**MOBIUS CATALOG DESIGN ADVISORY COMMITTEE**
Report to the MOBIUS Executive Council
December 1, 2000

The MOBIUS Catalog Design Advisory Committee (MCDAC) has had a very productive first year. The committee is charged with responsibility for the design and indexing of the MOBIUS Union catalog and web pages. Representatives from each of the eleven clusters serve on the committee. Some clusters have also appointed alternate representatives. Meetings are held quarterly at the MCO office in Columbia, with a staff member from the MCO in attendance at each meeting. The committee's first meeting was held on October 29, 1999. Subsequent meetings were held on Dec. 10, 1999, Mar. 10, 2000, June 9, 2000 and Sept. 8, 2000. The next meeting will be on Dec. 8, 2000. An electronic discussion list, MCDAC-L, was established to facilitate discussion among members. A web page for the committee was created and is available at http://sequoia.lso.missouri.edu/mobius1/mcdac.htm. Patricia Teter, from Truman State University (LANCE) was elected as the committee's first chairperson. Karen Letarte, from Southwest Missouri State University (SWAN), was elected as the incoming chairperson at the Sept. 8 meeting.

## INDEXING AND DISPLAY ISSUES

The committee considered a variety of issues affecting the design and indexing of the MOBIUS Union Catalog this year. One of the first issues to be decided was the choice of the Master record for the Union catalog. If there are duplicate bibliographic records from the cluster catalogs, only one can display in the Union Catalog, though holdings information for all institutions will display. The committee voted unanimously to retain the MERLIN record as the Master record, with Washington University records given second load priority. Significant factors in the decision were the Medical Subject headings and the high quality of serials records available in both the MERLIN and Washington University databases.

The committee was also asked to consider the use of a new III product, the Journal Scope, for the Union Catalog. Currently, the existing Union catalog uses a separate index for journal titles, which is indexed from an artificially created MARC field, the 229 field. The Journal Scope would allow users to conduct all searches in the journal portion of the database only, making it possible to do keyword or subject searches on journals only. After discussion, the committee decided the Journal Scope was of limited use to most users. The committee voted to retain the current journal title index and use of MARC field 229.

Innovative also offered another product this year, the Advanced Searching module. Advanced Searching offered many powerful new search capabilities, including pre-search limits, and was based on the Alta Vista web search engine. The committee discussed options for reindexing the keyword indexes of the Union Catalog at several meetings. However, the Advanced Searching product has been withdrawn by Innovative because of difficulties indexing words containing diacritics outside of the standard ISO character set. Reindexing of the keyword indexes in the MOBIUS Union Catalog will not occur until this problem has been resolved.

Policies for subject cataloging and authority control, which affect access to the Union Catalog, were discussed and developed. The MOBIUS Subject Cataloging Policy was approved at the Sept. 8 meeting and is posted on the MCDAC web page. The MCDAC recommends that cluster databases retain all available subject headings, including MESH and Children's headings. Voting was unanimous that the MOBIUS Union Catalog will include a searchable LC Children's Subject index, and that all subject heading fields will be retained in the MOBIUS database. Clusters will decide which subject indexes to offer locally. The MCDAC is currently discussing a draft policy on Authority Control, which has also been posted to the web page.

Other indexing issues the committee examined include the separate Table of Contents/Notes index currently offered in the Union catalog, and the use of 586 Awards notes for children's literature. Usage statistics revealed that the separate Table of Contents index is used infrequently. The MCDAC voted to discontinue this separate index, and to combine the Tables of Contents and notes index with the general keyword index instead. The 586 Awards note is not required in MOBIUS member cataloging records, but since there is significant interest in

juvenile materials at numerous member libraries, the Committee encourages catalogers to add the 586 awards note. This note will be indexed in the Union catalog's keyword index.

One particularly complex issue the committee has wrestled with this year is the display in the Union Catalog of the 856 field, which hot-links users from the catalog to Internet resources. There have been many concerns about how to display this field when multiple libraries hold titles. Currently, subfield z is used to identify the institution to which the 856 field applies. Because the Union catalog structure relies upon display of one master record, only the 856 fields from that cluster display, even though other libraries may hold the same title. This gives users an inaccurate picture of the access available to a particular URL. The committee considered suppressing the 856 field from the MOBIUS database. The disadvantage of that approach is that government document URLs would no longer display from the Union Catalog. The display of "local" URL's, where access is limited to those libraries that subscribe to a particular title, is of continued concern. Users from other libraries would be unable to access the resource if they clicked on the link. At the Sept. 8 meeting, the MCDAC voted, on a trial basis, to display the 856 field in the Union catalog with subfield z suppressed. (Subfield z identifies the institution associated with a particular URL.)

**WEB PAGE ENHANCEMENTS**

The MCDAC recommended several enhancements to the Union Catalog Web pages. Links will now be provided from the central catalog page to members' individual catalogs through the "Member Libraries" button. A second button labeled "About MOBIUS" will link to a clickable MOBIUS map displaying cluster and library geographical locations. Clicking on the cluster name will connect to the cluster catalog, while clicking on the institution's name will connect to that institution's library pages. Discussion of the recommended enhancements will continue at the Dec. 2000 meeting.

**COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS and LIAISONS**

The MCDAC discussed having committee appointments follow the fiscal year cycle, beginning July 1 and ending on June 30. New chairpersons would be elected to begin serving in July. One-year and two-year appointments could be made on a staggered basis so that the committee would have continuity. This would avoid a situation where the whole committee would rotate off at the same time. Interest was expressed in the possibility of establishing liaison positions on the MCDAC for representatives of outside organizations. A MOBIUS Catalog Design Policy on Committee Liaisons has been developed and is posted on the web page.

**Committee Membership**

Inas El-Sayed, Lincoln University, ARTHUR
Joy Dodson, Central Methodist College, QUEST
Pat Teter, Truman State University, LANCE
Cathy Palmer, Northwest Missouri State University, Northwest
Cathy Roeder, Southeast Missouri State University, Southeast
Karen Letarte, Southwest Missouri State University, SWAN
Carol Bennett, St. Louis Community College, ARCHWAY
Fran Stumpf (alternate), St. Charles County Community College ARCHWAY
Mary Ann Mercante, Maryville University, BRIDGES
Sue Wartzok (alternate), Webster University, BRIDGES
Pat Logsdon, Washington University, Washington University
Judy Fox (alternate), Washington University, Washington University
Ted Ostaszewski, Metropolitan Community Colleges, WILO
Raleigh Muns, University of Missouri St. Louis, MERLIN

Report submitted November 28, 2000
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