

Minutes
MOBIUS Governance and Growth Management
September 2, 2005

Members Attendance: Richard Amelung; Jim Cosgwell; Sarah Cron; Valerie Darst; Cathye Dierberg (chair); Erlene Dudley; Craig Kubic; Liz MacDonald; Wendy McGrane; Laura Rein; Julia Schneider; Steve Stoen; Stephanie Tolson

Ex Officio, Non-Voting Members Attendance: Donna Bacon; Margaret Conroy; Sara Parker; George Rickerson

1. **MOBIUS History** – George gave a presentation regarding the history of the formation of MOBIUS including the beginning of the UM system, then moving to the four year institutions, then two and four year institutions, and finally resulting in both public and private academic institutions. The Consortium was built on a very solid foundation:
 - Organization of academic librarians (MPALA) looking at resource sharing.
 - Large universities had formed the basis of an academic State network.
 - Consultant (Joe Ford Associates) hired by CBHE with COPHE funding the cost.
 - CBHE staff member centrally involved in academic library movement.
 - Common Platform architecture serves as basis for proposal.
 - OhioLink served as an academic model for the CP.
 - Survey conducted with 90% response with 46 or more of the 51 respondents interested in the Common Platform project.
 - Survey further revealed 75-100 % of catalog records already in computerized form.
 - MOBIUS formed and became a consortium of academic institutions (not just libraries); presidents/chancellors appointed library representatives.
 - MOREnet existence instrumental in keeping costs reasonable and efficient for the CP communications; did not rely on the commercial Internet.
 - Cluster concept with shared systems instrumental in keeping costs down for the CP servers, maintenance, and support.
 - Existence of an institution (UM) that was able to serve as host institution to CP.
 - Capital costs funded by State appropriations over 3 years.
 - Maintenance costs to be shared equally by State and members although it only reached 25%.
 - Membership and funding model developed to fit MOBIUS; membership for all -- \$5,000; maintenance and operating based on a fixed annual cost for each, and a sliding scale of costs, with larger libraries paying more and smaller ones less.
2. **Public Library History** – Sara presented the history of the public library resource sharing and networking:

- In the 1990's, there were 3 shared systems – KCLN using DRA now SIRSI; LISTEN (St. Charles developed locally) that 12 libraries implemented, now have 2nd system LISTEN 2000; Daniel Boone and Thomas Jefferson with a shared system.
- In 1995, State Library invested in DRA thinking it was a union catalog but this never developed and did not network the public libraries.
- During MOBIUS development, there were State funds (\$5.5M) allocated for public libraries over the course of several years. Funds were spent for retrospective conversion; purchasing library systems, and expansion of systems. Priority was given to shared systems but only 3 were tried:
 - i. Springfield – 12 libraries; 12 separate databases on a central server with a common catalog.
 - ii. Municipal Library Consortium (small libraries) in St. Louis and St. Louis County.
 - iii. Johnson and Neosho attempted joint project but Neosho defaulted on the grant

Vendors now beings used include:

- St. Louis County – Innovative Interfaces
- St. Louis – DRA now SIRSI
- Daniel Boone and Mid-Continent – SIRSI
- Show Me The World set-up for many libraries
- Currently there is resource sharing between MLC, St. Louis, St. Louis County, St. Charles for 25 cents per transaction; future not certain.

3. **Special Libraries** – George reviewed that historically there was interest in MOBIUS by several special libraries. Linda Hall pursued a partnership that did not happen due to their fee-driven service. The St. Louis Research group purchased Innovative but do not seem to be interested at this time.
4. **K-12 Libraries** – George mentioned the potential of adding K-12. Sara mentioned that the strategy for K-12 is through the public libraries.
5. **Discussion of Potential Partners** – At the present time, MOBIUS has 2 cooperating partners (Missouri River Regional and Springfield-Greene) running Innovative Interfaces. St. Louis County Library also has this system but has not recently indicated they would like to be a partner. There seems to be some interest from both Daniel Boone (SIRSI) and Mid-Continent (SIRSI). The current audience seems to be 5 libraries. Discussion continued regarding other publics' interest. Most felt that the libraries were mostly uninformed and uninterested in the MOBIUS level of resource sharing benefits. Opinions were expressed about not having time, money, or energy to coerce publics. Other opinions were philosophically committed to it being the right thing. Much more discussion due on this topic.
6. **Technical Aspects** – George mentioned that Innovative should start talking to other systems. CARL did this; however, it is difficult to do and maintain. He and Jerry Klein have discussed a model for this. Innovative is currently involved with

Michigan for an interface with SIRSI. If this model becomes available, it could provide the technical feasibility for Daniel Boone and Mid-Continent. There was no further information regarding the existence of other interfaces that were applicable to us. George agreed to do research for the task force regarding linking to other systems and consortiums that include both academic and public.

7. **Survey** – Since MOBIUS knew the interest of its audience, it was suggested that perhaps a survey of public libraries might be useful. It was suggested that this be done ASAP but again the belief that most are uninformed resulted in the plan to have some members attend regional meetings to explain the benefits. A subcommittee was formed to develop an instrument to query public libraries for inclusion in MOBIUS. The survey will be coordinated through the State library. The chair indicated that the survey needed to be done in a timely manner so that the task force can make use of the results soon. The subcommittee is Sara, Donna, Margaret, Stephanie, Erlene, Valerie, and Liz (chair to be determined by the members).

8. **MOBIUS Governance** – Each member of the task force has a set of governance documents:

1997	Missouri Academic Libraries and Their Automated Futures
1998	Host Agreement
1998	Memorandum of Understanding
1999	Service Policy Agreement
2001	MOBIUS Long Range Plan Final
2001	MOBIUS Participation Agreement
2003	Bylaws (rev)
2003	MOBIUS review
2003	Cooperating Partners Policy
2005	MOBIUS Action Plan 2005-2007
2005	MOBIUS Strategic Plan 2005-2008
2005	Task Force on Governance and Growth Management

It was noted that these documents may not be up-to-date and it is part of our charge to review and make suggested recommendations. All members are to review the documents and note those areas that are in need of change. The current task is to identify where changes are needed “as MOBIUS exists today” (i.e. academic consortium with 2 cooperating partners). Each member should review the following documents and the members listed after each will summarize the data:

Service policy (Richard); MOU (Erlene); Bylaws (Cathye); 2001 Plan Final (Julia); Review (Jim); Host agreement (Steve). Each member should send the comments to the list that George will create for us. The plan is to use this information for the next meeting.

9. **Next Meeting** – October 7 in Columbia.