

Fennel

**What Losses Will Accrue
with
Withdrawal from DALNET**

- A. What cost components would a local site have to absorb if it chose not to remain in DALNET?**
1. Purchase of MARC bibliographic and authority records from utility such as OCLC since the capability to derive records from DCAT and share authority records would be lost.
 2. Potentially significant training and labor costs associated with learning and maintaining the knowledge and skill-base required for staff to perform new and expanded duties and responsibilities.
 3. Labor costs to prepare documentation for new procedures to ensure proper skill and knowledge application, and transference to new or backup staff.
 4. Labor costs to provide hardware and software support, maintenance, upgrades, and troubleshooting.
 5. Labor costs to provide expanded ILS-related and database maintenance duties, particularly those associated with authority control, but also including internal system tables (staff security authorizations, circulation, bibliographic and authority records, screen displays, and acquisitions) and preparing management and statistical reports.
 6. Labor costs to manage the migration to a new system.
 7. Labor costs to provide system integration services for links to remote resources, e.g. Z39.50 connections and remote databases.
 8. Labor costs associated with contacting vendors for support services.
 9. Labor costs to provide ongoing software, hardware, and network infrastructure training and support staff.
 10. Labor costs to manage an expanded working relationship with local site support services, including Purchasing, Finance, and Computer Services (CS) (assuming local site has an existing CS department).
 11. Labor costs for local sites without a CS department. Local sites would either need to hire at least one technical support person or contract out for this expertise to provide ILS/OS system support and maintenance services.

12. Academic libraries that load patron records each term would be responsible for in-house programming and loading. Other libraries would need to absorb the cost of routine maintenance for their patron files.
 13. Some DALNET libraries receive files of bibliographic records from book vendors and the GPO. Labor costs to develop loader programs and complete loader operations for these files would be shifted to local sites.
 14. Potential for increase in ILL costs. Individual sites would need to absorb the difference between DALNET ILL agreement costs and stand-alone costs.
 15. For some libraries, costs associated with providing access for remote users to the library information system.
 16. Possible increased physical plant overhead costs; for example, if climate controlled facilities need to be prepared to house client/server hardware.
 17. Any software and hardware cost differentials for ILS, OS, software, servers, database resources, etc. (assuming consortium prices are less than individual purchase costs).
 18. Labor and overhead (supplies, phone, etc.) to provide for expanded management and administrative costs associated with new duties, including:
 - ▶ Establishing and maintaining contractual agreements with vendors;
 - ▶ Creating and maintaining local procedural manuals;
 - ▶ Raising purchase orders and processing invoices;
 - ▶ Creating and maintaining files and records; and
 - ▶ Managing working relationships with vendors.
- B. What benefits would a site lose if it left DALNET?
1. Cost saving as described above.
 2. Less leverage in negotiating system enhancements with vendors.
 3. DALNET has regional and statewide name recognition that may benefit member institutions in attracting faculty and students.
 4. Consortia are more likely to seek and attract external funding than are independent libraries, including one-time and ongoing initiatives.
 5. Opportunity for individuals and institutions to become players on a larger stage and to contribute ideas that will shape the future growth and development of DALNET.

6. **Loss of leverage that comes with consortium purchasing.**
7. **DALNET facilitates resource-sharing and reciprocal borrowing among members. For some academic libraries, this may be important for accreditation.**
8. **Union catalog structure, which allows patrons to identify library resources near their home base. This may be important for patrons of academic libraries who are commuting to school who need to reference resources.**
9. **Loss of a vehicle for community services to the Detroit Metropolitan Area and its people.**
10. **DALNET's plans for expanded membership may provide opportunities for current members on the geographical periphery to interconnect with nearby prospective members.**
11. **Independent sites risk becoming stagnant and insular in their outlook and planning.**
12. **Important source of expertise, experience, and new ideas through networking with DALNET central site staff and professional colleagues of member libraries.**