Common Library Platform
Basic System Functionality

Missouri institutions of higher education, working with each other and with the Missouri Coordinating Board of Higher Education (CBHE), have established a goal of making the information resources in the libraries of these institutions more widely available and accessible so that use of these resources will enhance the economic and educational development of the citizens of Missouri. To this end, these institutions have formed a consortium, named MOBIUS, to oversee the implementation of the Common Library Platform project

Statewide access to needed library services and materials by postsecondary students will require the combined resources of the Missouri's public and private academic libraries. MOBIUS requires a common and easy-to use system for requesting materials and quick delivery to any location in the state. To facilitate this, the CBHE has successfully secured state funding to acquire and promote the use of a common library system platform and a statewide resource delivery system for all academic libraries.

Specification.

Integrated System Foundation.

The automated library system which is ultimately selected as the technical foundation of this project will be a complete system. A "complete system" is defined as the applications software, system software, hardware (except for terminals and certain data communications equipment), hardware and software installation, training, software and hardware documentation, hardware and software maintenance and ongoing software enhancements necessary to provide easy-to-use online real-time integrated automated support for the following library functions:

- Acquisitions (including acquisitions fund management)
- Bibliographic database management (including online cataloging and record maintenance and authority control)
- Circulation control (including offline backup and reserve room)
- Serials control
- Name and address record creation and maintenance
- Public access to the catalog and other information databases
- Management reporting
- Materials booking

In addition, the system will support appropriate information technology and library standards, specifically (but not limited to) the most current versions of:

- ANSI Z39.50 Information Retrieval Service Definition and Protocol Specification for Library Applications
- ANSI Z39.2 Bibliographic Information Interchange Standard and USMARC for bibliographic and authority data

All of these functional modules will be in production use at customer sites.

Direct Patron Borrowing.

In addition to the functionality inherent in the requirements of the above paragraph the selected system will contain specific functions to support direct patron borrowing among participating institutions in a consortium. For example:

oa student enrolled at a Missouri college or university can determine, quickly and easily, whether a library on the institution's campus owns a copy of an item of information (book or similar type of item) and, if so, whether the item is available;

oif the desired item of information is not owned by the institution where the student is enrolled or is not available, the student can determine, with a single keystroke, whether the item is in the library of another participating institution in Missouri and, if so, whether the item is available;

oif the desired item of information is available from another participating institution, the student can request the item, again with a single keystroke, after which the system will prompt the student to supply identifying information;

oas a result of the request, and given a valid patron, the item will be speedily retrieved and charged out to the student;

oif the copy originally selected by the system to fill the student's request turns out not to be available, the system will forward the request to another owning institution or, should there not be an available copy, notify the requestor and return the request to the originating institution.

The automated library system environment which supports these activities must have the following characteristics:

oeach participating academic institution will have control of its own bibliographic database and access to a full range of automated functions for creating and managing that database and for acquiring, cataloging and circulating the books and other materials in that database;

oit must not be necessary to have library staff involvement in the process of identifying and requesting an item of information, that is, the system functions involved must be available directly to the OPAC user;

oat the time a remotely-located item is requested by a student and scheduled for retrieval by the system, a copy of the patron record for the person initiating the request must be transmitted from the system where the person is a registered patron to the system having the record for the requested item so that the lending institution can check out the item directly to the person requesting the item;

oit must not be necessary for the information seeker to rekey a search or to use an interface or system which is different from that used to search the local institution's collection to accomplish the task of requesting an item from a different institution;

othe automated library systems must be able to function within a tcp/ip network environment and to use that tcp/ip network to communicate the information needed to complete the transactions described above;

- the functionality described must be available in character (telnet) and WWW interfaces.