MOBIUS Annual Conference Planning Advisory Committee (MACPAC)
Report to the MOBIUS Council
January 26, 2007

Committee news

The MOBIUS Executive Committee made this committee a standing committee at its fall 2006 meeting. Our charge:

> The MOBIUS Annual Conference Planning Advisory Committee is responsible for bringing together MOBIUS members, cooperating partners, and exhibitors to provide learning and professional development opportunities and to promote cooperation within the MOBIUS community through planning and implementing an annual conference. The primary emphasis of this conference will be on the library-related interests of MOBIUS' member institutions. Committee members should have a good awareness of MOBIUS programs, be very organized, and accept the time commitment needed to produce a quality conference.
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> The Committee will be responsible for selecting the conference location, securing speakers, determining program tracks, and setting up a system for evaluating the effectiveness of the programs. The committee works with the MOBIUS Consortium Office to secure funding and ensure appropriate conference site arrangements.

The committee now has a web presence on the MCO website and we are adding representatives from clusters that were not represented on the committee. Our status as a standing committee will enable us to develop and improve the conference.

2006 conference (June 2006, Tan-Tar-A)

According to attendee evaluations, the top reasons people attend the MOBIUS conference are the concurrent sessions and networking opportunities.

Comments in response to the question "What part of the conference was most beneficial?" included:

- "The sessions were excellent; almost everyone gave me something to think about."
- Sessions: "Good topics." "Information sharing and idea generating." "Sessions related to job."
- "Networking always best, but programs very good this year."
- "Opportunity to see and talk with people from other institutions."

Conference statistics and information:

- Approximately 300 people attended.
- We had 14 exhibitors.
- We offered 38 concurrent sessions, including 9 by exhibitors.
- Four post-conference training sessions were offered.
- Keynote speaker: Susan Singleton, Executive Director, CARLI.

2007 conference (our 8th annual conference!)

Theme: MOBIUS 2.0: Designing Our Future.

Dates:

- June 5: Opening reception and keynote speaker.
- June 6: General session and concurrent sessions.
- June 7: Training.

Place: Tan-Tar-A in Osage Beach, Missouri (http://www.tan-tar-a.com/)

Keynote speaker: Susan Nutter, Vice Provost and Director of Libraries Administration, North Carolina State Universities.

We will be finalizing the 2007 program and it will be posted on the conference website by mid-February. We will offer forty concurrent sessions: 22 member presentations, 9 forums, and 9 exhibitor presentations (including an III session). Five training sessions + a MARCL training session will be offered on June 7.

New this year:

- We are opening the conference to non-MOBIUS attendees. Registration cost will be $125.00.
- Share Fair: An opportunity to share and view materials members have developed in two areas: marketing and public relations material, and training material.
- Forums: Concurrent sessions with topics but no formal presentations. The forums will give members a chance to share issues and solutions.
- Library graduate student paper competition, with a paper presentation at a concurrent session.
- Lunch table themes/topics to encourage networking and sharing of ideas.

We are fortunate that, once again, we have received an LSTA grant via the Missouri State Library to support and fund this conference. For members, there is no registration charge for attending the conference. This includes the reception, general session, concurrent sessions, MOBIUS-sponsored training sessions, and breakfast and lunch on June 6. Also funded are 150 hotel rooms on June 5th for members. As we further develop and promote the conference we want to ensure that people from each member institution are able to attend the conference. This year we are reserving two hotel room spots for each member institution and cooperating partner, to ensure that all have a chance to take advantage of the funded hotel rooms.

Important dates:

- Feb. 1-28 – Hotel reservations for rooms reserved for member institutions and cooperating partners.
- March 1 – Open conference and hotel registration to MOBIUS members.
- April 1 – Open conference registration to non-MOBIUS persons.
- May 4 – Close of conference registration and registration for hotel rooms reserved for conference.

2008 conference

The committee has already been planning for the 2008 conference. The committee has chosen a vice chair/chair elect, Gayla McHenry, to ensure continuity in our planning and to oversee the planning of this conference.

Our work this year indicates the need to expand the conference. We want to include two days of programs, in addition to the training day. Initial feedback from colleagues indicates interest in this. A tentative schedule is:

- Day 1 – Pre-conference training sessions.
- Day 2 – General session, concurrent sessions, and evening reception with keynote speaker.
- Day 3 – Concurrent sessions.

Our plans include more opportunities for networking (more forums) and learning (more programs and training sessions, add poster sessions, expanded Share Fair). This conference also offers librarians and library staff opportunities to develop their skills. Expanding the conference to include more concurrent sessions, adding more forums, and adding poster sessions are among the ideas we have to serve this need.

Feedback needed from MOBIUS Council:

- Do you support the idea of expanding the conference to include two days of programs?
- Do you think MACPAC is headed in the right direction by adding more opportunities for networking, training, etc.?