

MOBIUS ELECTRONIC RESOURCES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Mary Slater, Missouri Valley College, chair

What should MOBIUS do next in your area?

MOBIUS programmers helped MERAC revise the MAROON database. MAROON, which is a listing of MOBIUS members' electronic databases with contact information, is a great help to libraries planning a new database purchase and to MERAC when selecting a database to offer members. Cooperation such as this is important and we would like to see it continue.

When MERAC was formed in 2000, one of its first priorities was to obtain State funding for the purchase of electronic databases for all member libraries. We didn't receive any State funding then and we haven't seen any State funding since then. MOBIUS needs to do more at the State level.

In the past, MERAC has concentrated on electronic resources. Last year the committee delved into electronic services, virtual reference and Open URL Resolvers. It has collected and now stored evaluations of virtual reference and Open URL products on the MOBIUS website. The committee may do more service evaluations and offer service related products in the future.

Since MOBIUS is geared toward academic libraries, MERAC hopes to offer collections rather than only electronic databases; collections such as Sage journals or ebooks. In the future, the potential convergence between MERAC and MCMAC, combining the purchases of electronics and books such as ebooks, might be possible.

Other consortia are buying shared collections of netLibrary books (eg Solinet). MERAC may consider looking into this kind of shared electronic resource. The collections offered via Solinet etc. have been fine, but it would be nice to have an all-academic collection offering, which is the angle that makes MOBIUS unique from, for instance, MLNC and what they're likely to offer.

As MOBIUS matures, there could be an evolution of service enhancements that might imply some consortia wide efforts that would have more committees working together.

What should we not be doing?

As new products and services emerge, there seems to be an overlap in the mission of some committees. A clearer definition of the roles of each committee would eliminate wasted effort.

What do we need that you are not getting from the MOBIUS Council, etc?

Committee charge

We don't appear to have a formal charge. This is a concern we were unaware of and will correct.

According to the minutes of the first meeting, our mission was a two-stage process, "1) the committee would do an inventory of electronic products member libraries currently license; and 2) the committee would evaluate products for future implementation with future funding."

The committee has accomplished this, offered two types of purchasing plans and is now looking into the possibility of grants and other funding sources.

Comment on overlap, frequency of meetings, etc.

We are trying videoconferencing in order to limit the number of trips to Columbia for people that have to drive a long distance. The committee meets four times each year. The only face-to-face meeting will be the July meeting at which we introduce new committee members and elect a new chair.