MOBIUS Electronic Resources Advisory Committee
Update Report to the MOBIUS Council
January 30, 2004
Presented by the MERAC Chairperson
Laurie Hathman, Head of Public Services,
Rockhurst University, WILO Cluster

Database Cafeteria Program

MERAC is currently working on two new bids for the FY05 Database Cafeteria Program. The databases are *MLA International Bibliography* produced by the Modern Language Association and *Art Full Text* produced by the H.W. Wilson Company. These databases were selected for bid from the results of a survey conducted by MERAC that identified some core databases that were owned by several members of the consortium. MERAC expects bids back from the vendors by mid February and hopes to set up trials in April.

Current products in the Database Cafeteria Program that we will renew are H.W. Wilson's *Applied Science & Technology Full Text* and *Education Full Text*, ABC-CLIO's *America: History and Life* and *Historical Abstracts*, Gale's *Literature Resource Center*, *ProQuest Psychology Journals*, and EBSCO's *Academic Search Premier Upgrade*.

Vendor Direct Program

Other vendor products continue to be offered through the Vendor Direct Program to those schools who wish to individually subscribe to a product.

Digital Reference

MERAC is in the process of gathering information on the feasibility of a collaborative digital reference project within the consortium. Various software programs have been examined and information has been gathered from other consortiums that have collaborative programs. MERAC is in the process of summarizing this information to present to the Executive Committee.

MAROON Database

The MAROON database, which contains information on the electronic resources held by member libraries, is being enhanced to improve usability. A prototype is expected in April and the enhanced database should be live in June.