

MOBIUS Electronic Resources Advisory Committee Meeting, Minutes, 5/24/2001

MERAC met at the MOBIUS Consortium Office (MCO) at 10:00 a.m. The dates set for the upcoming meetings are Thursday, June 28 and Wednesday, July 25.

1. ABC-CLIO database recommendation. Members read a letter from Sarah Cron, Chair of the MOBIUS Executive Committee. In the letter, the Executive Committee thanked MERAC for its work on the proposed pricing model, but returned it for fine-tuning. The Executive Committee suggested considering the materials budget for each member in revising the model and limiting the percentage of each member's materials budget that would be required in the new model.

George Rickerson, Executive Director of MOBIUS, discussed the Executive Committee's concern about the funding climate for MOBIUS since MOBIUS received only half of the operations funding that it requested from the Legislature. He also discussed the Executive Committee's goal of providing universal access for the initial database that is licensed. He feels that it is essential that all members of MOBIUS are behind this proposal so legislators don't get different perspectives from MOBIUS members. The intent in revising the pricing model is to reduce the cost to the smallest libraries and develop a plan that can be endorsed by all MOBIUS members.

Committee members reviewed a new pricing model prepared by Terry Austin which met the criteria specified by the Executive Committee. The committee revised the proposal (1) to include a multiplier for Southwest Missouri State University and (2) to indicate that this model was for FY 2002 only. (The distribution of costs may be revisited if the database is renewed.) The Committee unanimously approved sending the new pricing model to the Executive Committee as soon as possible so that, if approved by the Executive Committee, it could go to the MOBIUS Council as an action item on Thursday, May 31. Axie noted that the ABC-CLIO databases were among the top 10 databases recommended in the MERAC survey in response to the question: "What databases should MOBIUS license?" Axie said that, if approved by Council, the databases could perhaps be available at the beginning of the Fall semester. The Committee discussed informing directors of their proposed costs and determining whether there was broad support for the new proposal with the understanding that the costs are unofficial until approved by the Executive Committee.

2. Results of the MERAC Questionnaire. Terry Austin gave a Power Point presentation with slides showing the results of the MERAC survey. Terry also discussed a handout she prepared which gave additional information from the survey.

3. Committee members discussed the databases that should be included in a proposal to the Legislature seeking state funding for electronic resources. George indicated that the proposal should be ready in August. The committee asked Axie and Terry to determine consortial pricing for JSTOR (Arts and Sciences I and General Science Collections); Project Muse; PsycInfo with Full-Text; ABI-Inform; Lexis-Nexis; Science Direct; and Web of Science. The FY 2002 proposal included an institutional match. The new proposal may involve an institutional match. Raleigh suggested that the committee consider adding databases in a rotating sequence: one for the sciences; one for the humanities; and one for the social sciences, etc.

4. MERAC agreed to ask the electronic resource contacts to update the MAROON database inventory and recommended allowing plenty of time (at least two months) for contacts to complete the updating. Electronic resources contacts will also be asked to supply their institution's costs for the databases which may be included in the request to the legislature.

5. The Committee discussed its organizational structure and whether one representative per cluster was the best organization. Should the committee have representatives by type or size of library, for example? This discussion will be continued on the Committee's listserv. Committee members will also continue discussing universal access and other options such as a buying club, a "war chest," etc. on the listserv.

6. Committee Membership. Terms of the representatives from five clusters expire as of July 1. Those clusters may appoint new representatives. The clusters that had one-year terms (expiring) include: Arthur; LANCE; Northwest; Galahad and SWAN. Galahad has re-appointed Karl Suhr to a two-year term. MERAC will elect a new Chair at its July meeting. The committee plans to elect an interim chair at its meeting on June 28.

7. Lorna discussed a memo summarizing a meeting held at the State Library in April regarding acquisition of electronic resources by various types of libraries and the coordination of proposals to the legislature for funding of electronic resources.

The meeting was adjourned.

Attending were: Carol Antoniewicz, Washington University, WASH U; Anne Booker, Lindenwood, BRIDGES; Kathy Schlump, East Central College, ARCHWAY; Stephanie Tolson, St. Louis C C, ARCHWAY; Per Almquist, Covenant Theological Seminary, BRIDGES; Mary Slater, Missouri Valley College, Quest; Karl Suhr, Southeast Missouri State University, Galahad; Darrin Daugherty, Missouri Western State College, Northwest; Xiaotian Chen, Truman State University, LANCE; Lynn Cline, Southwest Missouri State University, SWAN; Rhonda Whithaus, Observer, UMC, MERLIN; Lorna Mitchell, Westminster College, ARTHUR; Raleigh Muns, UM-St. Louis, MERLIN; George Rickerson, MOBIUS Executive Director; Axie Hindman, Coordinator of Electronic Resource Licensing, Library Systems Office; and Terry Austin, Library Systems Specialist, Licensing, Library Systems Office.

Lorna Mitchell, Chair
Raleigh Muns, Recorder