Sharon McCaslin - MOBIUS INDEPENDENT AT-LARGE REPRESENTATIVE CANDIDATE STATEMENT

Sharon McCaslin, University Librarian
Fontbonne University

After earning a Masters in Librarianship at Emporia State University (KS), I spent over twenty-five years as Technical Services Librarian at Peru State College (NE). While in Nebraska, I earned a PhD in higher educational administration from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. I was active in the Nebraska Library Association (NLA), serving as chair of the College and University Section (ACRL Chapter) and president of the state association. In 1999, I moved to Farmville, Virginia, where I was Serials Librarian at Longwood University. There, I was active in the Virginia Library Association and the North American Serials Interest Group. Last year I accepted the position of University Librarian at Fontbonne University in St. Louis (MO). I am currently serving on the Membership Committee of the Missouri Library Association. Throughout my career I have been active in the American Library Association and the Association of College and Research Libraries, serving on and chairing committees and attending two conferences a year for more than ten years.

When the Nebraska State College System established a shared Innovative library system fifteen years ago, I was one of the three site coordinators. In implementing our shared database, I learned a lot about III software and structure in a consortium. At Longwood University in Virginia, I again served on the committee which selected and implemented the migration to an Innovative automation system. As interim library director, I served on the Library Advisory Council of VIVA, the consortium which selects and supervises the state-wide licensing of databases for academic libraries in Virginia. My previous experience makes me very aware of the great benefits to be achieved from library consortia, not only for the individual institutions but for the state as a whole. At Fontbonne University we are also very grateful for the opportunity to be a part of MOBIUS, and I will gladly do what I can to strengthen and enhance the consortium.

I believe that my background with other Innovative systems and state-wide consortia will be beneficial to MOBIUS. My perspective from a small independent university with limited funding will also be useful, as will my demonstrated service to professional organizations.