

Mobius Electronic Resources Advisory Committee (MERAC), November 9, 2000

MERAC met at the MOBIUS Consortium office at 10:00 a.m. Attending were: Axie Hindman and Terry Austin, of MOBIUS; Carol Antoniewicz, Washington University; Anne Booker, Bridges; Xiaotian Chen, LANCE; Lynn Cline, SWAN; Darrin Daugherty, Northwest; Lorna Mitchell, Arthur; Raleigh Muns, MERLIN; Kathy Schlump, Archway; Mary Slater, Quest; Karl Suhr, Southeast; and Stephanie Tolson, Archway.

Raleigh agreed to be the recorder for the meeting. The minutes of the October 10th meeting were approved as revised. The committee agreed that the Minutes will be distributed to the MERAC-L discussion list. After making any changes suggested by members and after allowing one week for corrections and additions, the Minutes will be considered approved. The Chair will send them to the MOBIUS Help Desk to be posted on the web site.

The Committee thanked Raleigh Muns for setting up the MAROON database. More than 1470 records for databases held by MOBIUS libraries had been entered. Raleigh distributed a handout showing the tables and the fields in the MAROON database. He suggested that the MOBIUS office assume responsibility for maintaining the database and doing backups. He will add a field for IP address ranges. This is needed for trials of databases.

Axie introduced Terry Austin, of MOBIUS, who has worked with databases from both the library's and the vendor's perspective and who works with Axie in obtaining database pricing. Axie mentioned that the MERAC listserv includes both the Committee members and the Electronic Resources contacts for each of the MOBIUS libraries. She asked if the Committee wanted a separate listserv for MERAC members. Axie also distributed a handout which gave examples of consortial prices for some electronic resources such as Project MUSE.

The Committee decided to identify a few databases for which a firm quote could be obtained. The goal was to identify databases that would be useful to all libraries.

The group reviewed the MAROON inventory and compiled a list of databases that were widely held. These databases were considered candidates for licensing with current member funding. The databases suggested were: (1) ABC-CLIO's America: History and Life and Historical Abstracts; (2) Books in Print; (3) CINAHL; (4) CollegeSource Online; and (5) SIRS Researcher. Axie and Terry agreed to request pricing for these databases to see if libraries could save money through a consortial purchase. It was noted that some databases are available through multiple vendors and some through one vendor. Raleigh noted that Merlin subscribes to CINAHL via Ovid and Merlin nursing patrons would not want to change to an interface that lacks Ovid's SDI capabilities.

The Committee compiled a second list of databases which might be candidates for licensing if MOBIUS receives an appropriation for state funding of new projects. These were: (1) Gale's Literature Resource Center; (2) ERIC E'Subscribe (ERIC with full-text); (3) E-books in general; (4) Project MUSE; (5) PsycInfo; (6) Contemporary Women's Issues; (7) JSTOR; (8) BIOSIS (and Biological Abstracts); and (9) ABI/Inform.

Carol mentioned two databases to keep in mind: ABC CLIO's ABC Poli Sci and E-Psych, a new competitor to PsycInfo.

The Committee agreed to ask electronic resources contacts to enter information about the costs of these database subscriptions and the renewal dates into the MAROON inventory by November 17.

To determine how the licensing costs could be allocated among participating libraries, the Committee wants to obtain pricing to use with various models such as a weighted F.T.E. model.

The Committee discussed how to evaluate electronic resources. It was suggested that MERAC consider adopting the California State University "Principles for CSU Acquisition of Electronic Information Products" for its initial guidelines. <http://seir.calstate.edu/Ear.html>.

In addition, there are some criteria that the Committee would use that are independent of the evaluation of individual products, such as supporting distance learning; supplementing existing budgets, etc.

The Committee set Tuesday, December 12th, and Thursday, January 11th, 2001, as the next meeting dates if a meeting is called.

Raleigh Muns, Recorder

Lorna Mitchell, Chair

Approved November 16, 2000