Coordinating Board for Higher Education
Academic Affairs Projects and Activities

Project or Initiative: Missouri Bibliographic Information User System (MOBIUS)

Description:
MOBIUS is a consortium of academic libraries with member colleges and universities in MO.

Historical Context:

- 1991 - The concept for a unified library catalog planning meeting
- January 1999 – 50 charter members began the project; other institutions joined as the project progressed.
- December 1, 2000 - MOBIUS Council approved policies regarding the admission of new members.
- The MOBIUS bylaws govern the internal affairs and formalize the purpose, membership guidelines and structure.
- MOBIUS is supported by a combination of state appropriations and member fees.

Current Status:

- The largest single project is the Common Library Platform (CLP).
    - Creates a virtual collection of the current approximately 19 million items in the libraries of Missouri's colleges and universities
    - Creates a single user interface that allows faculty and students to request library materials using any personal computer in any location with access to the Internet.
    - Shares books and resources with thousands of people at a fraction of the cost of the traditional interlibrary loans ($2.50 vs. $25 per loan). Requested materials are delivered within one or two days.
    - Saves cost of purchasing through a large consortium
    - Provides small institutions and distance education students the same access to resources as those from the large institutions.
- Other projects under consideration by MOBIUS include
    - Consortial licensing of electronic information resources such as electronic journals, databases, cooperative collection development
    - Cooperative storage facility.
- Strategic planning includes
    - Fine tuning the existing services
    - Coordinating cooperative relationships
    - Defining and managing membership growth
    - Leveraging technologies to improve service and reduce duplication of effort
    - Developing funding support
    - Developing a user-centered catalog
- Logistics of MOBIUS
    - Systems are all housed in the University of Missouri-Columbia Data Center
    - The MOBIUS Consortium Office (MCO) is located at Columbia and employs a full-time staff to
        - oversee and assist libraries with system implementation and start-up tasks
        - represent MOBIUS in its business relationships with MOREnet, and with vendors of other electronic services and CLP hardware and software.
        - conduct development business on behalf of MOBIUS members.

- MOBIUS has experienced tremendous growth. As of December, 2004
  - 57 MOBIUS member libraries throughout Missouri including one public library
  - 11 clusters linked together through individual servers running the CLP software; each cluster is shared by multiple institutions grouped based on geographic proximity.
  - More than 19 million volumes, up from 11 million in FY2000.
  - 200,000 volumes in usage, up from 8,000 volumes checked out and distributed via MOBIUS in FY2000
- Budget History
  - $10.2 million total ($3.4M per year 1999-2001) of one time appropriation to launch MOBIUS
  - Program Expenditures appropriated from the state
    - FY2002 Actual – $649,539
    - FY2003 Actual – $630,053
    - FY2004 Actual – $630,053
    - FY2005 Planned – $630,053
  - Operational costs of $2.6 million per year from appropriation and membership fees

Future Directions:
Like all state-funded activities, MOBIUS faces financial challenges in FY2005, but because it was not subject to any core budget cuts by the general assembly, it should be able to continue to provide library services at or near the levels it provided in FY2004.