

Electronic Library Network

Progress Report: April - September 1997

Goal 1

Provide access to a wide range of databases and services, and foster the development of intuitive electronic interfaces to worldwide information resources

Objective 1.1

Develop streamlined connections to ELN databases and services, using new technologies and protocols

Activities/Results

- ease of use and speed of operation for existing databases improved through:
 - menu changes implemented on ELN server
 - support for implementation of new BRS server and availability of direct connections to BRS databases
 - preparation and distribution of ELN database access chart and connection choices
- Web access to ELN UnCover customized gateway launched
- ELN web site launched

Objective 1.2

Pursue new database services that meet users' needs

- new license negotiated for ABI/Inform Global database (fulltext/ full-image) under ProQuest Direct; worked with UMI and libraries to test and implement the new service
- coordinated demonstrations of EBSCO and IAC fulltext database systems
- fulltext database development project launched with hiring of temporary librarian/analyst

Objective 1.3

Integrate instructional materials with database services

- developed streamlined electronic links to online help and journal title lists from the ELN web-based database chart

Objective 1.4

Ensure the most appropriate technological platforms, storage and delivery mechanisms for databases and services

- investigation of options for moving ELN databases off UBCLIB system, including discussions with Auto-Graphics Inc. to migrate Outlook database to Web server
- repatriation of InfoServ to OLA; gopher server at UVIC in process of being decommissioned
- provided regular technical and troubleshooting support for libraries

Goal 2

Facilitate resource sharing among institutions to ensure users have timely and effective access to the province's collective information resources

Objective 2.1

Facilitate links to holdings from commercial services and databases

Activities/Results

- discussions underway with UVic and SFU libraries regarding links to ELN holdings for CINAHL database

Objective 2.2

Integrate user-initiated online ordering features into database services

- streamlined OJAC document requesting functionality under new direct access to BRS databases

Objective 2.3

Provide leadership in establishing a coordinated provincial resource sharing network

- ELN participation on MEC Task Force to establish new terms of reference and to clarify role. Task Force recommendations were approved by MEC membership in May 1997.
- streamlined statistic compilation and financial management for NET/MEC/OJAC/FileServer achieved through Young Canada Works summer project
- along with OLA and MEC, co-sponsored videoconference "Video, CD-ROM, and the Web: Motion Media and the Library of the Future"

Objective 2.4

Improve union databases

- new update and production schedule implemented for union database
- implemented revised profiles for all union database participants

Goal 3

Provide a mechanism for post-secondary libraries to play a prominent role in educational planning, policy development and program delivery

Objective 3.1

Participate on provincial/national projects and planning groups

Activities/Results

- workshops on electronic library resources presented at SCOET spring camp, May 29 & 30/97

Objective 3.2

Have a presence and impact within the Ministry and at the senior executive level of post-secondary institutions

- presentations made to:
 - Ministry of Education, Skills and Training, Post-Secondary Division, May 16/97
 - Advanced Education Council of BC annual conference, June 23/97 (joint presentation by ELN & SCOET)
 - National Meeting of Vice-Presidents (Academic), AUCC institutions, September 30/97

Objective 3.3

Ensure ELN governance and organizational structures reflect the broad educational community and promote effective communication among stakeholders

- task group to review ELN Advisory Committee Role and Membership constituted; draft recommendations expected in November/97

Goal 4

Take a leading role in the development of multi-type library services and organizational alliances that are mutually beneficial to users and service providers

Objective 4.1

Extend alliances and partnerships with public, school, health sector, government, non-profit & corporate libraries within B.C.

Activities/Results

- FileServer pilot project evaluated; recommendations to continue and strengthen the project (endorsed by ELN Advisory Committee, June/97) in process of implementation
- continuing discussion with InterLink libraries to redefine priorities for joint development

Objective 4.2

Extend partnerships on an inter-provincial basis

- second contract with Council of Prairie and Pacific University Libraries (COPPUL) for union database production
- participated in COPPUL systems group meetings to ensure coordinated library development
- contributed to a strong network of library consortia in Canada through:
 - presentation at CLA '97 conference ("Organizing for Success: Library Consortia in Canada:)
 - participation in a consortia booth at trade show, CLA '97
- contributed support for Access '97 (library technology conference, Calgary) which provided a professional development benefit to the BC library community

Objective 4.3

Expand national and international alliances

- participated in the National Library of Canada's *Virtual Canadian Union Catalogue* pilot project, which tested feasibility of a distributed "union catalogue" using the Z39.50 protocol for database search and record retrieval
- active participation in "Consortia of Consortium" (COC) deliberations and activities. The COC includes approximately 50 academic library consortia in North America and the UK, and has focused on electronic licensing, pricing and administrative and issues in the context of consortia.

Goal 5

Generate strong and diverse support for ELN products and services

Objective 5.1

Strengthen accountability and communications framework for ELN owners and clients

Activities/Results

- ELN communications priorities adopted by Advisory Committee, June/97
- ELN Strategic Plan 1997-2000 distributed widely in print and electronic formats
- ELN contacts database updated and made available on ELN web site
- site visits to Northwest Community College and Royal Roads University

Objective 5.2

Pursue appropriate business opportunities to export ELN's services and expertise to other organizations or regions

- consulting revenue earned through contract with the Commonwealth of Learning for a study of libraries in Ghana, West Africa

Objective 5.3

Ensure sufficient financial and human resources to meet current and long range needs

- reserve fund established to ensure reliability of equipment and systems used for ELN network services
- staff development carried out through participation in BCLA, CLA and Access '97 conferences, as well as through OLA corporate training