

MOBIUS

Linking Missouri's Academic Libraries

News Link

Highlighting developments about MOBIUS and the Common Library Platform



Have you heard?

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It would be difficult to fit onto a T-shirt, but the Missouri Online Bibliographic Information User System is a wonderful idea. By 2002, if MOBIUS is linked with 52 private and public colleges and universities, students will have access to more than 14 million books.

Already, 21 are hooked up. That includes six area institutions composing the Southwest Area Network: Ozarks Technical Community College, Southwest Baptist University, Southwest Missouri State, Missouri Southern State College, Crowder College and Drury University.

The state allocated \$10.2 million to set up the system. An additional \$900,000 will be requested next year to expand electronic databases.

MOBIUS is a bargain for students, trimming book requests from \$25 to \$3.

It'll be up to the program's boosters, in this time of tight state budgets, to convince the lawmakers that MOBIUS is a good investment for the future of Missouri.

What others say....

Barbara Schade, Director of the Learning Resources Center at Crowder College tells this story. "We just recently became live with the INN-REACH software for borrowing MOBIUS books outside of our cluster. One of the first books that came in was for a grad student at SMSU. I thought that I had better call him and make sure he was really supposed to get the book at Crowder. I looked him up in Millennium Circulation and saw that he actually lived in Neosho only a couple of blocks from my home but that he had a long distance phone number. I called that number and found out that it was for a high school in a neighboring school district and that this SMSU student was a teacher there. Talking to him, I discovered that the class he takes from SMSU is on the campus of MSSC but that it is more convenient if he can do his library work at Crowder. After talking with him, I thought - Wow - this is what is supposed to happen and it really is."

Valerie Darst, Director of Libraries at Moberly Area Community College comments, "Instructors have reported to me that research projects have gained depth and quality as a result of the student being able to access books via MOBIUS. I personally have witnessed a renewed excitement to use books in research projects now that the MACC students can both search the MOBIUS Union Catalog and receive the books within 48 hours here at the MACC Circulation Desk via the MOBIUS delivery system. This excitement is what encourages me as a librarian—to see the students excited about learning!"

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News and Notes

In October 2000, the leadership of MOBIUS met to develop a long-range plan for the MOBIUS Consortium. The final report of this planning effort will be issued in late April 2001. This report will ultimately form the basis of decisions about future MOBIUS programs, just as the well-known "Gold Book" has served as the basis for the realization of the CLP system.

One new program that is already developing began to take shape in the summer of 2000. With the CLP project well underway, the MOBIUS Council appointed the MOBIUS Electronic Resources Advisory Committee (MERAC) and charged it to develop an electronic resources licensing program for MOBIUS. The committee was directed to present recommendations to the Council for resources to be licensed beginning in July 2001. These resources will be funded completely with MOBIUS member funds.

At the same time, the MOBIUS Executive Committee submitted to the Coordinating Board for Higher Education an appropriations request for \$900,000 in recurring funds to support the expansion of the licensing program in FY2002. Because very limited funds are available for new programs in FY2002, Governor Holden did not recommend the appropriation of these funds to

the Missouri General Assembly. Nevertheless, MOBIUS, working through MERAC, will continue to develop its electronic resources program, looking forward to the time when additional funding will be available.

We know, because of what has been accomplished in states such as Ohio, Georgia and Virginia, that the MOBIUS electronic resources licensing program will be a very cost effective way to increase access to digital information in Missouri's colleges and universities. We look forward to the opportunity to make the case for this initiative.

George Rickerson, Executive Director

CLP Update

Implementation of the MOBIUS (also known as Missouri Bibliographic Information User System) Common Library Platform project (CLP), officially began on May 14, 1999 with the Arthur Cluster, a group of small colleges in and around Columbia. In the twenty-two months since then, 30 of the 49 charter members of MOBIUS have begun using their new INNOPAC library systems. The remaining 19 members will be implemented between now and July 2002.

The MOBIUS Union Catalog currently contains records representing nearly 12 million volumes. During calendar year 2000, even though we were only halfway through implementation, MOBIUS members shared more than 30,000 volumes among themselves using the CLP system.

So far the CLP project is on schedule and on budget. The MOBIUS Consortium Office, in addition to managing the CLP implementation, has been actively developing services and programs to meet the needs of MOBIUS member institutions.

NewsLink is produced under the authority of the executive committee of MOBIUS. Please send your comments to RickersonG@umsystem.edu.





Crowder College

Neosho

As part of its “Start Smart” mission as a comprehensive community college, Crowder College provides coursework leading to two-year associate degrees and one-year certificates.

The college’s degree programs are offered in fields of study that include transfer to four-year colleges or universities as well as one or two-year career or technical programs that will lead to immediate employment after graduation. Crowder College offers more than 50 different majors, ranging from nursing to business to agriculture.

“Our own students greatly benefited from the increased access they had last semester to books within our SWAN cluster. I expect that when students start writing their term papers this semester it won’t take them long to discover the resources of the other MOBIUS libraries. I have always encouraged interlibrary loan, but because this process is so easy for students, they are using it more now than they ever would have if they had to do it the traditional way, by bringing their requests to me, in person.” said Barbara Schade, Director of the Learning Resources Center.



Drury University Springfield

“At Drury, we have experienced a steadily increasing volume of borrowing as users have learned about the system. We were pleasantly surprised at numbers for January, when we held classes only half the month,” said Stephen Stoen, Director of Library & Information Services.

Founded in 1873 by early Congregational home missionaries, Drury has shown its growing role as a provider of four year, higher education by becoming a university on January 1, 2000.

Drury’s 4,500 day, evening and graduate students are enriched through the school’s valued mission to “liberate persons to participate responsibly in and contribute to life in a global community.”

In keeping with the tradition of educational excellence the founders initiated almost 128 years ago, Drury University has increased its campus offerings to include many new majors and several graduate programs.

Stoen comments, “Not only was SWAN borrowing strong in January, but MOBIUS borrowing was even stronger—and it had just come online! When one of our reference librarians reviewed the functionality of the system with a student, he said simply: ‘Sweet!’ We think that about sums it up.”

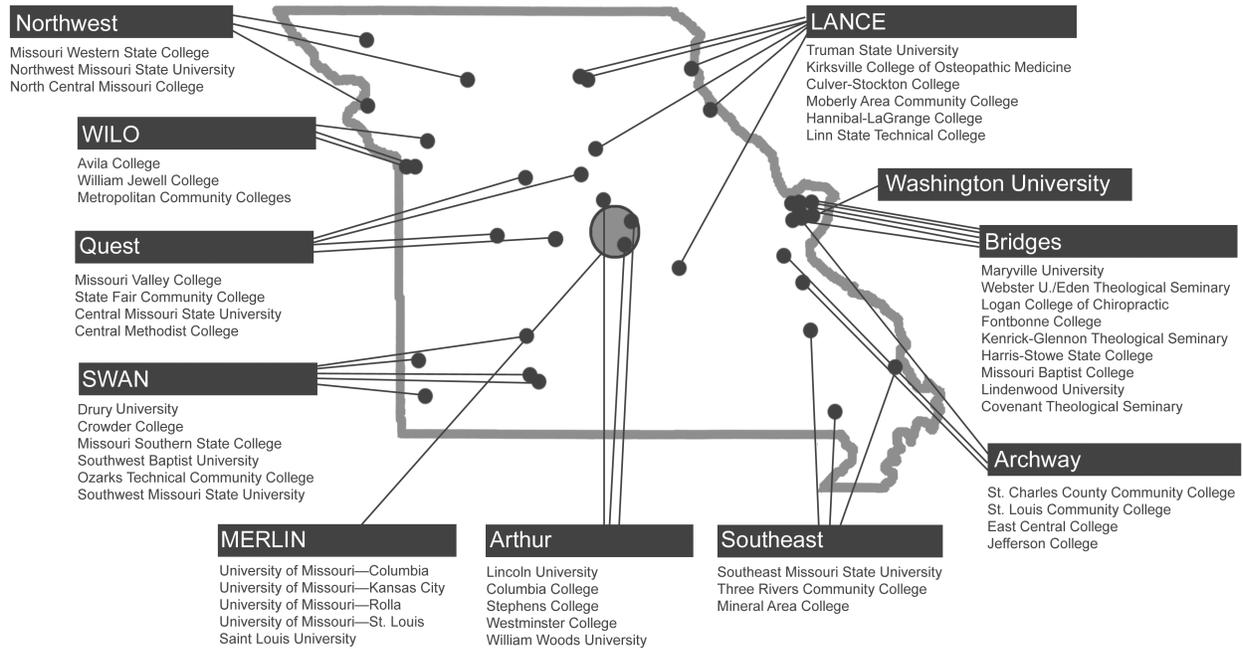
Kirkville College of Osteopathic Medicine Kirkville

The Kirkville College of Osteopathic Medicine (KCOM), founded in 1892, is a professional and graduate institution offering the doctor of osteopathic medicine and master of science degrees in physical therapy, occupational therapy, sports health care, and physician assistant studies.

As the founding school of the osteopathic profession, KCOM has established itself as a leader in osteopathic medical education by providing training and instruction to osteopathic physicians across the country. In 1998, *New Physician Magazine* rated KCOM one of the top two medical schools in the country for producing primary care physicians.

MOBIUS

Common Library Platform Cluster Map



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