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## Proof of Concept of the Resource Discovery Service for The Library of Texas

### CALL FOR PARTICIPATION July 2002

As part of the Library of Texas initiative, we invite vendors and developers of search and retrieval applications and integrated library systems to participate in a proof of concept for the Library of Texas Resource Discovery Service.

The Library of Texas is a program of the Texas State Library and Archives Commission (TSLAC) and the Texas Telecommunications Infrastructure Fund (TIF) Board. The Library of Texas is building upon the existing network infrastructure of Texas libraries to create a statewide virtual library. This virtual library will extend the reach and range of all Texans to information resources distributed across the state.

The Texas Center for Digital Knowledge at the University of North Texas is working with TSLAC in a project called the Z Texas Implementation Component of the Library of Texas (ZLOT). The ZLOT project has identified and developed consensus on the requirements for the Library of Texas Resource Discovery Service. This service initially encompasses search and retrieval across library online catalogs and online databases licensed by TSLAC. The *Functional Requirements for the Library of Texas Resource Discovery Service* is available at: [http://www.unt.edu/zlot/fr\\_index.htm](http://www.unt.edu/zlot/fr_index.htm).

The ZLOT proof of concept is open to all vendors and developers to demonstrate how their products, technology, and applications address the Library of Texas Resource Discovery Service functional requirements. The primary goal of the ZLOT proof of concept is to assess the current capability of the vendor community's applications to meet or exceed the Resource Discovery Service requirements. TSLAC and ZLOT staffs believe it is vitally important to demonstrate the feasibility of the functional requirements as defined by the libraries.

Our intention is to have a variety of vendors deploy prototypes based on the functional requirements for the Library of Texas Resource Discovery Service. To participate in the ZLOT proof of concept, vendors and developers are required to:

- Send an email message to Dr. William E. Moen, ZLOT Principal Investigator [wemoen@unt.edu](mailto:wemoen@unt.edu) stating your interest in participating.
- Review and agree to the *Guidelines for Participation in the Proof of Concept Demonstration for the Library of Texas Resource Discovery Service* [http://www.unt.edu/zlot/POC/poc\\_index.htm](http://www.unt.edu/zlot/POC/poc_index.htm).
- Sign a letter of intent to participate by July 20, 2002.
- Produce a demonstration/prototype application that responds to the Library of Texas Resource Discovery Service functional requirements not later than September 1, 2002.
- Make available the prototype for a period of not less than 30 days to ZLOT staff for assessment purposes.

The ZLOT staff will conduct user and technical evaluations to determine the feasibility of each of the functional requirements. This assessment is aimed at answering the following question: **Can products and applications currently available or soon to be available in the marketplace address the Library of Texas Resource Discovery Service Functional Requirements?**

Vendors and developers may choose to participate in one or both of the following two ways:

- Work with their current Texas library customers to:
  - enhance access to one or more customers' online public access catalog to support the functional requirements and
  - upgrade Z39.50 server conformance to support the search and retrieval requirements. (See the *Functional Requirements for the Library of Texas Resource Discovery Service* Appendix A, Section A. Functional Requirements for Texas Libraries to be Represented in the Virtual Catalog.)
- Deploy an application for search and retrieval across a set of Texas library catalogs, across a set of online databases licensed by TSLAC, and across a set of resources including the catalogs, the online databases, and the Texas TRAIL service. (See the *Functional Requirements for the Library of Texas Resource Discovery Service* Appendix A, Section B. Functional Requirements for the LOT Search and Retrieval Interface.)

The results of the ZLOT proof of concept will provide information to the TSLAC staff for its deliberations and decisions regarding deployment of the Library of Texas Resource Discovery Service. One possible outcome may be that TSLAC will issue a Request for Proposal for a Resource Discovery Service that is based on functional requirements and possible extensions explored through the ZLOT proof of concept.

The ZLOT staff will coordinate the proof of concept demonstration phase, and we have set up a private listserv for information sharing. If you or others in your company are interested in being subscribed to the listserv, please send an email message indicating your interest to William E. Moen at: <wemoen@unt.edu>.

The Library of Texas will evolve based on a firm foundation of requirements identified by librarians, technical standards, and commercial technologies that can scale to meet the needs of users throughout Texas. Working together we have an opportunity in Texas to showcase a premier statewide virtual library. An important step in the process is the ZLOT proof of concept for the Library of Texas Resource Discovery Service. Please join us in our endeavor.

### **Links for additional information**

The Library of Texas  
<<http://castor.tsl.state.tx.us/lot/>>

ZLOT Project  
<<http://www.unt.edu/zlot/>>

*Functional Requirements for the Library of Texas Resource Discovery Service*  
<[http://www.unt.edu/zlot/fr\\_index.htm](http://www.unt.edu/zlot/fr_index.htm)>

*Guidelines for Participation in the Proof of Concept Demonstration for the Library of Texas Resource Discovery Service*  
<[http://www.unt.edu/zlot/POC/poc\\_index.htm](http://www.unt.edu/zlot/POC/poc_index.htm)>