

ILS COORDINATORS MEETING

February 3, 1999

Present: Nancy Stancel - UMKC-Law (Recorder), John Huang - SLU-Pius, Dennis Krieb - SLU-Health Sciences, Bob Heyer-Gray - UMR, Gary Harris - LSO, Robin Kespohl - LSO, George Rickerson - LSO, Vianne Sha - MU, Randy Diamond - MU-Law, Ellen Grewe - UMSL, Brenda Dingley - UMKC, Janet Jackson - LSO.

1. LSO Update:

a. MOBIUS status report: The project is proceeding quickly. Robin Kespohl will be the Coordinator of Implementation and Support Service. Mark Wahrenbrock began yesterday as the Coordinator of Training Services. The implementation plan is currently being developed and there are currently 50 members in the consortium. The last site to sign was Hannibal-LaGrange. Lincoln University will be the first member to be brought on-line because it is already on the III system. All the servers will be located at LSO. The preference is for the sites to use MORENET as the ISP choice to connect to MOBIUS. SLU and Washington University will need to decide who their provider will be. Internet is not an acceptable means to access MOBIUS because the performance is not dependable. At some point (after fiscal year 2000 at least) it may be that MOBIUS will become an entity that will license databases for Missouri academic libraries. SLU's ISP provider is not MORENET but that campus is interested in pursuing MORENET as a provider. George said that he would be willing to raise this question with SLU administrators.

b. MIRACL status report: Gary said that he has had no reports of problems with the circulation component so it appears to be working correctly. The suppression codes have been done and all MERLIN records have been sent again. Gary has printed MOBIUS/MIRACL notices (there was only 7 of them, all for Ellis) and it worked fine. Codes from patron files will be used to identify the home library, then those codes will be mapped to an address. Once that is done, notices can be sent to the correct library.

c. Slowness of the transaction file processor: Ever since the RAID cabinet was switched out on January 13, 1999, the transaction file has not been able to keep up with processing. Gary has asked III to do a system performance analysis. LSO did not agree with III's interpretation of the analysis. Basically, III has said that it's "our fault" because of the way we use the system. This could have ramifications for the MOBIUS consortium. The MOBIUS servers will come with RAID systems. LSO is convinced that something happened when the RAID cabinet was switched out with a new cabinet. Some parameters have been found to be incorrectly set on the new RAID cabinet. Gary Harris spoke with III about the transaction file during lunch. Fay has asked her team to start from scratch and look at our system from the bottom up, including our RAID cabinet. She will call him tomorrow to let us know how III will address this problem.

d. Other: Gary announced that he has filled two LSO positions. Lisa Corlee will replace Vivian as the Support Specialist. Vivian is staying an extra week to help train Lisa. Gary's replacement for the SLU liaison position has accepted LSO's offer and will be on board by the end of February. Also, Axie Hindeman is now on LSO's staff.

2. Simultaneous user's discussion continued: The "Library" group has been upped to 100 licenses and that has helped public access to the system. George feels that 742 licenses is way too high a number for what we use. The highest snapshots have shown that maximum use has not exceeded 500 simultaneous users. With MOBIUS coming on board, it is even less likely that we need as many licenses because the public can get into our site through the union catalog. Once MERLIN is upgraded to the Millennium software (sometime this year) all we'll need are staff MERLIN licenses because public web access will not require licensing. Millennium will come with unlimited licenses for the OPAC and a circulation component. Currently, Millennium workstations require 120 mb of RAM and a 450 megahertz processor.

Many MERLIN login groups have never been used so discussion continued about how many licenses we need and how to distribute them. After a lively discussion, the coordinators agreed that we only need one "pool" of licenses. George would like to reduce the total number of licenses to 542. LSO will change the allocation for contention groups to 542 licenses available to each group so that it's a "first-come, first-served" concept. This should reduce the number of public access denials we continue to get. We will continue to have the breakdown of subgroups so that we can monitor activity on local terminals. George will not terminate the extra licenses at this point. Gary Harris will reboot the system on a weekly basis in order to eliminate any "hung session" problems. This will not unfree any locked records.

3. Authority vendor discussion: Impact of the OCLC/WLN merger:

George has talked with some folks who have been through this vendor switch process. WLN service will probably continue as it has been for awhile. A decision will be made by OCLC as to whether it will continue WLN's authority service as it now exists. It relies on the WLN database and is an expensive resource to maintain when OCLC has its own database. We should be able to get our year's worth of backlog processed with WLN before any change occurs through OCLC. Richard Amelung has the test data report printouts from WLN and he will distribute them. We can then have MQCC review the reports OCLC produces.

4. Paid enhancement process discussion: Is our process working?

George and Robin have discussed this process per Richard's request. The process really didn't work well. George doesn't see much value in it because what comes out of the process is very limited. This process was set up to address significant system issues over which we have no control. However, there are two areas that III needs to develop: 1. SCAT table and 2. Staff printing. They have committed to addressing these problems for the MOBIUS project. Also, some limitations such as spine label printing is a problem. Call numbers don't appear in the bibliographic record when you print and this is a problem for patrons when they print bibliographic records. Libraries will rely almost totally on the web for public access and printing will be a problem because of the limitation of the web browser and Windows.

We have committees meeting to discuss enhancements but the lists have very few outstanding issues to present to III. The IUG enhancement process is still available but its effectiveness is doubtful. III does seem to address repeat problems. The Coordinators feel this process should continue through the IUG enhancement process and the MERLIN committees no longer need to go through the "paid enhancement" route. This doesn't mean that we can't ask LSO for specially funded requests. Since Millennium is coming on-line within a year, it is pointless to continue this process since III's time will be tied up in developing Millennium products. Robin will post a message to MERLIN lists

explaining the coordinators decision to discontinue the enhancements process.

5. Review of action items:

#656 - training dates suggested. Gary will coordinate this with III

#851 - completed

#1082 - on-going (replace Robin's name with Janet's)

#1198 - on-going (Gary's replacement will take over this project)

#1196 - on-going (in committee)

#1197 - on-going

#1203 - completed

#1204 - completed

#1197 - on-going

#1256 - Gary will have a response from III 2/4/99

Action Item for LSO: Change the allocation of logins to 542 for each login group. This was done before the meeting was ended.

Action Item for LSO: Call #1077: LSO will ask III to turn on check-in notes on March 1, 1999.

6. III training dates:

Gary called III to find out what dates are available to us. We have six days available. Two days to be held for ILL. One/half day will be for create lists, one/half day will be on creating statistical reports, and one day will be devoted to circulation. All sessions are to be repeated at a second site. Mid-late May would be a possible time (intercession is May 10-June 7). The next intercession is August 2-13 but the May session may be better. III was booked through March so we need to schedule this quickly. We can have 10 people at each session. Training will occur for two days in Kansas City, and two days in St. Louis. The decision was to schedule all four days the week of May 10. We need input from circulation folks how they want the session organized. Gary will send a message to the circulation listserv to ask for training session content.

7. Checkin note display in WEBPAC:

MERLIN will become a Millennium system so the public checkin note display problem is on hold for now. It displays correctly in character base, but all ""n" tag notes display in the webpac. The coordinators agreed that the display of "n" notes will be turned on March 1.

8. Election of chair: Richard Amelung is willing to serve as long as his appointment as chair to MQCC is terminated. MQCC will need to elect a new chair.

9. Other: Richard was interested in the coordinators discuss any issues that would be appropriate to bring up at IUG. "Non-generic" training would be helpful especially when we deal with a second system like MOBIUS. Some vendors do not allow customers to access databases via a proxy server. This may need further discussions. PURL software may be an option for LSO to maintain URL's. It is free software that is utilized by OCLC. The PURL is placed into the 856 field.

Next meeting is: March 3, 1999

Nancy D. Stancel
UMKC Law Library
500 E. 52nd St.
Kansas City, MO 64110-2499
voice: (816) 235-2439
fax: (816) 235-5274
e-mail: stanceln@umkc.edu