

**AGENDA ITEM:** Telecommunications Infrastructure**GENERAL OVERALL PROGRAM UPDATES:****CURRENT STATUS:***Z39.50 Server Software Grants*

The purpose of funding the development of Z39.50 connectivity is to establish the infrastructure necessary to create a virtual statewide database representing the holdings of California libraries. Such a virtual database is an important component of a cluster of access services envisioned in the Library of California Act.

Two grants for Z39.50 server software have been awarded since the April Board meeting. Staff closed the grant application process in mid May due to time constraints on providing funds that could be utilized before the end of the fiscal year.

A survey of Z39.50 server capability based upon LoC Z39.50 grants, CLSA awards, participation in gateway servers (CLSA or LoC) and feedback from regions' technology support staff indicate the following level of Z39.50 access:

<b>Library Type</b>	<b>Number Z39.50 Accessible</b>	<b>Percentage of library type</b>
Public	122	73%
Academic	73	48%
School	19	14%
Special	12	11%

Consistent with the Board's policy, as the regional library networks are now allocating network funds for telecommunications infrastructure, staff recommend that support for Z39.50 connectivity be integrated into regional plans of service. Staff will continue to provide technical assistance and monitor this aspect of resource sharing networks.

*Telecommunication Infrastructure Grants*

Staff from each region involved in the Library of California Telecommunications Infrastructure grants met at the California State Library on May 15<sup>th</sup> to discuss standards criteria for resource sharing projects, progress on regional projects and to advise staff on future courses of action. Staff were requested to develop a guide for addressing the security concerns of network administrators when utilizing the Z39.50 Internet service. Attendees also agreed to utilize a common report format for technology surveys within their regions. Discussion on the successes and difficulties experienced by each region assisted in developing a better understanding by all the

attendees to aid in their work in creating the telecommunications infrastructure proposed in their plans of service. Plans for the coming year were constrained by the amount of funding available but at least maintenance level support was to be incorporated by all regions. Regional representatives will meet again in October in Sacramento to share information and evaluate progress.

Activities in each region are as follows:

**Cascade Pacific:**

A Z39.50 gateway server is up using epixtech's Universal Resource Sharing Application (URSA), installed in Shasta College for eleven initial participants. Some firewall issues remain to be resolved, training for ILL staff (Phase 1 group) was completed; work continues on individual ILL procedures. A technology survey was completed.

The Cascade Pacific plan of service for telecommunications infrastructure includes a review of the need to install ISDN, DSL, T-1 lines or other appropriate high-bandwidth technologies (where available) and high-resolution fax machines in member libraries. Additional participants will be phased in over the next three years to the resource-sharing project. The CPLN Board has contracted with NSCLS to establish a regional electronic discussion list (listserv) for its members. The Network will purchase a web server to be housed in the Network's administrative offices to replace the web hosting currently performed by a commercial service.

In addition the Network Administrator will study the possibility of extending videoconferencing capability to all appropriate sites within the Cascade Pacific region.

**Golden Gateway:**

Four CLSA cooperative systems within the region already have viable Z39.50 gateways/ILL sharing (linked systems). The 2000/01 Resource Sharing Initiative Study group sent out RFI's to those systems and library automation vendors to choose one system for the GGLN.

The plans of service for 2001-2002 include implementation of the findings of the 2000/01 Resource Sharing Initiative Study, specifically:

- Procure a Z39.50 technology for establishing the GGLN virtual union catalog, to be expanded into a standards-based GGLN resource sharing model within the next 2 years if funding and technology allows.
- Establish contractual relationships with existing linked system projects for GGLN members who may wish to participate in one of those projects.
- Establish GGLN-wide mechanisms for ILL/Delivery policies.
- Explore feasibility of making existing linked system projects interoperable.
- Explore the feasibility of a GGLN-wide authentication service for QandA cafe,

licensed databases, and other member needs.

- Augment the activities of LoC by providing 239.50 grants to GGLN members who may need assistance in establishing this service.

### **Sierra Valley:**

Has an existing CLSA linked system (DRA Web2) server ; working with programmer Bruce Van Allen to create ILL request management system (based on program created for MOBAC – another DRA linked system). Working on ILL procedures, and a technology assessment of each library.

The technical consultant, Lois Shumaker, has reviewed Z39.50 connections and searchability for all libraries listed in virtual catalogs for both MVLS and 49-99 CLSA systems. She has communicated with participating libraries to add new catalog connections or improve displays of existing connections and visited school systems with consultants Joe Ford and Ivan Edelman hoping to connect their catalogs in the future. Consultant Bruce Van Allen has begun installation of an ILL module on MVLS virtual catalog.

### **Arroyo Seco:**

Linked systems project is up and running using epixtech's Resource Sharing System (RSS) and Remote Patron Authentication (RPA) with Webpac as the virtual catalog.

Servers were moved to a new data center with 30 days of backup power and redundant high speed Internet. Two of the servers are supporting the virtual catalog (Webpac). Another server supports the RSS and the fourth server supports the RPA. The fifth server will be used to stage Webpac. The remaining two servers remain housed at MCLS Headquarters, where they are used to stage RSS and RPA.

ASLN has established a subcommittee to develop policies for telecommunications infrastructure. The project steering committee has established a subcommittee charged with the mission of developing policies for the use of the system. They are recruiting representatives from each type of member library. Epixtech continues to revise and improve the software for the project. They are scheduling regular project review conference calls and establishing clear lines of responsibility. The plan of service for 2001-2002 includes funding to support staff, hardware, software and network needs.

### **Tierra del Sol:**

A wrap up meeting for the grant was held on April 30<sup>th</sup>, the technology steering committee plus interested members of the Tierra del Sol community attended. RFIs have been returned for a proposed gateway/ILL system. High-end scanner/software equipment was purchased to enhance the delivery of inter-library loan via electronic methods. A Technology assessment and inventory has been done. An ongoing technology interest committee has been formed.

The graphic artist is proceeding to work on the design/look of the Tierra del Sol web site. The structure (as presented to the board in February) is still the master plan for the site. The member database is almost complete, the structure of the database has been reviewed, day to day analysis of the work is being done by Administrative Assistant, Cynthia Silvera.

The Technology Coordinator contacted each member library in order to assess each library's readiness for the future Z39.50/ILL server. Updates about the Tierra Libraries Connect grant was also provided, as was a time for open discussion about concerns and issues each member might have about Tierra del Sol.

The Plan of Service for 2001-2002 include maintenance of: the web site, the telecommunications structure between the regional offices and training sessions for members on how to use Interlibrary Loan and other Intraregional services. A technology coordinator will be hired on a consultant/part-time basis.

**Heartland:**

The linked system continues to expand using epixtech's Resource Sharing System (RSS), Remote Patron Authentication (RPA) and Webpac. A technology assessment has been completed.

The Heartland Regional Library Network will maintain servers and software to promote resource sharing throughout the Region using a system based on the Z39.50 protocol. Heartland currently owns three enterprise-grade servers dedicated to this purpose. One of these servers runs a web-based virtual library catalog connecting to those library automation systems running Z39.50 servers. Current server and software licenses should be sufficient to extend use of the RSS system to any Heartland member library operating or planning to install a Z39.50 server in fiscal year 2001/2002.

**Gold Coast:**

The linked systems project is up and running using epixtech's URSA. The lending policy committee submitted recommendations to the governing board. Firewall problems are being worked on.

The Gold Coast Library Network will enhance resource sharing by maintaining the Cat-A-Link Gold virtual catalog. The ongoing program costs are the T-1 line, support from the Internet Service Provider and technical support from the software vendor. The technical librarian will oversee and troubleshoot problems with the system. The Interlibrary Loan and Resource Sharing Committee will encourage member libraries to work toward direct loan using in the Cat-A-Link virtual catalog as a resource sharing identification tool.

The Gold Coast Library Network Online Services and Reference Committee will survey special collections in the Region, advise organizations how to make their collections more accessible, and assist in obtaining grant funding for conversion of records, software and gateways that are Z39.50 compliant, if funding is available.

***Other programs of Interest to the Board***

*E-Rate Program*

The Schools and Libraries Division (SLD) of the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) provides affordable access to telecommunications services for all eligible schools and libraries in the United States. The USAC is a not-for-profit corporation appointed by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to ensure that the benefits of telecommunications services reach students and communities across the country. Funded at up to \$2.25 billion annually, the Program provides discounts on telecommunications services, Internet access and internal connections.

The California State Library is responsible for the approval of technology plans from each applicant public library.

The InFoPeople Project offered an *Internet Policy and Filtering Update* training course in May and June for California libraries in response to the requirements of the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) legislation. The CIPA will affect E-Rate participants who utilize funding beyond basic telephone service. An update alert was sent in May to all public library directors to inform them about possible actions that might need to be taken in response to CIPA requirements for the E-Rate program.

**RELATED ISSUE TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD IN THE FUTURE:**

Development of Regional Telecommunications programs.

Relevant Committee: Support Services  
Staff Liaison: Ira Bray