OPAC/Gateway Questions

1. What user interface delivery options do you provide (e.g. World Wide Web)? If desired, may different user interfaces be selected for use within the SUS library facilities and for access by remote access?

2. Will your system support delivery of SUS library catalogs, SUS course reserve indexes, and locally-stored citation and full-text databases (many proprietary) using the same interface? How many of these catalogs/databases may be selected and searched at the same time?

3. What OPAC user interface customization options does your system allow for library catalogs and databases at the SUS-wide level, individual SUS institution level, institution segment level (e.g. branch library), and citation, etc. database level?

4. What search modes (e.g. BASIC, ADVANCED, COMMAND entry), search types (e.g. author, keyword, ISSN, table of contents level, etc.), and search limits (e.g. date of publication, material format, language, and SUS library location) are provided with your system? May the SUS define, develop, and implement locally any search modes, types, and limits not provided with your system?

5. How are complex Boolean searches (i.e. with multiple logical operators AND, OR, NOT and with proximity operators ADJ, NEAR, WITHIN, SAME) entered? What is the maximum number of search characters that may be entered in a complex keyword/Boolean search.

6. What information is included on the various search results screens (e.g. lists of results, various views - BRIEF, LONG, etc., of specific records, etc.)? May fields included in the various views be determined, and the field labels devised, locally at the SUS and/or individual institution level.

7. How may a user most efficiently determine whether an item listed in a citation database is available in the local library collection or in another SUS library collection?

8. How does your system support links to local or remote full text resources (e.g. scanned course reserve and journal images, ascii documents, Web sites, etc.)?

9. How does the system allow marking/capturing records and processing them by sending to an email account, a printer, or a computer disk or diskette? What record format options and sorting options are available to users? How many records may be captured/marked before processing is required - and may records be captured/marked from different catalogs/databases before processing?

10. How are previous searches (i.e. search history) displayed for re-use, and in what ways may those searches be manipulated?
11. What online user requests (e.g. inquiry about items checked out, request for recall/notification of a checked-out item, request a catalog/database item via Interlibrary Loan, etc.) does your system provide?

12. Does the system provide a general user guide, a training tutorial, and in-context help for all screens? May any locally-developed (by the SUS or an individual SUS institution) tools be substituted or otherwise incorporated?