Information Hub Development Committee
May 17, 2000
Dingell Veteran's Administration Library

Present: Scott Muir, Chair; Dee Calloway, Willy Cromwell-Kessler, George Libbey, Sandra Martin, Karen Tubolino, Ann Walaskay.

New Committee member - Phyllis Jose is transferring from the Steering Committee to IHDC. The committee is recommending that P. Jose be confirmed by the Board as a representative from Oakland County Law Library. To be discussed at the next IHDC meeting.

Discussion from Board Meeting - Those present at the Board meeting when S. Muir presented the committee's Information Hub concepts felt that the discussion was too brief. The Board did accept the Hub design in theory. However, the Board may not fully understand the implications of the DALNET paradigm shift to emphasis on the Hub and further Board discussion to assure buy-in may be needed. The committee has concerns about the timing of Hub project development related to present urgent Horizon enhancement implementations, new DALNET members, and staffing changes. Having a clear vision about the Hub is essential prior to the DALNET retreat with epixtech and to be prepared for grant opportunities.

General thoughts about the IHDC - Basic functions that the IHDC should perform:
1.) Standardization - Hub content needs to be searchable and accessible.
2.) Development - The IHDC will be overseeing the process of locating Hub content and establishing projects.
3.) Support - IHDC must support existing commitments (grants, etc.).
4.) Funding - IHDC will recommend funding sources.

epixtech - epixtech is a potential funding source. What can they contribute to our Hub development projects? How are they approaching digital library development? Would they be willing to send a developer to discuss the Hub vision? Should we be looking outside of epixtech and Horizon for solutions to Hub projects, or would our chances of epixtech sponsoring projects be reduced by doing so?

Task Forces and Working Groups -
Architecture - S. Muir will invite Adrienne Lim to come to the next meeting to discuss standards. The IHDC will outline ideas and request a report. Alternatives need to be known. Not all databases may be fully indexed in Im@gine. Some may have locator links to a separate database capable of performing functions beyond Horizon. There may be references in the other database back to Im@gine (links in both directions).

Metadata - No report at this time.

Health Sciences Resources Task Force - D. Calloway will be setting up a new listserv for them. For the health community event calendar project, they will begin devising a static prototype restricted to ten organizations, five are groups with substantial information already gathered and five are groups where there is a perceived need to gather information. It will be a working calendar with links to the organizations' web sites and links back to Horizon. The resulting project could easily be expanded to many more organizations with additional funding/staff commitments. Funders could come from outside the health profession too (labor unions, etc.). The IHDC noted that members on this Task Force are members of DALNET.

Cultural Task Force - A breakfast has been scheduled for June 26th at DPL. The T.F. is developing an invitation list. Demos will be given of the UDM databases, and the WSU costume database. The need for an updated version of the DALNET website to use at the breakfast was noted. The IHDC views the task force as an advisory group and notes that input from institutions

that are not current DALNET members is valuable. S. Muir will request clarification about their relationship to DALNET membership agreements.

Economic Development Task Force - A chair has yet to be chosen. The T.F. has been charged to do a needs analysis and the IHDC sees this as critical. So many economic databases are already available. What can Im@gine add? Possible organization or gathering together of best local information? Members for the T.F. need to be found who are active in the field (beyond the libraries).

GIS - Several have viewed the video on GIS produced by the CDC. It is apparent that the amout of time involved to develop the maps is enormous. A working group needs to be established to 1.) find out the extent of DALNET parent organizations' involvement in GIS, 2.) study alternatives for offering GIS-related products/services. G. Libbey and D. Calloway will begin by exploring GIS at UDM and WSU. The IHDC members will continue to learn more about GIS by viewing the video and studying weblinks provided by D. Calloway.

Horizon Steering Committee Search Engine TF - Leo Papa's memo was reviewed. This is related to development of a Children's OPAC for IPAC. There is some overlap with the charge to the Architecture committee. The Search Engine TF will be busy concentrating on the Children's OPAC first. Any tips they discover that can be applied to the Horizon search engine can be used by the Architecture group. Andrienne Lim is on both groups.

Next Meeting - June 7th at Shiffman.

Submitted by A. Walaskay