

MERAC Minutes

October 13, 2004

Meeting held via videoconference

Attendees: Jill Nissen (Archway), Sheila Ouellette (Archway), Lucia D'Agostino (Arthur), Melissa Belvadi (Bridges), Karl Suhr (Galahad), Dan McGurk (Lance), Terry Austin (MCO), Susan McCormack (MCO), Ronda Whithaus (Merlin), Mary Slater (Quest), Lynn Cline (SWAN), Christy Zimmerman (Towers), Bill Wibbing (Washington University), Laurie Hathman, (WILO)

Minutes by Melissa Belvadi, Bridges Cluster

Call to order: 10:17am

Airing it out: State library is working on a trusted repository. Columbia College has subscribed to Serials Solutions A-Z service. KC Art Institute is now up cluster-wide for borrowing/lending within WILO. Archway reported that Fran Stumpf has left St. Charles Community College to work as a trainer for MCO. SEMO has also purchased Serials Solutions, with the full Article Linker product and it is working well. SEMO is also undergoing a program review for the status of librarians, both faculty vs staff and 9 versus 12 months.

The minutes of the last meeting were approved by consensus.

Strategic Planning Retreat: Lynn Cline reported on the recent retreat, which involved about 30 people and 1.5 days. Reports included a SWOT analysis by George Rickerson and Sara Parker and an environmental scan. Lynn summarized the major points coming out of the retreat as:

Five Guiding Principles in Strategic Planning

1. Result in increased services to our users
2. Promote seamless access to information (even with non-III products)
3. Be based on clear priorities and be subjected to cost-benefit analysis
4. Encourage use of best practices
5. Not compromise core functions

Areas of Strategic Focus

1. Fine-Tuning Existing Services
2. Coordinating Cooperative Relationships
3. Defining and Managing Membership Growth
4. Leveraging Technologies to Improve Service and Reduce Duplication of Effort
5. Developing Funding Support
6. Developing a User-Centered Catalog

He commented on the last point that the goal was to make the union catalog easier than Google.

MCO Report: Susan McCormack summarized the MERAC survey results, which were also distributed as a handout (see **Summary of the MERAC Database Cafeteria Survey 9-04** at the end of these minutes).

Terry reported that MLA Bibliography will not be available on Ovid/Silverplatter as of 09-2005, so it will be rebid. Discussion ensued about Silverplatter's business practices and future.

Regarding the choice of Database Cafeteria option to be negotiated this year, Sage Full Text Collections was the top choice in the survey by a wide margin. Terry noted that for EBSCO Communications & Mass Media Complete, and Gale Opposing Viewpoints (the second and third vote-getters), both vendors indicated willingness to do a vendor direct offer. Wilson Retrospectives are being offered by MLNC and will NOT be a vendor direct and that there were strong instructions that MLNC offerings in general should not be overlapped by MOBIUS vendor direct offerings.

After a brief discussion about some members wanting to lock in some lower Sage pricing before the cafeteria package would go into effect, the motion to go forward with negotiating with Sage for both a vendor direct AND Cafeteria package was approved unanimously.

Maroon redesign: Melissa reported a problem with the editing function. Terry said such problems should be sent to her while Hardy is out of town. Sheila reported a confusing message when trying to cancel editing, and she will send the details to Terry.

State Funding Recommendation: Terry said we need to decide our FY 07 recommendation at our April meeting and we need to write with it a justification. Initial discussion favored a short list of Web of Science, ABI/Inform, and PsycArticles, the top three vote-getters. Melissa pointed out that George Rickerson had strongly recommended a life science choice at the July meeting; others felt that PsycArticles could count as such due to its interdisciplinary use especially with health-related research.

It was decided to wait for the results of the November elections before making the final database choice and writing a justification for it. Terry noted that we could expect Web of Science (the top vote getter), Biosis, and Science Direct all to cost well over \$1 Million. BioOne would be much cheaper but is not considered a core resource at this time. Journals@Ovid would have user license fees that might cause complications. Karl commented that Web of Science would need some backfile purchased with it to be useful; Terry replied that her \$1.8M estimate included 5 years of backfile. Discussion ensued about possibly including federated searching and/or openurl products as options for state funding; there was mixed response regarding the appropriateness of this kind of resource for state funding. Terry thought such would be more appropriate for MCAG to address.

As some of the committee members are unfamiliar with some of the products being short-listed for the state funding recommendation, it was decided that various committee members would write brief descriptions of each, to be due to the committee two weeks before the next meeting. The assignments are:

Karl – Web of Science

Christie – BIOSIS

Rhonda – BioOne

Lynn – SciFinder Scholar

Jill – Journals@Ovid and Journals@Ovid Biomed

Bill (WashU alternate for Carol) – ScienceDirect

Laurie – PsycArticles

Dan – LexisNexis Academic

Sheila – ABI/Inform (global and complete)

Other issues: none

Meeting evaluation: Video format generally preferred due to saved travel time. Terry will attempt to arrange a “Hollywood Squares” video setup for next meeting.

The next meeting is scheduled for 10am March 23, 2005, by videoconference.

The meeting adjourned at 11:45am.

Summary of the MERAC Database Cafeteria Survey 9-04

Out of a potential 58 schools, 50 responded to the MERAC survey. This far exceeds the last survey response rate. MERAC members are to be congratulated for their efforts in achieving this response rate. Participants ranked in order of preference the potential candidates for the FY 06 Database Cafeteria Program, and offered suggestions of other products that they would like MERAC to offer. Additionally, opinions were voiced concerning what products they would like to see the legislature support in the area of life sciences, as well as those that fell outside that category.

Database Cafeteria FY06

In order of voting popularity, the top five databases favored for the Cafeteria Database Program are: Sage Full Text Collections, America's Newspapers (Newsbank), Communication & Mass Media Complete (EBSCO), Opposing Viewpoints (Gale), and HW Wilson Retro Products.

MERAC should select one database or electronic resource from the above list to be added to the Database Cafeteria Program for FY05. MCO will endeavor to add to the Vendor Direct Program.

The results of the following questions were tallied as follows:

For Question 3 (What other resources would you like MERAC to offer?), APA PsycArticles was the most popular with 6 votes. CINAHL with full text, EBSCO Academic Search Premier, Standard & Poor's NetAdvantage, and ScienceDirect all tied for second place with three votes each.

***Note: EBSCO Academic Search Premier is available currently via the Cafeteria Database Program, and Standard & Poor's NetAdvantage has been offered previously through the Vendor Direct Program.

Questions regarding state funding requests

The top choices for database or electronic resource related to the life sciences are Web of Science (25 votes), Biosis (14 votes), BioOne (12 votes), SciFinder Scholar (9 votes), Journals@Ovid (9 votes), Journals@Ovid: Core Biomedical (7 votes), and ScienceDirect (5 votes.)

The top choices for databases or electronic resources outside the area of life sciences were PsycArticles (27 votes), LexisNexis Academic Universe (15 votes), and ABI/Inform (20 votes.)

***Note: The total for ABI/Inform combines votes for all versions suggested (Global and Complete.)