

MOBIUS Electronic Resources Advisory Committee (MERAC)
Minutes
March 5, 2002

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

AIRING IT OUT:

Members shared recent news and developments at their library or cluster. Several were advancing in their renovation projects. A few had filled vacant positions. Kathy Schlump reported that ECC had written and received a grant to have Tracy Byerly from MLNC do some supplemental cataloging training for their cluster. Scarlett Swall reported that Longview Community College will be offering a cybercafe to train Phi Theta Kappa honor students to serve as mentors for database research.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

Report from MOBIUS Consortium Office

MERAC agreed to send forward the same proposal from last year to the State Legislature to request funding of statewide databases. Pricing will be increased ten percent for inflation.

Axie Hindman reported on the vendor direct program. While they have had several very good vendors interested in the Vendor Direct program, they are starting to run into vendors who are not interested in that option. It was noted that members were excited about the discounts, but that at least one vendor discount was only for new subscriptions. Tracking participation in the vendor direct program was discussed, and a suggestion was made to try to add it to the MAROON database.

Terry Austin reported on the Database Cafeteria Plan. The deadline was Mar. 1 for institutions to express interest. 18-19 were interested in Ed. Fulltext, with fewer responses to the Applied Science and Technology database. If there are less than 6 that firmly commit to AST, MOBIUS will not be able to offer it. The next step is to get finalized pricing from Wilson, then share that with the members. Commitment letters will be due by May 1. Start date would be September 1.

Concerning the ABC-CLIO database, Scarlett Swall gave an update and review of the presentation for the MOBIUS Executive Committee. Axie & Terry were also present at that meeting. It was noted that the Executive Committee recognizes and applauds MERAC's hard work. A recommendation was made and voted on by the Executive Comm.

In the best interest of the consortium as a whole, renew the ABC-CLIO contract in its current form.

Keep same funding model

Members NOT required to participate

Once level of participation is known, the members will have the opportunity to reevaluate participation if their individual increase is greater than 10 percent.

Renewal period: September 1, 2002- August 31, 2003. If MOBIUS chooses not to renew the contract, ABC-CLIO must be notified by July 1, 2002.

Scarlett will not be able to attend the March 15th meeting of the Council. Lynn Cline has agreed to be our representative on that day. The committee edited the points to be considered that will be distributed to council members along with the proposal prior to the council meeting on Mar. 15.

GRANTS:

Several reports were distributed from the subcommittees. A sample "letter of inquiry" was examined. These letters will be tailored to specific grant opportunities. Comments are needed ASAP in order to meet Mar. 13, 2002 deadline by NSF. Several suggestions were made such as defining Common Library Platform and adding our website URL. Terry Austin pointed out that members should look at MOREnet's grant website: <http://www.more.net/grants>. Criteria for grants was reviewed: 3-5 year grants, for nothing less than \$100,000. Notice should be sent to Valerie Darst informing the Executive Committee about MERAC's activity in this area. Once MERAC receives approval, the subcommittee can proceed with the letter of intent. The four databases on our list for seeking funding are ABI Inform, LEXIS-NEXIS, APA FULL-TEXT, PROQUEST PSYCHOLOGY FT. If these do not necessarily fit grant opportunities, other databases will be considered.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE APPOINTMENT ROTATION SCHEDULE:

New MERAC representatives should be elected from the following clusters: Quest, MERLIN, Bridges, Archway, WILO, WashU. New representatives should begin service at the July meeting. Send Scarlett Swall information about new representatives.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Raleigh Muns will be the rotating secretary at the next meeting.

A new MERAC chair will need to be selected and ready to take charge by the July meeting. Send nominations to Scarlett Swall, preferably from members known to be returning or from clusters not rotating.

NEXT MEETING: Next meeting was set for Thurs. July 18, 2002

CONCLUSION: The meeting concluded with a meeting assessment.

Attending were: Scarlett Swall, chair (WILO), Kathy Schlump, (ARCHWAY), Stephanie Tolson (ARCHWAY), Lorna Mitchell (ARTHUR), Per Almquist (BRIDGES), Karl Suhr (GALAHAD), Julie Andresen (LANCE), Axie Hindman (MCO), Terry Austin (MCO), Raleigh Muns (MERLIN), Rhonda Whithaus, (MERLIN), Mary Slater (QUEST), Lynn Cline (SWAN), Joyce Meldrem (TOWERS) and Carol Antoniewicz, (WASH U.).

Julie A. Andresen, Rotating Secretary
Raleigh Muns, Recorder