

MOBIUS Collection Management Advisory Committee (MCMAC)
Minutes of the July, 24, 2007 Meeting

Members present:

Co-chair: Stephanie Tolson	St. Charles Community College, Archway
Janine Gordon	MCO Liaison
Julie Andresen	Hannibal –LaGrange College, LANCE
Pat Gregory	SLU, Pius
Assako Holyoke	SLU Medical Center, SLU Alternate
L. Hunter Kevil	MU-C, MERLIN
Craig Kubic	Missouri Baptist Theological Seminary/WILO
Liz MacDonald	Lindenwood, Bridges
Lori Mardis	NWMSU, Towers
Scott Norwood	UCM, Quest
Peggy Riddlen	Fontbonne, Bridges Alternate
Bill Wibbing	Washington University
June Williams	St. Louis CC – Forest Park, Archway Alternate
Lynn Cline, recorder	MSU, SWAN

Guest: Beth Fisher, Executive Director, MOBIUS

Introductions Co-chair Stephanie Tolson called the meeting to order at 10 a.m. and asked attendees to introduce themselves and to note which cluster they represented.

Election of co-chair MCMAC has utilized a staggered co-chair arrangement for a number of years. Stephanie is entering her second year as co-chair, and called for nominations for a first-year co-chair to serve two years. Angela Gerling of Westminster College, who was unable to attend the meeting, had indicated an interest earlier, and was subsequently elected by acclamation.

Reports and Comments from the MOBIUS Conference Lynn noted that the MCMAC sponsored panel on the First-Year Experience with YBP was well attended and generated a significant amount of post-panel discussion and questions. Formal feedback was good, with the major criticism being a desire for more concrete vs. anecdotal data.

Liz reported on the presentation she did with Anne Barker of the Committee and Deb Ehrstein of MLNC on the OCLC Collection Analysis Project. Again the session was well attended and received a significant amount of discussion.

YBP held two sessions at MOBIUS Conference. On 6 June they held a vendor session dealing primarily with updates and a look ahead at new developments at YBP, particularly with respect to GOBI. They also sponsored a hands-on post session on Thursday dealing with the functionality of various GOBI features. Attendance at the second session was smaller than hoped for, and in part might be attributed to overnight logistics for potential attendees, although reports for the session were quite positive.

YBP Customer Satisfaction Survey From late May until 15 June, an online survey regarding the statewide cooperative book purchasing plan was available on the MCO site for MOBIUS members to complete. There were 22 responses from a broad range of library types and an almost even distribution of public services/Admin and technical services respondents. If all of the responses were unique with respect to institution, the return would be a very positive 33%, but there is no way of telling how many multiple responses there were from individual institutions.

One point of criticism for future survey reference was the lack of a “don’t know” or “insufficient knowledge” category that may have resulted in a number of “not applicable” responses.

Other observations noted that between a fourth and a third of respondents indicated that they would be spending at the least the same if not more in the program during the next year, that profiling seemed to be generally transparent, that YBP personnel were helpful and responsive, and that the general execution of the program was good.

In addition there were observations that the system was often slow and there were a few comments about the navigation of GOBI.

Out of the discussion of the survey a side discussion developed regarding how sites were handling the “slip” program, and in particular, were just librarians involved or were faculty participating as well. Responses indicated that a variety of techniques are used. In some cases, faculty are involved heavily in the online environment (Midwest Baptist), at others the process is variable depending upon the liaison or bibliographer and or the discipline (MU, SLU). Liz MacDonald noted that Lindenwood utilizes the circulation of monthly YBP title lists.

Stephanie will solicit further feedback from MCMAC members prior to the construction of a report for the Executive Committee on the survey. The committee also agreed that it would be beneficial to share results with Jean Eaglesfield at YBP.

YBP 4th Quarter Report Stephanie distributed the YBP 4th quarter reports prior to the meeting. These included 4th Q and end-of-year totals as well as a summary of customers and their individual YBP services, along with a list of new MOBIUS clients aboard during the first year of the program.

Quick notes: Total sales to MOBIUS clients were up by \$307,000 or 17% in FY 07. MOBIUS members collectively saved \$41,000 on the favorable discount rate (18%). 16 sites became YBP clients in FY 07, bringing the total number of YBP clients to 33.

Discussion: Bill asked if the total sales included just books or if they also included charges for ancillary services?

There was also discussion on the shelf-ready processes. Lindenwood utilizes the service as does SLU. Bill pointed out the complexities of the processes, noting that there is a lot of up-front analysis involved in going to shelf-ready, and that one should not simply try literally to replicate existing processes, but rather, examine alternatives for the desired end result.

Hunter wondered if there were possibilities for having major vendors such as YBP, Blackwell and others to provide a best offer and members could choose alternatives based on specific needs. Currently the consortium is in a three-year relationship with YBP, so that possibility could not be entertained until the end of the contract period.

Following a question on who might be using either YBP or B&T for media purchases, a question came up about whether or not B&T sales to MOBIUS libraries were included in the sales reports.

Stephanie noted that Jean Eaglesfield has contacted her regarding a session on e-status reports that Jean is doing at Brick and Click this fall, and would be interested in partnering with a library on this activity. Jean also offered to facilitate setting up folders in GOBI for groups of libraries to follow and track specific cooperative collection development projects. Some of the questions that evolved out of that possibility were: whether or not one needed to be a YBP client to participate, and how interactive was the process?

MCO Update Janine Gordon noted that an electronic resource/collection development position is being posted for MOBIUS. When that position is filled that individual will become the liaison for MCMAC. MOBIUS is seeking to secure a couple of practicum students from MU to work with the help desk. The Web site will be migrating to a new server in March. Centra will be going away in December, and a search for an alternative is underway. There are now 1,000 new bags available for Circulation, and there will soon be another 2,000.

There was also some follow-up discussion of e-books. Part of the discussion centered around whether they were the province of MERAC or MCMAC or both, and then more specific discussion about their general utility, including questions about whether it was better to work through a specific publisher or with a vendor. Most MOBIUS sites are utilizing electronic reference books of one type or another; fewer are using sizable collections of general e-books. Those that are typically use the NetLibrary collections through MLNC or in other cases specific packages from publishers, and in some instances groups of titles from ebrary or EBL.

There was also discussion of the desirability, logistics, and legalities involved in placing book covers in the public access catalog.

Smart Buying Plan News Note Stephanie announced that a brief general news note on the state-wide cooperative book purchasing plan would be added soon to the News and Projects page of the MCO web site. Entitled the "Smart Buying Plan," it summarizes the development of and activity with the YBP plan during FY 2007. One of the purposes of the article will be to raise general awareness of the availability of the plan and to note its activity during 2006-2007.

OCLC Collection Analysis Project Liz summarized for the Committee the final work she is doing on the project with Anne Barker, as Liz prepares the final report on the pilot project for the state. She also provided committee members with recommendations included in the final report draft and asked for comment.

1. Promotion of statewide participation in shared collection development and management.

2. Establishment of collection management standards for program planning, accreditation, and benchmarking.
3. Identification of unique materials for preservation or digitization
4. Identification of duplicate materials.
5. Promotion of cooperative purchasing of library materials
6. Identification of collection gaps
7. Provision of access to collections of greater breadth for all Missouri library users.
8. Identification of subject strengths.
9. Use of data in conjunction with the preferred statewide monograph vendor's database to make informed purchasing decisions.

The academics indicate a significant amount of unique titles since 2000, and while, as expected, there is much more duplication in the public libraries in that time period, they, too, have a significant number of duplicate titles. In addition a look at pre-1925 holdings may indicate some possible preservation projects.

Discussion and questions: Hunter speculated on what would constitute an acceptable level of duplication. Another thread was whether we should try to identify broad areas of strength, and develop some cooperative projects around them. A third had to do with preservation. Beth pointed out that there is a call for proposals for an IMLS grant that would essentially provide the opportunity to do a consortia scan of preservation needs, seek expertise on approaches to projects, and development recommendations and a plan for executing such a project. A successful project could lead to subsequent funding for actual projects. After some discussion, Craig volunteered to take the lead in looking at the feasibility and advisability of writing up a proposal on behalf of MCMAC. The deadline is 15 August.

In more broadly discussing digitization, there was some discussion about the value of focusing on preservation through digitization of older, more narrowly focused collections vs. the potential need for digitization in more current areas where demand is greater.

Further discussion about cooperative collections initiatives had to do with whether it should be approached as an effort to reduce duplication at the core level, or whether to allow core level duplication and look more closely at duplication in secondary tiers of collections.

Beth Fisher pointed out that Margaret Conroy (State Library) is open to additional grant proposals regarding collections and suggested as one possibility to look at collection patterns and needs in a focused discipline such as Nursing.

Further discussion on getting a handle on the scope of a cooperative project came from Hunter and Bill in terms of testing an initial arrangement on a limited scale. Hunter offered to contact Bill (Washington U) and Lynn (MSU) to explore a few possible disciplines in which those three could discuss issues and factors in trying to develop a cooperative approach to selecting and purchasing.

Future Directions The discussions that developed during the OCLC Collection Analysis Report segued into the discussion of future directions and projects. In addition to the two identified in

the previous section of the minutes, other possibilities are last copy retention policy, exploration of the need for regional storage, the development of subject special interest groups within the consortium that could subsequently communicate via a MOBIUS discussion list. Some possible SIG areas identified were life sciences, theology, humanities, social sciences, and business.

YBP Rebate After brief discussion between the Committee and Beth, the Committee unanimously agreed that the rebate from YBP, based on the 2% of the difference between 05/06 and 06/07 aggregate sales to consortium members (roughly \$6,000), should be go back to MOBIUS generally and its use be directed as MCO best sees fit.

Future Meeting Dates There was some discussion of the manner of meeting for future sessions in 2007-2008. Three tentative dates have been set: Tuesday, 25 September, Tuesday, 27 November, and Tuesday, 25 March, all at 9 a.m. These meetings have also been tentatively set to be held via conference call.

Committee Orientation Session Lynn introduced the seven new attendees to various aspects of the Committee organization, structure and information resources, including the membership, minutes, documents, and charge section of the MCMAC section on the MOBIUS web site. He also emphasized the importance keeping the clusters informed of MCMAC developments.

The meeting adjourned at 3:15.