

MOBIUS Electronic Resources Advisory Committee (MERAC)
Minutes
October 8, 2002

MERAC met at the MOBIUS Consortium Office in Columbia, MO at 10:00 am.

1. Airing It out.

Many members mentioned budget constraints. Carol stated that two floors of Olin Library are closed for construction. Joyce mentioned that the Towers Cluster would go live on Oct. 9. Rhonda said Ellis Library has reduced library hours. Axie will retire on 12/31, but will continue to work half time for one year. Lynn mentioned that construction has been completed at Southwest Missouri State.

2. MOBIUS Annual Conference.

Melissa presented a program at the MOBIUS Conference on electronic resource management. George Machovec spoke on the Gold Rush product (explanation later in 3b) in the open session.

Lynn mentioned that the new MOBIUS brochure has devoted page 5 to electronic resources.

3. MCO Report.

a. Cafeteria Plan Survey Results & Discussion

Thirty-seven libraries responded to the survey. When asked to pick the top three databases, the results were: Academic Search Premier 19 votes
ProQuest Psychology Journals 13 votes
Literature Resource Center 12 votes.

Discussion followed on whether to approach the cafeteria plan in the same manner as last year or pick databases already owned by members. Axie stated that even though Academic Elite is through MORENET, an upgrade could be implemented. CQ had entered into an arrangement with MLNC.

Melissa suggested separating services of an electronic nature - SFX (electronic linking service) and TURNITIN (plagiarism management) from the cafeteria plan so they would not compete with text products. It was suggested to add another category to the program. A motion was unanimously passed to separate databases from electronic services.

Discussion then continued on which databases to choose for the cafeteria plan. MLA Bibliography is available through MLNC on First Search and is not full-text, which is a major consideration in selection. The Committee moved to accept the 3 databases that received the most votes because they seemed the most appropriate. Sheila was concerned with PDF images on Academic Elite. Embargoes and linkages were also a concern.

A motion to choose these three databases was made and passed unanimously. MCO investigation and database trials will follow.

Discussion followed on the 2 databases selected for this year: Education Full Text and Applied Science and Technology Full Text. Eighteen libraries have subscribed to Education Full Text and ten have subscribed to Applied Science and Technology Full Text. Laurie and Carol stated Education Full Text was well received. Joyce said there had been no complaints about logging in on either database. Both databases have a limited number of simultaneous users. Lynn mentioned that their library students are using Education Full Text.

b. Vendor Direct Program

Twenty-four libraries responded. To the question, "Did you find the Vendor Direct Program useful, on a scale of 1 to 5 (1 very useful)," 2.5 was the score.

Possibilities for the Vendor Direct Program were presented. The Gold Rush product contains three options: Reports (compare number of unique and same titles in databases), Basic (serials management), Complete (Reports + Basic + a linking system). Comparisons can be made on products not owned by the user. Gold Rush will be available in January 2003.

RefWorks from CSA, a web-based bibliographic management program, was also presented. Other programs of this type also exist, but this is the only product available for use on the web.

An HW Wilson offer is now available. Axie and Terry continue to talk to other vendors.

Lynn stated that the MOBIUS Council had discussed cooperation between Linda Hall Library and MOBIUS. Linda Hall Library does not want to borrow material, only loan material, but its charge for interlibrary loan is too great at present. MOBIUS Council decided not to continue to negotiate with Linda Hall in hopes of agreeing on terms that would result in our loading LHL bibliographic records into the MOBIUS catalog. MOBIUS

Council referred the issue to MERAC for further discussion as a possible Vendor Direct. MCO staff will investigate possibilities of a Vendor Direct as soon as communication regarding the last Linda Hall proposal to MOBIUS is completed.

4. Further Discussion of Grant Activity.

This subject was briefly discussed at the last meeting. Lynn suggested, given the financial problems of libraries at this time, the group may want to think about a grant. Joyce is the only committee member and would welcome help. She suggested sending an email for volunteers for the committee to all MERAC-L members. Startup of Digital Reference Service may be a grant possibility.

5. Further Discussion of Digital Reference.

A motion was made and unanimously passed to survey MOBIUS libraries to determine how many are interested in Digital Reference. Terry mentioned other states are involved in statewide projects on Digital Reference. An MLNC workshop on Digital Reference was suggested.

6. Additional Topics from Committee Members.

Discussion continued on other electronic services such as TURNITIN and RefWorks and how to incorporate them into the program.

A subcommittee, consisting of Melissa, Lynn, Joyce, Axie and Terry, met during lunch to work on a general proposal for a survey to be sent to electronic contacts at member libraries. The survey would ask:

1. about interest in open URL resolvers such as SFX or digital reference
2. for individuals at their institutions willing to work with MERAC
3. willingness to work with a grant funding group

The Committee approved the survey proposal, which will now incorporate the recommendations made earlier in the meeting concerning surveys or subcommittees on miscellaneous electronic services, digital reference, and grants.

A proposal for State funding for fiscal year FY05 was discussed. The proposal to the State Legislature will be resubmitted asking for funding for Lexis/Nexis Academic Universe, ABI/INFORM complete, and PsycARTICLES databases. ProQuest Psychology Journals will be deleted from the list because it is now a candidate for the Cafeteria Plan. A budget increase will also be asked. The proposal passed unanimously.

Evaluation of the meeting followed.

Next meeting is scheduled for April 1, 2003 at the MOBIUS Consortium Office in Columbia.

Attending were: Axie Hindman (MCO), Terry Austin (MCO), Melissa Belvadi (BRIDGES), Lorna Mitchell (ARTHUR), Robert Lindsey (LANCE), Lynn Cline, chair (SWAN), Christopher Dames (MERLIN), Carol Antoniewicz (WASHU), Joyce Meldrem (TOWERS), Rhonda Whithaus (MERLIN), Jill Nissen (ARCHWAY), Sheila Ouellette (ARCHWAY), Laurie Hathman (WILO), Karl Suhr (GALAHAD).

Mary C. Slater, Rotating Secretary