

**ODIN Director's report For the October 12,1999 Advisory Council Meeting**

(original e-mail sent to Council October 8, 1999 12:21:09)

***\* Gale/IAC The move from the mainframe files to ITWEB***

Congratulations on your successful change to using the IAC databases on the web (rather than on the ODIN mainframe) and at the same time implementing the change to the new ITWeb interface (from the "SearchBank" interface previously used). As it turned out, you decided in April that we would make both changes this summer. A date of August 3rd was set for the change of interfaces. Not much later, the Gale Group announced at ALA in June that the SearchBank interface would be discontinued after August 10th. This created much consternation in the rest of the library world and the termination was extended. It was nice to be ahead rather than trying to catch up

***Y2K & version 14***

ODIN Y2K preparation will be complete by the end of this month. There are two final tasks to be completed for Y2K readiness by the ODIN central site. One task is the installation of PALS version 14. The other task is the completion of the central site contingency plan. Version 14 has been received as of October 6th and we are preparing to install it. MnSCU PALS has indicated for some time that it needs all PALS sites to be on version 14 of PALS for the year 2000 rollover. Our formal contingency plan, required by the state, will be complete by the end of the month.

Overall, we have been busy the last year reviewing our software and hardware at the central site. As you are well aware, your databases have had dates extending out past December of 1999 for some time now. Serials and acquisitions modules were the most obvious first areas to pass the threshold. Circulation has followed. Those who are using funds changed to the fiscal year ending in mid 2000 some time ago now.

***\* New system / Minnesota status***

MnSCU PALS has said in writing to the PALS sites they support that they will continue to do so at least until the end of June 2004. They have also indicated that they would be open to support the product by contract beyond that point if sites expressed an interest.

At the present time, it is my understanding that contract negotiations with DRA are on hold.

***\* Unisys software license & mainframe capacity planning***

The license for the Unisys mainframe software will expire at the end of December 2000. I have had some discussions with Unisys representatives to start defining the costs of that action. In addition we will be working with Unisys on system capacity planning in the next couple of months.

With regard to the Unisys software license, one of the issues will be the amount of time we will license the software for in the next contract. The shorter the time frame, the more it will cost. The last time I had asked for an estimate of a license extension it was to carry us from 01/2000 to 06/2002 and would have cost approximately \$193,000. This estimate was done for the budget for HB1034 technology plan. In that plan we would have ended use of PALS by June 2002, which was the previously announced drop-dead date for the PALS software. When the support date for PALS was extended just before the last N.D. legislative session we chose to reduce the priority of the funding request for the new system.

\* *NDSU*

ODIN has visited with NDSU this summer to explore in detail the issues involved in NDSU's migration to ODIN from MnSCU. We met with NDSU library administration and with staff from each functional area of the library to identify issues we would encounter either in the data or in work flow. Since that meeting we have put together some documents to outline what we believe to be the issues that would have to be addressed. Further discussion to verify our understandings of the issues will be held.

\* *EDI / X.12*

This project has been on the books for some time. ODIN is now reviewing the issues involved in exchanging data with library vendors. Until the end of the year we will be doing some research and planning regarding this topic. (Version 14 installation, SiteSearch work and Y2K will be the primary tasks until the end of the year and perhaps a bit more.) We will address this area in greater detail after the end of the year. Note that this appears to be the single key function that ODIN has not been using that would need to be in place at the time of an NDSU migration.

\* *SiteSearch:*

ODIN has been involved in a project with the State Library of North Dakota to implement software called SiteSearch. SiteSearch allows an individual to search multiple library systems at one time. The State Library purchased the initial software license. NDUS purchased the RS6000 server and provided for the installation and configuration of the SiteSearch software. The server is physically located at the UND computer center.

The basic capabilities were demonstrated at the North Dakota Library Association (NDLA) meeting September 23 and 24 in Fargo. From what I understand, the demonstrations went well and were impressive.