

zILLANE Study
William E. Moen, Principal Investigator
P.O. Box 311068
School of Library and Information Sciences
University of North Texas
Denton, TX 767201-1068

<http://www.unt.edu/zillane>
Email: wemoen@unt.edu
Voice: 940.565.3563
Fax: 940.565.3101

Illinois Library Resources and Library Automation in the Networked Environment: An Analysis and Recommended Strategies

Project Overview

The Texas Center for Digital Knowledge (TxCDK) at the University of North Texas will work with the Illinois State Library (ISL), the 12 Regional Library Systems (Regionals), and other stakeholders through Summer 2002 in a study that will examine shared bibliographic systems in the networked environment. The overall goal of the study is to identify strategies for enhancing access to Illinois libraries' holdings, where the strategies ensure the best stewardship possible for state and federal grant dollars for library automation and resources. The study's focus is on the Local Library System Automation Program (LLSAP) bibliographic systems and the roles LLSAPs and other library consortia's systems can play in providing new levels of bibliographic access in the evolving networked information environment. The study will:

- Explore the costs associated with various bibliographic system implementations (e.g., consortia/shared, standalone) to understand costs of products and services based on such implementations
- Examine each LLSAP and Regionals' costs of its products and services to serve as a basis for marketing shared/shared products and services to current and potential customers.

A set of study objectives will guide activities leading to the formulation of written recommendations and associated rationales. These objectives include:

- Document the current information technology landscape of the Regionals
- Document costs of various bibliographic system implementations and configurations
- Document existing LLSAP cost sharing arrangements
- Document current and identify expiring LLSAP contracts and licenses for databases
- Identify the benefits of consortia/shared bibliographic systems and the services and products based on those systems.
- Identify challenges and opportunities for the LLSAP and non-LLSAP libraries in the evolving networked information environment
- Develop an appropriate technical and organizational architecture that meets the information needs of Illinois citizens in a fiscally responsive manner, and can serve as the foundation for a long-range plan.

The ISL, the Regionals, the members of the Regionals, and other library consortia are interested parties in enhancing access to Illinois library resources. The TxCDK study team will work to build consensus among these stakeholders on strategies that are responsive to their concerns and needs.

Study Methodology

A critical component for developing the strategies referenced above is having the appropriate information for decision-making. The TxCDK study team under the direction of Dr. William E. Moen will analyze a range of data collected from meetings with each of the 12 Regionals, the ISL, and the Technology & Telecommunications Working Group. Specifically, the study team will collect and analyze a range of data from the following sources or through the following techniques:

- **Document analysis:** Available public or private information available from the State Library and the Regionals that are pertinent to this study will be examined.
- **Regional system site visits:** The study team will conduct site visits at each of the Regionals; each site visit will include the following three activities:
 - Interview with the Director of the system: this provides an executive view on the issues and concerns related to automation, organizational arrangements, etc.
 - Focus group with selected members of the system: this provides a membership view on the role of the system in terms of providing access to distributed resources and the role of the members in contributing their resources for statewide access.
 - Discussion with the system's Board of Trustees: this provides a view of the system from citizen representatives to assist in identifying important regional system's services.
- **Technology & Telecommunications Working Group meeting:** The study team will present preliminary findings to this working group and will also use this as an opportunity to collect additional perspectives and information.
- **State Library site visits:** The study team will also meet with State Library staff. This provides a statewide view on key issues such as citizen needs, budgetary constraints and accountability, information technology, and policy.

Study Questions

The TxCDK study team will collect and analyze data to answer a set of questions posed by the ISL and the Regionals.

- How can the holdings of many Illinois libraries be coordinated and represented in a manageable number of Z39.50 databases (e.g., regional catalogs)? Are there an optimal number of LLSAP bibliographic databases?
- What are potential roles for non-LLSAP libraries and consortia in the context of statewide virtual library initiatives and the evolution of library automation implementations? What are possible scenarios for representing and providing access to non-LLSAP libraries' holdings through VIC? What are the characteristics of non-LLSAP libraries in terms of library automation and their bibliographic databases?
- What are specific recommendations for LLSAP development, 2002-2006, regarding cooperative automation, bibliographic access, and increasing participation in LLSAPs?
- What is the status of existing LLSAP contracts with integrated library system vendors? Which contracts are nearing completion or have reasonable cancellation clauses?
- Could existing LLSAP bibliographic databases be merged based on membership concerns, library systems concerns, and ready cancellation terms of vendor contracts?
- What are the estimated steps and costs for merging some of the existing LLSAP bibliographic databases? How much of this funding would be "saved" money from the cessation of existing LLSAP contracts?
- What are recommendations regarding membership in the LLSAPs? Should membership be based on regions of the state, types of libraries or types of collections? How
- What are recommendations regarding cost sharing by library systems and individual libraries for LLSAP support, including costs for the central site, its staff, and supplies? How can new participation in LLSAPs be encouraged with pricing within a library's reach?

- What are the minimum functional requirements for each LLSAP's bibliographic database (e.g., off-site patron access, patron self-service, and shelf status)?
- What is the proposed timetable for implementing the consensus-based strategies to enhance statewide access to Illinois libraries' resources?
- What are the average direct costs for bibliographic systems in individual libraries with standalone systems, for LLSAPs, and for other, non-LLSAP consortia? What are the average direct costs for bibliographic services (e.g., loading records into a consortia catalog) provided by consortia to its members (both LLSAP and non-LLSAP)?
- For LLSAPs, what are indirect costs to LLSAP members and the Regional Library System associated with the consortia bibliographic systems, and the products and services based on those systems?
- For Illinois consortia (LLSAP and non-LLSAP), what are the costs for participation/membership in addition to costs related to bibliographic services and products (e.g., membership fees in Regional Library Systems) and costs related to other mandated activities/obligations (e.g., full OCLC membership)?
- As a percentage of total library budgets, what are the direct costs of bibliographic systems and services for LLSAP members, for members of other consortia, and for libraries with standalone systems? As part of answering these questions, the study team will conduct a literature review to see if data are available that identifies average percentage of library budgets for bibliographic systems and services for members of consortia and for libraries with standalone systems.
- For consortia (LLSAP and non-LLSAP), how are the costs for the provision of bibliographic services shared among members and central site? Included in this question are implied questions of what are the costs, what formulas are used for determining costs to members, and who determines costs? As part of answering these questions, the study team will conduct a literature review to see if data are available for sharing of costs or models of cost sharing in consortia.
- What are the perceived advantages and disadvantages of various bibliographic system arrangements (i.e., being part of a LLSAP, using a standalone system, or a non-LLSAP consortia system)?

In general, the questions above can be summarized as follows:

- What is the role of consortia catalogs (including LLSAP and non-LLSAP bibliographic databases) in a new statewide architecture? What are the economics of these catalogs vis-a-vis VIC and local systems?
- What level of standardization and what standards are necessary in information technology implementations to achieve the vision of enhanced access to libraries' resources. Standardization is basically agreements to do things in a similar manner (e.g., cataloging quality, configuration of Z39.50 clients and servers, common indexing practices for OPACs, etc.) to achieve better results (i.e., interoperability, cost-efficiencies, etc). How can the State Library, the LLSAPs, and other libraries and consortia reach consensus on these issues?

Deliverables

The study team will produce a written final report that details strategies for enhancing access to Illinois libraries' bibliographic databases in a cost-effective manner through cooperative automation initiatives. In addition to a set of strategies, the report will include:

- A description of the Regionals' current library automation landscape
- An architecture that describes the technical and organizational components necessary to support expanded bibliographic access in a cost-effective manner
- An examination of potential roles and responsibilities of the Regionals, the LLSAPs, and the non-LLSAP libraries and consortia in a statewide virtual catalog context.

The TxCDK study team will present preliminary findings and drafts of the final report's components for review and discussion by stakeholders (i.e., the ISL, the Regionals, Technology & Telecommunications Working Group, and others) during the study period. This iterative approach will build consensus among the stakeholders. Feedback on drafts of the report will help produce a final report that reflects consensus among stakeholder groups.

About the TxCDK and the Principal Investigator

Dr. Moen is internationally recognized for his work in the use of Z39.50 in library applications. He currently chairs the National Information Standards Organization (NISO) Standards Committee that is developing a U.S. National Standard for a Z39.50 profile for library applications. He is acting chair of the international Z39.50 Implementors Group and a member of the Bath Profile Group that issued an international Z39.50 specification for library applications. He served as advisor and facilitator in establishing the Texas Z39.50 Implementors Group.

The Texas Center for Digital Knowledge is a research and development center at the University of North Texas. The Center's focus is innovation and collaboration to respond to the challenges and opportunities of digital information and the networked environment. Dr. Moen received a National Leadership Grant from the U.S. Federal Institute of Museum and Library Services to establish the first Z39.50 Interoperability Testbed, located within the Texas Center for Digital Knowledge. Z39.50 is an international standard for information retrieval that specifies a client/server-based protocol for searching and retrieving information from remote databases.