



The Return of Regional Training

During the Fall of 2009, the MOBIUS Consortium Office took a break from training to evaluate the needs of our members and reassess our training materials and methods.

It came as no surprise that members preferred hands-on in-person training with no or minimal travel requirements. Therefore, beginning in the spring of 2010, MCO will offer regional customized training.

MCO would like to hear from you to plan our upcoming training session for the coming year.

To participate in the discussion and let us know what training you would like, please subscribe to the *new* MCO training discussion list by visiting the following URL:

<http://bit.ly/mcotraining>

this issue

MOBIUS Nonprofit Status **P.1**

Innovative & Encore **P.2**

Servers & Tech **P.3**

MOBIUS Investigates Not-For-Profit Status

MOBIUS is in the process of investigating status as a not-for-profit, tax-exempt corporation. At its December 11, 2009 meeting, the MOBIUS Council voted to empower the Executive Committee “to investigate and proceed as appropriate” to acquire status as a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation.

MOBIUS Strategic Goals

The current MOBIUS Strategic Plan identifies several goals which the Executive Committee feels can be better addressed with the flexibility provided as a not-for-profit corporation. These include greater control over financial resources and procurement processes; greater facility in accommodating new members; acquisition of status as a legal entity; the ability to collaborate more effectively with other organizations; and improved flexibility and innovation in dealing with libraries’ needs and priorities.

Relationship with the University of Missouri

MOBIUS has enjoyed a long and mutually supportive relationship with the University of Missouri. With not-

for-profit status, MOBIUS anticipates continuing that relationship as well as continuing to “outsource” some functions to UM. However, MOBIUS plans to take on responsibility for the management of its financial resources and anticipates adding a business manager position to the MOBIUS Consortium Office staff.

Governance

The Executive Committee has asked that the Bylaws Committee revise the MOBIUS Bylaws as one of the first steps of the process to acquire not-for-profit status for MOBIUS. Mollie Dinwiddie, past chair of the Executive Committee, chairs the Bylaws Committee and is assisted by Valerie Darst, Moberly Area Community College; Susan Morrisroe, Missouri State Library; Gail Staines, St. Louis University; and Stephanie Tolson, St. Charles Community College. The committee anticipates presenting a draft version of the MOBIUS Bylaws at the February 26, 2010 Council meeting. The Crossroads Sub Task Force on Organizational Structure will also present a draft of the “Memorandum of Understanding to Participate in the MOBIUS Union Catalog” at the February Council meeting.

MOBIUS Contracts for a Personal Service Representative

MOBIUS has contracted with Innovative Interfaces for a Personal Service representative for one year. December 1st Amy Homick began working with MCO staff.

Amy's responsibilities include advising MCO, working to plan implementations, and providing direct coordination for ILL service and support. Amy will also be investigating stalled tickets open with Innovative support, and advocating for features requested by MOBIUS. Amy has already met with MCO staff to resolve Help Desk ticket issues, and assisted us with planning for the release of 2009B.

Amy will be visiting MCO January 13 and 14 so that she can get to know our library consortium and fully understand our special situations and workflows. Amy is available for training, so please let Donna Bacon (bacond@umsystem.edu) know of any Innovative product training and/or workflow needs you would like her to address for your staff.



encore



Encore Arrives at Four MOBIUS Libraries

Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary

William Woods University

St. Charles Community College

Columbia College

MOBIUS is excited to announce that Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, William Woods University, St. Charles Community College and Columbia College will be launching Encore Discovery in February.

Holly Murphy, an Encore team member from Innovative, will be visiting the four Encore libraries on February 2nd & 3rd for an onsite kickoff presentation for staff. Innovative pro-

vides a separate Encore help desk and Encore team to guarantee a smooth launch of Encore and its continued maintenance. As a bonus, ILL will be hosting Encore on their servers, making implementation time (and effort) minimal for MCO staff.

Look for these four MOBIUS libraries to share their experiences with you at the 2010 MOBIUS Annual Conference. For more details, visit MobiusConference.org

Features of Encore

- Faceted search results
- Tagging
- 'Did you mean...?' search suggestions
- Recently added suggestions
- RightResult™ relevance ranking

For more info, please visit <http://encoreforlibraries.com>

Emerging Technologies Sub Task Force Visits

Members of the Emerging Technologies Sub Task Force of the MOBIUS Crossroads Task Force visited two other consortia including: the Orbis-Cascade Alliance and the Michigan Library Consortium.

The sub task force visited the Orbis-Cascade Alliance in Portland, Oregon on Oct 1, 2009 to investigate their transition from INNReach to OCLC's Navigator software. Shirley Baker,

chair of the Emerging Technologies Sub Task Force, provided a report to the MOBIUS Council at their December 11, 2009 meeting.

The sub task force also paid a visit to the offices of MLC, the Michigan Library Consortium in Lansing, Michigan on December 1, 2009 to investigate their use of Innovative's Direct Consortial Borrowing (DCB) product and to learn about MLC's use of the open source system, Evergreen.

DCB appears to be working quite well and allows numerous non-Innovative libraries to participate in Michigan's INNReach union catalog. Reports about both visits can be found on the MCO website under the Crossroads Task Force.

Thank you Orbis-Cascade Alliance and MLC for hosting us!



MCO Upgrades Four Servers

Janine Gordon, Library Support Representative, was responsible for the recent upgrade of four servers onto new Dell and Sun hardware.

Servers for Arthur, Archway and SWAN were all migrated onto Dell R710 servers. In addition to new servers, new rack-mounted tape backup drives and a new rack were purchased.

The INNReach server was most recently upgraded and is now operating on a Sun T5120 server.

From Sun to Dell

While evaluating our options for hardware purchases, MCO quickly realized that the market is vastly different from what it was at the time of our previous round of server upgrades. Rather than staying with all Sun servers, MCO made a decision to transition our servers onto Dell hardware running the Red Hat™ Linux operating system (at this time INNReach requires Sun hardware running the Solaris operating system).

The reason for our move to Dell/Linux was entirely motivated by cost savings. MCO was able to purchase

equally performing hardware for approximately one half of the cost. In addition to hardware savings, the cost to administer a Dell/Linux server is much lower than a Sun/Solaris server.

Although we currently have a contract for server administration with the University of Missouri's Department of Information Technology, MCO staff are quickly building significant Linux administration skills in-house.



MCO Website Usability Study

Just before the holidays, Justin Hopkins and Jessica Hammond completed yet another round of usability studies thanks to **huge** participation from MOBIUS members.

After wrapping up the third and final step in the process, Justin and Jessica completed the reorganization of the website navigation. The new navigation was developed entirely by users and then tested, again by MOBIUS volunteers.

Hopefully the new system will go live (along with a new look) by the time you read this newsletter.

Conference Website Shiny and New!

This year, MCO launched a separate website dedicated to the MOBIUS Annual Conference. You may find it at <http://mobiusconference.org>. The new site offers some pretty cool features like the ability to submit your own session and browse the sessions of your peers.

Solutions for Online Meetings and Live Streaming

GoToMeeting Replaces Adobe Connect

After evaluating alternative solutions for the hyper-unpopular Adobe Connect, MCO settled on GoToMeeting as the best-fit product for online meetings and webinar offerings. After a trial period, including a trial webinar with members it became clear that the purchase of GoToMeeting was the best choice. In addition to being much easier to use from the administrative side and end user perspectives, GoToMeeting reduced the cost for the service by more than two thirds.

Live Streaming of Events Via Ustream

Continuing with the trend of "more bang for your buck", we decided to replace the costly and poorly performing Polycom video conferencing with free and easy Ustream live streaming. Although remote participants cannot be seen at the local site, they are still able to participate via chat and/or conference call. Although Ustream may not be the final solution for live streaming of events, it seems to be the best solution. It received rave reviews from the more than 20 council members who used it at the last meeting.