

MERAC Minutes
July 12, 2006

Meeting Location: MOREnet, Room 224

Attendees:

Sheila Ouellette (Archway)
Lois Marshall (Arthur)
Ellen Eliceiri(Bridges)
Jane Theissen (Bridges)
Karl Suhr (Galahad)
Dan McGurk (LANCE)
Rhonda Whithaus (MERLIN)
Mary Slater substituting for Marilyn Milovich(Quest)
Georgia Baugh (SLU)
Ed Walton (SWAN)
Robert Black (SWAN)
Frank Baudino (Towers)
Carol Antoniewicz (Washington)
Laurie Hathman (WILO)
Terry Austin (MCO)
Abbie Brown (MCO)
Susan McCormack (MCO)

Minutes of last meeting approved.

I. Airing it Out

Fontbonne (Bridges) has just implemented EZ Proxy.

Saint Louis University's catalog went live May 23 – still ironing out some issues.

They are switching from VRLplus to an open source software (RAKIM) for providing virtual reference. RAKIM will go live later this week.

Washington University has had MetaLib and SFX running for about a year.

University of Missouri—SL is preparing for a serials cut. University of Missouri—

Columbia is using Swetswise linker 1-cate and continues evaluating federated search products. MERLIN is looking at WebPacPro.

Rockhurst (WILO) has a new President, Fr. Tom Curran. Jeanne Langdon, the Library Director, will retire June 2007.

Bridges has had several meetings about appearance and functionality of their catalog.

Webster University completed an extensive review of all their databases, resulting in cancellation of several including Expanded Academic—ASAP and InfoTrac OneFile. They hope to have a contract for Central Search (SerialsSolutions) by the time school starts. They have purchased RefWorks and are purchasing JSTOR II & III and considering IV.

Missouri Southern (SWAN) has had Central Search for a year, like it, and consider that

SerialsSolutions has about the best technical support around. They just added West Law Campus, but feel the screens are “clunky”, upgraded to Business Source Complete (Business School paying part), kept ABI/INFORM, and have a wish list that includes JSTOR, Project MUSE, ScienceDirect, BioOne, and Dissertation Abstracts.

Truman (Lance) has recently added Readex’s Archive of Americana and is considering RefWorks.

SEMO (Galahad) is working on a large serials cut (15% per department), has added a coffee cart, and is investigating an Information Commons. Mineral Area College is getting a new director.

Swan is considering WebPacPro. Southwest Baptist University is looking at MetaFind to possibly replace their current EBSCO product.

Lincoln University (Arthur) has severe budget cuts and is considering dropping serials. The State Library is implementing WebBridge. Individual institutions must pay for this module, if they want it.

St. Louis Community College (Archway) is building a new campus [in Wildwood] to open September, 2007. They are purchasing AccessScience and the Collection Analysis tool from OCLC. They also have a new director.

Missouri Valley College (Quest) will put reserves online this fall.

Northwest Missouri State University (Towers) is doing the profiling for setting up Central Search. They have had ebrary for the last year.

Abbie Brown (LSO) is the new MOBIUS Cafeteria Contact. Susan McCormick (LSO) now organizes video conferences and compiles statistics.

II. 2006-2007 Chair

- A. Rhonda Whithouse submitted her name for 2006-2007 Chair. It was moved and seconded that Rhonda be the 2006-2007 Chair of MERAC. The motion carried unanimously.
- B. Jill Nissan, last year’s Chair, was highly commended and thanked by the Committee for her hard work last year.

III. LSO Update

- A. Database Cafeteria Report
 - 1. Abbie Brown (LSO) is the new MOBIUS Cafeteria Contact.
 - 2. LSO will be sending invoices in August instead of MCO, but they will look the same as before.
 - 3. The projected administration fee of \$20,000 was reached.
- B. Vendor Direct – Terry Austin, Susan McCormack (LSO)
 - 1. Terry met with Elsevier recently and they may make a proposal for ScienceDirect (not tied to print) for smaller schools.
 - 2. There have not been many new offers for Vendor Direct over the summer.
 - 3. If you have suggestions for resources that would be suitable for the Vendor Direct program, let Terry or Susan know.

--Georgia Baugh suggested Reference Universe (PARATEXT) be investigated. Rockhurst has had this about a year. This is being considered for Database Cafeteria for FY08.

IV. Guidelines/Policy Statement for Federated Searches and limited shared simultaneous users (e.g., Wilson)

- A. There is concern about the effects of including MOBIUS databases with limited shared simultaneous users (specifically, *Education Full Text*, *Applied Science & Technology*, and *Art Full Text*) in the general/basic selection of resources in a federated search system. LSO has been monitoring turnaways. Subscribers need to remember to use the Wilson training account for instruction sessions.

Education Full Text has 30 shared simultaneous users

Art Full Text has 12 shared simultaneous users

Applied Science and Technology has 8 shared simultaneous users

If these databases are included in the general/basic/default federated search selection, searches of this database group are likely to use the available licenses and deny other campuses access. It was proposed that a task force draft a guidelines/policy statement. Carol (Wash U), Terry (MCO) and Rhonda (MERLIN) will work on a draft. Once approved by MERAC, it will be sent to the MOBIUS Executive Committee.

V. Database Cafeteria Survey

- A. Committee members compiled a list of resources to include in an online survey to be sent to all MOBIUS Libraries. Results will be considered by MERAC when identifying the resources for LSO to prepare for the Database Cafeteria Plan. An e-mail will be sent around the beginning of September to the electronic resources contact on each campus asking that all resources be ranked by the institution. Survey responses will be due by September 29 so that the committee will have the results for consideration at the October meeting. This year the survey will be submitted through an online tool on the MCO webpage rather than by e-mail.
- B. The list at the end of this meeting consisted of resources that would be appropriate and attractive to all sizes of libraries. Nothing that is available through MLNC is eligible for the Database Cafeteria Program. The list contained Project Muse family, BioOne, Standard & Poor's Net Advantage, Reference Universe (PARATEXT), ebrary Academic, XRefer, EconLit (bid)/EconLit Full Text, Nexos Music Library (streaming audio), Project Euclid, ValueLine, and MorningStar. NOTE: Project Muse is offered by MLNC so it was not included in the survey.

VI. MAROON

Electronic Resources Contacts at each school will be reminded to update MAROON, including pricing, since it helps LSO when negotiating with vendors.

VII. Public Printing and Required Logon

Printing and required logging in to public computers was briefly discussed.

Meeting Evaluation – Meeting face-to-face is good, but requires driving to Columbia. Therefore, MERAC meets face-to-face each year in the summer and conducts the remainder of the meetings via video conferencing.

Next meeting date – Set for October 18, 2006, 10:00 am to 12:00 Noon. SLCC at Forest Park will again host the St. Louis institutions. All committee members have access to video conferencing locations reasonably nearby their institutions. Any changes in IP or contact information should be sent to Susan McCormack. Results of the Database Cafeteria Survey will be discussed and resources will be selected for Abbie to begin the process.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Georgia Baugh
Saint Louis University