

MERAC met at the Mobius Consortium office at 10:00 a.m., July 25th. The next meeting has been scheduled for 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, October 25th.

1. Report from the Mobius Consortium Office – Axie Hindman/Terry Austin

The University of Missouri Board of Curators had approved our purchase of ABC-CLIO on Friday, July 20th. A copy of the Mobius Consortium Participation Agreement was sent out to each director, which the Consortium Office needs back ASAP. Press releases for the media and another, longer one for campus representatives are in the works. Terry reminded the committee that campus representatives need to provide IP addresses in order for Mobius to implement ABC-CLIO access. Committee members should update electronic representative information for cluster members, and forward positive comments about the databases to Mobius to help justify other purchase agreements.

2. Distribute the Mobius Database Licensing Participation Agreement

This document, sent to the individuals on the Mobius representatives list (mostly directors), was distributed and discussed. This document allows Mobius to make purchases on behalf of its members, after approval by Mobius Council. Renewal of current databases and approval of new databases will always need to be approved by the Mobius Council.

3. Review databases proposed for state funding: ABI/Inform; Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe; APA PsycARTICLES; and Proquest Psychology Journals

The group conducted a lively discussion of these databases, concluding with MERAC voting to accept the proposed databases. **ABI/Inform** was compared with Gale, revealing ABI has greater coverage, more full text articles, a better index, and is more well-known than Gale Business. ABI is more academic, more scholarly, than the Gale business product. The survey revealed ABI as one of the top resources both in business and as a core database. The budget reduction will prompt institutional evaluation of databases in the form of concern about duplication of resources. We need to re-think some of our previous decisions about databases in light of recent budget woes.

Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe is already owned by 65% of our member libraries; many of whom get it through MLNC. We cannot negotiate a better deal. This was the top resource in the survey, however, and if it were funded by the state, the institutional cost transfer would be significant. Our message to the state legislature would be in terms of equalizing access and developing a core collection. Weaknesses of this database are its overlap with Gale Business and the perception that it is not academic or scholarly enough. However, its appeal as a first stop, primary source would make it useful for small, medium and large institutions within the consortium.

APA PsycARTICLES and **ProQuest Psychology Journals** were discussed in terms of overlap with MOREnet supported databases including Academic Search Elite now offered by MOREnet, and Premier, another EBSCOHost product. PsycARTICLES corners the market for American Psychology Association full-text databases. EBSCO has a 41% overlap with many titles embargoed for three to 12 months. PsycINFO is a good package, but is offered by too many vendors to make the necessary bidding process compatible with our goal for state funding. Also, there are interface link issues. Information about the free trial of PsycARTICLES which runs until August 15th was distributed. OCLC statistics reveal more psychology journals and books being requested through interlibrary loan than in any other discipline.

4. Reviewed MERAC FY03 Request for state funding for electronic resources

Relevant document drafts were discussed, and minor editing suggested. A cost comparison would be useful for equalizing influence with what we can do as a group as opposed to what we can do as individuals.

5. Goals review of the committee for 2001-2002

An **educational role** for this committee might include building a clearing house for database information, training modules, evaluation techniques, and overlap analysis. The committee should also pursue the pay-to-play idea and **other models for funding databases** in addition to state funding. A **MAROON database update** is desirable, considering the proved usefulness of this tool as an evaluation and implementation aid. MAROON data should be

studied to identify good candidates for institutional funding. MERAC members should investigate **grant-level funding** for both state-wide access to resources and consortial purchases, such as the opportunity offered by the life sciences initiative. The group would also like to have **fewer MERAC meetings**, perhaps meeting quarterly rather than monthly. The group should set **flexible goals** which can be adjusted in the event of institutional budget cuts and other unanticipated events.

6. Election of Chair

Scarlet Swall from the WILO cluster was ratified as chair of MERAC. Responsibility for taking the minutes of MERAC meetings could be shared, perhaps on a rotating basis.

Attending were Mobius Consortium Office staff members Axie Hindman and Terry Austin. Scarlett Swall, WILO, acted as Interim Chair. Stephanie Tolson, Archway; Ying Li, Archway substitute; Lorna Mitchell, ARTHUR; Per Almquist, Bridges; Anne Booker, Bridges substitute; Xiaotian Chen, LANCE; Rhonda Whithaus, MERLIN; Darrin Daugherty, Northwest; Mary Slater, Quest.

Minutes recorded by Anne Booker, Lindenwood University