

MOBIUS NEWS LINK

Vol.1, No. 1

Information about MOBIUS and the Common Library Platform Project

▶ **IE Lab Partnership**

- ▶ **Council Meeting**
- ▶ **Grant Analysis**
- ▶ **MCAAG Software Survey**

MOBIUS

Table of Contents

Next Page ▶

Fall/Winter 2007 NEWS

Table of Contents



▶ 3



▶ 4



▶ 5



▶ 6

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:
It's an Exciting Time for MOBIUS 2

COVER STORY: MOBIUS Partners with IE Lab 3

September Council Meeting Focuses
on Legislative Issues 4

MEMBER FOCUS:
Forest Institute of Professional
Psychology Library 5
Missouri Western State University..... 6

PEOPLE: Retiring Council Members
New Directors 7

Thanks to Grant, MCMAC Analyzes
MOBIUS Catalog..... 7

MCAG Software Survey 8

Name the "Newslink" Member Contest..... 8



MESSAGE FROM THE MOBIUS
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

It's an Exciting Time for MOBIUS

Over the past year, the MOBIUS Consortium Office (MCO) has seen numerous changes. MOBIUS has grown to include more than 20 million items from 62 institutions, serving more than 330,000 people from the higher education community and the state of Missouri. We now reach more individuals than ever in MOBIUS history. But this growth is more than just numbers; at its core it's about making our holdings more accessible and providing integrated and expanded access to all of our resources across the state.

As we continue to expand in breadth and reach, we'll need the additional support of state funding. Currently member fees support MOBIUS. One of the major initiatives for MOBIUS over the past year has been working to obtain support for our current state funding request, which will be a part of House Bill 3. This bill is for the purchase, implementation and maintenance of software for the Common Library Platform to allow users to more easily locate and acquire resources owned by the MOBIUS Consortium member institutions.

continued on page 4

IE Lab Partnership



RELATED LINKS

School of Information Science
and Learning Technologies
<http://sislt.missouri.edu/>

Information Experience Laboratory
http://education.missouri.edu/SISLT/IE_Lab/

MOBIUS has developed a partnership with the School of Information Science and Learning Technologies (SISLT) Information Experience (IE) Laboratory at the University of Missouri – Columbia.

“The partnership between MOBIUS and SISLT’s IE Lab is an excellent example of synergy between practice and research that benefits both organizations and Missouri libraries,” said Dr. Sanda Erdelez, associate professor and director of the IE Lab.

One of the recent opportunities MOBIUS provided was the chance for graduate library and information science students to experiment with the innovative and unique tools MOBIUS offers. By taking these tools and evaluating them in real-life situations, they can identify new ways to build functionality for Missouri libraries.

For example, students used MOBIUS’ tools to assess the usability of Web sites through remote data collection. During the hands-on research,

the students were able to collect rich data about the MOBIUS Web site, which, in turn, will allow MOBIUS to improve its users’ online experience.

Further, the librarians who participated in the study gained an insider’s view of the process of Web site usability evaluation. This will benefit a multitude of users throughout the state of Missouri, as librarians take the knowledge they gained and generate additional awareness in their universities and colleges about the importance of Web site evaluation in their libraries.

“We’ve been very impressed and pleased with the partnership with the lab. We’re confident that the innovations developed through this partnership will have a positive impact throughout the state,” said Beth Fisher, executive director of MOBIUS.

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

It's an Exciting Time

continued from page 2

I've had the great pleasure of working with a number of outstanding individuals on this bill who recognize the need for additional funding. I've also been fortunate to work with an outstanding Executive Committee. I'd like to thank Jim Cosgwell, Shirley Baker, and Becky Kiel for all of their hard work and helping to in revise Form 5 for submission. I would also like to thank Joyce Herzing, of MORENet's External Affairs and Special Projects who has provided information and suggestions about moving forward. Paul Wagner of the Missouri Department of Higher Education and Jim Snider of the University of Missouri have provided invaluable insight and helped me to see the greater vision as part of the learning process.

We still have much to achieve and need everybody's help. We've prepared a one-page legislative handout and Wendy McGrane, Sharon McCaslin, Mollie Dinwiddie, and Julie Schneider have kindly helped to draft a letter to be sent to legislators. We encourage you to write letters as well!

I'm excited about our future and I hope you are too.

Beth Fisher, Executive Director



September Council Meeting Focuses on Legislative Issues

Members of the MOBIUS council met in Columbia on September 7th to discuss numerous issues affecting its members. Among the key topics presented during the fall meeting was the need for a strong and unified legislative message as MOBIUS prepares to request \$500,000 in recurring and \$2,000,000 in one-time state funds. These funds would support the purchase, implementation, and maintenance of software for the Common Library Platform (CLP) to allow users to more easily locate and acquire resources owned by the MOBIUS Consortium institutions.

“The time is ripe for higher education to have a more prominent role,” said Paul Wagner, Deputy Commissioner of the Missouri Department of Higher Education. “It's definitely a good time because the state budget is much healthier than it has been in the past.”

MOBIUS council members heard Wagner as well as Jim Snider, assistant vice president of Government Relations at the University of Missouri-Columbia, who lobbies on behalf of MOBIUS, speak on the challenges and advantages to the budget submission.

Next council meeting will take place February 1, 2008. The focus of this council meeting will be strategic planning.

RELATED LINKS

Missouri Department of Higher Education
<http://www.dhe.mo.gov/>

Missouri General Assembly
<http://www.moga.mo.gov/>

University of Missouri Government Relations
<http://www.umsystem.edu/ums/departments/gr/>



The School of Professional Psychology at Forest Institute

RELATED LINK

Forest Institute of Professional Psychology Library
<http://www.forest.edu/library/index.asp>

Since its inception in 1979, The School of Professional Psychology at Forest Institute in Springfield, Missouri has retained its vision of providing an alternative to traditional Ph.D. programs for individuals desiring an education preparing them to serve predominantly as direct providers of mental health services. With a little over 200 students, Forest offers a holistic approach to mental wellness grounded in the science and practice of clinical psychology. The institution also represents the newest member of MOBIUS, joining this past year.

“Joining the Francis D. Jones Library at The School of Professional Psychology at Forest Institute has given me the opportunity to work in a consortial environment for the first time,” said Nan Hadley, library service manager. “I come from a small, private library with a large collection and large circulation numbers. However, we were a stand-alone library and were accustomed to operating without any concern for outside influences. I find the prospect of working in a consortium both exciting and challenging.”

Hadley credits numerous benefits to MOBIUS membership. She says many librarians feel budget constraints and struggle with the decision of where to spend funds.

“It’s encouraging to know that our students may still find access to the material they need that we don’t

have. And because Forest has such a specialized collection, we have a lot to offer others in the MOBIUS community,” held Hadley. In addition to the increased access to a variety of sources, membership also brings Forest Institute discounts on other materials, resources, and services.

The college’s administration also supports MOBIUS membership. **“Membership in MOBIUS is critical to the future of our institution for many reasons. MOBIUS will increase our exposure of higher education in Missouri. We offer outstanding graduate training, yet many in the state know little about us,”** said Dr. Gahan Fallone, vice president of Academic Affairs.

Fallone believes MOBIUS’ presence will increase their institution’s visibility among Missouri colleges and universities, while allowing them to share their own expertise and resources.

Overall, the decision to join MOBIUS has been advantageous to Forest. “Our focus on graduate training creates very high demands for electronic and print resources, yet our small size gives us little bargaining power in negotiating subscriptions to electronic services,” said Fallone. “Membership in MOBIUS has allowed us to immediately acquire a portfolio of services that goes far beyond anything we could have ever done on our own.”



JULIA SCHNEIDER

Missouri Western State University

RELATED LINK

Missouri Western State University Library
<http://www.library.missouriwestern.edu/>

Missouri Western State University, founded in 1915, prides itself as a learning community focused on students as individuals and as members of society. With approximately 5,300 students, its largest majors include education, business, nursing, and criminal justice. Western students are enriched by the school's dedication to applied learning as a strong component of the college experience. The institution most recently began offering courses towards the Master's in Applied Science (MAS) this fall.

Although a charter member of the MOBIUS Consortium, Missouri Western State University's cluster, TOWERS, was the final cluster to be implemented back in the summer of 2002.

"I had been part of the original group of Missouri Public Academic Library Administrators (MPALA) in the early and mid-90s. Joining MOBIUS at its inception was a natural outgrowth of those early associations," said Julia Schneider, Missouri Western Library director.

Missouri Western students, staff, and faculty recognize first hand the myriad of ways MOBIUS benefits them through their educational endeavors.

In fact, the Interlibrary Loan staff has gone so far to develop the following "top ten" list of reasons why they value MOBIUS:

10. Students can impress their professors with stacks of books on assigned research projects.
9. Faculty can assign more research projects since books arrive so quickly.
8. MOBIUS offers quick and easy access to new books.
7. It's like Christmas every day when the book bags are opened.
6. With books delivered to the closest library, patrons don't have to spend gas money driving to other libraries.
5. Patrons can check the status of their requests and then come to the library counter on the day when 1st Choice delivers the books.
4. Library student workers come to the ILL office to help open MOBIUS bags to see if their books have arrived.
3. Library staff members also stop by the office after bags are delivered to see if their books have arrived.
2. Patrons love requesting books at 2 AM from their home computers.
1. The 1st Choice driver brings ice cream treats! (really)

Retiring Council Members

The following council members have recently retired from MOBIUS. Their dedication to the program helped shape MOBIUS to the strong organization it is today. Please join us in recognizing the following members:

- Marty Knorr, Harris-Stowe State University
- Tesuk Im, Linn State Technical College
- Connie Migliazzo, Metropolitan Community College
- Linda Harris, Missouri State Library
- Jeanne Landgon, Rockhurst University
- Cathye Dierberg, St. Louis Community College

New Directors

Please join us in welcoming the newest directors (since our last newsletter) to the MOBIUS Council:

- Cindy Dudenhoffer, Central Methodist University
- Becky Kiel, Cottey College
- Linda Orzel, Harris-Stowe State University (interim)
- Michaela Hansen, Linn State Technical College
- Candice Baldwin, Metropolitan Community College
- Bill Rodgers, Missouri River Regional Library
- Laurie Hathman, Rockhurst University
- Nan Hadley, School of Professional Psychology at Forest Institute
- Ed Buis, Southeast Missouri State University
- Stephanie DeClue, State Fair Community College
- Corrie Hutchinson, Stephens College (interim)
- Hugh Stocks, William Jewell College

Thanks to Grant, MOBIUS Collection Management Advisory Committee (MCMAC) Analyzes MOBIUS Catalog

The grant came as a result of the formation of MCMAC in 2004, a task force charged to “survey, monitor, and evaluate the MOBIUS collections in order to strengthen the resource base of the member institutions, thereby promoting excellence in academic research, and instruction.”

Institutions chosen for the evaluation included non-MOBIUS members and a select group of MOBIUS members. Twenty-five libraries were chosen that MCMAC felt would best characterize the collections in the state. The number of libraries chosen was tied to the cost of the analysis tool as the pricing of the analysis tool was based on library holdings. The libraries included were chosen based on size, location, and population served. Five large public libraries and twenty varying sizes and types of academic libraries were chosen from across the state.

“As the group began meeting and discussing potential projects, it became clear that in order to effectively identify worthwhile cooperative projects, we needed to have a better sense of what the collections looked like,” said Liz

MacDonald, director of university library services at Lindenwood College. “This was the genesis of the project.”

Thanks to support provided by the grant, which ran for about a year and produced three separate reports, MacDonald and her team were able to substantiate much of what they knew prior to the research. The study found the largest, and most unique collections remain in the humanities; research libraries hold the majority of science titles; and the same type libraries maintain the most overlap.

The first report provided a general overview of the collections and found 20% of holdings within the group to be identified as unique. Another significant finding from the first study reported a total of 21,357 unique titles in the group that are no longer protected by copyright (published prior to 1925).

The second report included a regional analysis of collections. MacDonald reported that when grouped by region, uniqueness patterns changed with the largest percentage of unique titles being held in the Western region. The report found the highest

continued on page 9

MCAG Software Survey

In the Fall of 2006, MOBIUS Coordinators Advisory Group (MCAG) and its chair, Eileen Condon from Webster University, conducted an online survey investigating ILL and non-ILL software products in use at MOBIUS libraries.

“Our purpose through this survey was three-fold,” said Condon. “First, we aimed at creating a table that listed software in use at MOBIUS libraries, so other libraries that were considering purchasing this software would have a list of colleagues to consult. Secondly, our group hoped our questions concerning what software MOBIUS libraries would like to use or collaborate on purchasing could provide direction for future MCAG projects. Lastly, as one of MCAG’s recent objectives has been promoting IUP membership, our team included a question addressing whether libraries were IUG members are aware of the benefits of IUG membership.”

The survey found that nearly all of the MOBIUS libraries use the base Millennium modules in ILL Software. All of the responding libraries utilize Millennium Cataloging and Circulation, around 83% use Millennium Acquisitions, and approximately 95% use Millennium Serials. The majority of those that reported not using Acquisitions and Serials indicated they have a small number of orders or periodicals, or that they lacked sufficient staffing or time to implement modules.

Along with highlighting advantages and disadvantages of specific packages, the study also found additional research to support the need for further software training.

In regards to non-ILL software, the team found the libraries to be using products in non-traditional and creative ways. For example, one such library uses Create Lists for daily check-in of serials. This allows for easier access of the library’s serial records when there are several similar records. **Respondents noted there were products they wished to use but were unable to due to financial, time, and staffing constraints.**

Condon presented this information to MOBIUS members during the June Conference. She says that she and other MCAG members hope to use this valuable information to move in positive directions in the future. MCAG has posted the resources they have gained from the study, including tables indicating ILL products already purchased by MOBIUS, Add-on (extra cost) ILL products not purchased by MOBIUS, and other library software products, on the MOBIUS Web site.

RELATED LINK

MOBIUS Coordinators Advisory Group
<http://mco.mobius.missouri.edu/filemanager/list/518>

Name the “News Link” Member Contest

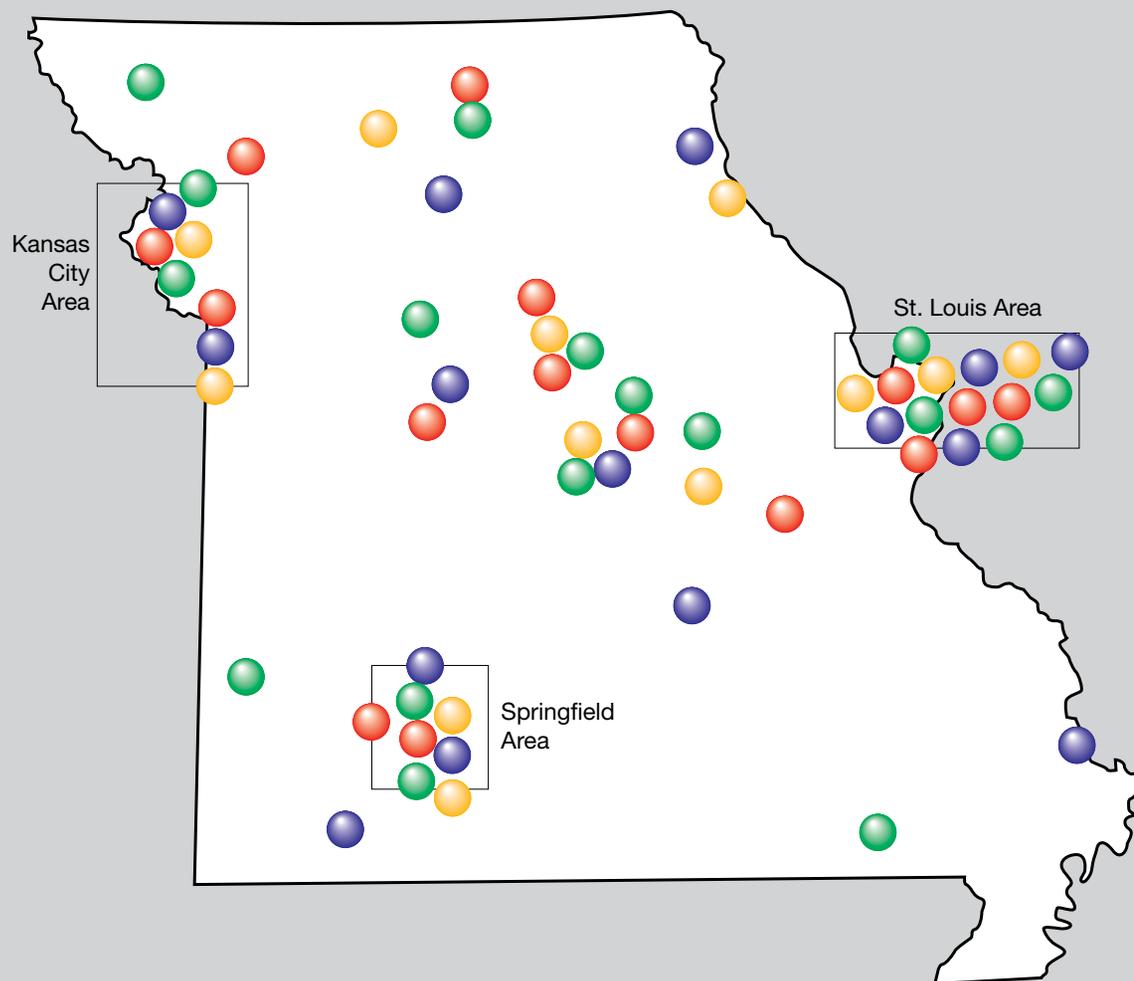
Welcome to our new newsletter format. MOBIUS will be distributing a quarterly newsletter to its members highlighting upcoming events and news.

Please send your comments to outfront@socket.net and let us know what you think.

Also, along with our new format we’ll be reviewing the newsletter name, “News Link,” to see if individuals are interested in renaming it and would love to hear your ideas. Please send those along with your suggestions to the email listed above. We’ll listen to your requests and if the majority of you respond that you’d like a name change, we’ll rely on popular vote to change the name.

Let us know your thoughts!

Member Institutions



Thanks to Grant

continued from page 7

percentage of uniqueness in the Eastern region to be in Engineering and Technology, Computer Science within the Western region, and Agriculture within the Central region.

MacDonald held that the final report provided a more detailed analysis that included recommendations for potential areas of collaboration. Specifically, this could hold true in the area of Sociology, MacDonald said, where large numbers of total titles were found. Age of collections was also run that identified potential areas to explore digitization and weeding projects.

According to the report, "Duplication rates were high (as one would expect) among the public libraries when measured by themselves (around 60%). However, duplication rates fell sharply when measuring rates among publics and academics. Also, data showed public libraries in the group contribute a substantial number of unique titles to the group. The low level of overlap between public and academic libraries as well as the high level of unique titles contributed to the group bears out the value of public library participation in the MOBIUS consortium." MacDonald says the low duplication rates further illustrate how public and academic libraries compliment one another.