

MOBIUS Electronic Resources Advisory Committee (MERAC) Minutes July 18, 2002

MERAC met at the MOBIUS Consortium Office (MCO) at 10:00 am.

1. Airing it out.

Scarlett Swall (outgoing chair) thanked the committee members for their hard work on MERAC business and then she introduced the new chair Lynn Cline. Lynn Cline thanked Scarlett Swall for being an excellent chair over the last year and welcomed the new committee members. Members then shared recent news about their libraries and clusters. Scarlett Swall reported that Longview Community College now has a state of the art electronic classroom. Carol Antoniewicz said that the Olin Library renovation is due to be complete in the summer of 2004. Joyce Meldrem said that the TOWERS cluster cataloging and circulation came up last week. Lorna Mitchell said that Westminster College has microfilmed 100 years of the college newspaper. Melissa Belvadi reported that Maryville University has recently added Solinet 1 and 2 NetLibrary collections providing them with 20,000 new titles. Sheila Ouellette informed us that St. Louis Community College is installing Docutek for electronic reserves. Mary Slater said that the Missouri Valley College Library is preparing to move their juvenile collection and they have been microfilming old university catalogs and bulletins. Laurie Hathman informed the committee that Rockhurst University anticipates beginning the transition to the III system during this fiscal year. Jill Nissen from the St. Louis College of Pharmacy stated that their INNOPAC migration will begin at the beginning of the next fiscal year. Lynn Cline is finally in a permanent office.

2. Remarks from George Rickerson, Executive Director, MOBIUS

George Rickerson thanked Lorna Mitchell and Scarlett Swall for their excellent jobs as past chairs of MERAC and he also expressed gratitude for the work of all past and current members. MCO is at the end of the implementation process for all charter members of the common library platform project. Now that they are nearly done with installations, MCO is shifting to a maintenance mode with the same high level of service.

The annual MOBIUS meeting to be held in June was cancelled due to budget problems. Thanks to Sarah Parker from the Missouri State Library for offering to cosponsor the meeting. It will now take place on September 17. The Council meeting will be on September 16.

During the last spring session of the General Assembly requests had been made for additional funding for the common library platform and databases. No additional funds were allocated. However, MOBIUS funds were not cut. Efforts will continue to be made to educate legislators about MOBIUS projects and libraries should talk to their local representatives. MOBIUS appropriation requests need be ready by April instead of August due to the movement of MOBIUS funding structurally from CBHE to the University of Missouri.

George thanked Axie and Terry for their hard work in taking care of the Electronic Resources.

Several new members have been added to the common library platform project. In addition relationships are being developed with Linda Hall Library and the St. Louis Research Library Consortium. The State Library is also being incorporated into the common library platform.

3. Old Business.

No old business.

4. New Business.

a. MCO Report.

Axie Hindman reported that 50 libraries renewed the ABC/CLIO databases. The increase in price for the subscribing libraries was 1.5 percent.

b. Cafeteria databases, 2002-2003, implementation.

Education Full Text and Applied Science and Technology Full Text bids could not be awarded until July 1 due to UM system new fiscal year. The databases will be available on September 1. Education Full Text has 18 participating libraries with 20 user licenses. Applied Science and Technology Full Text has 10 participating libraries with 12 user licenses. IP addresses will be given to vendor when the contract is awarded. Libraries with existing subscriptions will be given credit if appropriate.

c. Cafeteria databases, 2003-2004, preliminary discussion.

The procedure for selecting Cafeteria databases for 2002-2003 was revisited. Revisions to this procedure for the current year were discussed. The committee decided to send out a list of databases for consideration of libraries for the program. These institutions will be given a chance to add a database not listed. We are asking them to indicate their top 3 choices. Additional questions will also be included on the survey. This survey will be made available on August 27 and we will ask respondents to complete it by September 13.

d. Vendor Direct program review.

Terry Austin said that the Vendor Direct Survey will be left open on the MCO website until the end of September. Twenty one libraries have completed the survey at this time. Terry also thanked Julie Andresen and Melissa Belvadi for finding errors in the survey form. American Chemical Society Archive got the biggest number of participants followed closely by CQ.

Vendors have contacted MCO office about the Vendor Direct Program about many products including: Historical Newspapers, New York Times, Sanborn Maps, ABI/Inform Archive, Biography Resource Center, History Resource Center, Current Biography, ACM Digital Library, Academic Search Premiere and many others.

It was also suggested that if an individual institution is dealing with a vendor and they do not give a MOBIUS discount, we should tell them about the program and have them contact Axie or Terry.

To find information about MERAC on the MOBIUS website, click on the Governance tab. Messages sent to the MERAC-C-L list only go to members of the committee.

e. Maroon Updating.

Axie and Terry will email the Electronic Resources contacts to ask them to update the Maroon database by the end of August.

f. Grants.

There has been a lot of discussion about writing grants in the past. Currently the only MERAC member on the grant subcommittee is Joyce Meldrem. This subcommittee has met with a grant expert who offered them advice. The grant writing task is difficult. It requires a lot of work and persistence. Scarlett Swall indicated that the executive board was enthusiastic about the possibility of a grant. Since most grants do not seem to work well with ongoing expenses, it may be more useful to fund a database with large up front costs with one. This topic will be revisited at the next meeting.

g. Digital Reference

The committee members were given background articles on Digital Reference in their agenda packets. There is no MOBIUS money available for digital reference so funding for it would be dependent on grant

seeking. The State Library funds digitization projects but not ones with ongoing costs. An evaluation spreadsheet of virtual reference software compiled by Bernie Sloan, Graduate School of Library and Information Science, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign was distributed to members. Washington University will be doing a pilot project for digital reference starting this fall. MU Health Science library is currently working on a digital reference project with the University of Colorado's Health Science Library. This topic will be revisited at the next meeting.

5. Future Meetings.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 8, 2002 at the MOBIUS Consortium Office (MCO).

6. Meeting evaluation and adjournment.

The meeting was evaluated. Positives included: Great new members, overview by George Rickerson, handouts were useful, we stayed on the agenda. In future the agendas will come in green packets through Lanter.

Attending were: George Rickerson (MCO), Terry Austin (MCO), Axie Hindman (MCO), Melissa Belvadi (BRIDGES), Sheila Ouellette (ARCHWAY), Mary Slater (QUEST), Laurie Hathman (WILO), Jill Nissen (ARCHWAY), Lynn Cline, chair (SWAN), Scarlett Swall (WILO), Julie Andresen (LANCE), Christopher Dames (MERLIN), Carol Antoniewicz (WASH U), Joyce Meldrem (TOWERS), Lorna Mitchell (ARTHUR), Karl Suhr (GALAHAD).

Christopher R. Dames, Rotating Secretary