



eResources stretch dollars

Axie Hindman,
coordinator of electronic resource licensing

Today's students and faculty demand more full text articles and other electronic resources while academic libraries struggle to find money as library funding gets tighter. * The MOBIUS Consortium Office offers programs that stretch the dollars for MOBIUS libraries by getting lower prices through group purchasing. All funding comes from the individual libraries in MOBIUS because no state funding is available.

The MOBIUS office offers several databases to its users at a reduced cost through its Database Cafeteria Program. A library selects offers that meet its needs from the "menu." In addition to cost benefits on the databases, the licensing staff provides significant time and cost savings for subscribing libraries by handling all aspects of the purchase, such as negotiating the price, setting up trials, preparing bid proposals, getting the databases running and invoicing. The MOBIUS Help Desk provides support as needed.

All databases are available 24 hours a day for authorized users from any computer, as long as the user is authenticated as a valid user.

History is a core subject area for undergraduates. Fifty MOBIUS libraries take advantage of a group purchase to offer two history databases to users. The total cost for the 50 libraries is \$138,000 for the current year for an unlimited number of users. The cost for these 50 libraries to purchase access for up to four persons simultaneously would be \$369,600 - or a savings of \$231,600 for MOBIUS institutions. Eighteen MOBIUS libraries are offering Education Full Text with articles on all aspects of education. The total cost to these libraries to buy through MOBIUS is \$30,401. Buying through MOBIUS and sharing 20 simultaneous users saved these libraries \$61,649 compared with individual library purchases of four users per library.

Ten libraries subscribe to Applied Science and Technology Full Text and share 12 users for a savings of \$45,203 compared with purchases by individual libraries of four users per library.

Current offers in the Database Cafeteria Program are for a collection of full text psychology journals, a literature resource center, and a periodicals database designed to meet the needs of academic libraries. One proposal saves members 20 percent over the list price or 25 percent if a library continues to subscribe to print.

** "Students and faculty members turn first to online materials" according to a recent study conducted for the Digital Library Federation and reported in the October 18, 2002 Chronicle of Higher Education.*

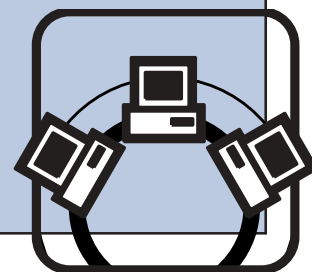
Fall

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Celebrating Completion

On October 30, several of us from the MCO joined Towers Cluster librarians and administrators and others in the library at Missouri Western State College to celebrate both the completion of the Towers Cluster implementation and the completion of the Common Library Platform implementation for MOBIUS charter members. Julia Schneider and her staff organized a wonderful event, and it was a time to recognize the long hours and hard work that made this accomplishment possible. A special thank you to State Senator Charlie Shields for attending the event. The realization of the vision of the CLP, which involved the implementation of nine new computer systems to support the libraries of 50 universities and colleges, was completed exactly on schedule and within budget.





Users Conference

More than two hundred persons attended the Third Annual MOBIUS Users Conference held in Jefferson City in September. The conference is a valuable tool for training, sharing of information, renewing relationships and being inspired for the future. At the Annual Users Conference, the Help Desk team staffed a Help Desk annex. They had a computer connected to the Internet and a large monitor to facilitate answering questions and demonstrating various INNOPAC/Millennium functions.

Vendor Direct

*Axie Hindman
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Vendor Direct, provides a discount on purchases based only on MOBIUS membership. In Vendor Direct the MOBIUS staff determines that an offer is beneficial to members and distributes information to MOBIUS institutions via email and the MOBIUS Web site. Libraries can then deal directly with the vendor. This program offers a smaller discount than the Cafeteria Program but more offers can be made because less staff time is required.

This past year, 19 databases from 12 vendors were offered to MOBIUS at a discounted price. Journals included *Nature* at an 11 percent discount off list price, *Cancer Handbook* at a 15 percent discount, *Facts on File* at a 35 percent discount and Standard and Poor's *Net Advantage* at a 15 percent discount. The Vendor Direct Program currently offers nine additional electronic resources including a variety of databases, a plagiarism deterrent and software to assist in creating the format for bibliographies. Because member institutions must provide all funding, all libraries cannot afford to take advantage of the MOBIUS offers. However, more databases are available to students and faculty in institutions of higher education in Missouri because of the cost-savings benefits of the MOBIUS electronic resources licensing programs.

Fall Highs

George Rickerson, executive director

As we move quickly toward the end of the year, it is worthwhile to recount the events of a busy Fall for MOBIUS. In addition to the completion celebration and the Users Conference, here are some additional highlights.

Funding Update

The Missouri Coordinating Board for Higher Education met in October to consider the fiscal year 2004 appropriations request for Missouri's public institutions of higher education. MOBIUS' FY2004 request was among those considered. The CBHE voted to follow Governor Holden's lead in recommending no new appropriations for FY2004 for any component of the public higher education community. The CBHE request for FY2004 is to maintain FY2003 funding levels.

Training Update

Each cluster and its members have the opportunity for ongoing training on a regular basis with a variety of issues such as circulation, acquisitions, cataloging and the use of the Inn-Reach system.

Operations Update

A new feature was added to the MOBIUS web site. Users may now apply a filter to the open calls list that will display open calls by campus, by requestor name, by MCO contact, or by the status detail of the call. This new functionality reduces the amount of time it takes to find the open calls of interest.

Celebrating the completion of the CLP at Missouri Western State College



Left to right: George Rickerson, Missouri State Librarian Sara Parker, State Senator Charlie Shields

Hannibal-LaGrange College

Hannibal - www.hlg.edu

Hannibal-LaGrange College is a four-year liberal arts college that offers a full range of studies on the baccalaureate level. In addition, there are a number of pre-professional programs on the associate level, including pre-engineering. An honors program is available for gifted and highly motivated students. With about 1,150 students and a student/faculty ratio of 14:1, students receive close, personal attention and more interaction.

Julie Andresen, library director, says, "For L.A. Foster Library, MOBIUS has changed the way we do business. It has improved our quality of service and opened up a world of material to our students they would not have had otherwise."

Susan Cernea, public services librarian, comments, "At first we were hesitant about going on MOBIUS. Now I wonder why did we even think twice? MOBIUS is the best implementation a library could make. There is nothing more frustrating than looking for something and not finding it. MOBIUS has made a big change in that. Needed materials are a lot easier to find now." Mary Bailey, AV cataloger, adds, "MOBIUS is the most user friendly system. It makes people feel empowered and gives them a sense of satisfaction when they can check out or renew books on their own. They become independent users and don't rely on Internet sources as much."

Missouri Southern State College

Joplin- www.mssc.edu

Missouri Southern State College is a state-supported, comprehensive college offering programs leading to the bachelor's degree. Faithful to its original statutory charter, the college also offers continuing education courses and a number of two-year programs in technical and vocational areas for the benefit of the community in and surrounding Joplin.

Central to the mission is a strong commitment to international education, to the liberal arts, to professional and pre-professional programs, and to the complementary relationship that must exist between liberal and professional education in order to prepare individuals for success in careers and lifelong learning. Wendy McGrane, interim library director, says, "Recently a faculty member asked me if our students realized exactly what an asset MOBIUS was to their research process. Not at first, but once they catch on they're impressed and they recognize the service and ease of use that MOBIUS provides. As an organization, MOBIUS is constantly striving to enrich information access for our students and to provide excellent support for our libraries."



Library at Linn State Technical College

Linn State Technical College

Linn- www.linnstate.edu

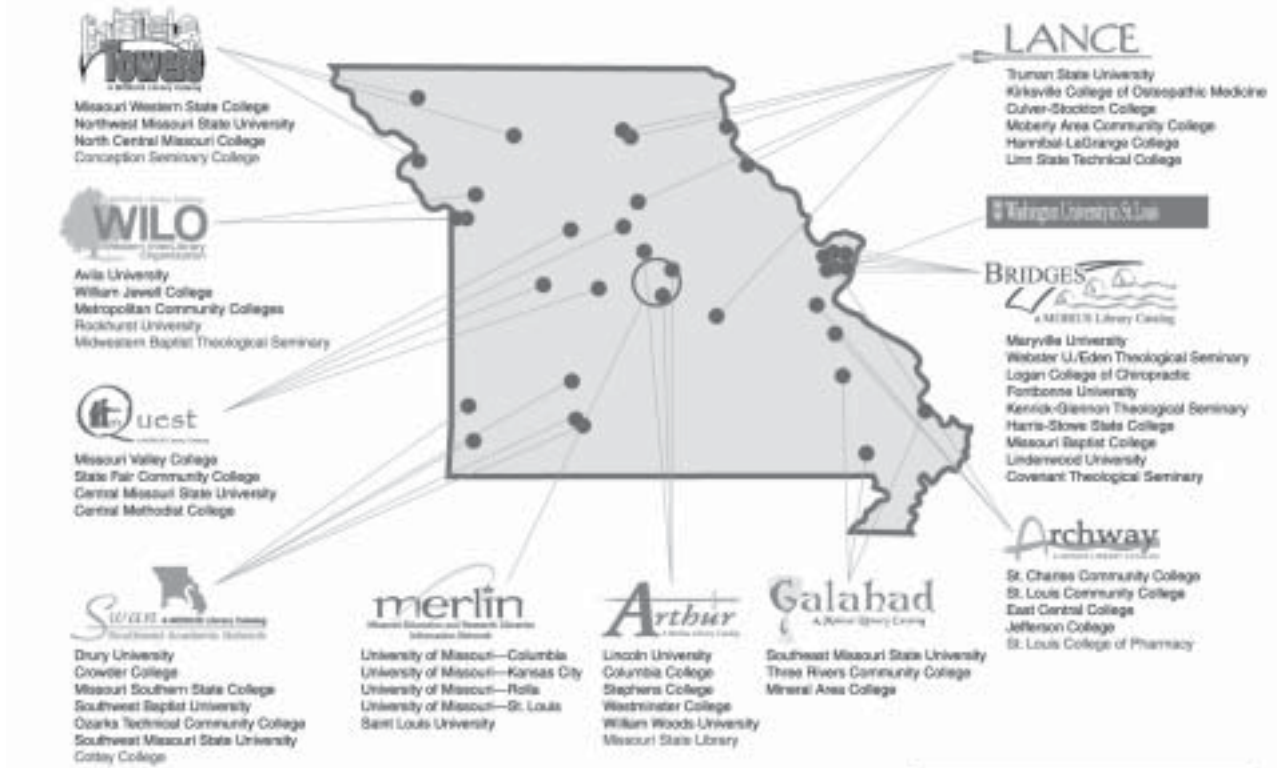
Linn State Technical College is a two-year State Technical Institution. In 2000 the college was accredited by the Higher Learning Commission and became a member of the North Central Association. In 1996 Linn State Technical College became the only publicly supported higher education institution in Missouri devoted solely to technical education at the associate degree level. Since its founding in 1961 more than 8,000 individuals have graduated from the college.

The college has strong relationships with the business and industrial communities and has a reputation for providing quality technical education and for producing graduates with the technical skills needed for advancement in the workplace.

Linn State Technical College offers 21 highly technical programs such as Aviation Maintenance, Automotive Technology, Civil/Construction Engineering Technology and Laser/Photonics Technology to name a few.

According to Tesuk Im, director of library services, "We continue to receive favorable comments from the college community including faculty comments like "My students love MOBIUS. The most frequent question I hear is 'You mean when I hit the Request Button, I'll get it? That's all I have to do? Sweet!'"" "MOBIUS enables the instructor to research for the classroom. Having a vast resource bank like MOBIUS at your fingertips leaves more time for the important things." "It makes our library almost immeasurably vast; alas, relatively few in this community take advantage of it. We seem to lack the knowledge or the will to make ourselves smarter," comments one senior faculty.

The college president, Dr. Don Claycomb, who is a great supporter of MOBIUS, says, "MOBIUS is a very good use of state funds. It exemplifies the best in sharing of state resources."



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