

MOBIUS Electronic Resources Advisory Committee Meeting, Minutes, 3/13/2001

MERAC met at the MOBIUS Consortium Office (MCO) at 10:00 a.m. The date of the next meeting is May 24.

In discussing the online database trials, Terry said that 30 online evaluations were received from 24 individual libraries. There was a general discussion on feedback from members of the cluster. Raleigh said that there were a lot of questions about why we didn't offer general databases. Some members said that they had received comments suggesting that we need to forge ahead—we need to be moving. Several institutions are using BIP on a per-search basis and find that satisfactory. Some institutions are interested in BIP, depending on the vendor. Some librarians say students ignore databases that are not full text. Darrin mentioned that ABC-CLIO is working with vendors to integrate full text. A couple of members suggested a war chest model in order to get away from the consensus problem. Three members expressed interest in a "core collection" of databases. There was some discussion of purchasing blocks of First Search searches and making them available on a per-search basis.

Axie reminded us that we chose the trial databases because they were widely held with the idea that some institutions already had funds set aside. We also chose them because they offered a cost savings.

Terry presented a revised pricing model for ABC-CLIO which gave current subscribers a savings but not as large a savings as in a previous model. The Committee discussed that we couldn't offer both products because libraries would be divided between the products and we wouldn't have the nearly universal participation on which the preliminary pricing was based.

Raleigh distributed ratings and rankings for the trial databases, suggesting that we look for a higher number in ratings and a lower number in rankings.

Raleigh said he would distribute the comments as a spreadsheet on the Committee's Listserv. Axie mentioned that if BIP is recommended, it will have to go out for bid, a process that might take several months.

After much discussion, the group decided to make a primary recommendation to the Executive Committee that MOBIUS go ahead with a consortial purchase of ABC-CLIO. The secondary recommendation was Books in Print.

Axie suggested that every library be asked to contribute an electronic resource fee for statewide databases. Carol recommended that we postpone consideration of a fee until after we send our recommendation regarding ABC-CLIO to the Executive Committee.

The committee discussed and revised a draft of a questionnaire designed to obtain feedback from MOBIUS member libraries about their needs in regard to databases. It was suggested that we send the questionnaire to new members of MOBIUS. The MOBIUS Consortium Office will implement the questionnaire so responses can be entered online. The committee would like to distribute the questionnaire to electronic resource contacts in early April so responses can be received by the end of the month.

After considering several proposed names for MOBIUS Electronic Resources, members said they were satisfied with the phrase "MOBIUS Electronic Resources."

Lorna reported that a new version of ARIEL will be coming out in late spring. Of the 14 MOBIUS libraries that expressed interest in ARIEL in response to the survey, five libraries are interested in exploring the possibility of a group purchase at this time. And some are interested in upgrading from the current version. In an e-mail message to Lorna, Sara Parker said that it appears that using state funds to purchase ARIEL would trigger the filtering requirements and, thus, does not appear to be an option.

The meeting was adjourned.

Attending were: Carol Antoniewicz, Washington University, WASH U; 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, Southeast; Darrin Daugherty, Missouri Western State College, Northwest; John Young, William Jewell, WILO; 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; Axie Hindman and Terry Austin, Library Systems Specialists, Licensing, MCO.

Lorna Mitchell, Chair
Raleigh Muns, Recorder

Attachment: Draft of Questionnaire
Attachment 1: Draft of Questionnaire

The MOBIUS Electronic Resources Advisory Committee is seeking suggestions from member libraries regarding the types of databases and electronic resources that MOBIUS should attempt to provide for its members.

As the electronic resources contact for your library, please discuss this questionnaire with other librarians at your institution and submit one response for your library.

If you have questions about this survey, please contact Terry Austin at the MOBIUS Consortium Office. E-mail: austint@umsystem.edu Telephone: 573-882-0610

QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Please rank the importance of these electronic resources to your institution on a scale of 1 to 5 with 1 being the highest priority and 5 being the lowest priority.

Indexing and Abstracting Databases
Indexing and Abstracting Databases with Full Text
Electronic Reference Sources
Electronic Journals in Full text
Electronic Books

2. What types of electronic resources are least important to you?

3. What databases would you like to see MOBIUS provide through a consortial purchase?
(List your top five choices with 1 being the highest priority and 5 being the lowest priority.)

4. In considering electronic resources, what subject areas are most important to your patrons? (Please rank your top five subject areas with 1 as the highest priority and 5 as the lowest priority.)

5. If Mobius purchases electronic books, which three subject areas are most important to your institution?

6. What databases should be included in a core collection for Missouri's academic libraries?
Please list and rank your top three choices.

7. How do you access OCLC First Search? (Check as many as apply)
First Search Not Available
Base Package through MLNC

Base Package through other vendor
Purchase blocks of searches (per-search basis)
Subscribe to individual databases

8. How much do you pay for OCLC First Search?

- a. Base Package
- b. Blocks of Searches
- c. Subscription(s)
- d. Total

9. Do you have any comments or suggestions regarding MOBIUS database trials?

10. Please rank the funding provided by your parent institution for licensing of electronic resources on a scale of 1 to 5 with 1 being non-existent or very inadequate and 5 being generous.

11. Please rank your institution's ability to budget monies for a match for a MOBIUS group purchase of electronic resources on a scale of 1 to 5 where 1 is very difficult and 5 indicates that funds are available.

12. How many **online** databases does your library provide for your patrons from your institution's funds? (Count the individual databases in First Search. The base package through MLNC counts as 12 databases. Don't count MOREnet databases or databases on CD-ROM)

13. Please share your comments or suggestions regarding MERAC and the goal of providing electronic resources through MOBIUS, etc.