MOBIUS NEWS LINK

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MOBIUS

LINKING MISSOURI'S LIBRARIES

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MESSAGE
FROM THE MOBIUS
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

Linking Individuals to Resources

We've come a long way since the formation of the MOBIUS Consortium back in 1998. Through the dedicated efforts of our member institutions and MOBIUS office staff, we've come to link numerous individuals to the resources they need to be successful.

Through the years, the number of persons benefiting from MOBIUS has increased substantially. Bill Rodgers of Missouri River College estimates in 2007, their institution sent out 5,663 materials and received 3,539 items. Between 2006 and 2007 they experienced a 28 percent increase in the amount of items sent and a 12 percent in the amount of items received. These statistics represent significant growth and similar numbers are reflected throughout many other of our member institutions. Patrons consistently are able to find materials through MOBIUS that they are not able at other local libraries. I'm confident that through your support we'll continue to grow in the future.

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MOBIUS Gears Up for 2008 Annual Conference June 3-5

Mark your calendars and plan to attend the MOBIUS annual conference, "Show me MOBIUS: Celebrating 10 Years of Innovation and Service" June 3-5 at the Tan-Tar-A-Resort at the Lake of the Ozarks. The MOBIUS Annual Conference Planning Advisory Committee (MACPAC) and the MOBIUS Consortium Office (MCO) have been hard at work planning what promises to be a spectacular event.

Jerry Kline, co-founder, Chair and CEO of Innovative Interfaces, Inc. will serve as the conference's keynote speaker and discuss the realties of technological innovation. Kline will offer his thoughts on the realties of technological innovation and how libraries might leverage technology decisions to further their unique mission in their communities.

RELATED LINKS
June Conference
http://mco.mobius.missouri.edu/home/
about/users_conference/

June Conference

"Beyond the networking opportunities and wide range of educational programs and sessions, the event promises to be fun," said MACPAC member Katy Smith.

Among other reasons to attend this phenomenal event include the high caliber selection of programming covering a wide variety of library-related issues; forums to promote the sharing of best practices, concerns, feedback, etc. among issues important to all library staff; the share fair; and opportunities to learn about library products through vendor demonstrations.

For more information on this exciting event, visit http://mco.mobius.missouri.edu/home/about/users_conference/.

This conference is supported by the Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act as administered by the Missouri State Library, a division of the Office of the Secretary of State.

INSTITUTE of Museum and Library SERVICES

Training Opportunities

In an effort to improve training opportunities, the MOBIUS consortium office has initiated a process of reviewing all training documentation, said Jim Dutton, software support analyst expert for MOBIUS.

"We have started with the circulation and cataloging documents and have solicited volunteers from a self-identified group of staff including MOBIUS member libraries who are interested in training issues, MOBIUS Access Advisory Committee and the MOBIUS Catalog Design Advisory Committee," Dutton said. "We asked for their feedback and have begun cataloging the results."

Based on responses, the group has revised documents and is in the process of improving upon the system.

JUNE
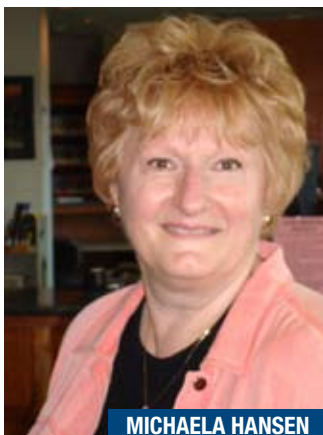5 ....MCO- Create Lists: Regular Expressions
5 ....MCO- Research and Write a Grant for the Library
5 ....MCO-Statistics and Web Management Reports
5 ....MCO-What About Those Serials? Change is the Name of the Game
6 ....MCO- SHOW ME Copyright From Wrong
6 ....MCO- Site Coordinators Workshop
20..Fiscal Close (online)

RELATED LINK   MOBIUS Training Opportunities http://mco.mobius.missouri.edu/home/training/

Linn State Technical College

MICHAELA HANSEN

Linn State Technical College, well known for technical education supporting economic development in the state of Missouri, is dedicated to serving a student-centered community according to its administration. Education at LSTC seeks to maximize students' learning potential by providing them with specialized courses in traditional and emerging technical areas as well as general knowledge that fosters a lifetime of learning.

"The LSTC Library is a founding member of MOBIUS," said Michaela Hansen, director of library services. "I feel very fortunate that our library is in a state with a strong statewide interlibrary loan system."

Linn State's library collection is technology-focused, in support of the college's mission to prepare students for profitable employment and a life of learning. The library has found MOBIUS to be invaluable to that vision by providing ample resources not readily possible without membership. The college's administration also recognizes these benefits.

"The LSTC administration strongly supported MOBIUS since its inception as one of the most efficient uses of tax dollars," said Dr. Donald Claycomb, president of Linn State Technical College. "As a member of MOBIUS our library can offer our students access to collections otherwise not available and also take advantage of the opportunity to build our own specialized collection along guidelines of excellence."

Claycomb also feels MOBIUS enables LSTC to extend its reach. "THE LSTC Library currently lends more than twice as many items as it borrows," Dr. Claycomb said. "This is an indication of the quality of our library collection in view of the academic reputation of all participants."

RELATED LINKS

Linn State Technical College Library
http://www.linnstate.edu/library

SHARON McCASLIN

Fontbonne University

Fontbonne University, a Catholic co-educational institution sponsored by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, is centrally located in a residential section of the St. Louis metropolitan area. The university offers high-quality liberal arts, professional and adult programs, affording the nearly 3,000 students who attend annually a broader understanding of the world.

Since joining MOBIUS in 1998, the staff has found a number of advantages in consortium membership.

"MOBIUS is very important to the Fontbonne University library," said Sharon McCaslin, university librarian. "Our students and faculty borrow an increasing number of books from other Missouri institutions and they love the quick delivery."

McCaslin, who has been with Fontbonne since 2005, considers the relationship between the two organizations be mutually beneficial.

"Even with our growing reliance on materials from other libraries, the magic of the INN Reach system allows a small library like Fontbonne to share its limited resources just as much as it borrows from others," McCaslin said. "The efficiency of the automated system allows our staff to concentrate on services to our patrons. Furthermore, the data we derive from 'Create Lists' is the lifeblood of our assessment and planning functions."

MOBIUS
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what's brewing
at Innovative?

submitted by
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Blogs have become hugely popular around the world and nowhere is this more true than in the library community. We've adopted blogs as our own and it's hard to ignore how many library-related blogs have appeared--blogs about libraries and their vendors, blogs by librarians on just about anything, including libraries, and blogs by libraries. There are blogs about library conferences and meetings, community news and just about anything library-related you can think of.

Well, we just couldn't resist jumping in and are pleased to announce our blog called What's Brewing. Launched in early March, the blog (http://brewing.iii.com) invites the library community to join in a conversation about what we're up to at Innovative. What's Brewing has a few regular contributors, including Sandy Hurd, who works closely with our academic library community, Dinah Sanders, our Encore product manager, and Spenser Thompson, the marketing

guy. Each contributor has unique areas of focus that we hope will provide a steady stream of interesting, thought-provoking, and even useful tips and tricks about getting the most out of Millennium and our other products.

But What's Brewing doesn't end there. We're about to add a few more regular contributors including Ted Fons, our new director of customer service. In addition, you can expect guest posts from others on the Innovative management team from time to time. We're looking forward to your comments and feedback and hope to be hearing from you, too.

We're genuinely excited about joining the blogosphere and, like a coffee house, the conversations will cover a wide range of interesting topics. So, when you get a minute, please grab a cup, take a look and come back often to see what's brewing at Innovative.

Information Resources

MAROON – Missouri's Available Resources on Online Networks.

Submitted by Fran Stumpf

In Fall 2000 the newly formed MOBIUS Electronic Resource Advisory Group (MERAC) decided that one of its first tasks was to gather information on what electronic resources are being subscribed to by MOBIUS members. One of the main reasons for doing this was to see if there could be any advantage to buying resources for the consortium. This database was accessible on the MOBIUS website.

The original name of the database was Missouri's Archived Resources on Online Networks. The name was soon changed to Missouri's Available Resources on Online Networks. The database was patterned after MERLIN's RED database which compiled similar information for the University of Missouri's four campuses. Information stored in MAROON included subscribing institutions, the MOBIUS clusters, electronic resources, vendors, costs to the institution, types of access to the resources, estimated level of use, and the dates of thesubscription periods. Full access to this information was limited to the submitting institution and MOBIUS' Electronic Resource Staff. MOBIUS members could view general information in MAROON but not information private to an institution such as cost. It was the responsibility of each library's Electronic Resource representative to keep MAROON updated.

ERMA – affectionately named ERMA this is an Electronic Resource Management (ERM) database. ERMA is an access database that stores electronic resource information for use by the MOBIUS staff. Contained in ERMA is vendor, resource, and licensing information, library IP addresses, and invoice costs. This database is stored on the MOBIUS server.

With the need to move the MOBIUS website to a new server there was the need to recreate MAROON. It was decided to incorporate ERMA into the new MAROON. Not having the expertise in-house an outside contractor was hired to write the new program. Presented with the first "draft" MERAC members vetted the new program last fall suggesting some improvements. Essentially, MAROON is finished. The outside contract sent MOREnet the files for the program at the beginning of the year. We are waiting for MAROON to be loaded to the new server. No timetable has been established for that. As soon as it is available the Electronic Resource representatives can start to bring it up-to-date.

Information Resources Schedule

SUMMER:
Survey to Electronic Resource Reps

OCTOBER:
MERAC decides new databases to be added to Database Cafeteria Plan

JANUARY:
Meet with vendors at ALA midwinter

FEBRUARY/MARCH:
Negotiate pricing and bids with vendor

APRIL:
Send out order forms

JUNE 1:
Deadline for return of order forms

JUNE:
Contact vendor for pricing

JULY:
P.O.'s created Billing to Members

Task Force on Financial Planning

The Task Force on Financial Planning met on April 10 and plans to hold its next meeting on May 8. In the time between these meetings the task force will be asking each member library to report current statistics on the size of their collection, the size of their portion of the patron database and the amount of circulation they do in a year, said committee chair, Sharon McCaslin.

"These statistics, along with others, such as their number of licenses and their use of the MOBIUS system will be used to create a relational spreadsheet," said McCaslin. "From the resultant proportions and statistics we hope to develop a formula which is both fair and as feasible as possible, given the lack of state support."

The Task Force is also charged with developing various other structures, including a plan for building reserves, a method for relaying the maintenance of additional software to those who purchase it, and a mechanism for providing extra-cost services beyond the normal and expected services. Some of these tasks will take longer than others, but it is hoped that this work will be nearly completed by the September Council meeting.

Other members of this task force include: Shirley Baker, Sharon Bostick, Annie Busch, Valerie Darst, Beth Fisher, Neosha Mackey, Loretta Ponzar, and Julia Schneider. The group encourages comments and suggestions from the Council members.

Task Force on Strategic Planning for the period of 2009-2013

Charged with developing the upcoming strategic plan, the group is composed of members from diverse areas of the consortium according to chair, Valerie Darst of Moberly Area Community College.

"The group's membership was chosen not to 'represent' units or constituencies, but rather to bring diverse perspectives to the planning process," said Darst. "Most generally, we're charged to engage the MOBIUS community and diverse stakeholders in a thoughtful discussion of where the consortium is, where it should go, and how it should get there."

Darst says the group will work closely with the membership to design the planning process and to craft a coherent, forward looking, and realistic plan.

Task Force on ILS Software

The MOBIUS ILS Task Force recently wrapped up efforts to review ILS enhanced search software. The group was charged to review and develop information, possibly including a request for proposal, on ILS enhanced search software, review vendor's offerings and recommend a proposed solution to the MOBIUS Executive Committee and Council.

"The task force identified mandatory and optional features in any software we should acquire and compiled a list of questions to ask vendors based on discussions of features we wanted in our enhanced ILS search software," said committee chair Judy Fox of Washington University. "Conversations were held with several vendors and the task force recommended request for proposals be sent to three vendors we identified as coming the closest to meeting our functional requirements if funding becomes available."

The group submitted their report to the Executive Council on January 15, 2008.

RELATED LINK http://mco.mobius.missouri. edu/article/archive/564/

Joe Ford Hired as Consultant to MOBIUS Consortium

The MOBIUS Consortium office recently signed a consulting contract with Joe Ford of Joseph Ford and Associates, Inc. For the current contract Ford will work with the Task Force on the Financial Plan and the Task Force on *continued on page 10*

Strategic Planning for the Period 2009-2013. His work will include assisting with the review and development of cost assessment models, risk assessment analysis and the review of member services.

Joe resides in Olympia, Washington with his wife Mary. He is a degreed librarian with 32 years of professional experience, most of it focused on library information technology. His work includes five years as a network librarian with the Federal Library and Information Network in the Library of Congress, as a consortium director, an executive with library systems companies, and more than 19 years in consulting.

Task Force on the Web Site

You told us what you wanted, and we listened!

As you may already know, we've been working very hard on creating a brand new MOBIUS website. We are bringing together some great new features, a new more modern look, and the ease of navigation you've been waiting for.

Some of the highlights of the new site are:

- New (and improved) types of content – Blogging, Images, Events, Audio, and Video.
- Self-registration – You will submit and manage all of your own personal information for use by our members. No more waiting for changes!
- Better integration of existing services – You will have the ability to submit, view, and manage your Help Tickets.
- More notification – RSS feeds, and the ability to subscribe to pages and comments will make sure you're always in the loop.
- Enhanced search and locate tools – In addition to a more robust search function and updated navigation structure, you will be able to locate and browse content in new ways: Filterable views, view by category, and view by author are just a few.

Launch is scheduled for Q4-2008, but we will have a draft version ready for testing at the 2008 MOBIUS Annual Conference. Please stop by our booth to check it out!

1st Choice Tracking System

Formed in November of 2007, the MAAC 1st Choice Tracking System subcommittee has been charged with distributing information regarding the system throughout MOBIUS libraries, creating easy-to-understand directions on how to use the system, becoming functional experts for MOBIUS members and adding best practices for tracking the contents of the bags to the MCO website.

"Directions for the 1st Choice Tracking System will be posted in both PDF and PowerPont formats shortly," said committee chair Bonnie Sanguinet. "We intend to use the Springfield Green procedures for tracking books within bags and post them on the web page as an example of best practices."

Sanguinet says the subcommittee is working closely with Paul McGrath to ensure they are informed of the progress of the 1st Choice Tracking System rollout. Scanners have been purchased and are currently being programmed and distributed to all MOBIUS libraries. The 55 libraries served through Kansas City and St. Louis started using the tracking system in mid-February. The other 22 libraries served out of Columbia and Springfield should be operational by the end of March.

Courier Bags

Thanks to an increase in book requests by users, MOBIUS will purchase additional courier bags. The MOBIUS Access Advisory Committee in April approved a new bag design that is of heavier fabric and more weatherproof compared to the earlier bags. 2000 bags are in this year's order, with 1000 per year after that. The bags should arrive shortly after the start of the fiscal year.
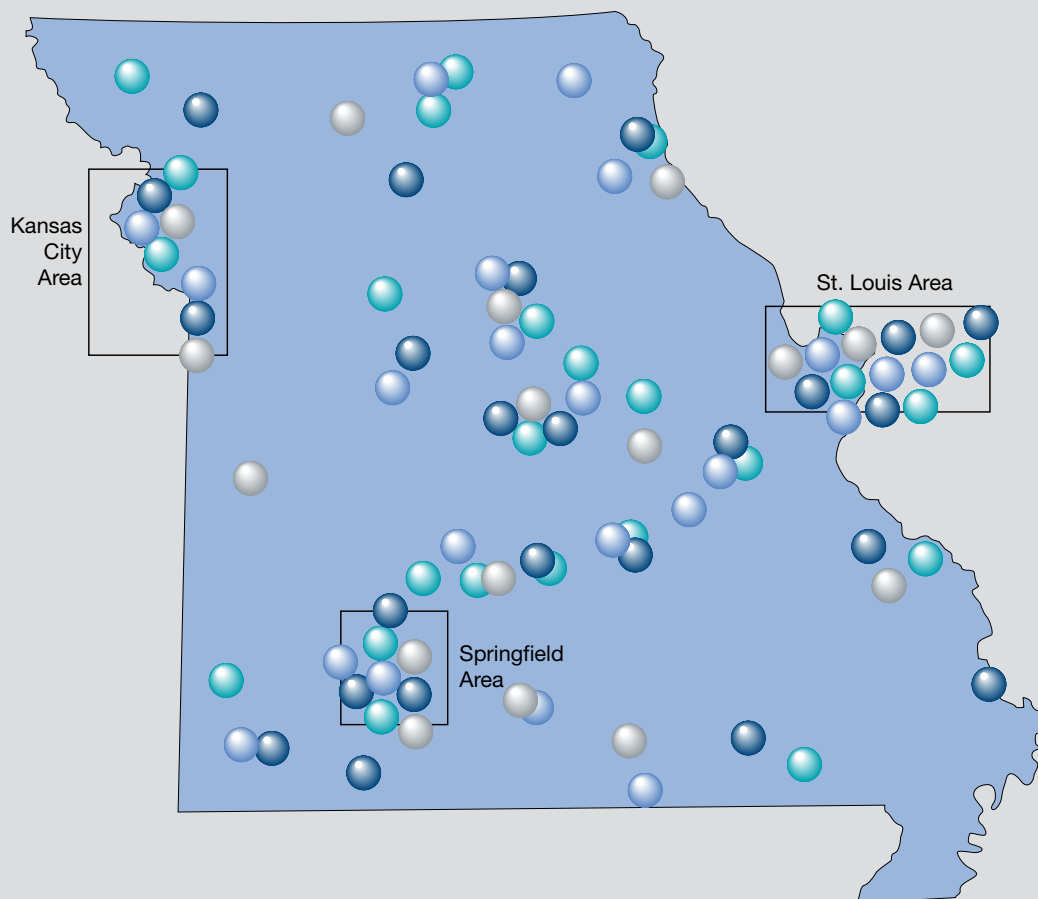
Missouri Library Advocacy Day

submitted by
Wendy McGrane,
Missouri Southern State University

Each year the Missouri Library Association sponsors Library Advocacy Day. It's an opportunity for librarians, trustees, and library supporters to join together and remind legislators about the importance of all types of libraries to the citizens of Missouri. The day begins with updates from a variety of people regarding legislative issues that are important to libraries. The afternoon is open for individuals to make appointments to speak with their legislators. The evening includes a buffet dinner at the Jefferson City Country Club. This is an excellent time to casually interact with legislators, all of whom are invited to the dinner.

Depending on your institution, advocacy can be somewhat tricky in an academic library setting. It's important to learn what is acceptable on your campus and work within that framework. Is it permissible to meet with your institution's lobbyist? Is it preferred that library legislative concerns are funneled through a specific office or person on campus? These are questions that we should each explore. It's important that even if legislative contacts are handled by others on our campuses, we are aware of issues impacting all Missouri libraries as well as those issues that impact MOBIUS directly.

We should be able to clearly articulate the importance of MOBIUS to our institution's and Missouri citizens. To begin this process, Outfront Communications worked with a group of MOBIUS Executive Committee members to develop the 60 Seconds on MOBIUS handout which includes a map identifying our institutions on the back. This literature was distributed to legislators by those attending Library Advocacy Day in February. It's an important first step in the conversation we need to have to help MOBIUS continue to grow and evolve.

MOBIUS Announces New Look

MOBIUS has selected a new logo, as part of a complete identity redesign currently underway.

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Members of the MOBIUS Executive Council voted for the logo during a council meeting in February. With MOBIUS's role and capabilities expanding and after many years with the previous logo, council members felt the time was ripe for a new logo to reflect these changes.

Kansas City Area

St. Louis Area

Springfield Area

MOBIUS
Member Institutions

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