

# Electronic Library Network

## Progress Report: October 1999 – June 2000

### 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*

- redesigned ELN database matrix to enhance usability
- ELN contacts database moved to dedicated server to improve reliability - database provides a searchable list of contact personnel in ELN libraries
- advised partner libraries on authenticating remote users for database access
- participated in tri-university systems meeting focusing on user authentication
- participated in Virtual Catalogue meeting (Bath Profile) at CLA

### ***Objective 1.2***

Pursue new database services that meet users' needs

- coordinated comparative trial of Wilson OmniFile and EBSCO databases; responses from trial participants indicated strong support for the continuation of the EBSCO license and the continued licensing of the Wilson Indexes
- participated in national licensing initiatives as part of Consortia Canada, achieving significant cost reductions. Licensed products include: Canadian Almanac, Embryonic Encyclopedia of Life Sciences (ELS), AccessScience, Oxford English Dictionary, Books in Print, American National Biography, ECO: Canada in the Making
- coordinated trial, licensing and subsequent implementation of WorldCat (FirstSearch) database
- coordinated trial, licensing and subsequent implementation of Canadian Almanac and Directory database
- met with representatives of Baker & Taylor, Bell & Howell Information and Learning, Bowker, Electric Library, OCLC, and OVID, to gather information on products of interest to ELN libraries
- summarized and communicated to stakeholders the results of a web-based survey identifying future licensing prospects and assessing the extent to which current licenses support the needs of ELN partners
- obtained Ministry funding to subsidize one-time cost of PsycINFO backfile (1887-1967)

### ***Objective 1.3***

Integrate instructional materials with database services

- EBSCO Training sessions held in Victoria and the Lower Mainland

*Objective 1.4*

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

- established alternate server for PsycINFO database at no additional cost, to act as backup in the case of outages on the main server
- met with representatives of IHS Micromedia to discuss performance issues with hosted databases
- decommissioned text-based Unix-SPIRS interface
- provided funds for the purchase of a new server at UBC host site to house ERIC and CBCA Full-text Education databases. Database migration coordinated by ELN
- coordinated trial of full-text ABI/INFORM database for sites not already participating in the ProQuest Direct license. Text-based access to the database discontinued
- web interface and graphical reporting added to ELN automated client by SFU. Client monitors server response times.  
<http://hermes.lib.sfu.ca/cgi-bin/perform2.pl>

## 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*

- funded SFU development of GODOT parser for CBCA Full-text Education database
- GODOT capability added to ERIC and CBCA Full-text Education databases by UBC
- GODOT capability added to PsycINFO database by Micromedia
- GODOT capability added to EBSCOhost databases by SFU. Link configured for partner libraries by ELN
- developed perl script to generate statistical reports from GODOT log files

### *Objective 2.2*

Integrate user-initiated online ordering features into database services

see section 2.1, above

**Objective 2.3**

Provide leadership in establishing a coordinated provincial resource sharing network

- released OutLook OnLine Evaluation Survey: WebPAC and ILL Module: Summary and Actions Steps - confirmed easy to use and of value to respondents, itemized areas for improvement  
[http://www.ola.bc.ca/elc/pands/survey\\_olol/index.html](http://www.ola.bc.ca/elc/pands/survey_olol/index.html)
- new contract for union database production negotiated with AG Canada, in partnership with Library Services Branch, Ministry of Municipal Affairs and British Columbia Library Association. Contract highlights include:
  - pricing in Canadian dollars
  - confirmed migration to new platform
  - improvements to statistics gathering
  - reduced cost for revision of Media Matching Algorithm
  - future implementation of filters and algorithms to reduce record duplication and improve quality
- new contributors to union database include: TechBC (OutLook, Media, Serials)
- new OutLook OnLine ILL participants
  - TechBC, Northern Lights' Fort St John campus, UCFV
- 1998/99 post-secondary library resource sharing summary report prepared and distributed to all participants

**Objective 2.4**

Improve union databases

- participated in Media Exchange Cooperative's annual general meeting
- implemented schedule to distribute submissions to union databases over a one-year period, to improve currency
- held discussions with SIRSI regarding transaction-based updating
- merged holdings in the ELN Serials database to reduce duplication and improve usability
- drafted preliminary design of database production filters for improvement of record quality
- worked with partner libraries to test transaction-based updating



### 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*

- submitted response to Educational Technology Policy Framework draft document

#### *Objective 3.2*

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

- met with senior administrators of B.C. post-secondary institutions during on-site consultations with partner libraries, to increase awareness of ELN activities and inform strategic planning process

#### *Objective 3.3*

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

## Goal 4

Promote 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*

- organized and participated in the BC Library Showcase at the BC Library 2000 conference
- organized and convened BC Library 2000 conference session on Consortia Canada licensing initiatives
- hosted joint reception with Okanagan University College at BC Library 2000 Conference
- staff member participated in Advocacy Summit, hosted by British Columbia Library Association, which included attendees drawn from across library sectors

### *Objective 4.2*

Extend partnerships on an inter-provincial basis

see section 4.3, below

### *Objective 4.3*

Expand national and international alliances

- acted as lead consortium on Consortia Canada initiative to license Oxford University Press online products (Oxford English Dictionary & Dictionary of American National Biography)
- participated in the 7th meeting of the International Coalition of Library Consortia (ICOLC7)
- participated in Consortia Canada meeting at CLA conference to discuss ongoing database licensing initiatives
- participated in meeting with National Librarian to raise awareness of consortia activities



## 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*

- obtained feedback from partner libraries through site visits and other channels to inform strategic planning process
- completed draft summary of library feedback  
<http://www.ola.bc.ca/elN/text/feedback.html>
- reaffirmed ELN's purpose, vision and goals at a facilitated Steering Committee meeting

### *Objective 5.2*

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

- completed contract with the Canadian Association of Research Libraries to prepare a \$50 M proposal to the Canada Foundation for Innovation for a national site licensing initiative

### *Objective 5.3*

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

- formed Search Committee for new ELN Manager, established criteria for selection, decided on recruitment strategies and issued job posting
- new manager appointed as of April 1, 2000
- submitted and received budget from Province of BC
- supported staff development in the areas of project management and software applications

