**ANNUAL REPORT (2021-2022)**

**MOBIUS Professional Development Committee**

*Submitted by David Morris, Chair*

The new MOBIUS Professional Development Committee held its inaugural meeting on November 23, 2021. At this meeting, we reviewed and considered the committee’s charge and we decided to reach out to other MOBIUS committees in order to: (1) learn about any professional development and training initiatives in these committees’ areas of focus, (2) avoid any duplication of efforts with whatever initiatives the Professional Development Committee launches, and (3) learn about areas of perceived need, where other committees would like ours to spearhead greater opportunities for training and professional development.

To this end, we invited all MOBIUS committee chairs to meet with us to discuss professional development in the context of their respective committee charges. Because of scheduling conflicts and the winter break that many of our institutions have, we held two separate forums to accommodate as many people as possible.

The first forum was on December 15, 2021, and included conversations with Bryan Carson (E-Resources Committee), Peter Klein (User Experience and Metadata Committee), and Sharon McCaslin (Bylaws Committee). The second forum was on February 11, 2022, and involved the participation of Kirsten Abotsi (ILS Software and Services Committee), Sarah Brown (Circulation and Courier Committee), and Sarah Smith (Digitization Committee).

These two forums gave our committee a clear sense that there is a tremendous desire for continuing education, networking, and mentoring opportunities across the consortium. Among some of the valuable suggestions we received included examining the professional development, training, and accreditation programs spearheaded by other regional library organizations, such as the New York Metropolitan Library Council and the Florida Library Association, to implement similar programming for MOBIUS, and to make MOBIUS institutions and their staff aware of online training opportunities that already exist across the country.

In the aftermath of those forums, our committee established a regular schedule of monthly meetings, through which we forged an overarching strategic framework based on four dimensions of how we viewed our charge.

Those four dimensions are:

1. Continuing Education: providing and making known training opportunities across all aspects of librarianship.
2. Leadership Development: offering mentoring and networking opportunities for library directors and other senior library administrators.
3. Library Career Development: providing support for career advancement for library professionals, especially those not in an administrative track, connecting them to opportunities for library association and conference participation, and developing resume-writing and interviewing skills.
4. MOBIUS Onboarding: assisting new institutions joining MOBIUS and helping all of our members better understand the consortium’s benefits and workflows.

Across these four dimensions, we also conceived of a series of short-term, intermediate, and long-term goals. The initiatives we are working on now, and expect to make significant progress on over this summer, include:

-For Continuing Education: (1) the development of a web calendar of online training events across the country that would be published on the MOBIUS website, and (2) the identification and solicitation of experts in different areas of librarianship at MOBIUS institutions, resulting in a thematic directory, which would also be published on the MOBIUS site.

-For Leadership Development: (1) the development of a series of online sessions bringing together library directors and senior administrators, and (2) identifying established library directors who would be willing to mentor and support new directors, especially in their immediate area.

-For Library Career Development: the organization of an annual, half-day virtual seminar that would complement—but be separate from—the annual MOBIUS Conference.

-For MOBIUS Onboarding: (1) the organization of an annual onboarding event for new library directors and designated MOBIUS coordinators, and (2) the creation of an FAQ page for MOBIUS workflows, which would be hosted on the consortium website.

In separate meetings with Donna Bacon and Christina Virden, our committee has secured approval for adding a training events calendar, an FAQ page, and a directory of experts to the MOBIUS website, and we are working with the MOBIUS staff and IT team to implement those items as quickly as possible. In another meeting with Peter Klein, we have also come to the agreement that the FAQ page will be curated by the User Services and Metadata Committee, working in partnership with our committee.

Finally, the Professional Development Committee had one departure this past year: Peter Johnson left William Jewel College to take a new position at the University of Kansas, outside of the MOBIUS Consortium. He resigned from his position on the committee in February. We anticipate filling his vacancy with the new slate of committee volunteers for 2022-2023.