

MOBIUS Electronic Resources Advisory Committee (MERAC)  
Meeting Minutes (*unofficial*)  
Wednesday, October 22, 2003

**Recorder:** Darrin Daugherty

Darrin was called to active military duty prior to assembling his notes from this meeting. The following are reconstructed notes assembled from various sources by Jill Nissen, Archway Cluster.

**Airing it out:**

- Rockhurst reported they were fully implemented.
- Columbia College is redesigning its webpage, including a logo and color change.
- Missouri Western State College is weathering the financial cutbacks in higher education.
- SWAN cluster has a new member: Baptist Bible College (BBC).
- Maryville is implementing the ILLiad system.
- Missouri Valley College experienced problems printing notices after the Phase 3 Upgrade.

**MCO Report:**

Terry Austin gave a report on the survey of electronic resource holdings. 39 out of 57 libraries responded. The data gathered is more specific than previous surveys. Terry also went through the current vendor direct offerings.

**Selection of Databases for FY05 Cafeteria Program:**

Discussed impact of H.W. Wilson's removal of pay-per-search databases from OCLC FirstSearch. Some libraries are now subscribing to databases through EBSCO because cost is lower per simultaneous user than for prices quoted by Wilson to subscribe through FirstSearch.

Television News Archive: an index and video archive database. Currently in beta testing for video archive. 18% discount for MOBIUS, \$475 for smaller schools, \$1900 for larger schools.

In an effort to help the greatest number of people affected by Wilson's move, MERAC will trial the following databases for the FY05 Cafeteria Program:

Art Fulltext

MLA Bibliography (Econ Lit a second choice if MLA unavailable)

Not considering Lexis Nexis Academic because MLNC's price for it is the best possible for MOBIUS members, and MOBIUS does not compete with MLNC.

**Recommendation of Electronic Resources for FY06 Funding Request from the Legislature:**

ABI/INFORM Complete	\$400,000
LEXIS/NEXIS Academic	\$466,119

PsycArticles \$250,313  
(In no particular order of preference)

**MAROON Update:**

MCO is working on a plan to minimize typing. Hoping to get more compliance using the form if it is faster to use.

**Digital Reference—Referral from the Executive Committee:**

From the Executive Committee minutes:

MERAC recommends that the Executive Committee charge a task force to: 1) gauge interest in a low-end/limited hours/chat only inexpensive digital reference service 2) investigate how other consortia or groups offer this service 3) devise parameters for a pilot project for which grant funding can be pursued.

Terry Austin gave a brief background. This recommendation is a result of a MERAC subcommittee formed on digital reference. The subcommittee gathered information on digital reference products and determined it was best to recommend that the Executive Committee charge a task force for further exploration. MERAC had not wanted to make decisions regarding choice of software or level of consortial participation. Although the cost of software ranges from inexpensive to very expensive, a significant cost would involve a significant staff commitment by participating libraries. The Executive Committee determined that this would fit under no other advisory committee, and referred it back to MERAC. The Executive Committee further recommended that MERAC investigate how other consortia or groups offer this service, stating only the MOBIUS Council could decide how they might want to participate in digital reference service.

Mary Slater will review the Digital Reference list to find out which institutions have dropped DR since the subcommittee's earlier report.

Consortia that use DR will be examined and information will be gathered and shared at the January 2004 MERAC meeting:

- Laurie – Keystone Library Network
- Dan—Alliance Library System
- Lucia – Maricopa County
- Darrin – OhioLink
- Lynn – Utah Academic
- Jill – Washington Research Library

Information needed from each if possible: history, hours provided, system used, staffing/scheduling, costs, usage statistics, eligible users, general comments.

**Meeting Date/Evaluation:**

January 22, 2004

**Attending:**

Terry Austin (MCO), Lynn Cline (SWAN), Lucia D'Agostino (Arthur), Darrin Daugherty (Towers), Laurie Hathman, Chair (WILO), Dan McGurk (Lance), Jill Nissen (Archway), Mary Slater (Quest)