Looking back on the twelve months that ended June 30, 2005, it is hard for me to know whether I am happy or sad. The year was another year of growth and planning for the Common Library Platform, another freshman class learning of the treasures they have at their fingertips because of MOBIUS, another year of testimonials from students and faculty throughout the state that verify the integral role the Common Library Platform now plays in higher education in Missouri. But it also was a year that ended with the state of Missouri deciding to terminate its partnership with MOBIUS by ending the state appropriation that helped pay the costs of operating the CLP system, and it was a year in which MOREnet, provider of the technical foundation of the CLP, took significant cuts in its state appropriations amid concerns of even more drastic reductions in the year to come.

In other words, at a time when the MOBIUS Common Library Platform has achieved the status of a basic required
Missouri Higher Education Transformed

service in Missouri’s academic libraries, the foundation of the system has developed some serious cracks. Moreover, there is every reason to be concerned that these cracks will widen during the coming year and begin to threaten our ability to continue to operate the Common Library Platform system and the services it supports.

Let me hasten to say, this is not a call to arms, so please, at this point, do not call your legislators or write to Governor Blunt. The members of the MOBIUS Consortium have responded in a very productive and appropriate way to the change in our financial circumstances, appointing a task force led by Cathye Dieterberg of St. Louis Community College to examine every aspect of MOBIUS and its new environment and make appropriate recommendations. With respect to MOREnet, Bill Mitchell and the MOREnet Council are fully engaged in developing and executing a strategy for ensuring the continued availability of the network infrastructure that is so critical to all of education in Missouri, speaking broadly, as well as to MOBIUS and the CLP.

We do, however, want you to be alert for the time when we will need for you and your colleagues to be active in educating and explaining to specific key audiences, and that time will come. When it does, we will be specific about what to do, who the audience is, and what information needs to be conveyed.

In the meantime, please read this Annual Report and reflect on the overwhelmingly positive impact that the Common Library Platform has had on the lives of higher education students and faculty in Missouri. The statistics tell the story one way, the testimonials another, but all validate our conviction that, when Missouri’s colleges and universities, led by Missouri’s Department of Higher Education, decided in the late 1990s to take bold steps towards making their separate print collections a single unified resource that could be easily accessed by any college student or teacher in Missouri, they transformed Missouri higher education, top to bottom. When I think about that and remember what a pleasure it has been for me to work with the visionary and can-do crowd that are the librarians of Missouri’s colleges and universities, I feel happy.

Let me close by welcoming to the CLP the Assemblies of God Theological Seminary, located in Springfield, and the Missouri River Regional Library, which provides public library services in the Jefferson City area. We are especially delighted now to have two of the premier public libraries in Missouri – MRRL and Springfield-Greene County Library – involved in the CLP, and we eagerly look forward to the day when we can increase that number. We are confident that day will come.

George Rickerson,
Executive Director,
MOBIUS Consortium

CASL is more than just a side project. It’s integrated with the curriculum. Beginning this fall, students will choose one of two required introductory courses to prepare them for the service-learning internship. One course explores the role of the artist in society; the other is an interdisciplinary course that explores collaborative arts practices. Interested students are eligible to receive a Community Arts and Service Learning certificate after completing 15 credit hours of required courses, including the service-learning internship.

Julie has her undergraduate degree in history from UMKC and her master’s degree in curriculum and instruction with an emphasis in art from Lesley University in Cambridge, MA. Before coming to KCAI, she worked with an arts education firm to develop curriculum for K-12 teachers. Julie is passionate and excited about this opportunity for students.

“I believe in artists and art as a critical element of civil society,” she says. “I want to help direct all that student energy into something that is a little bit bigger than themselves.”

Julie says MOBIUS has played a critical role in the development of CASL. M. J. Poehler, director of the library, assisted Julie as she looked for information on the methodology, practice and philosophical foundations of service learning. Julie is a member of a service-learning professionals listserv and when she sees a topic she is interested in learning more about, she goes to the Common Library Platform to find the resources she needs. She has put together a bibliography and will use many of those resources as she builds the curriculum for a required seminar course.

“It has been very helpful,” Julie says. “I have been able to find everything I need in one place between the listserv and MOBIUS.”
1998

Inaugural meeting of the MOBIUS Council

MOBIUS Council approves Innovative Interfaces, Inc. as software vendor for CLP

MOBIUS delivery service begins

1999

MIRACL union catalog goes online under the name MOBIUS

2000

Arthur cluster goes live

1st Annual MOBIUS Users Conference

Archway cluster goes live

SWAN cluster goes live

WILO cluster goes live

2001

LANCE cluster goes live

MOBIUS enters into 5-year contract with Lanter Delivery Systems

Quest cluster goes live

Galahad cluster goes live

TIMELINE 

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STRATEGIC PLANNING PROCESS

Development of background and support documents (7/04)

Council approves the Action Plan 2005-2007, providing concrete steps to implement the MOBIUS Strategic Plan (5/05)

IMPLEMENTATION GO-LIVE DATES

Arthur cluster goes live (1/00)

Archway cluster goes live (6/00)

SWAN cluster goes live (7/00)

WILO cluster goes live (12/00)

LANCE cluster goes live (1/01)

Bridges cluster goes live (6/01)

MOBIUS enters into 5-year contract with Lanter Delivery Systems

Quest cluster goes live (12/01)

Galahad cluster goes live (12/01)

Towers cluster goes live completing the implementation of the 49 charter member institutions on schedule (7/02)

THE BEGINNING

Council approves Innovative Interfaces, Inc. as software vendor for CLP (6/98)

Began MOBIUS Delivery service (10/98)

Host Site Agreement with UM System signed (12/98)

MIRACL union catalog goes online under the name MOBIUS (1/99)

MOBIUS enters into 5-year contract with Lanter Delivery Systems (7/01)
**A T Still University** of Health Sciences (A.T.S.U.) in Kirksville MO is constructing an information technology center (ITC) that will provide the most up-to-date medical information resources and lab in Northeast Missouri. The Connell Information Technologies Center CITC is a 55,748 square foot educational facility that will teach ATSU-KCOM students by offering them the best computer technology available and by placing them in simulated real-world scenarios. The center was approved October 15, 2004, and the official ground breaking followed that evening. Construction started July 5, 2005, and ATSU expects it to be completed in October 2006.

The CITC will be home to many innovative technologies and laboratories. Among the many new additions this facility will bring to the ATSU-KCOM campus are:

- A new osteopathic manipulative medicine laboratory with 100 OMM tables
- A new computer classroom with 24 top-of-the-line computers
- A patient simulation center with six human patient simulators
- A new library complete with the latest in computer technology
- A multi-media center
- A student study complex

The ground floor of the Library will house the student computer center. One of the integral information resources is MOBIUS, a major online resource for rural Northeast Missouri physicians, faculty, researchers and students of A.T.S.U.

**Testimonials from campus on using MOBIUS for research**

“Seth Molloy, was the Hollister-KCOM Clinical Research Fellow for 2004-2005, between his second and third years of medical at ATSU. As a fellow, Molloy was also enrolled in the master of science in biomedical sciences program, where he received training in basic and clinical research methods and medical products development and testing. The program required Molloy to become well acquainted with the literature in his research area. He found that MOBIUS was an extremely valuable resource tool that helped him find the relevant literature in his field, upon which he developed the background and rationale for his thesis research project. Seth’s recommendation has been passed to all graduate students at ATSU, and it is hoped that like Seth, MOBIUS will facilitate their research experience.” William L. Sexton, Ph.D. Professor and Chair, Graduate Program Committee KCOM / ATSU.

“I have discovered MOBIUS to be an impressive and reliable resource for several aspects of my research; from conducting a comprehensive review to learning new laboratory techniques, I have enjoyed the immediate and professional service that MOBIUS has to offer, and would gladly recommend it to any fellow ATSU student researcher.” Seth Molloy, a 3rd year medical student at KCOM & the Biosciences Masters program.

To view the progress of the new Information Center: http://www.kcom.edu/welcome/CITC.htm

Story submitted by Jean L. Sidwell MLS, associate director of learning resources Still Memorial Library.
TRAINING

Fiscal year 2004-2005 was a very active year for training, with more than double the attendance from the previous year. Three topics account for almost half of all training sessions last year (about 15% each): Pickup Anywhere, Millennium Catalog Update, and OCLC Connexion.

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Direct Patron BORROWING

Unique HOLDINGS

Poster was part of a UMKC marketing effort promoting MOBIUS. Submitted by Brenda Dingley assistant director for technical services, UMKC.
Chances are visitors to the Maryville University Library in late spring saw a new sculpture near the staircase. The artwork is the brainchild of library student worker Amanda Linneman and has a two-fold purpose: to fulfill a class assignment and to create awareness that state budget cuts may hit MOBIUS, a consortium of academic libraries in Missouri.

“The purpose of the piece is not so much an outright protest as just to fully illustrate the effects MOBIUS cuts would have on the students,” said Amanda, a freshman from St. Peters. “I came up with the idea because we were assigned to create a site-specific sculpture in my Design II class (taught by Marie Oberkirsch). I immediately thought of the Library because that is where I spend so much time with work-study, and my friend, Brianna, suggested that I consider an issue that was really current for both me and the campus.”

The Maryville Library is a charter member of MOBIUS. As a student who uses the Library for research and as a Library student worker, Amanda said she knows firsthand the negative impact that cuts to MOBIUS would have.

“T’s not sure many of the students really know that MOBIUS might be cut, and this is an interesting way to get their curiosity,” Amanda said.

She created her sculpture using caution tape, a book bag, MOBIUS shipping bags and slips, a U.S. Postal Service box and old books.

Financial STATEMENT

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Story submitted by Rick Arnold assistant director of marketing and public affairs, Maryville University of Saint Louis; photo taken by Ben Arand a Maryville student.
MOBIUS, also known as Missouri Bibliographic Information User System, is a consortium of academic libraries with member colleges and universities in the state of Missouri. Fifty charter members began the project in July 1998; other institutions have joined since then, and currently the membership stands at 61 institutions. The Memorandum of Understanding and the MOBIUS Bylaws govern the internal affairs of the consortium and formalize the purpose, membership guidelines and structure.

The largest single project for which MOBIUS is responsible is the Common Library Platform. The CIP creates a virtual collection of the more than 17 million items contained in the libraries of MOBIUS member institutions and creates a single user interface that allows faculty and students to request library materials using any personal computer in any location with access to the Internet. Requested materials are delivered within one or two days of being requested by the MOBIUS Delivery System.

MOBIUS has an active program of consortial licensing of electronic information resources such as electronic journals. New projects being planned or considered include cooperative collection development and cooperative storage. MOBIUS is supported completely by member fees and assessments.

The MOBIUS Consortium Office employs a full-time staff to provide a variety of services to MOBIUS member institutions as well as to represent MOBIUS in its business relationships with MOREnet, with vendors of other electronic services, and with the vendor(s) of Common Library Platform hardware and software. The MOBIUS Consortium Office is part of the University of Missouri System and is located in Columbia, Missouri.

MOBIUS Executive Committee for FY05:
Linda Bigelow, Chair • Robert Frizzell, Chair-Elect • Stephen K. Stoon, Past Chair • Eugenia McKee, Secretary • Joni Blake, Treasurer
Erlene Dudley, Independent At-Large Representative • James Pakala, Independent At-Large Representative • Jim Cogswell, Four-Year At-Large Representative
Stephanie Tolson, Two-Year At-Large Representative • Bill Mitchell, MOREnet Representative (ex-officio) • Sara Parker, Executive Committee Advisor (ex-officio)
Robert Stein, Missouri Department of Higher Education Representative (ex-officio) • George Rickerson, MOBIUS Executive Director

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Erlene Dudley, Independent At-Large Representative • Elizabeth MacDonald, Independent At-Large Representative • Mollie M. Dinwiddie, Four-Year At-Large Representative
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Robert Stein, Missouri Department of Higher Education Representative (ex-officio) • George Rickerson, MOBIUS Executive Director