

2008-10-14 MERAC Minutes

MOBIUS ELECTRONIC RESOURCES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

October 14, 2008, 10:30 a.m.

Via Adobe Connect

In Attendance: Carol Antoniewicz, Washington University; Terry Austin, Merlin; Frank Baudino, Towers; Georgia Baugh, Saint Louis University; Cynthia Dudenhoffer, Quest; Laurie Hathman, WILCO; Dan McGurk, LANCE; Sue Morgan, Archway; Nina Stawski, Arthur; Fran Stumpf, MCO Liaison; Karl Suhr, Galahad; Jane Thiessen, Bridges; Ed Walton, SWAN.

Minutes: Nina Stawski (Arthur representative)

I. Airing it out:

- *Archway*—Jefferson College added JStor A&S, otherwise nothing else to report.
- *Arthur*—Nothing to report from Arthur cluster members.
- *Bridges*—Nothing to report from Bridges cluster members.
- *Galahad*—Karl Suhr indicated that Southeast Missouri State University dropped the Federated searching from Serial Solutions. They have added ArtStor and some other additions have yet to be determined. There are two new faculty member/Librarians at Southeast Missouri State University. Southeast Missouri State has also finished their information commons implementation.
- *LANCE*—Truman acquired Serial Solutions this summer and they have been working out some glitches, otherwise nothing else to report
- *MERLIN*—The University of Missouri campuses have all been busy. The campuses collaborated by forming a task force looking into new discovery tools. They developed a set of key results and invited 4-5 vendors in for demos. The demos will include: Encore, Primo, Viewfind, Aquabrowser, Open Source, and WorldCat.
- *Quest*—Central Methodist College added Bio1 and Science Full-text Select, otherwise nothing else to report.

- *Saint Louis University*—Proquest's full-text Dissertations and Theses has been acquired and seems to be heavily used. The Springer deal is starting in January. They are looking into Serials Solutions for Federated searches and some other databases but are not sure if they will be able to purchase.
- *SWAN*—Nothing to report from SWAN cluster members.
- *Towers*—Northwest will add Science Direct and Sage Premium in January. Terry Weaver at Missouri Western State University said that they added, Computers and Applied Sciences Complete, Credo Reference 100 Titles, and Bio1.
- *Washington University*—Carol said that Washington University added a few resources. Also, she has undergone a job title change and is now an "Electronic Resources Librarian" only--someone else will acquire the webmaster duties.
- *WILO*—Nothing to report from the WILO cluster members.

II. Gale Virtual Reference Library (GVRL) and Global Issues in Context (GIC).

Fran Stumpf met with the Gale representative who would like for MOBIUS to handle a brokered deal. Gale is proposing to offer 60 titles with a 20% discount off the price of the titles. Each participating institution would choose 30 titles. The deadline for the deal was to come up quickly in early December. Fran displayed the spreadsheet of the 60 available titles. Georgia Baugh expressed misgivings about vendors controlling Cafeteria Program offerings and setting deadlines. Terry Austin asked two pertinent questions—what happens to those institutions who already subscribe to GVRL and how does the 20% discount compare to what individual institutions were already paying/or were offered? The same or better deals may have already been offered to individual institutions. A number of committee members had questions and misgivings and it was decided by unanimous vote not to add the Gale selections to the Cafeteria Program.

The GIC database is still in a "vaporware" stage. The "discount" is an introductory pricing before it is offered at the regular price. November was given as a deadline. Committee members felt it would probably be offered at an introductory pricing to anyone initially and that the deadline was too close. The Committee voted unanimously not to add this to the Cafeteria Program at this point in time.

III. Change MERAC Listserv names to match other subcommittee listserv names (one for open access/one restricted to subcommittee use only?).

The MOBIUS task force for strategic planning is seeking to clean up and standardize procedures including the listserv names used for the various MOBIUS committees and subcommittees. The MERAC Advisory committee is being asked to review and perhaps standardize the MERAC-related listservs so that those who may be new to MOBIUS committees have a clearer sense of how the listservs function. Frank Baudino wondered in general about the possibility of a small narrative rollover box meant to be explanatory in nature when your cursor is near the listserv name.

The current MERAC listservs are MERAC-C-L for the Core Advisory committee and MERAC-L for the Electronic Resources Representatives. The MERAC-C-L will become MERAC-L to better conform to other committee listserv names. Laurie Hathman suggested MERREP-L for the Electronic Resources Representative listserv. This change passed by unanimous vote.

IV. Draft Survey in Opinio

Fran Stumpf created the draft of a survey entitled, Cafeteria Program—Database Interest Survey, for the Database Cafeteria program in Opinio software, MCO's new online survey instrument. This version combines the introductory text of the survey that Rhonda Whithaus used in Survey Monkey with the symbols and values that Nina Stawski chose in Microsoft Word. Fran's draft at this point is two screens long. The committee discussed the draft of the survey and made several suggestions. It was felt that there should be a way to indicate your institution's ability to purchase databases early on in the survey, however the ability to express interest even if you are unable to purchase is an important planning tool. Fran will check to see if multiple answers are possible in this database. The section with the symbols could include a fourth symbol and Karl Suhr suggested an asterisk symbol designating that a consortial discount would significantly influence a purchase decision. Sue Morgan and Carol Antoniewicz suggested that the original section #4 where the verbiage indicated "interest" should perhaps be changed to indicate likelihood (likelihood to purchase) and suggested changing the wording to "likely to buy" for the value of 50. Frank Baudino suggested a comments box at the bottom in case an institution may need to clarify in some way. With the inclusion of two new sections, and minor changes in wording, the survey sections would then be renumbered. The committee voted unanimously to revise the survey to include the new sections and to renumber the draft. Fran will edit the survey to make the changes that the committee voted upon and will send out a link with the revised survey for committee

members to try out. Fran will see what the trial test run results look like and import the figures into a spreadsheet.

V. Invitation from MCMAC to join the COLDEV-L list in order to share information about e-book collections.

Frank Baudino indicated that the MCMAC committee, via Lori Mardis at Northwest Missouri State University, invited the MERAC Core Advisory committee to join the COLDEV-L list (Collection Development listserv) so that MERAC members could monitor and comment on that listserv. Fran Stumpf elaborated about the reason for the invitation which was that some of the business that would occur on the COLDEV-L list would involve e-books with ongoing discussion of a plan for statewide purchasing of e-books similar to that of books generally and that MERAC may want to be included on this aspect of electronic resource sharing. The MERAC Committee wanted clarification about the COLDEV-L list, how it functioned and who could join. The COLDEV list would primarily be used by subject selectors discussing a broad range of shared resources not just e-books. It was to be open by invitation initially but would eventually be opened to all MOBIUS users. The MERAC committee members felt that as we are all on multiple listservs and get so many e-mails already that there was little interest in monitoring yet another listserv where much of the discussion may have nothing to do with e-books. Terry Austin suggested that with many committees that share related information that forwarding e-mails was common practice. It was decided that the Chair of each committee would forward pertinent information to each other and each disseminate the information to their respective committees as needed. It was decided by unanimous vote that there was no need for everyone on the MERAC Core Advisory committee to be on the COLDEV-L list--that the Chair of the committee will relay pertinent information about e-books from MCMAC. Anyone who wishes to personally monitor messages from COLDEV-L will be able to do so on their own. Frank Baudino will inform Lori Mardis, joint MCMAC Chair, about this decision.

VI. Other Business

Frank Baudino asked Fran about whether she could enlighten the Committee about the proposed merger between MLNC and MOBIUS. Fran said that the two boards met during the recent MLA Conference and that a white paper may be issued in the first part of November. (The link to the White paper site was e-mailed to MOBIUS and MLNC members on 10/14/2008).

Georgia Baugh wondered what had happened to EconLit? EconLit would have to go out on bid; and others such as MLA International Bibliography and possibly two Wilson databases, Applied Science and Technology, and

Education would need to be rebid. However, the MOBIUS Executive Committee does not want any more vendors or databases added to the Database Cafeteria Program at this point in time. GVRL and GIC were already on the agenda for this meeting prior to the Executive Committee decision and they are the last two to be officially considered.

Terry Austin asked for an update about the MAROON database. Fran indicated that the database on the website is not quite done but the hope is that its debut in the new form will coincide with the new MOBIUS web pages. The projected time for this is December 31, 2008.

- VII. Due to a conflict with the time previously set for the next meeting, there was a unanimous vote to change the meeting from its original morning hours to an afternoon meeting instead. This notice will be sent via e-mail to the MERAC committee members.

The next meeting is now set for Tuesday, February 10, from 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. *Note the time carefully as the meeting appears as a morning meeting in previous MERAC minutes.*

The meeting will be via Adobe Connect.
Bridges cluster will take minutes.

The meeting adjourned at 12:04 p.m.
Respectfully submitted,

Nina Stawski,
Hugh Stephens Library, Arthur Cluster