MOBIUS–LINDA HALL LIBRARY PLANNING
MEETING REPORT
February 7, 2002

With the concurrence of the MOBIUS Executive Committee and the MOBIUS Council, a planning meeting was held at the Linda Hall Library of Science and Technology (LHL) on February 7, 2002 convening at 11:00 AM. Attending were C. Lee Jones (LHL President), Brig McCoy (LHL Library Systems Department), Mary Moeller (LHL Library Operations Officer), John Young (MOBIUS Council) and Ted Sheldon (MOBIUS Council). The purpose of the meeting was to explore options and methods to establish a strong partnership between LHL and MOBIUS that benefits both parties and their constituencies.

T. Sheldon opened the meeting and thanked the Linda Hall Library and its president for hosting the meeting over lunch. The MOBIUS Memorandum of Understanding was distributed as a point of reference for the discussions that followed. Lee Jones outlined the interest of the LHL in establishing a partnership with MOBIUS institutions. He also noted the characteristics that define LHL services and make it a different kind of institution. It was noted that LHL derives part of its income from the delivery of books and serial literature in a timely manner to clients. LHL spends approximately $3.5 million annually for the acquisition of materials in the sciences and technology fields it covers. Last year, LHL loaned 65,000 items and borrowed 25. Technologically, LHL uses the Horizon integrated library system in cooperation with the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art.

Earlier investigations demonstrated that it was feasible to link the LHL Horizon system with MOBIUS' Innovative Interfaces (III)-based clusters. LHL recently has determined that it will continue using the Horizon system for the foreseeable future.

The MOBIUS consortium was described as a group of some 55 academic libraries, both public and private, in Missouri that have joined together to implement the Common Library Platform (CLP) program. This program calls for the establishment of 11 clusters of libraries that are defined regionally and each of which share an III system. Using the INN-Reach environment, these 11 cluster machines are linked to each other to form a single integrated library environment. One of the hallmarks of the CLP environment is patron-initiated borrowing of books.

Several issues arose during the discussion that required decisions. The following comments sum up the general outline of a partnership arrangement.

1. There is significant benefit for both LHL and MOBIUS if the two can partner effectively. Efforts should be made to achieve a strong working partnership.

2. To add LHL to the membership of the MOBIUS consortium, a new membership category will be needed because LHL is not a North Central-accredited higher education institution. MOBIUS could create the new category of "partner" or "associate" membership to allow research institutions like LHL to join the consortium.

3. LHL would pay a reduced annual membership dues rate.

4. LHL routinely charges academic clients $12.00 per filled request. MOBIUS institutions would receive a reduced rate of $9.50.

5. Delivery for LHL would be provided through the UMKC stop.

6. Technical work needed to implement the shared computing/telecom environment would be born by the institution incurring the cost.

7. The library of the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art is a partner with LHL in the use of the Horizon system. The opportunity exists to explore a partnership with the Nelson-Atkins Museum library with MOBIUS once arrangements are settled with LHL.

It was felt that these points could serve as the starting line for the creation of the LHL/MOBIUS partnership. Those present agreed that further discussions would take place as appropriate, and that a plan of action should be considered following further discussion by each organization.

February 15, 2002
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