Report to MOBIUS Council from MCAG

MCAG last met in March 2006. Recent MCAG projects include:

- Creating a survey to determine what III and other library software products MOBIUS libraries are using. We have finalized the contents of the survey, and we will work with MCO to distribute the survey.
- Discussing ways we might coordinate voting on IUG enhancements. We held a Birds-of-a-Feather session on enhancements for MOBIUS members at IUG. Since we only had an hour, we didn't discuss specific enhancements. We instead spent quite a bit of time talking about how we might encourage discussion of enhancements, and encourage membership in IUG. We noted that the fee for membership in IUG is about $70 per library, and the benefits of membership include discounts for attendance at the IUG conference (one discount covers the cost of membership), access to the IUG Clearinghouse (tutorials, scripts, etc.), access to the presentation materials from the IUG conference, and a vote on IUG enhancements. As of March 2006, approximately 60% of MOBIUS libraries were IUG members.
- Discussing ways to encourage use of the MOBIUS-USERS-L email list, including asking directors and site coordinators to suggest that staff at their libraries subscribe.

Strategic Initiatives delegated to MCAG, and our progress in each area, are listed below:

Explore using the CLP to facilitate sharing beyond monographs, i.e. serials and non-print media.

- We began discussion of non-print sharing and members were asked to take this idea back to their clusters for comments.
- We looked at the RAPID resource-sharing product but determined that it was not appropriate to our needs.
- We received information from III on their new ArticleReach product. Members attending IUG were asked to view demos of it there, and we are waiting for reports on what people learned. We will continue to explore ArticleReach, focusing especially on how it will interact with OCLC ILL, CLIO, and ILLIAD.

Develop a user-centered catalog.

- No specific progress on this initiative.

Work with vendors in effort to integrate article access with catalog access, i.e., enhanced federated searching.

- Research on ArticleShare as mentioned above.

Establish formal program with the goal of insuring that the systems we present to users have the characteristics that users want and deliver the results users need.

- No specific progress on this initiative.

Assist members in analyzing how to use III products most effectively

- Survey as mentioned above.

The next MCAG meeting is scheduled for August 2006.

--Report submitted by Eileen Condon, MCAG Chair, 6/1/2006.