

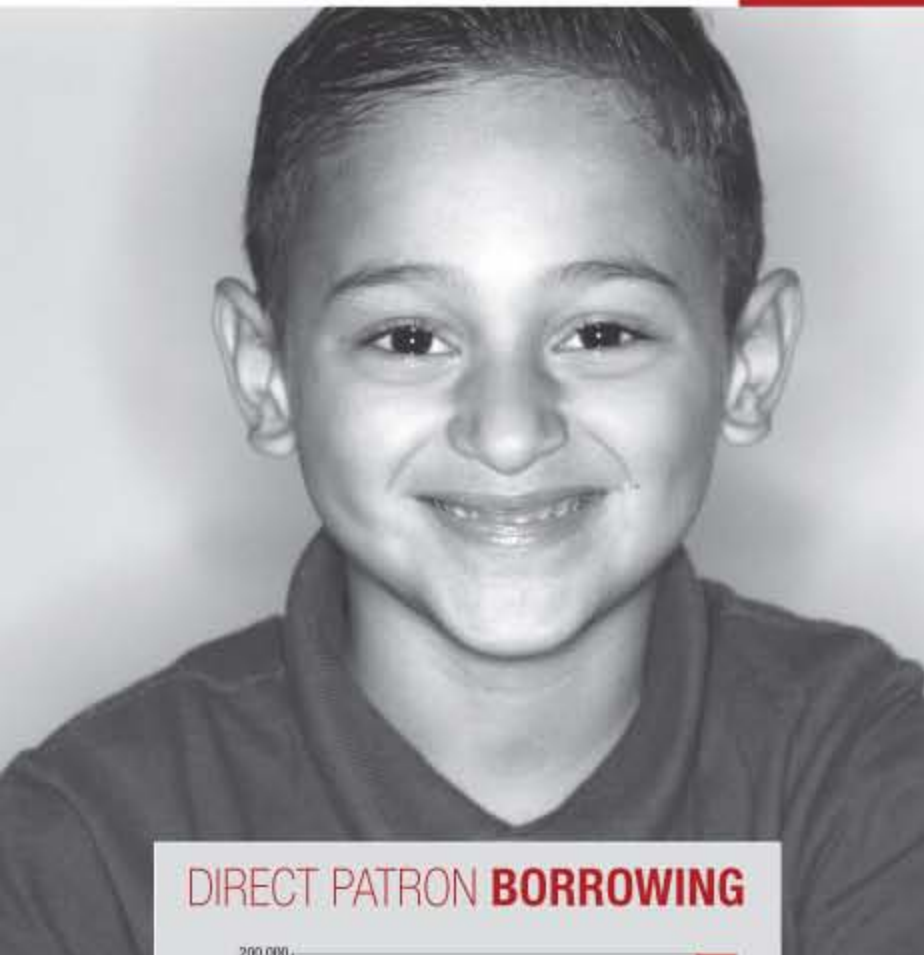
2003-2004

Annual Report

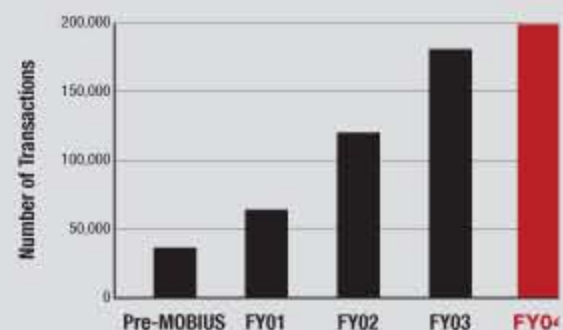
MOBIUS

Linking Missouri's Academic Libraries

FACES OF MOBIUS:



DIRECT PATRON BORROWING



“The era of the printed book is not over.”

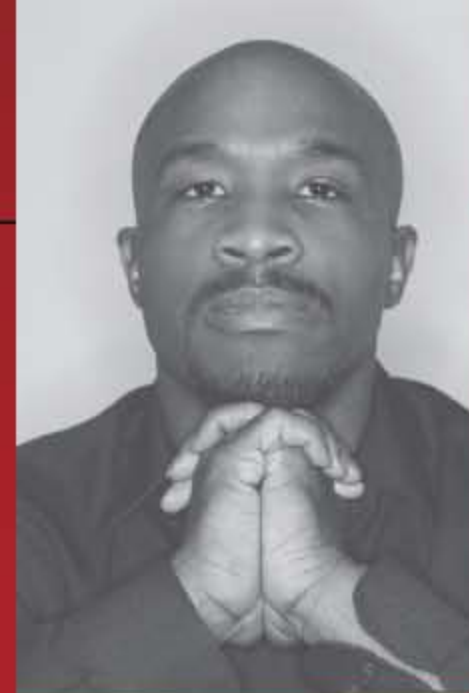
WELCOME TO the 2003-2004 Annual Report for the MOBIUS Consortium, which continued to grow and develop during the twelve months ending June 30, 2004. Unquestionably the highlight of the year was Springfield Greene County Library District (SGCL) joining the MOBIUS Common Library Platform (CLP).

COOPERATING PARTNERS ADDED

When Annie Busch, director of SGCL, stepped forward in 2002 to say she wanted to explore having her library included in the CLP, we were all excited by the idea, but neither she nor we knew what to expect. Would the students and faculty of the MOBIUS member institutions strip SGCL's collection of its bestsellers? Would the citizens of Springfield and Greene County find anything they cared to borrow in the libraries of MOBIUS' college and university members? Would those members have trouble getting their books returned to them on time, or at all? Annie is an innovative leader and pacesetter in Missouri's library community, but even she was not completely sure adding SGCL to the CLP would work out. No one was.

SUCCESS DELIGHTS PATRONS

We now know the answers to all those questions, and they can be summed up in one word: success! It turns out the lending and borrowing statistics in the CLP for SGCL are nearly equal. SGCL patrons are clearly delighted to have such easy access to the rich and specialized collections of MOBIUS' academic members. At the same time, MOBIUS members' students and faculty are finding treasures in the SGCL collection that go far beyond just the latest bestseller, things that their campus



libraries would be unlikely ever to buy but which are surprisingly useful in a variety of academic pursuits. As far as collections being stripped or books not being returned, these things simply are not problems.

MAKING ACCESS HASSLE FREE

What is clear is that information seekers respond when we take steps to make access to information easy and hassle-free. MOBIUS' students and faculty and Annie's public library patrons demonstrate thousands of times on a daily basis that the era of the printed book is not over and that some of our preconceptions about what people want to read would benefit from exposure to some facts.

SGCL participates in the MOBIUS Common Library Platform under a MOBIUS program called "Cooperating Partners". MOBIUS' governing body, the MOBIUS Council, developed this program to provide a mechanism for including non-academic libraries in the powerful and productive information sharing system that is the CLP. While it is too soon to make any announcements, be assured that SGCL will not be our only Cooperating Partner for long.

This is an election year with some hotly contested races and issues. I believe it is worth noting that easy access to information is the foundation of a democracy. The librarians at the MOBIUS member institutions and at SGCL and all of the staff at the MOBIUS Consortium Office are proud to play a role in helping our citizenry to be informed. Broadening the scope of the collections that are included in the CLP is a direct contribution to this goal.

LOOKING FORWARD

An annual report such as this one is, by definition, a look back, but we are looking forward to a very exciting year that will feature such things as the implementation of Millennium Silver and Pickup Anywhere, the development of a new long-range plan for MOBIUS, and, yes, more Cooperating Partners. I am grateful for your interest and support and hope



that you will please stay tuned, for I do believe that the best is yet to come.

George Rickerson
Executive Director

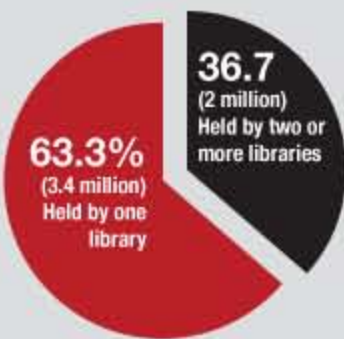
In the eyes of a student...



"[Merlin library catalog] gives me a starting point at which to begin my research."

UNIQUE HOLDINGS

There are 5.4 million titles in the MOBIUS Union Catalog.



KEYWORD: "Violence in the media." Twenty-one matches. Once again the Merlin library catalog saves the day. At least 21 books on the topic of violence in the media are now at my disposal, enabling me to complete my paper for my class, Media Communications in Society. Not only does Merlin come to the rescue, providing me with exceptional material on topics I am researching, but it always provides me with numerous relevant sources necessary to write accurate and in-depth papers that I otherwise may not have been able to find on my own. Merlin library catalog enables me to quickly and easily access countless educational texts on the topic at hand. It gives me a starting point at which to begin my research and gives it direction. Every time I use Merlin library catalog, my paper is always guaranteed to be much more in depth than

if I had gone about it on my own. No matter if I am looking for information for a big research paper, or just searching for a good book to read, I know I can always rely on Merlin to provide me with a wealth of information.

Merlin library catalog is part of the MOBIUS Common Library Platform (CLP) which links more than fifty academic libraries with member colleges and universities all over Missouri. Students take advantage of a vast array of information that is made available to them through this networking system. It has aided college students in Missouri with valuable resources since 1998, enabling them to have desired publications readily available for academic and personal use. Students and faculty use it everyday to access information for both academic projects and personal enjoyment.

For example, Joy Dodson, assistant professor and reference technology librarian at Central Methodist University, has seen firsthand the benefits of the Common Library Platform. She has attended all the trainings and regularly performs database cleanups to make sure all patrons, including students, faculty, and staff have access to the MOBIUS Common Library Platform at Central Methodist University. She knows patrons take advantage of the service because of statistics that are available, and she also knows students are adequately trained in using the CLP. Each incoming freshman takes a class, taught by Ms. Dodson, on how to use the CLP. Seniors at Central Methodist most often reap the benefits of the CLP during their capstone course, which requires students to submit a lengthy research paper along with a literature review in order to graduate with a specific major. This means that students must do extensive research and cite sources, which the CLP has enabled them to do effectively and efficiently. "The CLP is a little more of a one-stop shopping approach," said Ms. Dodson. It enables students to acquire an abundance of material at one time, which makes the burden of information gathering a little lighter and easier to bear.

The situation is similar at Truman State University, where Karen McClaskey, Head of Public Services at Pickler Library, works to inform students on how to use the CLP. She is one of many who helps teach freshmen at Truman State University how to research using MOBIUS during a one-hour database workshop required of all freshmen. She also encourages searching for information through MOBIUS when frustrated students come to the reference desk seeking help after many failed attempts to find what they are looking for. MOBIUS enhances their search, nearly guaranteeing a match to the subject matter. Karen finds that many students and faculty are increasingly taking advantage of MOBIUS's services, and she expects usage to persist. "Every year we see an increase in use." This is definitely encouraging news, knowing that such a great service is being effectively utilized.

Jamie Pabst is a student at the University of Missouri-Columbia majoring in journalism.

FUN FACT

WANT TO LEARN more about your favorite things? You can look up interesting facts, history and other tidbits you don't know.

LOOK UP FAVORITES SUCH AS...

- > Favorite Book
- > Favorite Movie
- > Favorite Car
- > Favorite Food Recipe
- > Favorite Magazine
- > Favorite Music Group

A view of the future [a conversation with the Chair]...



LINDA BIGELOW, left, has played an integral role in the operation of MOBIUS ever since its beginning. She was part of the original group that laid the groundwork to get MOBIUS organized and to form the consortium linking academic libraries across Missouri.

Now Bigelow serves as Chair for the MOBIUS Executive Committee. She took time to answer some questions to give us an inside look on how her commitment to MOBIUS has made her a vital part of achieving MOBIUS goals, facing challenges, and planning on direction for the future.

“What are your plans for MOBIUS this coming year, as far as goals you want to accomplish?”

“Our main focus this year will be on strategic planning. We have completed our original plan, which focused primarily on getting all the member institutions onto the CLP, so we now need to set direction for the next two-three years.”

“How do you encourage students to use the CLP?”

“We are finding it doesn’t take much encouragement for students to use MOBIUS housed on the common library platform. They often discover it

on their own, but each institution also includes it in their library instruction and provides other publicity as needed.”

“How do you think students benefit from the CLP?”

“With the click of a mouse, students have at their fingertips the collections of over 50 academic libraries in the state of Missouri. They can request a book from any of those libraries, and within a very short time can have it delivered to their home library.”

“What do you see in the future for MOBIUS?”

“Continued growth. Additional purchasing power of group purchasing will allow for new electronic resources, thus improving services provided. MOBIUS will also continue to grow through new functionality with new services provided such as PickUp Anywhere, which will allow students to pick up books at locations most convenient for them. Lastly, MOBIUS will continue to grow through new cooperating partners who will gain mutual benefits made possible by library networking.”

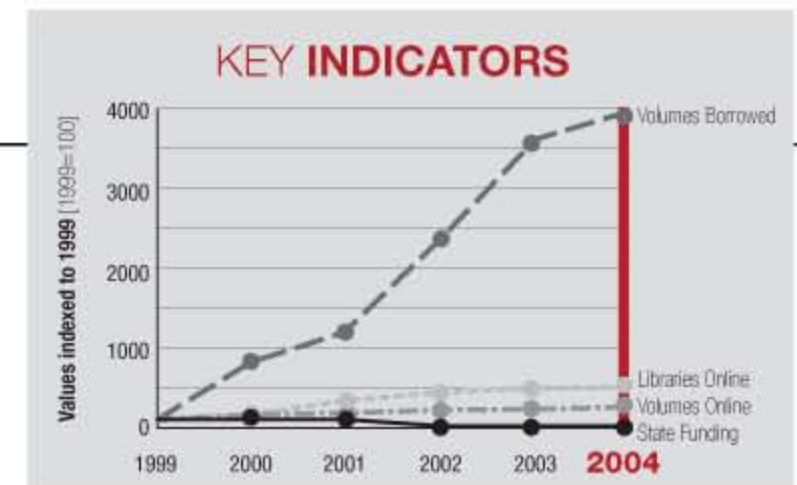
It is clear Linda is looking forward to the future of MOBIUS, and her leadership is a valuable asset to the project. In addition to her time and dedication to MOBIUS, she has been committed to her husband, John, for 41 years. They have two grown children, Susan and David, and they also have seven (soon to be eight) grandchildren, all of whom live in southern Wisconsin.



“We have completed our original plan... we now need to set direction for the next two-three years.”

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

	FY99 ACTUALS	FY00 ACTUALS	FY01 ACTUALS	FY02 ACTUALS	FY03 ACTUALS	FY04 ACTUALS	PROJECT TOTALS
State Appropriation	\$3,400,000	\$3,400,000	\$3,400,000	\$649,539	\$649,539	\$649,539	\$12,148,617
Member Payments	\$240,000	\$491,727	\$775,946	\$1,067,605	\$1,925,339	\$2,127,649	\$4,500,617
TOTAL REVENUE	\$3,640,000	\$3,891,727	\$4,175,946	\$1,717,144	\$2,574,878	\$2,777,188	\$18,776,883
Expenses	\$210,986	\$3,694,806	\$4,614,769	\$4,543,315	\$2,546,092	\$2,655,631	\$18,265,599
Indirect Cost	\$0	\$60,163	\$77,322	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$137,485
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$210,986	\$3,754,969	\$4,692,091	\$4,543,315	\$2,546,092	\$2,655,631	\$18,403,084



MOBIUS

Linking Missouri's Academic Libraries

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 57 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 CLP 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 by a combination of state appropriations and member fees.

The MOBIUS Consortium Office employs a full-time staff to provide a variety of services to MOBIUS member institutions as well as 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 FY04:

Stephen K. Stoen, Chair • Linda Bigelow, Chair-Elect • Laura Rein, Past Chair • Eugenia McKee, Secretary • Robert Frizzell, Treasurer
 Joni Blake, 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)
 Nancy Devino, Missouri Department of Higher Education Representative (ex-officio) • George Rickerson, MOBIUS Executive Director

MOBIUS Executive Committee for FY05:

Linda Bigelow, Chair • Robert Frizzell, Chair-Elect • Stephen K. Stoen, 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

