

Suggestion: "Return to Browse" would be better if "Return to Subject Browse"
and "Return to Brief" would be better as "Return to Brief Record."

Note: Reserve option is not needed for the Childrens' interface.

After talking with Scott Muir about wanting sub-headings under Poetry, unlike the SIRSI graphic subject catalog, he said we need to request the ability to add any subheading and graphics, including Michigan state and local interest subjects. We might want to have a featured link of the month.