**MOBIUS Electronic Resources Advisory Committee (MERAC)**
**Report to MOBIUS Council**
**December 1, 2000**

The MOBIUS Electronic Resources Advisory Committee got off to a fast start with an organizational meeting at the MOBIUS offices on October 10th. The MCO staff gave the Committee outstanding support by providing in-depth resources to help us fulfill our charge.

The Committee wants
(1) to report to Council on our activities to date;
(2) to ask Library Directors to allocate some funds for joint purchase of electronic resources beginning in July, 2001 (FY 02); and
(3) to prepare documentation to help support the MOBIUS budget request for $900,000 in state funding for new initiatives and special projects.

**Goal: One of the Committee's goals is to select resources of wide appeal so that all MOBIUS libraries will want to participate in the group purchase. We want to license products for consortium-wide access.** This will increase our buying power. It will be important in the future to make state and member-funded resources available to all members. And it will let the Legislature know that academic libraries need electronic resources and are willing to make a commitment to them. At present, there is no state funding through MOBIUS for the purchase of electronic resources. We want MOBIUS to be the organization for higher education licensing and the organization that provides training and support for end users.

**Timeframe: We plan to have a trial and evaluation of resources early next year; to select resources; and then send a proposal out for bid by early spring so libraries can participate in a joint purchase of databases beginning in July, 2001.**

**The Committee is engaged in a two part process:**

(1) Surveying existing resources and determining if MOBIUS can obtain a cost savings by acquiring state-wide licenses for some of the products that several institutions are already licensing. The costs for these consortial databases would be paid by member libraries; and
(2) Evaluating products for future licensing with possible state and member funding

The Committee is working on a process to evaluate and license products. We are discussing funding models that could be used in distributing the costs of online resources among MOBIUS libraries.

(over)

**MERAC and MCO Accomplishments:**

- **Organized a committee** of 14 members—one from each of the 11 clusters with alternates from three clusters;
- Created a **MERAC-L listserv** for committee members and for electronic resources contact persons
- Met twice—October 10th and November 9th
- Enlisted the help of **electronic resources contacts** representing each library
- Created an electronic inventory of online and CD-ROM database subscriptions **Raleigh Muns, of UMSL, created MAROON (Missouri's Available Resources on Online Networks), a database with editing capabilities.**
- **Electronic resources contact persons entered records for 1512 databases held by the MOBIUS libraries.**
- MERAC members selected a list of resources that were widely held and that are potential candidates for purchase by member libraries with institutional funds and selected a second list of databases that are potential candidates for purchasing if state funds become available
- MOBIUS office **obtained licensing costs** for six of the widely held databases

**MERAC Members:**

Carol Antoniewicz, Washington University; Anne Booker, BRIDGES; Xiaotian Chen, LANCE; Lynn Cline, SWAN: Darrin Daughtery, Northwest; Linda Lillard, QUEST; Joyce Meldrem, Northwest; Raleigh Muns, MERLIN; Kathy Schlump, ARCHWAY; Mary Slater, QUEST; Karl Suhr, Southeast; Scarlett Swall, WILO; Stephanie Tolson, ARCHWAY; and Lorna Mitchell, ARTHUR, Chair.

**MCO Staff Associates:**

Axie Hindman, Library Systems Specialist--Licensing
Terry Austin, Library Systems Specialist--Licensing

**Electronic Resources for Consideration for MOBIUS Access Member Funding**
**Preliminary Pricing – December 2000**

**ABC-CLIO** **America: History and Life**
**Historical Abstracts**

*America: History and Life* provides bibliographical coverage of the history and culture of the United States and Canada.

*Historical Abstracts* is a guide to the history of the world from 1450 to the present providing abstracts of historical and related social science literature.

Currently 14 academic libraries subscribe to both databases. The average price for both databases is $8,642.86 for a total expenditure of $121,000. MOBIUS could expand coverage to the entire 49 member libraries for an increase of $17,000 for a total of $138,000. Under one pricing model using weighted FTEs, large academic libraries would pay only $429 more for both databases than the current cost for one database. The cost for both databases for very small institutions (<1,000 FTE) might be under $2000—less than $1000 for each database.

**Books in Print**

*Books in Print* provides records for 50,000 publishers including books that are in print, forthcoming, out-of-print since 1979.

Books in Print is currently available from a number of vendors. Among the vendors that responded to our preliminary inquiry regarding pricing were: Bowker, EBSCO, and OCLC. Approximately 13 academic libraries subscribe to Books in Print (excludes libraries who use pay per search access through OCLC FirstSearch). The current average price being paid for BIP is $2,502. The vendors contacted have offered pricing with a range averaging from $1,456--$1,216.22 per library for unlimited access to all 49 libraries.

**CINAHL**

*CINAHL* provides abstracts and indexes for over 950 journals and publications in nursing and allied health disciplines.

CINAHL is available from a number of vendors. Among the vendors that responded to our preliminary inquiry regarding pricing were: SilverPlatter, OCLC, EBSCO, and OVID. Approximately 18 academic libraries subscribe to CINAHL (excludes libraries who use pay per search access through OCLC FirstSearch). The current average price being paid for CINAHL is $1790 for various numbers of simultaneous users per institution. The vendors contacted have offered pricing with a range averaging from $1198-$1794 for 35 shared simultaneous users for the 49 libraries. For unlimited users the range averages $1265-$1768.

**CollegeSource Online**

*CollegeSource Online* provides cover-to-cover college catalogs for 2-year, 4-year and graduate schools with weekly updates.

Career Guidance Foundation produces CollegeSource Online. Currently 17 academic libraries subscribe to CollegeSource Online. Career Guidance Foundation has offered preliminary pricing for all 49 institutions for 35 shared users for an average of $810 per institution or unlimited access for $1,102.49 per institution. Currently the average price for the 15 libraries reporting pricing is $1131. The $1131 average provides only limited access usually between 1-3 simultaneous users. This database does not show potential for large cost savings but a purchase by the consortium would provide increased access.

**SIRS Researcher via SIRS Knowledge**

SIRS Researcher is a general reference database with thousands of full-text articles exploring social, scientific, health, historic, economic, business, political, and global issues.

Currently 17 academic libraries subscribe to SIRS Researcher. Eleven libraries reported pricing with an average of $1540. SIRS preliminary pricing information offers an average price of $918.37 for unlimited access to all 49 academic institutions.

The true benefit for each library will depend on the pricing models used for allocating expenditures to the individual libraries. MERAC has not yet recommended a model for distributing licensing costs among MOBIUS members. The Committee has discussed several models but wanted to obtain firm quotes on some widely held databases first. We will use these figures to see how costs would be distributed given different pricing models.

**Electronic Resources for Consideration for MOBIUS Access**
**State Funding**
**Preliminary List**

Gale's Literature Resource Center
ERIC E*Subscribe
E-books (in general)
Project Muse
PsycINFO
Contemporary Women's Issues
JSTOR
BIOSIS (and Biological Abstracts)
ABI/Inform