MOBIUS Limited License Resources Policy

Policy

To facilitate fair use of limited license resources, MOBIUS institutions with federated search products will not include such resources in the general/default search category. It will be permissible to include such resources in subject specific search categories (e.g., Education, Art, Science, etc.). For bibliographic instruction needs, subscribing institutions must use the required vendor-supplied training access (e.g., training password, training URL, etc.).

Compliance

An institution that fails to comply with the policy as indicated by number of turnaways from that institution will not be allowed to participate in limited license subscriptions through the Database Cafeteria Program. After 2 years, the institution may submit a request for reinstatement of this privilege. The request should be submitted to the MERAC Chair. The deadline for submitting the request is January 31. MERAC will review the request in the February/March meeting.

Justification

The MOBIUS Electronic Resources Advisory Committee (MERAC) works with the MOBIUS Consortium Office (MCO) to offer member institutions the Database Cafeteria Program. This Program offers a menu of databases from which MOBIUS member institutions may select. MCO will subscribe only to those databases for which there is a certain level of interest, and only those institutions that choose to participate in a given database will pay a fee or receive access to it.

In some cases, the resources selected may involve limited shared simultaneous users for subscribers. Institutions choosing to participate in the subscription will share a pool of user licenses for access. Although MERAC prefers not to include limited license resources in the Database Cafeteria Program, there are times when it cannot be avoided. Such resources will not be considered for the Program if the vendor does not provide separate training access.

Issues such as federated searching and bibliographic instruction will have an impact on all subscribers of such products. With the increasing implementations of federated search engines at MOBIUS institutions, there is concern about the effects of including these databases in the default/general search because they are likely to use the available licenses and deny access for other campuses.

Bibliographic instruction sessions utilizing these limited license resources also affects access by the other subscribing campuses by using the available licenses.

Approved by the MOBIUS Executive Committee 11/26/2007.