

MERAC Minutes  
January 25, 2006

Meeting held via videoconference

Attendees:

Jill Nissen (Archway)  
Sheila Ouellette (Archway)  
Lois Marshall (Arthur)  
Melissa Belvadi (Bridges)  
Karl Suhr (Galahad)  
Dan McGurk (LANCE)  
Ed Walton (SWAN)  
Robert Black (SWAN)  
Chris Dames (MERLIN)  
Carol Antoniewicz (Washington)  
Laurie Hathman (WILO)  
Susanne Boatright (WILO)  
Frank Baudino (Towers)  
Kurt Kopp (MCO)  
Terry Austin (MCO)  
Susan McCormack (MCO)  
Mary Slater (Quest)

Minutes of last meeting approved

**Airing It Out**

Archway - St. Louis Community College installed Article Linker over the Christmas break.

Merlin – UMSL added life sciences databases

Washington Univ. – updated MetaLib, but encountered problems

LANCE – Truman State implemented cleo advanced for interlibrary loan

WILO – Rockhurst has added Faulkner Advisory of Advanced Studies and Standard & Poor's NetAdvantage to their databases

Galahad – SEMO has added Oxford Reference online and Grove Art Online and Grove Music Online to their databases and are remodeling reference and adding a coffee bar

Arthur – Lincoln is adding a coffee bar

SWAN – MSSU has renewed with Serials Solutions subscription with Central Search/Article Linker

Towers – Northwest Missouri State has added ebrary and Gale Virtual Reference titles. Sara Duff is the new MOBIUS coordinator. They have also changed email address systems.

Quest – State Fair Community College has a new library director

## **MCO Report**

Kurt Kopp stated that he will be helping Terry with the Database Cafeteria Program. The executive committee decided to pay for a .5 FTE to handle MOBIUS Databases, an administrative fee will be added to the databases. George Rickerson has resigned, and the new executive director will not be over the Library Systems Office (LSO). MOBIUS will outsource to LSO for database operations. Since LSO is no longer a part of MOBIUS and will need to pay rent, etc., they will start charging an approximately 5% administration fee for securing databases. This will recoup the cost of a .5 professional staff person.

The Vendor Direct Program will be deemphasized - with more energy put into the Database Cafeteria Program. Kurt and Terry will secure pricing and contracts on four databases for the Cafeteria plan:

- CINAHL (all products on a pick and choose basis)
- PsycArticles
- Opposing Viewpoints
- Historical New York Times

Susan gave the Vendor Direct Program update. There are fewer new offers – only two current ones. Serials Solutions will soon have a new offer.

ALA Midwinter – Terry and Kurt met with vendors from the above mentioned databases and ABC Clio. They discussed price with them and asked that costs not increase while MOBIUS libraries are switching to the new administrative fee. Most were receptive to the idea. Terry also talked to Serials Solutions about discounts. When the consortium reaches 20 customers (individual libraries, not products) subscribing to Serials Solutions, these libraries will receive an additional 5% discount.

## **ABC-Clio**

The current pricing model is based mostly on a tiered FTE, with a factor of library expenditures. As an alternative, the Pricing Subcommittee designed a new model based on usage which resulted in huge increases and decreases for some libraries. Missouri Western and William Jewell have indicated they will not renew at these prices. Survey responses indicated that schools would be happy to continue in the program as long as the cost was less than they would pay if they secured pricing on their own.

The subcommittee will prepare a hybrid model with costs more closely aligned to the current model, using 80% FTE and 20% usage figures as a guide. Using the “all search” option on federated search engines will skew the usage figures somewhat, but this will not affect next year’s model. FTEs for schools using the history databases will be emailed to the MERAC representatives. These figures are taken from the Department of Higher Education IPEDS reports. If any institution has different documented figures they would like to use, they can contact their MERAC representative.

The new models will be discussed among the committee by email and will be available by Feb. 4. The committee will decide on a new model and distribute it to their cluster members participating in the program and ask if they will renew at the price listed on the new pricing model. The price will be a range in case a school should drop out and other schools have to pick up their amount. Final decision on the pricing model will be made by Feb. 20.

Databases with similar coverage to ABC-Clio’s history databases:

Ebsco – very little overlap even with its World History Collection database

Wilson – no comparable database

**Meeting Evaluation** – Everyone prefers videoconferencing over driving to Columbia

**Next meeting date** – Wed. July 12 in Columbia – This is our yearly face-to-face meeting at which we will pick a new chair and appoint or reappoint representatives to some clusters. Jill Nissen, chair, will send the cluster appointment schedule to MERAC reps and will contact the directors of clusters who are up for re-appointment.