



Guidelines for Participation in the Proof of Concept for Library of Texas Resource Discovery Service

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Introduction

This document contains the guidelines and procedures for participation in the ZLOT proof of concept for the Library of Texas Resource Discovery Service. Vendors and developers can choose to participate in one or both application areas:

- Working with Texas library customers to enhance online catalog systems
- Developing a search and retrieval interface.

The ZLOT project is responsible for identifying the initial requirements for a resource discovery service to be offered by the Library of Texas. During the past six months, the ZLOT project conducted focus groups with a variety of Texas librarians representing public and academic libraries to identify specific requirements for a resource discovery service (summaries of the focus groups are available at <http://www.unt.edu/zlot/fr_index.htm>. The ZLOT Advisory Group consisting of 27 Texas librarians reviewed a set of draft requirements and assisted in prioritizing the requirements. The result of these activities is the *Functional Requirements for the Library of Texas Resource Discovery Service* <http://www.unt.edu/zlot/fr_index.htm>.

Participation in the ZLOT proof of concept is voluntary. Neither participation nor non-participation in the ZLOT proof of concept will affect future opportunities of a vendor or developer in working with the Library of Texas project.



Purpose, Goals, and Results

The purpose of conducting a proof of concept is to assess the feasibility of the functional requirements and the ability of the current library and technology marketplace to meet these requirements. The following goals frame the ZLOT proof of concept:

- Encourage broad participation by vendors and developers in the proof of concept demonstration
- Safeguard vendors' and developers' proprietary or other confidential or competitive-sensitive information to ensure a trustworthy environment for participation
- Provide prototypes to demonstrate varied approaches to the resource discovery service for the benefit of the Texas State Library and Archives Commission (TSLAC), its constituents, and funders
- Compile data on the feasibility of functional requirements to provide TSLAC with the appropriate information for its decision making on an operational resource discovery service for the Library of Texas.

The desired results from the ZLOT proof of concept include an assessment of the state of the art of technology and approaches for a robust resource discovery service for a statewide virtual library.

Requirements for Participation

Participation in the proof of concept is open to all vendors and developers who have applications that can address the functional requirements for the resource discovery service. To achieve the purpose and goals of the ZLOT proof of concept, potential participants must meet the following general requirements:

- Send an email message to Dr. William E. Moen, ZLOT Principal Investigator <wemoen@unt.edu> stating your interest in participating. Review the *Functional Requirements for the Library of Texas Resource Discovery Service*.
- Review and agree to the *Guidelines for Participation in the Proof of Concept for Library of Texas Resource Discovery Service* (this document).
- 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.
- Provide additional information requested by ZLOT staff to assess individual prototypes.

Potential participants in each of the two application areas must meet two general requirements:

- **Virtual Catalog Application:** Must work with an existing implementation in a Texas library
- **Search and Retrieval Interface Application:** Must show/demonstrate an existing web-accessible, multi-target search interface.

Additional specific requirements associated with the application areas in which vendors and developers participate are identified below.

Neither participation nor non-participation in the ZLOT proof of concept will affect future opportunities of a vendor or developer in working with the Library of Texas project. Vendors and developers may choose to discontinue participation at any point during the ZLOT proof of concept.



Application Areas

The functional requirements for the Library of Texas resource discovery service addresses two categories of applications. Vendors and developers may choose to address one or both of these application areas in their prototypes.

Virtual Catalog Application

The objective of the virtual catalog application is to improve search and retrieval results across library catalogs and to produce a virtual catalog through broadcast searching of two or more online catalogs. The functional requirements document identifies the capabilities needed in local online catalog systems to be represented in the virtual catalog.

Vendors and developers interested in participating in the proof of concept demonstration may choose to work with one or more of their customers in Texas to enhance the local catalog functionality and Z39.50 server to address the functional requirements. Special attention should be paid to enhancing the Z39.50 server to support the Bath and U.S. National Profiles for library applications. Specifically, Z39.50 servers should support Functional Area A, Levels 0 and 1, to accommodate the functional requirements.

Vendors and developers are required to:

- Identify one or two Texas library customers they will work with for the proof of concept.
- Provide ZLOT staff with necessary connection information (e.g., hostname, port number, database) of the resulting prototype application.
- Participate in the Z39.50 Interoperability Testbed hosted by the University of North Texas for assessment of the implementation's support of the Bath and U.S. National Profiles. Information about the testbed is available at:
<http://www.unt.edu/zinterop/Z39.50InteroperabilityTestingPhaseOne02_2002.htm>.

Stipends are available to vendors and developers for enhancing local installations. Details are provided later in this document.

Search and Retrieval Interface Application

To enable search and retrieval across multiple and diverse online resources, The functional requirements document identifies a set of requirements that will lead to a common interface, broadcast searching capability, and a common user experience when searching a range of resources through the resource discovery service.

Vendors and developers interested in demonstrating prototypes of a search and retrieval interface are required to:

- At a minimum, use as search targets a set of online databases and library catalogs identified by the ZLOT staff (see below).
- Demonstrate how local library presence can be incorporated into the search and retrieval interface.
- Provide ZLOT staff with information about the system resources required to deploy the prototype in a production environment.
- Select one or more of the following locations for the application:
 - On a vendor's/developer's server
 - On a TSLAC server
 - On a ZLOT server.



The Library of Texas offers over 60 online databases from various vendors. Participants in the search and retrieval interface application should demonstrate cross-database searching of the following Library of Texas databases:

- OCLC ProceedingsFirst (OCLC)
- Genealogy & Local History (Chadwyck - Healey / Proquest)
- Academic Search Premier (EBSCO)
- Health Source: Consumer Edition (EBSCO)
- Middle Search Plus (EBSCO)
- Military Library FullTEXT (EBSCO)
- Booksinprint.com (RR Bowker)
- Info Trac Custom Newspapers (GaleGroup)
- Encyclopedia Americana(Grolier)

ZLOT staff will provide the vendors and developers with a list of Texas online catalogs (Z39.50 accessible and non-Z39.50 accessible) that will be the minimum set of targets in the search and retrieval application prototype. The application will also use as a target, the Texas Records and Information Locator Service <www.tsl.state.tx.us/trail>.

Stipends are available to vendors and developers for preparing a search and retrieval interface prototype. Details are provided later in this document.

Support for Participation

The ZLOT Project has limited resources available to support the participation of vendors and developers in the ZLOT proof of concept. Stipends will be awarded to eligible vendors and developers upon completion of the proof of concept demonstration. There are two categories of funding:

- Virtual Catalog Application: Up to \$8,000 is available per vendor or developer to support enhancing the local online catalog and Z39.50 server. Stipends will be based on the following formula: \$5,000 for one installation, and \$3,000 for a subsequent installation.
- Search and Retrieval Interface: \$15,000 per vendor or developer is available to deploy a prototype.

To be eligible, prototypes must demonstrate that a product (commercial or open-source) has been modified to address the functional requirements for the Library of Texas resource discovery service. Further, vendors and developers must do a self-assessment of the prototype indicating which functional requirements were addressed by the prototype.

Assessment

The ZLOT Project is developing an evaluation plan to assess the feasibility of the functional requirements for the resource discovery service. Each prototype application will be assessed by the ZLOT staff to compile information on the general support by the library vendor and developer community for individual functional requirements. Although each prototype will be assessed, only the aggregate data about the support of the functional requirements will be reported to the Texas State Library and Archives Commission. No reports will be published on the extent to which individual vendor's or developer' prototypes addressed the functional requirements. The stipends available for participation are not contingent on the outcome of the assessment of individual prototypes.