MOBIUS Board Meeting Minutes

MOBIUS
10/17/2025 10:00 AMCDT
@ Zoom:
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82225050128?pwd=PXRY50B9lSWiXVk6OP6N9aKq3wvpsi.1

Attendance

Present:
Members: Donna Bacon, Brandy Brady, Sarah Brown, Maegan Gattorna, Emily Jaycox, Kim Kietzman, Jill Mahoney, David Morris, Maud Mundava, Jennifer Nutefall, Samantha Perkins, Sarah Smith, Kara Whatley
Guests: Gar Sydnor (EBSCO)

Absent:
Members: Janet Caruthers

I. Call to Order and Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM.

II. Adoption of the Agenda

This portion of the meeting was not on the recording.

MOBIUS Board Agenda 10-17-25.docx

III. Approval of the August 8 Meeting

Minutes approved.

MOBIUS Board Meeting Minutes.docx

IV. OpenRS Updates with Harry Kaplanian & Gar Sydnor

Gar Sydnor from EBSCO provided the Board with an update on OpenRS. His presentation included a slide of Released & Enables features and Released features. Among them were DCB Admin, Instance Suppression for FOLIO (live, but needs configuration), Renewal Due Date sync (in production, but waiting on the feature of no renewals for items on hold). The ALMA connector has been completed, as well as the ILL app. Pick up Anywhere is in user testing, Requestor names on holds is in development, and they are increasing focus on clustering and loop errors. Items for potential development are: additional connectors and using ILL to request an item outside of the consortia. Sarah Brown asked for a timeline for fixing the Polaris issues, which include only 50% success for placing a holds request for items that had hold queues. Gar offered to send someone to them to troubleshoot in person.

V. Treasurer's Report

No financial reports at this time. Currently in audit process. Sarah Brown did inform the Board that according to our September 30 investment statement, the total market value of MOBIUS is $1,623,000---almost $50,000 increase since July statement.

September 2025 investment statement.pdf

VI. Committee Reports

VII. Bylaws (?)

Bella Gerlich, who was representing this committee, had to resign from the board due to her position being eliminated from Missouri S & T. It was then brought to attention that the Past President is supposed to be the chair of the bylaws committee. This would be Kim Kietzman, and she had no report at this time.

VIII. Circulation and Courier (Jennifer)

Jennifer Nutefall reports that the last meeting of the committee was October 9th. Steve at the MOBIUS office has been working on an updated label maker due to issues with materials being sent to the wrong institution, or some symbols being to similar.

IX. Digitization (Emily)

Emily Jaycox reports that this committee meets every few months, along with a monthly standing meeting with Haiku development partner. There is work being done to look at the compatibility of Haiku with the Digital Public Library of America. There is some work that needs to be done with making the OAI feeds compliant with what DPLA needs. Haiku agreed to work on this within the existing contract with no extra charge.

X. E-Resources (Maud)

Maude Mundava reports that the e-resources committee is looking at putting together training sessions and a toolkit on digital accessibility compliance. They have also formed a working group to handle the OER planning projects.

XI. Professional Development (Brandy)

Brandy Brady asks the board if the Professional Development committee should help with the training/peer mentorship initiatives of other committees. Sarah Smith suggested more reporting from committee chairs or a MOBIUS user list to let everyone know what's happening in the committees, instead of just a once per quarter report from the Board. Samantha Perkins discusses the idea of having a board member reach out to committee chairs about having a group meeting. It was decided by the end of the month an email would be sent to committee chairs with a Doodle poll with possible dates. The committee received three grant applications and the committee is recommending to fund all three. The board voted to fund all three applicant.

Grant applicants for Spring 2026.docx

XII. Cataloging (Jill)

Jill Mahoney reports that the Cataloging Committee completed and posted the 856 field guidelines document. The committee hosted an open hours session, for outreach and to gather feedback on cataloging issues. The committee sent out a survey about peer mentoring, hoping to match those who can mentor with those who may need a mentor.
The committee also had questions about the new committee charge, the section requiring the committee to do end user assessment and service assessment. The committee is unsure what they are supposed to be using to assess these things--is there supposed to be a formal assessment tool, are they supposed to create their own assessment. It was discussed that according to the strategic planning conversations, each committee should be polling their users about their charge responsibilities. It was discussed that this should be centralized in some way, so that members aren't receiving multiple surveys

from all of the committees. Sarah Smith suggested a small subcommittee of the board work on best practices for this.

XIII. FOLIO and OpenRS Enhancements (Samantha)

Samantha Perkins reports that the committee adopted Trello as their tool for managing all of the enhancement requests. All requests were ranked to help the committee decide priorities. A Google Form will be used for enhancement requests and link to the Trello board on the back end. The committee is also planning on hosting an open hours session and continues to meet twice a month.

FOLIO and OpenRS Enhancements Committee Report October 2025.pdf

XIV. Old Business

XV. Budget and assessments for 2026-27, including vote on contingency funds (Donna and David)

Donna Bacon reports that the Finance Committee met and the budget and assessment is complete and will go to board for approval.
The budget has a 3% raise for staff. Everything else is close to last year. There is a 10% increase for health and dental because costs are not finalized yet and that is a safe estimate.
Folio maintenance will go up, OpenRS hosting comes out of contingency. After the increase in FOLIO maintenance and the loss of membership that will be experiences in 26/27, we have a loss of $143,952. The Finance Committee agreed to a 3% increase which does not make up the shortfall. The courier has a 4.5% increase. After adding Wichita, we have $144,209 that needs to come out of contingency to make up the shortfall. We also have to pay $140, 689 for OpenRS. From the audit we know we have $980,113 in the contingency fund and we would be taking a total of $254, 898.72 from the contingency fund.
David Morris discusses the assessments and the decision to keep the assessment model the same this year. The Board will be discussing assessment models and we know we need to completely overhaul the model, but there was not enough time to have conversations and deliberate with the membership to get that done for 26/27.
The conference was increased from $30,000 to $40,000. Donna does not believe we will use all of that, depending on where the conference is held. Donna does not expect to get another conference grant. The State Librarian does not want to give money for hotel rooms. The grant has not been paying for much besides hotel rooms. Also, MOBIUS has not received the funds from the past conference, even though they have turned in all documentation. A keynote speaker may be something the state government will fund through a grant, or perhaps paying for AV support. Kara Whatley is looking into MU hosting the conference, and that would save money on a hotel and possibly food.
Kara Whatley asked about vendor support for the conference. Kara also mentioned her previous work with the SCELC consortium. They added a deans and directors symposium, which helped with vendor support, because they wanted more facetime with library deans and directors.
The board also discussed asking EBSCO to fund a portion of the conference.
Kara Whatley mentioned hosting events such as tours of the State Historical Society.
In February/March, the Finance committee plans on hosting listening sessions to introduce potential new assessment models.
Kara Whatley moved that we accept the FY 26/27 assessments as presented. Samantha Perkins seconded. The motion passed.
Kara Whatley moved that we accept the FY 26/27 budget as presented. Sarah Smith seconded. The motion passed.

FY26-27 Assessment FINAL.xlsx

FY26-27 FINAL Budget.xlsx

XVI. ROI Reports Updates (Donna)

Christina Virden, Donna Bacon and Scott Angel have been working on ROI reports for each member library, as well as a MOBIUS Consortium report. David Morris and Samantha Perkins worked with MOBIUS on what type of data to include in the reports. They decided to focus on financial information and to focus on what the savings are as a consortium member. There are comparisons between what libraries are paying through MOBIUS and what the retail value is, with a percentage savings shown across the top of the report.
Resource sharing is also covered, in terms of the cost of a MOBIUS lend versus using traditional ILL through OCLC.
E-resource licensing is covered. With Kenrick Glennon as an example, eMO collections is less than a penny per title and the Overdrive collection, 6 cents per title.
At the bottom of the report is total annual savings for e-resources subscribed to.
The board felt positively about the design and content of the reports and they will be sent out soon to members.

Kenrick-Glennon Seminary ROI Report.pdf

MOBIUS Consortium ROI Report (3).pdf

XVII. Contract Updates and Percentage Increases (Donna)

Donna Bacon discusses the member contracts and how some members were not in favor of having to give a year's notice to leave when they did not yet know what the assessment would be. Discussion on whether to put a percentage increase limit within the contract of 3-5%. If raised more than that, the one-year notice would not apply.
Sarah Brown motioned to adopt the language of capping increases at 5%. Emily Jaycox seconded. The motion passed. This will be included in the contracts going forward and libraries who have already signed contracts will receive an addendum.

XVIII. Update on Working Groups (David)

David Morris discusses the working groups he proposed. Kara Whatley, Jennifer Nutefall and Mimi Calter have been involved and the hope is to formally launch them this fall. It is hoped the governance group would have recommendations sooner than the other two groups. The membership has to vote on the governance changes and David does not want to wait until the June meeting for this. We would use the Courier to vote on this.
David hopes to issue soon a call to membership to participate in the research data and shared print working groups.
Discussion was had about when to aim to launch the governance working group--it was decided to focus on having something for the board by February.

XIX. New Business

XX. Welcome to Kara Whatley (David and Donna)

The board welcomed Kara Whatley to the Board of Directors. Kara is the Vice Provost for Libraries at the University of Missouri.

XXI. Meetings with Kansas and Kansas State (Donna and Kara)

David Morris discusses conversations that have been happening in smaller groups of the board between himself, Donna, Kara, and other library directors about expanding and growing MOBIUS to address our financial shortfall. Kara Whatley and Donna Bacon had a successful meeting with the University of

Kansas and Kansas State. Kara also had conversations with the dean from University of Arakansas libraries and they expressed interested in meeting with Donna and David. Also, the dean of libraries from the University of Kentucky is interested. Samantha Perkins suggested creating a list or shared spreadsheet to keep track of interested libraries. Donna Bacon offered to create a shared spreadsheet. Donna mentioned she and Steve are going to the Kansas Library Association conference and will have a vendor booth there and doing prior outreach to the libraries in that state.

XXII. Prospective Membership Model (David)

David Morris discusses how becoming a member of MOBIUS is somewhat of a big jump. He suggests perspective membership-a public acknowledgement that conversations are happening but there is no obligation at that time.

XXIII. Affiliate Membership for E-Resources (Donna)

Also discussed were libraries contracting services through MOBIUS, such as e-resource licensing and courier. These libraries wouldn't have to wait until they had adopted FOLIO to be involved with MOBIUS. David Morris wants to dicuss this in more detail at the December meeting.

XXIV. New Models for Assessment (Donna and David)

This was discussed during our conversation about finances and no more discussion was needed at this time.

XXV. Polaris Meeting (Donna and Kim)

Donna Bacon and Kim Kietzman met with K-int and EBSCO. The Polaris specialist at K-Int left and the person stepping in doesn't have as much experience. Casey from K-Int is going to watch staff go through their processes to see the issues Polaris libraries are having. There are parts of base functionality that are not working. The things discussed most were the looping problems-an item gets sent to a library and their patron checks out the hold but DCB never communicates back to the Polaris library that the hold got checked out. Then the item comes back to the Polaris library, appears that it has a hold and gets sent back out again.

XXVI. Mizzou and MOBIUS Cooperation on Grants (David and Kara)

David Morris discusses a grant that Kara Whatley would like MIZZOU to pursue, and ideally come from across the state of Missouri. NSF has a campus cyber infrastructure grants to build a shared open repository. A central consortium would be needed to help manage something like this. The grant application would be due in April.

XXVII. Emily Jaycox’s Board Seat (David)

Emily Jaycox will be stepping down from her role as head librarian at the Missouri Historical Society, but will remain part-time as she researches and writes a book. Emily talked to Kelly Rylance at the St. Louis Art Museum (another special library) and thinks she would be a great candidate for the special library board seat.
Sarah Smith motioned for Kelly Rylance to finish out Emily Jaycox's board term. Kara Whatley seconded. The motion passed.

XXVIII. Concordia (Donna)

Donna Bacon updates the board on the situation with Concordia. When Concordia informed Donna they were leaving, they had already signed another contract and did not give a year notice. Donna informed

Eric thatthey were responsible for their membership fees for the following budget year. They were sent an invoice on July 1 and they have ignored the invoice. Two reminders have been sent that have been ignored. The invoice was $27,497 and was due July 31. The board discussed that is Concordia ever wanted back into the consortium, they would have to settle the unpaid bill.

XXIX. Membership Update

No report.

XXX. Executive Director's Report

Has been covered in other parts of the meeting.

XXXI. State Librarian's Report

No report.

XXXII. Other Business

XXXIII. Adjourn Meeting

Sarah Smith moved to adjourn the meeting. Jennifer Nutefall seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 1:14 pm.