

# **MOBIUS Electronic Resources Advisory Committee (MERAC)**

**Tuesday, 1 April '03**

## **Airing it out - Local updates and issues**

Members shared the happenings at their libraries. Among the happenings noted: Laurie Hathman announced that new libraries are coming up in the WILO cluster. Karl Suhr mentioned that Southeast was trying Turnitin.com. Joyce Meldrem noted that Northwest's 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Brick & Click Libraries Symposium would be held on October 10, 2003. Carol Antoniewicz let us know that the Washington University Library is more than half finished. Rhonda Whithaus said that MU is working on a "cost reduction strategy" (also known as serials cancellations).

## **Cafeteria Plan Review and Discussion**

Lynn reminded us that we are ending our 2<sup>nd</sup> year of the ABC-CLIO cafeteria plan. Axie let us know that there will be no increase in the overall price for the 3<sup>rd</sup> year. They will soon be asking for commitments for next year. In addition, a commitment for the titles that we selected for the next cafeteria plan - Academic Search Premiere, Gale Literature Resource Center, and ProQuest Psychology Journals, will be asked for by June 15.

Axie reminded us of the current Vendor Direct resources: Turnitin.com, Gold Rush, & Serials Solutions.

Terry asked that members send her an e-mail regarding any issues we're having with our current cafeteria titles - Education Full Text & Applied Science Full Text.

## **MERAC Subcommittee on OpenURL Resolvers. Report and Discussion**

Carol Antoniewicz, chair of the subcommittee, shared an overview of the subcommittee and its report. The report includes a literature review, reviews of 9 OpenURL Resolver products, and a spreadsheet with comparisons of attributes. She also said that some points to consider include whether a local server is needed, whether a new service can use the information already gathered for another service, whether there is a meta search option with a link resolver and a journal tracking service, and whether the company has its own knowledge base of sources. All of the products researched will work with III. The products are: Article Linker, EBSCO's LinkSource, Fretwell Downing OL2, Gold Rush Complete, III's WebBridge, LinkFinderPlus, Openly Informatics, SFX, and Sirsi Resolver.

Karl Suhr made the motion, Melissa Belvadi seconded the motion, the committee discussed the motion, and voted affirmatively on this motion:

MERAC will share the information the subcommittee gathered with the Coordinators Advisory Group. We recommend to the Executive Committee that the report be shared with all MOBIUS libraries when the Coordinators Advisory Group is finished. The report can be made available via the MOBIUS Web site.

## **MERAC Subcommittee on Digital Reference. Report and Discussion**

Mary Slater, chair of the subcommittee, shared an overview of the subcommittee and its report. The report includes reviews of 10 Digital Reference products and a spreadsheet with comparisons of attributes. She also said that some points to keep in mind are that there are two types of software available at this time - vendor software with a fee, technical support, and training and open source software that is free, has no technical support, and no training. She said that there are a large variety of features available. The products reviewed are: 24/7 Reference, Desktop Steaming, Docutek VRLplus, Elibrarian, InstantService, Livehelper, RAKIM, Virtual Reference Toolkit (LSSI), LivePerson, and LiveAssistance.

Carol Antoniewicz made the motion, Karl Suhr seconded the motion, the committee discussed the motion, and voted affirmatively on this motion:

MERAC recommends that the Executive Committee charge a task force to:

- gauge interest in a low-end/limited hours/chat only/inexpensive digital reference service
- investigate how other consortium or groups offer this service collaboratively
- devise parameters for a pilot project for which grant funding can be pursued.

Based on the results of the task force, we recommend that the Executive Committee charge a new task force for seeking grant funding for a pilot project. MERAC also recommends that the report of the Digital Reference Subcommittee be made available to the MOBIUS general membership.

## **Other Current Business**

Lynn will contact MERAC clusters that need to select a new representative: Arthur, Lance, Towers, Galahad, and Swan.

## **Set date for next meeting/ recruitment for '03-'04 chair**

The next meeting will be Thursday, July 17, 2003. Lynn asked for us to think about the chair for next year's committee. Members are to let Lynn know if they are interested or put it on the listserv.

## **Attending:**

Carol Antoniewicz (Washington), Terry Austin (MCO), Melissa Belvadi (Bridges), Lynn Cline, Chair (SWAN), Lucia D'Agostino (Arthur), Christopher Dames (Merlin), Laurie Hathman (WILO), Axie Hindman (MCO), Karen McLaskey (Lance), Joyce Meldrem (Towers), Sheila Ouellette (Archway), Mary Slater, (Quest), Karl Suhr (Galahad), Rhonda Whithaus (MERLIN).

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce Meldrem, Secretary for the day