

## MOBIUS Electronic Resources Advisory Committee (MERAC)

Minutes, ~~Thursday, 22 January~~ Wednesday, April 21, 2004

**Call to Order** ~~The meeting was called to order by Laurie Hathman, Chair~~ Laurie Hathman, Chair, called the meeting to order. Susan McCormack (MCO) sat in on the meeting. Got a slightly late start (10:10am) due to technical difficulties with some of the video conferencing set-ups.

**Airing it Out.** Members shared updates on various issues from their respective clusters and home libraries.

Melissa Belvadi (Bridges) reported that Logan's renovation is almost done and they will be moving back in, dedication in June.

Laurie Hathman (WILO) informed us that the Kansas City Art Institute is in the implementation stage and hopefully will be up in the fall.

Jackie Burns said that Missouri Western State College is looking at open URL resolvers and asked for input.

Carol Antoniewicz reported that Washington ~~University-Olin~~ University Olin Library's renovation is winding down. The rededication will be held on May 7. The library has gone live with the top layers of their reworked website.

Chris Dames said that MERLIN is considering a new catalog interface and that Rolla's journals have been cut.

Dan ~~McGurk announced~~ McGurk announced that Truman is redesigning their web page & developing an online version of their library information course. They are still using ~~Melilisa's~~ Melissa's ~~open-URL~~ open URL resolver.

Karl Suhr reported that SEMO is interviewing for a library position and they have gone live with Academic Search Premier~~e~~.

**MCO report.** Terry Austin reported on both the Vendor Direct program and the Database Cafeteria program. It may be necessary to go back to ABC-CLIO for renegotiation due to the ~~low number of libraries renewing~~ cancellation of three libraries. The renewal rate for the other Cafeteria offerings is pretty good over all. Terry went over current and prospective vendors in the Vendor Direct Program. ~~reminding the committee that the EBSCO.~~

MOBIUS is interested in a database inventory across the entire state, not just academic libraries. This will not affect the way MOBIUS does the ~~inventory-inventory~~; it will just add public and school libraries. The only difference from the member libraries point of view will be a larger list of databases to choose from when doing the inventory. Laurie's notes indicate the State Library is working on the K-12 school inventory.

**MAROON update** MAROON is almost ready. A prototype should be up soon, the URL will be distributed by email.

**Digital Reference: Recommendation from the Executive Committee.** ~~Carol reported~~ Laurie reported to the Executive Committee at their March 5, 2004 meeting on the work done by MERAC on digital reference. They have also seen documentation. Consensus was that it is too soon for a consortial electronic reference service due to funding and staffing issues. The executive Committee strongly supports individual libraries working on or currently offering digital reference. The report of this committee can serve as a depository of knowledge available for use by libraries wanting to offer digital reference. The idea was tabled for the present time with the understanding that it may be revisited some time in the future. ~~Carol Laurie~~ suggested that if the ~~committee's MERAC documentation report~~ was to be used as a depository of information we need to make every effort to ensure that the report is complete. Please email any outstanding reports or updates on consortial digital reference to Terry for inclusion in the posted committee ~~report~~ documents section.

Individual members of MERAC reported a variety of issues concerning digital reference currently in use or planning stages. ~~In St Louis At WASHU~~ they expressed dissatisfaction with Docutek's updates. Rockhurst University (WILO) may do a pilot program after the AJCU (Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities) conference in May using tutor.com.

**Other Issues.** The new representative to this committee ~~from Archway~~ from Archway will be chosen at the next director's meeting, ~~and Carol Laurie~~ will continue as the WILO representative and Carol for WASHU. Other clusters that ~~will may~~ be sending a new member are Bridges, Quest, and ~~Wash UMERLIN.~~ The bylaws for advisory committees state that new members will serve a ~~2-year~~ 2-year term beginning at the closest meeting to July 1. Nominations for Chair were called for, a ~~1-year~~ 1-year position also starting at the closest meeting to July 1. Laurie nominated Mary Slater for the chair position. ~~While there was an opportunity to nominate at the meeting,~~ Nominations can also be made by email or phone to Carol Laurie at a later date.

**New Issues.** (1) Federated Searches; (2) Open URL resolvers; (3) Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy.

(1) Bridges is interested in any experience libraries have had with federated searching.

Terry saw a demo on Webfeat. ~~it was not~~ Federated searches were not very good when ~~it~~ they first came out but they have improved a great deal ~~& is~~ and are still getting better. The University of Illinois uses Webfeat.

UMC has a committee on federated searches. Rhonda Whithaus is a member of that committee.

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(H)(2) Towers is interested in Open URL resolvers. It was stated that Serials Solution had improved since last year. The software links on the journal level, not the article level. EBSCO's A to Z was suggested as it has the ability to link to articles.

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Gold Rush has a basic open URL resolver and TDNet were also mentioned, though TDNet has an acquisitions focus. Terry pointed out that Serials Solution and TDNet were available through the Vendor Direct Program. HH-III WebBridge was also suggested, but that would have to be a cluster decision. OhioLink uses Thomas Dowling's open source URL resolver that requires a systems person.

Melissa's open source software is also available, but does require a local programmer for implementation and support. Melissa is happy to consult on the ~~pearl-purl~~ script, feel free to call. Terry saw a demo on Webfeat. it was not Federated searches were not very good when it they first came out but they have improved a great deal & is and are still getting better. The University of Illinois uses Webfeat.

HH's-III's electronic reserves was reserve was discussed. No one is using it as yet. Truman and Southwest Missouri State are using HH's-III's Electronic Reserves. William Jewel, Rockhurst and Avila are using DocuTek. Wash U is using DocuTek and are not happy with the product. Virtual Reference Librarian product, but they are pretty happy with ERes, and it is heavily used.

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Covenant has been using DocuTek but plans to cancel due to lack of use.

(32) Terry reported on the Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy (<http://plato.stanford.edu/>), a dynamic reference work and publishing project of the Metaphysics Research Lab at the Center for the Study of Language and Information (CSLI) at Stanford University. Bridges has an item record for the encyclopedia in their catalog.

This valuable and very popular online resource has lost its funding and the people involved are searching for new funding that will allow the encyclopedia to remain a free resource. It operates on the NPR model with support from underwriters. The resource is not very well known, but is too good to just let disappear. They are hoping to raise 4 million dollars. A three million dollar endowment from libraries and one million from Stanford.

They are asking statewide consortiums to get commitments from institutions who that offer philosophy degrees, and are looking for three year three-year commitments in order to guarantee open access. The alternative is to sell the resource to a for-profit organization who will then charge for access.

If MOBIUS commits to an open access pricing model it will mean \$40,000/yr on MOBIUS's part for three years.

The recommended level of funding for Missouri is \$40,000 per year for three years. This is a voluntary contribution from MOBIUS members and the levels are only recommendations. Information regarding contributions will be sent to member institutions that grant philosophy

degrees. It is hoped that this will be a collaborative effort with the institution's library and philosophy department.

**Meeting Date/Evaluation.** The next meeting of MERAC will be 10 a.m., Wednesday, July 14 at MCO. ~~We will again meet via videoconference.~~ Everyone seemed pleased with the videoconferencing ~~went~~, we were done by 11:30. Suggestions for improvement on videoconferencing included having split screens so that everyone could be seen at once and to use screen presentations to share information. It was suggested the committee meet in person at least once a year, especially in July, when new representatives come on board & videoconference the rest of the time.

**Attending:** Carol Antoniewicz (Washington University), Terry Austin (MCO), Melissa Belvadi (Bridges), Jackie Burns (Towers), Lynn Cline (SWAN) (did Lynn ever make it before we ended the meeting?), Lucia D'Agostino (Arthur), Chris Dames (Merlin), Laurie Hathman, Chair (WILO), ~~Mary~~ Susan McCormack (MCO) Dan McGurk (Lance), Sheila Oullette (Archway), Mary Slater (Quest), Karl Suhr (Galahad).

Lucia D'Agostino, Meeting Recorder