

Minutes: MCRC Meeting
June 14th, 2000

The MERLIN/MOBIUS Circulation committee met on June 14th, 2000 in the LSO office.

Chair Amy Arnott presided.

Present: Mary Anderson (UMKC MNL), Amy Arnott (UMSL), Mary Jo Barbush-Weiss (UMR), Doris Beeson (SLU Pius), June DeWeese (UMC-Ellis), Judy Fox (WashU), Carol Green (UMC-Ellis), Gary Harris (MCO), Barbara Hufker (UMSL), Terri Knouff (UMC-HSL), John Meyer (UMC Ellis), Scott Peterson (UMR), Larry Ruzich (UMCK MNL), Mary Ann Samson (SLU Law), Cathy Stubbs(MCO/LSO)

I. LSO Update

Gary Harris said Merlin will be taken down on July 30th for installation of a new machine. Patrons will be able to use the Mobius catalogue. The change may take all day. Gary will call the circulation desks to advise on the status of the update. Later there will be an upgrade to Millenium software. Mark Wahrenbrock will coordinate the Millenium training for the MERLIN libraries.

Patron loads are now looking ahead two semesters for student expiration dates. Now if students are enrolled and paid for next semester their MERLIN expiration date will reflect this later date.

Patron loads will use the official OUTLOOK e-mail address for schools who have chosen to load student e-mail addresses.

Web management reports can be viewed at laurel.lso.missouri.edu/manage
Gary is still working on updating the INN-Reach portion of the statistics.

Christopher Gould had some questions for UMSL and UMKC about their student E-mail accounts. He also informed the committee that e-mail addresses are not a protected field so those who are not loading e-mail addresses should be aware that the blank e-mail field will delete any e-mail addresses that were added manually.

II. Mobius Update

The next cluster to go live with circulation will be the Archway (Red) on June 27th,

Swan (Southwest) will go live on July 18th. Both clusters should be using INN-Reach within three months of going live with circulation. The next clusters to be added will be Wilo and Lance, followed by Bridges, then Southeast, Central West and Northeast.

Robin Kespohl distributed additional Lanter bags to each pick-up site represented.

III. Approval of March 15th minutes

Mary Anderson moved that the minutes be approved with minor spelling corrections. Barb Hufker seconded. The minutes were approved.

IV. Communication between MCRC and MAAC

Amy reported that there is concern among the directors about communication between MERLIN and Mobius committees. Two examples cited were the policy regarding lost books and the gathering of statistics. In a conversation with Amy, George Rickerson suggested more extensive use of e-mail as one possible solution since the timing of the meetings of the groups does not usually facilitate decision-making. There was also discussion about the need to be clear about "proposal vs. policy" in meeting minutes. Some other areas cited for future discussion were developing guidelines for the MERLIN representatives to Mobius committees. It was also suggested that committee members report issues being discussed to their directors.

Re: statistics-There was some question about what specific information we are hoping to glean from these numbers and how they should be gathered. Judy Fox stated that MLNC is still investigating what types of statistics we may be able to get from OCLC.

V. ILL Proposal-Visiting Patron

The Mobius Executive Committee has decided to make visiting patron optional, so that each institution could make its own determination. Those who are not comfortable should not be forced to use it.

Libraries in the Arthur cluster are already borrowing within their cluster. It was suggested that we need to know who is participating and who isn't. Should we offer visiting patron as a service? At this point no institution has said no to the visiting patron option.

As a means of identification SLU and Washington U. put bookbands on visiting patron books.

Do we need to "count" Visiting Patrons or the number of books checked out to Visiting Patrons?

Mary Jackson of ILL Best Practices suggested to the directors may want some data about statistics. Ex. Fill rate & turnaround time.

A possible future agenda item should address how each institution reports statistics.

VI. Lost Book Proposal

The committee reviewed the MAAC's Lost Book Proposal. It was agreed that the proposal was acceptable but we would like Amy to clarify a few points at the next MAAC meeting. Those points being: do we have to charge \$20.00 processing fee, does the patron deal directly with the lending library or should the communication be library to library, and what happens if the patrons replaces

the book and then at a later date the book found? Should this decision be left up to the lending library?

VII. Returning Mobius books to any Mobius library

MAAC members had expressed concern about problems that could arise if patrons were allowed to return Mobius books to any Mobius library. If a book is returned to a library that is not a cluster member of either the borrowing or lending library, the book would have no virtual record in that library's database. The MCRC felt that this is not a major concern because the owning library would be easily identified. One option discussed was additional wording on the bookband to direct patrons to return books to their home library or the lending library.

VIII. Inviting Arthur to a future meeting

Discussion but no decision as of yet.

IX. Update on "Campus Use Only" status

Amy asked Raleigh Muns to see if MCDAC has any problem with using this status in MERLIN and there is not yet a response.

X. "Not Wanted After" option in holds

The committee decided they wanted to activate this enhancement.
Action Item: Amy will ask LSO to activate the option.

At the October 17th meeting each member of the committee will bring documentation that shows how they gather statistics.

Future meetings: October 17, 2000 and January 10, 2001.
The meeting was adjourned.

Larry Ruzich, recorder.