

**MOBIUS Electronic Resources Advisory Committee (MERAC) Agenda**  
**Wednesday, October 22, 2003**

**Call to Order**

**Airing It Out**

**MCO report**

Report on survey of electronic resource holdings-Terry  
Current Vendor Direct offers

**Selection of databases for FY 05 Cafeteria Program**

Removal of Wilson databases from OCLC FirstSearch

**Recommendation of Electronic Resources for FY 06 Funding Request for the Legislature**

**MAROON update**

**Digital Reference--Referral from the Executive Committee**

From the Executive Committee minutes:

MERAC recommendation - handout. MERAC recommends that the Executive Committee charge a task force to: 1) gauge interest in a low-end/limited hours/chat only inexpensive digital reference service 2) investigate how other consortia or groups offer this service 3) devise parameters for a pilot project for which grant funding can be pursued. Terry Austin gave a brief background. This recommendation is a result of a MERAC subcommittee formed on digital reference. The subcommittee gathered information on digital reference products and determined it was best to recommend that the Executive Committee charge a task force for further exploration. MERAC had not wanted to make decisions regarding choice of software and level of consortial participation. Although the cost of software ranges from inexpensive to very expensive, a significant cost would involve a significant staff commitment of participating libraries. The Executive Committee determined that this would fit under no other advisory committee and referred it back to MERAC. The Executive Committee further recommended that MERAC investigate how other consortia or groups offer this service stating only the MOBIUS Council could decide how they might want to participate in a digital reference service.

**Meeting Date/Meeting Evaluation**