

**MERLIN Collection Development & Reference Services Committee
(MCDRSC)
April 20, 2005
Columbia, Missouri**

In attendance: Terry Austin (MCO), Susan McCormack (MCO), Judy Maseles (MU), Mary Ryan (MU), Jan Peach (UMSL), Marilyn Rodgers (UMSL), Chris Dames, Chair (UMSL), Hunter Kevil (MU), Rhonda Whithaus (MU), Diane Johnson (MU HSL), Assako Holyoke (SLU, on behalf of Mary Krieger), David Straight (Wash U), Pat Gregory (SLU), Georgia Baugh (SLU), Lawrence MacLachlan (UMKC LAW), Marilyn Carbonell (UMKC), Diane Hunter (UMKC), Sherry Mahnken (UMR).

Guests: Jenny Bossaller (MCO), Hardy Pottinger (MCO)

I. Approval of Minutes

Terry Austin had a few corrections for the minutes from the February 7, 2005 teleconference. She asked that the minutes be amended to say that OVID **may** cost more than Engineering Village and that ProQuest be added to the list of databases that offer INSPEC. The minutes were then approved by those present.

II. Catalog Redesign Update

Hardy Pottinger and Jenny Bossaller attended the early part of the meeting to display and discuss the catalog redesign project.

Several changes were proposed by Hunter Kevil, including adding space to the search box on the main menu page to show more of the search string, adding an explanation of what MERLIN is to the main menu page, and better explaining the nature of the advanced search option on the OPAC menu pages.

Judy Maseles suggested that we may need to do a usability study on the redesigned catalog at some point. Such a study may be carried out after the catalog is up and running.

Jenny agreed to do intermediate screens listing the options for subject and number searches allowing users to select a type of search. Also, the different options are included in the drop down quick search on the OPAC menu pages.

Hardy reported that a working demo of the catalog should be ready within a week.

Recommended changes in the new course reserves page include changing the fonts to make them consistent throughout the page and labeling the print and electronic reserve options to reflect the different types of materials available. Diane Johnson suggested that the unscoped reserves page should indicate that users are searching for print reserve materials only.

For the My Account page, it was suggested that the legal notice on the page be moved to the bottom and that the designers may want to consult the group working on developing a privacy policy for the system. It was also suggested that the design be reconstructed to more prominently display the box showing the ID number options and that the personal reading history and saved search options be removed. Jenny will consult with the MERLIN Access Services Committee on the wording for this page.

Suggestions for the Other Libraries page included Linda Hall Library and the Library of Congress. The committee should send in other suggestions and objections by May 4. Judy recommended that we also add text to this page indicating that users who wish to obtain materials from these libraries consult interlibrary loan.

For the search results pages, Hunter asked whether we could add wording (e.g., “You searched for”) to accompany the search term in the results list.

Jenny is still working on style sheets for the catalog. She will send the webpub.def to the committee for approval.

For the Export Saved page, Diane Hunter wanted to explore whether we could display the call numbers for the items selected.

III. MCO Report

A. Budget

Terry reported on the current state of the state budget for MOBIUS, MOREnet, and higher education as a whole. After the governor’s proposed complete cut for MOBIUS and a reduction in funding for MOREnet, the House budget bill reinstated money for MOBIUS and some of MOREnet’s reduction, while the Senate eliminated MOBIUS funding and held the governor’s reduction for MOREnet. The Senate bill included a five percent cut for higher education, while the House bill called for static funding levels.

The differences between the two budgets will have to be resolved before the budget can go to the governor, who then may exercise veto power over any of the budget elements. So, the budget is completely up in the air at this point.

Also on the table for discussion of cuts is REAL, the MOREnet database package that includes EBSCOhost.

Still, George Rickerson does not believe we need to prepare a cut list at this time.

B. Current Contents

OVID requoted Current Contents because SLU is not participating, giving us an approximately \$20,000 cut. WOS will also offer a multi-year contract with a buy-out.

WOS is the information provider and we have to have a contract with them as well as OVID. The committee decided to keep Current Contents unless we find out by the May 1 renewal date that the REAL package will be cut.

C. WOS Renewal

Web of Science offered to stay with a four percent increase per year. SLU and Wash U will participate, so we will keep our discount. We will do a yearly renewal, but the price will be based on a three-year contract.

D. INSPEC/Compendex Bid

OVID's bid was much lower than Engineering Village's. Since bid approval was based on cost, not coverage, we will be staying with the OVID platform, which will save us \$17,000.

E. Database Cafeteria Program

The Academic Search Premiere upgrade will be a MOBIUS database cafeteria offering if EBSCO Academic Search Elite continues to be offered by MOREnet.

ABC-CLIO has significantly raised their prices. Two libraries have cancelled, so Terry will renegotiate to get them dropped from the pricing. She will also negotiate for MIRACL if the current deal falls apart.

ART Full Text and Education Full Text both had price increases; they are paid through LSO.

Applied Science and Technology bills will be sent directly to the subscribing campuses by LSO. ProQuest Psychology Journals are also paid for directly by subscribing campuses, as is the Literature Resource Center. All Database Cafeteria Program subscriptions are billed to the subscribers by MCO.

MLA had to be re-bid. ProQuest is the low bidder. LSO pays for the database.

Terry needs order forms from SLU and Wash U. She also wanted to know whether anyone was considering the Sage Full Text collections. Also, UMR needs to send in renewal forms for ProQuest Psychology Journals and AS&T Full Text if they want to renew.

F. UM-ERI status

All databases are up, although not paid for. The committee will review what to do with the monies from one-time purchases in the fall.

G. Statistics

Statistics from Springer will have to be reported by the campuses. MCO will collect statistics for the year. Terry handed out current cost analysis statistics.

H. Items to be bid

Sociology Index may be competitive with Sociological Abstracts, so it may need to be bid. Philosopher's Index will also need to be bid.

IV. JSTOR/Depository Discussion

The committee reviewed the spreadsheet compiled by David Straight. He will modify the spreadsheet to show the Depository holdings and add the UMSL data and will then send it back to the group.

David suggested that we form a working group to address such questions as how many copies should be kept, who will keep them, how we will transfer volumes to replace damaged/facsimile copies), how statistics will be kept, how savings on binding costs will be distributed, how microfilm holdings will be factored in, etc. The group will create a draft document for review by the full committee. The document will then be sent on to the directors.

Members of the working group are David Straight, Marilyn Carbonell, and Hunter Kevil.

V. Social Services/Humanities Initiative

Hunter volunteered to spearhead the initiative and draft a proposal for the initiative.

The committee generated a list of suggested resources in a list recorded by Terry, who will send the list to the group. The campuses will rank the databases and will return their results by April 27 so that Terry can gather pricing information. The committee will not meet to discuss the rankings unless it becomes necessary.

VI. Other Business

Marilyn Carbonell reported on the collaboration with MQCC members to UMKC to generate a collection-level cataloging format. She provided the committee with a handout showing the outline of the format. They will be presenting a report at the MOBIUS Users Conference on the format. Marilyn will send sample records to the committee; she indicated that MQCC would be glad to have recommendations.

Marilyn also reported that UMKC has a new dean of libraries, Sharon L. Bostick. She will start on June 6.

Diane Hunter will be the new MCDAC representative.

VII. Next Meeting Date/Selection of New Chair

Nena Thomas and Sherry Mahnken will be the new co-chairs of the committee. Selecting a date for our next meeting was postponed since Nena was not in attendance. Marilyn suggested that meeting through teleconferences is preferable to in person meetings.