

MOBIUS Electronic Resources Advisory Committee (MERAC)

Minutes, Thursday, 17 July, 2003

Call to Order. The meeting was called to order at 10 a.m. Past chair Lynn Cline introduced the 2003-2004 MERAC Chair, Laurie Hathman from Rockhurst University (WILO).

Airing it Out. George Rickerson, Executive Director of MOBIUS attended this session and reviewed for the Committee current and anticipated MOBIUS issues. The Common Library Platform is essentially complete around the state, and new activity in that area is winding down. Springfield-Greene County's holdings will become part of the MOBIUS catalog and will begin as a Cooperating Partner on 1 September. It is anticipated that SGC will become a net lender. George also noted that the St. Louis Research Library group, which includes the Missouri Botanical Garden, the St. Louis Art Museum, and the Missouri Historical Society, has purchased Innovative, which will be housed at the Botanical Gardens. As of yet, they have not purchased the INN-Reach software.

George indicated that MOBIUS would not be asking for any legislatively funded databases in the FY '05 request as has sometimes been the practice in the past, but indicated that at some point in the future, as the overall state financial picture improves, may do so again. He also noted that management of the State Library funded databases provided through MOREnet might possibly move to MOBIUS in the future.

MOBIUS is generally in a holding pattern at the moment with the overall platform implementation work essentially done. There is some interest and discussion of cooperative storage ventures, and the Cooperative Development Task Force is continuing to discuss potential activity for the state. One possibility would be the exploration of something like a statewide approval plan along the lines of that employed by OhioLink.

Following George's remarks, members shared updates on various issues from their respective clusters and home sites. Jill Nissen reported that the cluster (Archway) PAC was up and intra-cluster borrowing began this week. INN-Reach will be implemented by fall. Sheila Oullette noted that the Forest Park campus of SLCC was in the middle of a major periodicals move and that Turnitin.com had been purchased. Karl Suhr noted that SEMO had been running Turnitin.com since May and that they had implemented Project Muse. Carol Antoniowicz noted that Washington University is moving collections into the new construction, and that she may be back in her new office shortly. Carol is also chairing two separate task forces at Olin – one to re-design the Library web site and one for the selection of an OpenURL resolver. Melissa Belvadi (Bridges) noted that Eden Theological Seminary Library now had its own director, who reports to Laura Rein, director of the Eden-Webster Library system. Chris Dames reported that the UMSL Library now had its own server, and was not as dependent on the campus infrastructure. Laurie reported that the add-on sites in WILO will be doing INN-Reach training on 1 August. The Rockhurst Libraries also came through the budget process without any

damage. Mary Slater reported on the quirks of E-book implementation at Missouri Valley that is a part of the MLNC net Library e-book program.

MCO Update. Terry noted that all new cafeteria databases would begin 1 September, '03. There will be seven institutions implementing *Proquest Psychology Journals*, nine implementing *Academic Search Premier*, and three implementing *Literature Resource Center*. Among last year's databases, an additional 5 subscribers were added to the original 18 for *Education Full Text* and the simultaneous user level was raised to 28. The number subscribing to *Applied Science & Technology Full Text* dropped to seven.

Terry also reviewed vendor direct offerings. Currently three are available: various Cambridge Scientific databases (through 08-15), Serials Solutions (through 12-31), and TDNet (through 12-31). Committee members were reminded that new vendor direct announcements would be posted to the list and the site as they became available.

2004-2005 Cafeteria Plan Discussion. Discussion centered around the twin issues of the unlikelihood of an appreciable number of databases being added by members because of the overall financial climate, and, given that environment, how to identify a very small number to price and trial for the coming year. The general consensus was that perhaps by looking at current databases holdings, MERAC could possibly identify a small core of currently held databases for which to seek cafeteria pricing, which non holding members might find helpful and which might also lower costs for existing individual member subscriptions. That information would provide a significant basis for discussion of the '05 cafeteria possibilities. The discussion then turned to the MAROON database.

MAROON Update. A number of issues surrounding the current MAROON database of electronic resource holdings of MOBIUS members were discussed. Because it has not been consistently updated with member contributions, the utility of the database as a tool for exploring cafeteria possibilities for FY '05 is limited.

Much of the subsequent discussion on revisions centered on the short-term need for information for the cafeteria discussion and the long-term structure, organization, updating protocol, and uses for a union list of MOBIUS member-held databases.

After some discussion the Committee voted to survey the electronic resource contacts (with copies to directors) on current electronic resource holdings, and that from this information and subsequent discussion: "MERAC will identify no more than two databases for the FY '05 Database Cafeteria Program."

The survey would include union data from the MAROON databases, and members could check-off current holdings. A second section would allow members to list additional electronic resources acquired by the member library, excluding the MOREnet-provided databases such as those in the EBSCO group, NewsBank, etc. Terry Austin will coordinate the building and administration of the survey, which electronic contacts will be asked to complete during the autumn so that results may be used by MERAC at the October meeting to develop a cafeteria proposal. In addition, a group consisting of Terry

Austin, Melissa Belvadi, Hardy Pottinger, and Karl Suhr will explore moving the content of MAROON into a more functional format and environment in MOBIUS.

Recap of Sub-Committee activity for 2003. Lynn thanked the chairs and members of the two sub-committees that worked during 2002-2003 and briefly summarized their activity. The Sub-Committee on Open URL Resolvers, chaired by Carol Antonowicz, provided detailed analysis and information on nine products, which, after Committee discussion, was passed to the Executive Board with the recommendation that the information be shared with MCAG and subsequently with the membership at large. The executive Board subsequently approved this recommendation, and the information is now available to MOBIUS members.

The Sub-Committee on Digital Reference, chaired by Mary Slater, produced reports on eight products and MERAC subsequently recommended to the Executive Committee that the Executive Committee charge a task force to gauge interest in a low-end/limited hours/chat only inexpensive digital reference service; investigate how other consortia offer digital reference in a collaborative setting; and devise parameters for a pilot for which grant funding might be pursued. Based on the results of the task force, the Executive Committee would charge a second group to seek grant funding for a pilot. In addition, MERAC recommended that the product reports be made available to the membership. The Executive Committee subsequently approved the recommendations. As of the MERAC meeting date, no further action or task force charges have occurred.

Assessment of Previous Database Implementation. Laurie Hathman noted the potential value of both MERAC and broader electronic resource contact discussion of issues surrounding the cafeteria or vendor direct electronic resources to which members have subscribed. After some brief discussion, the Committee settled on utilizing MERAC-L as a clearinghouse for such discussions. Laurie encouraged members to actively use this pathway for such discussions.

Meeting Date/Evaluation. The next meeting of MERAC will be 10 a.m., Wednesday, 22 October at MCO.

Attending: Carol Antoniewicz (Washington University), Terry Austin (MCO), Melissa Belvadi (Bridges), Lynn Cline (SWAN), Chris Dames (Merlin), Laurie Hathman, Chair (WILO), Dan McGurk (Lance), Jill Nissen (Archway), Sheila Oulette (Archway), Mary Slater (Quest), Karl Suhr (Galahad). Guest: George Rickerson, Executive Director.

Lynn Cline, Meeting Recorder