

MERLIN Reference Services Committee & MIRACL Collection Development  
Committee  
November 10, 2004 joint meeting  
Columbia, MO

In Attendance: Georgia Baugh (SLU), Peggy McDermott (SLU Law), Mary Krieger (SLU HSC), Pat Gregory (SLU), David L. Straight (WU), Marilyn Carbonell (UMKC), Lawrence MacLachlan (UMKC Law), Phyllis Schmidt (UMKC), Sherry Mahnken (UMR), Nena Thomas (UMR), Susan McCormack (MCO), Terry Austin (MCO), Jan Peach (UMSL), Marilyn Rodgers (UMSL), Chris Dames, Chair (UMSL), Steve Lambson (MU Law), Goodie Bhullar (MU), Mary Ryan (MU), Hunter Kevil (MU), Judy Maseles (MU), Diane Johnson (MU HSL) and Rhonda Whithaus, recorder (MU)

Guests: 9:30-10:00 George Rickerson (MCO)  
10:00-11:00 John McLaughlin (Thompson ISI)  
11:00-12:00 Bob Zuzak (Elsevier)  
1:00-2:00 Sylvia Bonadio (Springer)

I. MCDRSC – Chris Dames

The merger of the MERLIN Reference Services Committee and the MIRACL Collection Development Committee has been officially approved by the Library Directors. The new committee is the MERLIN Collection Development & Reference Services Committee (MCDRSC).

II. UM Electronic Resources Initiative

George Rickerson provided an update to the committee on the life sciences focus of this initiative. George met with Vice President Steve Lehmkuhle to discuss to what extent should funding from this initiative be spent on life sciences. Vice President Lehmkuhle would like to see life sciences receive the bulk of support, but he is not attaching a dollar amount to define “bulk.”

Given that this is the largest amount of money we have received to spend on electronic resources and the conditions attached from the administration, the question of the life sciences support has been given much attention. George pointed out that life sciences is not a clearly defined area. There are multidisciplinary resources (for example, the U.S. Serials Set) that support life sciences as well as other areas.

George also encouraged the committee to keep in mind that these funds are fungible. There is no requirement that the resources we spend this money on be new subscriptions. We could move existing MERLIN subscriptions that support life sciences (e.g., Web of Science, Biological Abstracts) to this new money.

The committee was reminded that we will have to report performance measures to the administration annually and the funding for this initiative will be reviewed in three years.

Recommendations by the committee need to be sent to the Directors by the end of December. Some form of the proposal will also be submitted to the Provosts. George suggested the committee consider offering alternative proposals (listing advantages and disadvantages). Submitting the proposal(s) to the Provosts will help ensure administrative support.

Terry Austin reminded the committee that resources available from multiple vendors would have to be bid and money needs to be spent this fiscal year. For the bid process, it takes about two weeks for MCO to provide Purchasing with the background information and minimum requirements. The Request for Bids are sent out for at least ten days (longer for more expensive resources or if a vendor requests an extension).

III. Storage Pilot Project

George reports that this pilot project is still in development.

IV. Open URL – Chris Dames

There was some brief discussion at the previous meeting in regards to using some of the new money for an Open URL resolver. UMKC has an A-Z list, SLU has Article Linker and the A-Z list, UMR and UMSL do not have a resolver or A-Z list and MU is currently nearing the end of the RFP process for an Open URL resolver and A-Z list. Given that this would be an extensive and complicated RFP for MERLIN, it was agreed that we would not pursue an Open URL resolver.

V. TOC – Chris Dames

It was agreed that we would like to reinstate TOC. After discussion, it was decided that we would allocate \$40,000 for TOC. There is a possibility that SLU will participate.

VI. Thomson ISI presentation by John McLaughlin

John demonstrated the Web of Knowledge interface, BIOSIS Previews and JCR.

BIOSIS Previews indexes over 5300 journals and is updated weekly. It includes Biological Abstracts and RRM (Reports, Reviews & Meetings). Features include: relational indexing, context sensitive help, Analyze Results option, cited reference linking, alerts, linking to third-party full-text and OPACs. ISI usually includes 10 additional users with the BIOSIS Previews subscription. Can cross-search with the Web of Knowledge interface (so could search Web of Science and BIOSIS Previews simultaneously) and only use one user license.

JCR offers Science and Social Sciences databases. It is not possible to search both simultaneously. You cannot export data.

- VII. ScienceDirect presentation by Bob Zuzak  
ScienceDirect contains 6.4 million full-text, searchable records from over 1800 journals. It offers unlimited access to subscribed journals and bibliographic and abstract access for all journals. With a ScienceDirect subscription, you would have access to 2001-date. 1995-2001 and the pre-1995 backfile project are available as purchase options. Articles are available in PDF and HTML.

Features include: high quality graphics, alerts (issue, topic, citation), electronic access is available 6-8 weeks before the paper copy, citation linking (with other ScienceDirect titles, CrossRef), controlled non-subscribed access, COUNTER compliant usage statistics (expect for one month delay in delivery), e-newsletter available and free on-site training.

There are two pricing models: Basic and Complete.

Basic: The customer has the option to select titles from their subscription to be included. You cannot share access with other institutions. You pay an additional 25% content fee. They will give a 10% discount for electronic only subscriptions. Access to non-subscribed titles is set at \$30/article. These are one-year agreements and you can switch/change titles every year.

Complete ScienceDirect: The customer gets all currently subscribed titles. Elsevier will review historically maintained Elsevier subscriptions. You must maintain the subscription value for the term of the agreement. You can trade titles (cancel one and pick up one or more equal in value). The content fee is 12.5%. There is a 10% discount for electronic only subscriptions. Access to non-subscribed titles is set at \$22/article. There is a 7.5% inflation cap for three or 5 year agreements. UM Libraries can share titles. You have the ability to trade duplicate titles and add to the collection. They can provide combined or separate contracts and invoices. Usage statistics can be provided by the individual site or consortium.

Consortium Program (UMOS, SLU, WU and other Missouri institutions): Discount is based on complete level of participation by all schools. The volume discount is based upon total spending of consortium members. Discounts are available on most products and services. Every school must be a ScienceDirect Complete customer (only WU and Southwest Missouri State are currently Complete customers). All Elsevier titles (excluding Cell Press) are included. There is a 7.5% inflation cap for 3 or more year agreement.

UTL (Unique Title List) is for non-subscribed title access. The UTL is selected by the consortium from any of the 1800 Elsevier titles. The fee is 5-10%.

If you cancel ScienceDirect, you can access your online archive for a flat fee plus \$0.22 per record. Elsevier has an agreement with the Dutch National Library to maintain their data. They are currently looking for partners in the U.S. and Asia.

- VIII. SciFinder Scholar – Terry Austin  
The Library Directors approved the proposal to assume all costs for the campuses' current SciFinder Scholar subscriptions. Terry announced that CAS has released a minor upgrade. After discussion, it was agreed that MCO would not post this upgrade to the MERLIN web page. The next major release is scheduled for 2005 and will be posted.
- IX. Committee Discussion – JCR  
Concerns were expressed about the expense and usage statistics for the performance reports. After discussion, it was agreed that JCR would be removed from the list of resources to consider funding with this initiative.
- X. Committee Discussion – BIOSIS Previews  
Cost of our current Biological Abstracts subscription were compared to the cost to upgrade to BIOSIS Previews. It was agreed that the cost to upgrade for RRM (Reports, Reviews and Meetings - \$27,650 in addition to the \$51,780 paid for Biological Abstracts) was too high. BIOSIS Previews was removed from the list of resources to consider funding.
- XI. Committee Discussion – ScienceDirect  
Faculty at UMKC and UMR strongly support subscribing to ScienceDirect. MU could not commit to an agreement that would not allow for cancellation of Elsevier titles. After several more discussions throughout the meeting, it was agreed that we would not include ScienceDirect on the list, but we would write a justification for not including it.
- XII. Springer Verlag presentation by Sylvia Bonadio  
Discussion of the Springer and Kluwer online journals and the GWLA deal. After January 1, Kluwer material will display on Springer Link. Springer Link is hosted by Meta Press (which is owned by Ebsco). They will be enhancing Springer Link to include some of the Kluwer features. Access is 1997-date. Allows for ILL with Ariel digital and use for reserves. They are pursuing LOCKSS for archival access.

The current GWLA Kluwer deal includes access to approximately 600 titles. Each campus would continue to pay for its own print subscriptions, but

MERLIN would pay for the electronic access. The cancellation policy is 2%. There is one year left on the GWLA contract. The inflation cap is 8%.

They are preparing a proposal to GWLA to include Springer titles (approximately 400 titles) to be added to the current Kluwer deal.

Statistics by institution are available. Sylvia will check on the availability of consortial statistics. She will send spreadsheets of titles to Terry for distribution to each campus for review of subscription data to be used in calculating costs for electronic access.

XIII. Committee Discussion – Springer Verlag

Discussion of the number of titles (approximately 1000 Kluwer and Springer titles) and low cost, it was agreed that we would add this resource to the list for further exploration.

XIV. Committee Discussion – Wiley

Hunter Kevil and Mary Ryan were attending a conference call to discuss a possible GWLA-Wiley deal later in the afternoon. With only preliminary information available (over 350 titles at a possible 2% access fee), it was agreed that we would add this resource to the list for further exploration.

XV. Committee Discussion – Web of Science

All campuses reaffirmed the decision from the previous meeting that the individual campus contributions to the subscription for Web of Science would now be picked up by MERLIN with this new funding.

Discussion on purchase of backfiles. It was agreed to add the 1990-1994 backfile to the list. We will also add 1985-1994 and 1980-1994 to the list for consideration.

XVI. Committee Discussion – U.S. Serials Set

It was agreed that this will be added to the list. There are two vendors (LexisNexis and Readex). MU Law has already purchased it from Readex. Terry will contact Purchasing to see if we have to go through the bid process since MU Law already subscribes or if we can just go with Readex.

XVII. Committee Discussion – BioOne

It was agreed that we would add it to the list for consideration.

XVIII. Committee Discussion – JSTOR

After some discussion, it was agreed that we will get pricing information for all JSTOR collections. SLU already has them all.

XIX. Committee Discussion – OVID LWW High Impact

This is not tied to print subscriptions. SLU has it. It was agreed to add it to the list for consideration.

XX. Committee Discussion – OVID Life Sciences Collection

It was agreed that this was too expensive for fifty journals. It was removed from the list.

XXI. Committee Discussion – Nature and Nature Reviews & Research

It was agreed that we will add these to the list for consideration.

XXII. Committee Discussion – Science

There was some concern because renewal price is based on usage statistics. It was decided that we will keep it on the list for consideration.

XXIII. Committee Discussion – Annual Reviews

It was agreed that we will keep it on the list for consideration. Terry asks that current subscribers compare your costs to the price quote received.

XXIV. Committee Discussion – PsycArticles

It was agreed that we will keep it on the list for consideration. Terry reminded the committee that this would have to be bid because it is available from multiple vendors.

XXV. Calls for other resources to consider:

A. American Physiological Society Legacy Content

All campuses have at least some APS titles. Cost was reasonable. It was agreed to add this to the list for consideration. Diane Johnson will send a URL to the list for a web page that provides more information.

B. CSA TRD (Engineering Research database)

UMR has a subscription. It was agreed that we would add this to the list for consideration.

C. ACM Digital Library

MU and SLU have subscriptions via GWLA. It was agreed that we would add this to the list for consideration.

D. EBSCO's Communication & Mass Media Complete

Appears to be a high use full-text resource. All UM libraries currently have access through a trial offered to all EBSCO customers. It was agreed that we would add the list for consideration.

E. EBSCO Biomedical Reference Collection

There are embargo periods and quite a bit of overlap with other resources we are reviewing. It was decided that we would not include this on the list.

F. Sage Full Text Collections

This is currently being offered in the MOBIUS Vendor Direct program and will be part of the MOBIUS Database Cafeteria Program next year. There was some question about whether CSA has the current full-text or archive only. Terry will be meeting with CSA and Sage next week and will get clarification. It was agreed that we would add this to the list for further consideration.

G. Evidence-Based Medicine Reviews

It was decided not to include this on the list.

H. ASTM

UMR and MU have subscriptions. Previously, MERLIN had a subscription but it was cancelled due to budget cuts. It was agreed not to include this on the list.

XXVI. UM Electronic Resources Initiative

Terry will try to have a new spreadsheet with pricing information for resources identified today available in two weeks. There was discussion about each campus then ranking the resources before the next meeting (Dec. 9).

XXVII. Current Contents – Terry Austin

The Current Contents (and Web of Science) contract ends in June. Terry will begin negotiations with ISI in January. She needs a decision by the December meeting if want to renew Current Contents. As an FYI, Yale and Harvard are not renewing their Current Contents subscriptions.

XXVIII. Next meeting: Thursday, Dec. 9 at 10:00 in Columbia. Mary Krieger will take minutes.