

MERLIN Coordinators Meeting
Columbia, MO
July 10, 2002

Chairperson: Ben Lea (UMR)
Minutes: Raleigh Muns (UMSL)

In attendance: Ben Lea (UMR), Raleigh Muns (UMSL), Win Shih (SLU Pius), Richard Amelung (SLU Law), Nancy Stancel (UMKC Law), Brenda Dingley (UMKC), Judy Maseles (MU), Robin Kespohl (MCO), Gary Harris (MCO), Karen Darling (MU), Resa Kerns (MU LAW)

A. Discussion/Modification/Adoption of Committee Charge

Ted Sheldon (Library Director, UMKC) requested a committee charge be written for the Coordinators.
The Chair (Ben Lea, UMR) disseminated a draft which was commented on for further revision.

Paragraph 1, Line 2: "Representatives and alternates" changed to "Representatives" ("and alternates" deleted)

Paragraph 2, Line 4: "III" changed to "Innovative"

Paragraph 3, Line 2-3: Delete parenthetical listing of specific MERLIN committees

Suggestions to add information about:

Coordination of Communication on the Campuses
Appointment of ad hoc Committees
Oversight of Innovative's Enhancement Process
Maintenance of Passwords and Authorizations

B. Chair Situation for FY 2002-2003

Ben Lea was unanimously acclaimed by the members of the committee to continue as the Chairperson of the Committee

C. Reports from Robin Kespohl (MCO)

1. Planning to move to Millennium Modules

Final implementations are winding down. All new implementations (e.g., Towers) are being brought up by default as Millennium only systems. Character based systems are not being implemented.

All MOBIUS libraries should be planning NOW to move to Millennium modules. Innovative has announced that there will be NO enhancements made to the character-based (telnet) systems. This is now a closed system.

2. Number of ports on MERLIN

Currently, each port on MERLIN costs \$7.00/month in maintenance. MCO is evaluating whether or not too many ports are being supported. Under consideration is a more aggressive move by MERLIN to discontinue all public access to the OPAC via telnet in order to save these support costs.

Recommendations were to have each campus accelerate phasing out of all public telnet connections. We are paying for public access via telnet, when we have also paid for unlimited access via the Web (no ports needed).

Example: If MCO can remove 100 ports annual savings would be \$8,400.

Some campuses reported possible problems related to public workstations being unable to access the OPAC via the Web Interface.

Gary Harris recommended temporarily deactivating a number of ports and look at the impact (turnaways) before proceeding further. Questions were raised as to the validity of the Innovative logs regarding telnet access. Coordinator ok'ed Gary to proceed.

Coordinators all agreed to pursue the deprecation of public telnet access to the OPAC.

3. My Millennium

New product for which we have paid. Check into activating. Would allow saving of searches (automatic emailing of updated catalog records). Coordinators requested that a test be set up.

4. Passwording Review Files

Coordinators decided to keep the status quo (no passwording of review files).

5. OPAC Telnet Gateway

MERLIN Currently paying \$37/month to maintain OPAC telnet gateway. See:

O> Additional Options
A> Connect to Other Library Catalogs

Since we connect directly to other catalogs, this feature is no longer needed. Coordinators directed MCO to deactivate the OPAC telnet gateway.

6. In Loc fixed field in item records

We had previously added a fixed field Out Loc, which displays where an item was last checked out. The analogous In Loc fixed field is available. Coordinators directed MCO to add In Loc field.

7. Release 2001 Enhancements

The following enhancements are apparently not being utilized. MCO requests attention and action in order to determine whether to activate, and how to configure (when relevant) the following Release 2001 Enhancements.

Title Level Paging (see manual page 105112)

System can be modified to queue a page for a title level hold.
Title Holds will automatically print with page slips if activated.
Coordinators to refer to MERLIN Access Services Committee for action.

Display and Transfer Paged Items to Run Automatically (see manual page 102332)

A Unix cron (regularly scheduled automatically) job can be activated which will automatically transfer unfilled and problem pages, based on various parameters, on a nightly basis.
Coordinators to refer to MERLIN Access Services Committee for action.

Single Paging Slip Generation by Location/Call Number (see manual page 102515)

Coordinators to refer to MERLIN Access Services Committee for action.

Course ID can be added to create lists

Coordinators directed that MCO activate this feature.

New Option for Title Level Holds (see manual page 102329)

Coordinators to refer to MERLIN Access Services Committee for action.

D. Reports from Gary Harris (MCO)

1. Secure Socket Layers (SSL) and digital certificates. (Rls. 2002, Phase 1 enhancement)

Enables encryption of patron's SSN's and PINs when processing MERLIN transactions. Have already set up certificate with THAWTE. Unknown when will be active, but hopefully by end of July.

2. Scoping of Course Reserves (Rls. 2002, Phase 1 enhancement)

We will be rescoping the database for each cluster in order to implement this.

3. Audit of Hardwired terminals on MERLIN

MCO passed out list of 44 hardwired ports which appear to be unused or redundant. Annual savings of \$4000.
Coordinators to take list back to their campus and verify that it's ok to proceed. Inform Gary Harris ASAP.

E. MOBIUS Coordinator Assignment

Resa Kerns (MU LAW) was appointed to be the MERLIN Cluster representative to the MOBIUS Coordinators Committee.

F. Other Business

None.

Meeting adjourned.