

STATUS REPORT
MOBIUS ELECTRONIC RESOURCES COMMITTEE (MERAC)
November 2001

- *Historical Abstracts* and *America: History and Life* became available to all MOBIUS institutions August 22, 2001. Subscription date: September 1 through August 31, 2002. This purchase offers very significant savings to members over list price and offers unlimited access.
- USAGE STATISTICS for the ABC-CLIO databases are posted monthly on the MERAC web page. The electronic resource contact for each institution also receives monthly reports from ABC-CLIO. Usage is going up!
- MERAC announced its Database Cafeteria Program in October. This is a **voluntary** program. Institutions that choose to participate in a given database will pay a fee to receive access. Each institution has several opportunities to indicate databases of interest. MCO staff will provide a price range for two databases for a voluntary group purchase. Costs will be available early in 2001 in order for libraries to consider a consortial purchase in budget preparation.
- CRITERIA for inclusion in the Database Cafeteria Program include full text or some full text available, broad appeal among members, and financial advantage to members through a group purchase.
- MERAC through MCO will distribute information about opportunities to purchase databases from vendors who will work directly with member libraries and offer a discount to MOBIUS members. This is separate from the Cafeteria Program.
- MERAC recommended four databases to be part of the MOBIUS request for state funds in FY 03. The databases are: ABI/INFORM Complete, Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe, ProQuest Psychology Journals and PsycARTICLES. CRITERIA considered included full text available, broad appeal, and subject content. MERAC gave emphasis to the responses of MOBIUS libraries in the MERAC Electronic Resources Survey, May 2001.
- MERAC has a web-based inventory of existing electronic resources in MOBIUS libraries known as MAROON. The inventory is very useful in determining databases held widely by MERAC members.
- There will be an opportunity for other databases to be considered for voluntary MOBIUS purchases in the future.

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