

MOBIUS Electronic Resources Advisory Committee Meeting, Minutes
12/ 21/ 2000

MERAC met at the MOBIUS Consortium Office (MCO) at 10:00 a.m. Future MERAC meetings are scheduled for Thursday, February 8, and Tuesday, March 13, 2001.

The Committee discussed pricing that the MOBIUS Consortium Office obtained for databases being considered for purchase with member funds. The Committee continues to pursue a consortial purchase to meet library needs and to demonstrate to the legislature the value of consortial purchasing of electronic databases.

After discussion, the Committee decided to do trials and evaluation of the ABC-Clio databases, America: History and Life and Historical Abstracts, and Books in Print with Reviews beginning in mid-January or soon thereafter and lasting 60 days. The databases selected offered the greatest cost savings for member libraries. The preliminary pricing allows MCO to inform library directors of the estimated costs of these databases for their libraries so directors have that information for budget planning.

The World History FullTEXT product was discussed. Xiaotian Chen said that many of the 100 titles in this product are duplicated in EBSCOhost. The quotes received for CINAHL didn't appear to offer a substantial savings. CINAHL is available on many different platforms so the combined purchasing power is currently divided among several vendors. Terry suggested that we consider it later, perhaps in combination with other health databases. Scarlett indicated that the WILO cluster is interested in ProQuest's new offering of CINAHL PlusText. MCO didn't have a quote on that product yet. The quotes for CollegeSource offered no substantial savings, but would increase access to more users. Xiaotian mentioned that much of CollegeSource is free. The subscription primarily provides access to college catalogs in PDF format. The Committee also discussed the SIRS databases.

The Committee discussed involving more MOBIUS members in the Committee's database selection. Axie asked that each Committee member who is a cluster representative contact each institution in the cluster and ask for input from the individual institutions and learn more about their database needs. Darrin Daugherty's memo suggesting a survey of libraries was discussed.

The Committee discussed the need for better communication with library directors and library staffs and the need for Committee Members to keep the institutions in their cluster informed. The methods chosen for improving communication include: (1) Posting answers to Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) on MERAC's web page on the MOBIUS site; (2) Writing to library directors early in January to give them cost information on the databases selected for the initial trial; (3) Sending directors a MERAC Status Report; (4) Writing an article for the Mobius newsletter; (5) Asking Committee Members to communicate as fully as possible with the other libraries in their cluster; (6) Using e-mail lists such as MOBIUS-L (library directors) and MOBIUS Users; (7) and announcing on the lists that MERAC minutes have been posted.

The Committee revised a draft of "Proposed MOBIUS Goals for Implementing Statewide Access to Electronic Resources." The goals as revised are attached. The Committee will review the goals by e-mail and determine whether to forward the draft to the Executive Board. Providing access off campus requires proxy servers. Raleigh said that Merlin's experience is that, with proxy servers, local decisions and infrastructures are required. Terry mentioned that some institutions are using EZProxy which might be shared by a cluster.

www.usefulutilities.com/ezproxy/overview.shtml

Stephanie said that MERAC should decide on what to offer not how to access it.

The Committee discussed the MAROON inventory of databases. Currently, there are 1510 entries in MAROON for database subscriptions. Most libraries have entered their holdings of electronic databases. Lorna will talk with the directors of four libraries that have not entered holdings yet. Axie will contact the newly approved members of MOBIUS to see if those institutions would like to enter their holdings after the Mobius meeting in March. (Kansas City Art Institute; Rockhurst; and Midwestern Baptist) MCO will ask the Electronic Resources Contacts for each institution

to enter IP addresses in MAROON in preparation for the database trials. Raleigh said that he can incorporate an online evaluation component in MAROON.

The Committee decided to postpone further discussion of General Evaluation Criteria for databases.

Attending were: Carol Antoniewicz, Washington University, WASH U; Stephanie Tolson, St. Louis C C, ARCHWAY; Scarlett Swall, Metropolitan C C, 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 1:

Proposed MOBIUS Goals for Implementing Statewide Access to Electronic Resources

Draft 12/21/00

1. Create a Missouri virtual library to help equalize access to learning resources for college students and faculty throughout the state.
2. Bring high quality, state-of-the-art, instructional and research resources to Missouri learners through personal computers.
3. Maximize the large investment in Missouri's campus technology infrastructures by providing nearly 24/7 access to learning resources.
4. Use the power of aggregated purchases to provide cost savings to MOBIUS libraries.
5. Choose electronic resources to optimize access and value for MOBIUS members.
6. Provide resources that will enhance the quality of distance education courses and degree programs and will support Missouri's delivery of distance education.
7. Provide resources that will help institutions meet certification and accreditation standards.
8. Provide electronic resource services to make Missouri's higher education competitive on a national level.

The goal of MOBIUS is "to provide students and faculty at Missouri's academic institutions with the broadest array of information resources in an easy, timely, and seamless manner regardless of the geographic location of the patron or resources."

----MOBIUS Memorandum of Understanding:

Vision: The MOBIUS Electronic Resources initiative will help equalize the Missouri learner's access to academic resources in a wide variety of institutions across the state of Missouri. The materials that are free on the Internet do not provide the high quality resources needed for serious study. Such resources are available only by subscription or licensing. Creating a Missouri virtual library of academic resources will modernize and revolutionize the delivery of journal articles and reference materials as significantly as the MOBIUS common library platform and delivery service have revolutionized the sharing of books and other materials.