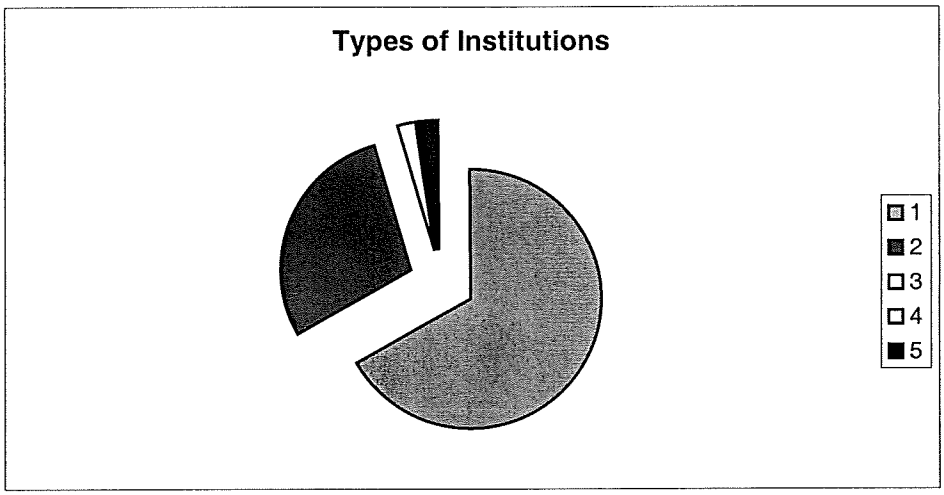
MERAC Survey Results
5/23/01

Please indicate the type of institution served by your library.

Results:

4-year	**1** 67%		30 responses
2-year	**2** 30%		13 responses
Seminary	**3** 2%		1 response
Medical	**4** 0%		0 response
6-year pharmacy program		**5** 2%	1 response
Total Responses			45 responses



1. **Rank the importance of these electronic resources to your institution on a scale of 1 to 5 with 1 being the highest priority and 5 being the lowest priority.**

   Results from all responses:

Indexing and abstracting with some full text	**1**
Electronic journals in full text	**2**
Electronic reference sources	**3**
Indexing and abstracting databases	**4**
Electronic books	**5**

   Results from Community Colleges are in the same rank order.

2. **What specific databases would you like to see MOBIUS provide through a consortial purchase? Listed in priority order.**

   74 databases listed by member libraries

   See attached for rankings for all respondents and for community colleges.

3. **In considering electronic resources, what subjects are most important to your patrons?**

   38 subject areas listed by member libraries

4. **If MOBIUS purchases electronic books, which three subject areas are most important to your institution?**

   32 subject areas listed by member libraries

5. **What specific database should be included in a core collection for Missouri's academic libraries? Rank of top three choices.**

   35 databases named in total.

6. **How do you access OCLC First Search (can select as many as apply):**

	# Responses	%
First Search not available	**11**	**24**
Base package through MLNC	**26**	**58**
Base Package through other vendor	**2**	**4**
Purchase blocks of searches (per search basis)	**30**	**67**
Subscribe to individual databases	**19**	**42**

7. **How many FirstSearch databases does your library provide to your patrons through:**

	Databases	# Responses	Average
Base Package	358	26	13.77
Subscription Databases	751	19	39.53
Per Search Databases	728	24	30.33

8. **Question withdrawn.**

9. **How many databases does your library provide for your patrons from your institution's funds on CD-Rom?**

Databases	# Responses	Average
432	33	13.1

10. **Do you have any comments or suggestion regarding MOBIUS database trials?** See Attached

11. **Please rank the funding provided by your parent institution for licensing of electronic resources on a scale of 1 to 5 where 1 is non-existent and 5 is generous.**

Average 3.13

12. **Please rank your institution's ability to budget monies for a match for a MOBIUS group purchase or electronic resources on a scale of 1 to 5 where 1 is very difficult and 5 indicates that funds are available.**

Average 3.09

13. **Please share other comments or suggestions regarding MERAC such as the goals of providing electronic resources through MOBIUS, etc.**

See Attached

Question 2 What Should MOBIUS Purchase
5/4/01

ALL Responses	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	Total
Lexis/Nexis Academic Universe	25	8	15	2	2	52
PsycINFO	15	12	8	10	4	49
ABI/Inform	10	4	15	4	2	35
Academic Search Elite	25			2	1	28
CINAHL	10	4	3	8	1	26
Expanded Academic	15		3	4	2	24
Literature Resource Center	10	8		2	1	21
ABC-CLIO			9	6	1	16
BIP	5		6	2	2	15
Periodical Abstract Research II	5	8			1	14
BIOSIS	5	8				13
Web of Science	5			8		13
MLA Bibliography	10				1	11
ATLA Religion Database	5	4		2		11
netLibrary	5		3	2		10
History Resource Center	5	4				9
LION	5	4				9
OCLC FirstSearch Base Pkg	5		3		1	9
OED	5		3			8
ScienceDirect	5			2	1	8
ERIC FT		8				8
ProQuest Historical News		4	3		1	8
E*Subscribe		4	3			7
JSTOR		4	3			7
SIRS Researcher		4	3			7
PsycLit 1887		4		2		6
Applied Science & Tech FT	5					5
Art Full Text	5					5
CollegeSource	5					5
Dissertation Abstracts	5					5
Education Full Text	5					5
Nursing	5					5
Psychological Abstracts	5					5
Twaynes	5					5
Business Source Premier		4			1	5
Health Resource Center		4			1	5
Grove Dictionary of Art		4			1	5
ATLA Serials		4				4
Business Database FT		4				4
Dow Jones Interactive		4				4
ERIC		4				4
General Business File		4				4
IDEAL		4				4
InfoTrac OneFile		4				4
Maps on File		4				4
ValueLine		4				4
Science Online FT			3		1	4
AutoMechanics			3			3
BioOne			3			3
Chem Abstracts Student Ver.			3			3

Question 2 What Should MOBIUS Purchase
5/4/01

Congressional Quarterly			3			3
Early English Books			3			3
International Pharm Abs			3			3
Periodical Contents Index			3			3
Readers' Guide			3			3
RSP Funds for Undergrads			3			3
Standard's and Poor Net Ad			3			3
Wilson Select Plus FT			3			3
American Nartional Biography				2		2
Ethnic NewsWatch				2		2
FIS Online				2		2
NewsBank				2		2
Science Citation Index				2		2
Gender NewsWatch					1	1
Granger's Poetry					1	1
Humanities FT					1	1
Moody's					1	1
NY Times Index					1	1
Project Muse					1	1
Physical Education Index					1	1
Reference Suite/Facts on File					1	1
Social Science Abstracts					1	1
Sociological Abstracts					1	1
Springfield News-Ledger					1	1
2 Year Colleges						
Lexis/Nexis Academic Univ	10	8	3		1	22
Literature Resource Center	10	4				14
SIRS Researcher	5	4	3	2		14
CINAHL	5	4	3	2		14
PsycINFO	5		6	2		13
Academic Search	10				1	11
CollegeSource	10					10
History Resource Center	5	4				9
Readers' Guide			6			6
Applied Science & Technology	5					5
Health Resource Center		4			1	5
BIP			3	2		5
ABI/Inform				4		4
Periodical Abstracts II		4				4
Periodical Abstracts II News		4				4
EI Technology Index		4				4
Congressional Quarterly			3			3
AutoMechanics			3			3
ABC-CLIO History & Life				2	1	3
PsycLit				2		2
Expanded Academic					2	2
Ethnic NewsWatch				2		2
American National Biography				2		2
Humanitites Full Text					1	1
Springfield News-Ledger					1	1

Question 3 Most Important subject areas for Electronic Resources
5/8/01

SUBJECT	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	total
education	50	16	9	6	3	84
health/medicine	10	36	21	4	4	75
business	25	16	9	6	5	61
psychology		16	9	14	4	43
literature	15		18	4	1	38
social sciences	15	16				31
general (educ, ref, etc)	25				1	26
history	5	4	9	4	1	23
science	10	4		4	4	22
english	10		6	2		18
information tech/computers		4	9	4		17
current events	10	4				14
humanities	4		3	4	3	14
theology/religion	5	4		2	2	13
sociology		4	6	2	1	13
art/architecture		4	3	4		11
criminal justice		4	3	4		11
engineering	5			2		7
biology/life sciences		4		2	1	7
chemistry/physics		4		2		6
automotive technology	5					5
grants	5					5
pharmacy	5					5
social/behavioral science	5					5
physical sciences			3	2		5
aviation maintenance		4				4
biography		4				4
counseling		4				4
music		4				4
speech		4				4
communication disorders			3			3
international studies			3			3
communicatons				2		2
human environmental studies				2		2
media studies				2		2
cultural/country information					1	1
HVAC & Machine Tool					1	1
Sports Sciences					1	1

Question 4. Most Important Subjects for elecronic books
5/8/01

Subject	1st	2nd	3rd	Total
computers	18	10	10	38
business	12	16	1	29
education	18	6	2	26
health/medical	9	14	2	25
literature	15		3	18
general (inc. ref)	12		2	14
psychology	3	6	3	12
social sciences	3	6	2	11
history		10		10
english	6		3	9
current issues	6		2	8
science	3	2		5
criminal justice		2	3	5
humanities	3		1	4
automotive technolgoy	3			3
behavioral science	3			3
best sellers	3			3
engineering	3			3
pharmacy	3			3
social issues	3			3
theology/religion	3			3
sociology		2	1	3
aviation techology		2		2
biography		2		2
career information		2		2
counseling		2		2
life sciences/biology		2		2
statistics		2		2
college/university direct			1	1
communication disorder			1	1
government			1	1
international studies			1	1

Question 5 Core Database
Value List
5/3/01

Database	1st	2d	3rd	Value
All Responses				
Academic Universe	18	12	7	37
Academic Search Elite	21	2	2	25
Expanded Academic	15	4	1	20
FirstSearch Base	6	8		14
PsycINFO	6	6	1	13
EBSCOhost	12			12
ABI/Inform	3	6		9
Periodicals Abs FT	3	6		9
Books in Print	6		2	8
ERIC		4	1	5
MLA Bibliography	3	2		5
Education FT	3		1	4
Literature Resource Center	3		1	4
Web of Science	3		1	4
CINAHL		2	1	3
Applied Science & Tech	3			3
ATLA Religion Database	3			3
BIOSIS 1967+	3			3
Encyc Brit Online	3			3
InfoTrac One File	3			3
JSTOR			2	2
NewsBank			2	2
Business Source Premier		2		2
Dow Jones Interactive		2		2
E*Subscribe		2		2
Health Source Plus		2		2
Readers' Guide		2		2
World Cat		2		2
Business & Co Res Ctr			1	1
IDEAL			1	1
Medline			1	1
OED			1	1
Science Citation Index			1	1
SIRS			1	1
Sociological Abstracts			1	1
2 Year Colleges				
Academic Search Elite	15		1	16
Academic Universe	6	8	1	15
Periodical Abstracts FT	3	2	1	6
Expanded Academic	3		1	4
Literature Resource Center	3		1	4
Applied Science & Tech	3			3
CINAHL		2	1	3
PsycINFO		2		2
Readers' Guide		2		2
BIP			1	1
SIRS Researcher			1	1
NewsBank			1	1

MERAC Survey Comments

10. Do you have any comments or suggestions regarding MOBIUS database trials?

- On 7c we spend about $500/year on per search databases.
- I think the committee should be reorganized to include representation by Library Directors or other administrative staff with knowledge of the budget and the authority to make decisions.
- Since all MOBIUS members have undergraduate, wouldn't a general, "workhorse" full-text database that all of us need make sense? This is serving MOBIUS members at the "lowest common denominator" level. I don't care if it's Proquest's PA I & II, EBSCO's Academic Search Elite, or IAC/InfoTrac. I'd gladly find the money if you offered something that was relevant to my Curriculum, but so far you haven't.
- The trials were well publicized through email with easy directions.
- IP based access is a must – we can't manage passwords effectively; prefer February or late March in the spring, and October in the fall as best times, never in the summer; trials need to have at least one month duration to be useful
- We never could get to them (staff comment)
- Trials need to be done at least twice a year to accommodate varying budgeting systems.
- Really liked the History database trial. This is something we do not have in any other form right now so it would be useful to us. The history program is a big user of the library resources.
- It would be very helpful if the start of a trial period began in the summer to let the librarians learn how to use it, then extend the period into a regular semester so that some "real" research questions could be fielded using the database.
- Publicize better; longer trial periods
- If it doesn't have full text don't bother
- We would like to see databases with full-text that cover several areas and are produced for academic libraries.
- We would be supportive of and interested in trials.
- These trials have been timely and easy to access. Would like to see a wider choice of databases with full text. Trials should always be id/password activated and not IP recognition (which would be hard to do anyway). With ID/password our librarieans can log in to the Internet anywhere to explore the trial databases. Also, a short scope note explaining the coverage of the trial databases is always helpful.
- Database trials should be at least two weeks long, preferably a month.
- Would suggest supporting full text or partial full text broad based resources initially which would be of use across the board. Then identify specific subject areas which are useful across a large number of campuses.
- Longer trial periods and deadlines to submit information.
- Provide a more in-depth, comprehensive evaluation form. Careful evaluation of database platform is important also. This should be included in the evaluation process, as well as content issues.
- It would be useful if these were scheduled for the summer to give time for in-depth evaluation.
- Easy access for patrons to also try?
- Comments are a variety of librarians here at MWSC: Make sure trials are run during regular semester so that faculty can have input. Keep them coming.

13. Please share other comments or suggestions regarding MERAC such as the goals of providing electronic resources through MOBIUS, etc.

- I have found the forwarded messages from Ohio useful. I think that they could be used

as points of discussion for library directors. We also need to emphasize what has been accomplished in Ohio. Perhaps we need a yearly pep talk at the MOBIUS conference on what Ohio has done and we could do with the commitment to make consortial database purchases a reality.

- Our ability to budget monies depends upon the time of year – we'd be able to work on it if we knew before July 1 but after that our funds are allocated for the fiscal year.
- I'm not very clear about our per search databases since today only 17 databases are available in FirstSearch.
- Consortial licensing for offsite access would be nice.
- This committee was a great idea. The committee has worked diligently to provide good thoughts on database sharing, and I hope it continues and all the libraries support its efforts. The committee representatives, however, need to work harder on communicating with the libraries in their clusters. I admit I was as much at fault as anyone else on the committee. I do think we made a good start and, I learned a great deal from the experience.
- We are pleased with the efforts of the MERAC committee in trying to provide less expensive access to important electronic databases!!
- The use of site reps recently for communication rather than relying on cluster reps has significantly improved communication – thank you and please continue it; generally we support the goal of using the combined power of the MOBIUS consortium to negotiate with database vendors, but are concerned that some members' legal requirements for bidding process may stifle the ability of the consortium to arrive at ideal product options – when this might be the case, consider consortial negotiating subgroups.
- Different colleges have different missions and budget, and MOBIUS/MERAC need to be flexible to help them to access e resources of their needs. The current goal of "universal access" is great in theory, but could be a barrier for MOBIUS/MERAC to achieve anything when there is not state fund. While the practice of "pay and play" adopted by OhioLink could be more practical for MOBIUS to help colleges of all kinds with diverse needs.
- In number 2, I did not place the titles in priority order. These are all important titles. I would add a sixth in the biological sciences. We would like to see a good map source. I think it would be helpful if there were more coordination between, MERAC, MLNC, and MOREnet on electronic purchasing. We each need to clearly understand what the other is going after.
- This is an essential function of the consortium. It is not necessary that absolutely every library agree to absolutely every product. If only a few institutions want a product, we expect that MERAC will still try to bargain with the vendor. In our number of databases, we did not include the databases in DIALOG because we do not use them very much due to cost.
- If you are going to do a core collection then you should focus on what institutions are already subscribing to. If you are supplementing purchases for individual databases you should focus on things like CINAHL or PsycINFO; databases many libraries couldn't justify buying because of the specificity.
- Great goals—better to go with a few quality programs that would serve most institutions, especially ones with full-text coverage, rather than a quantity of databases. Glad for the ABC-CLIO group purchase Wish we could have gone with SOME form of BP (we already pay $2600 for single-user CD). One last item—wish that there were a good general science database with full-text on OCLC. We are not likely going to afford Chem and Biol'l Abstracts online.
- Should remain a high priority. Costs of databases are increasing such that we need to do cooperative purchases. Not all MOBIUS members need to participate; do groupings.
- With the exception of Books in Print, most of the databases you have tested are much too expensive for our budget. We have subscribed INDEPENDENTLY to NewsBank since the 1970's, and receive the FULL Newsbank offering, not just the Missouri newspaper service through this company.

- I can't answer question number eight with complete confidence; we say more than 120, but then we count the databases we get through Lexis/Nexis Academic Universe individually, since we provide access to the individually according to subject and /or periodical type.
- We are interested in having access to databases through the MOBIUS consortium.
- Ideally, it would be positive to have a core MOBIUS database list for all libraries, but realistically, it may be very difficult for all MOBIUS libraries to actually us the same core holdings. There may need to be a package to choose from for each library.
- Resource sharing of electronic resources rates as on of the highest expectations we have for the MOBIUS consortium. We are hopeful that by coming together as a consortium we can collaborate and bring in otherwise expensive databases--which will lower the cost for all of us. We are so hopeful that this area will succeed. Thank you for all the efforts of so many dedicated people making this happen.
- We are, of course, for reducing costs through a wide consortial base when possible. It is a laudable goal that MOBIUS is moving toward doing this. Each library should have the opportunity of choosing whether or not to participate in any particular database as we do in MERLIN.
- We should do as much sharing as possible (for the economic benefits). There may always be a concern, however, about the needs of a community college vs. the needs of a university.
- Pursue databases that all academic libraries might be buying anyway – BIP, Britannica, perhaps Expanded Academic Index, etc. Explore package deals for online journals where significant cost saving might be realized statewide—if any such exist.
- Our thoughts on a core collection are to be are general collection. Divide up knowledge into areas (e.g., religion, engineering, math, psychology, social sciences, etc.) and seek one good, broad database to cover each area. This brings each library a basic, general coverage of every major field. Each institution can then spend their money depthening their coverage of the areas important to them while giving every institution in Missouri access to basic knowledge in all fields.
- What the above survey leaves out is the enormous amount of support and access provided to our campus via the MERLIN consortia. Barring FirstSearch, the greater majority of our electronic resources are funded through MERLIN, over 50% (excluding FirstSearch it is more like 90%). Because of MERLIN funded databases, our users have a much richer and varied access to needed resources. I would hope that MOBIUS would do this for the rest of Missouri.
- Timing is important. Having information about possible sources for consideration early in the fiscal year. Work with vendors to extend longer trial periods and more notice on dates for institutional commitment. For example, a recent offer asks for a commitment before the end of the May/June, but institutions don't typically know the budgets for the next fiscal year until July/August. If feedback is required, longer deadlines to submit the information.
- Regarding Question 7, we have two base package subscriptions (one for our Health Sciences Library and one for Ellis Library). I am reporting the total number of databases offered in both packages.
- I think MERAC needs to suggest ways to provide a core collection to all members at minimal or no cost for members that can't afford to pay. I think MERAC also needs to suggest ways to allow for group purchases that don't require all members to participate. Otherwise, the number of joint purchases will be limited by the libraries with the least funds available for purchase of online resources.
- A noble quest...good luck.
- The director hopes that the resources chosen will benefit the most libraries. Choose common databases that all are likely to have so that dollar savings are effective.