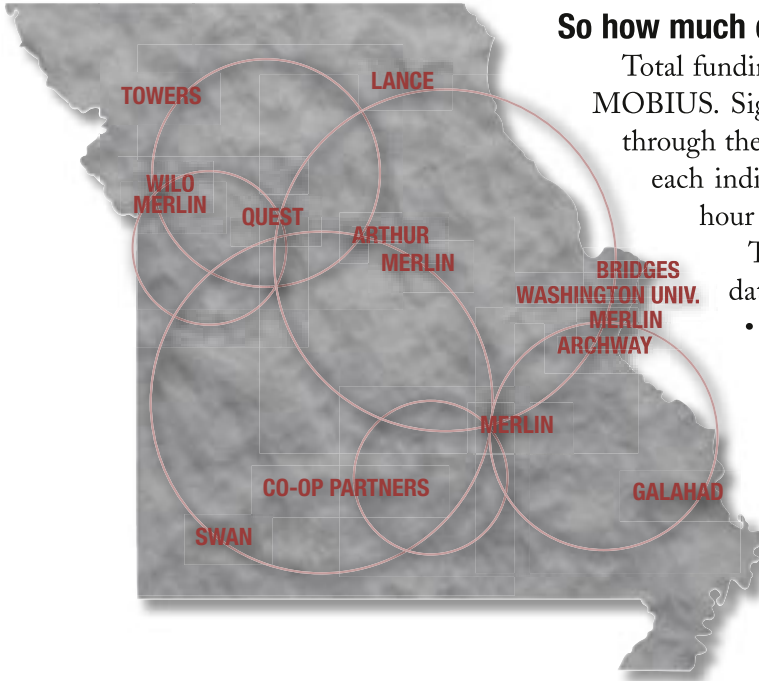


Cooperation saves money

WITH THE COST advantage of purchasing through a large consortium, MOBIUS provides electronic databases to member institutions. Faculty, staff and students at MOBIUS member institutions are able to access these resources from any personal computer in any location with access to the Internet. This cooperative project balances out access for small college and distance education students with that which is available to larger universities.



So how much does it cost?

Total funding for this project comes from the member institutions in MOBIUS. Significant savings for these academic libraries are possible through the purchase by the consortium compared to the purchase by each individual library. In addition to the cost savings, there is 24 hour unlimited access for all students, faculty and staff.

There are currently more than 90 subscriptions to the seven databases offered, which include:

- America: History and Life
- Applied Science and Technology Full Text
- EBSCO Academic Search Premier
- Education Full Text
- Historical Abstracts
- Literature Resource Center
- ProQuest Psychology Journals

MOBIUS cluster map for a complete listing visit <http://mobius.missouri.edu>

an **INSIDE** look:

increased resources • member profiles
successful collaboration requires investment

MOBIUS

3215B Lemone Industrial Blvd.
Columbia, MO 65201

news **LINK**

MOBIUS

Linking Missouri's Academic Libraries

Information about MOBIUS and
the Common Library Platform Project

SPRING 2004

Coordination+ Cost Savings = **increased resources**

by Anne Barker, Humanities Librarian, Ellis Library



THE MOBIUS COLLECTION Management Advisory Committee (MCMAC) was formed in late 2003 and 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.” In addition to several other projects, MCMAC is exploring the possibility of a statewide cooperative approval plan.

Libraries contract with approval plan vendors to ensure the automatic shipment of books that meet a profile of defined criteria. Coordinating profiles among institutions offers several advantages:

- **Minimizing** duplication in shipped materials. Although each library would maintain its own profile and autonomy in selecting books, coordination would allow us to articulate our intentions to purchase at an earlier stage, enabling us to avoid unintentional duplication.
- **Identifying** gaps in our combined collections and coordinating collecting in these areas. The vendors could supply information on books not purchased by any MOBIUS library, allowing us to see better what we're missing and close those gaps.

- **Discounting** the cost of acquisitions. Bulk purchasing through an approval vendor usually involves a discount on the list price of books.
- **Streamlining** the labor involved in acquisitions. The vendors have worked with libraries to minimize and automate the labor involved in acquisitions.

We have been in conversation with Blackwells Book Services and YBP Library Services, both of which provide books and supporting collection management services and have worked with other consortia. Both vendors will present their services at the MOBIUS Users Conference on June 3.

Faced with dramatically increasing costs in serials, copyright fees, and employee benefits, libraries are challenged to maintain their purchasing power. In coordinating our efforts we hope to make the most cost-effective use of our funds and minimize the negative effects of current budget constraints.

member **PROFILES**

Maryville University

For more than 130 years, the name Maryville has been synonymous in the St. Louis area with education rooted in Judeo-Christian ethics and values that prepares students to be intellectually sound and vital members of their communities.

Today, Maryville, an independent co-educational university with its main campus in West St. Louis County, offers more than 50 undergraduate and graduate programs. While wide ranging in content, all programs are grounded in the liberal arts tradition that has continued to be the linchpin of Maryville's existence. Maryville's current enrollment stands at 3,301 students.

Maryville's Library has grown and modernized to keep pace with the ever-changing needs of its students, said Dr. Genie McKee, director of the University Library.

"Since we were late in getting our first library system we were in an unusual situation when joining MOBIUS became an option. We did not have an old clunky system, but a brand-new up-to-date system with a wonderful OPAC for our patrons," Dr. McKee said. "Yet, even though we would need to install another library system within a short period of time, the library staff

thought that what we would gain would far surpass what we had in place. We were right! Maryville faculty and students love MOBIUS and are pleased the books arrive so quickly through Lanter "

Moberly Area Community College

Moberly Area Community College was founded in 1927 to provide higher education that is geographically and financially accessible throughout northeast Missouri. It fulfills this mission by operating six satellite campuses along with its main campus in Moberly, providing accessible higher education to approximately 3000 students. MACC offers day and evening classes as well as dual credit courses in area high schools.

MACC offers four associate degrees: arts, applied science, nursing, and science. These associate degrees can be customized to allow a student to transfer into a degree program at a four-year institution. This strength allows students in northeast Missouri access to a more affordable way to receive a four-year college degree.

MACC works to serve its students best by focusing on three key areas: a low student-to-teacher ratio, individualized attention, and respect for the rich diversity of students it serves.

This focus helps to grow the college in new directions, allowing the people of northeast Missouri access to affordable education.

Valerie Darst, Director of Library Services, has seen the benefits of MOBIUS on her campus. She says "Access to information from academic libraries in MOBIUS has enabled MACC students to mature in their



NORTHWEST MISSOURI STATE LIBRARY

research strategies and capabilities. The reliability, user-friendly software and procedures, and the efficiency of the delivery system brings books to students and faculty with an ease that continues to impress the end users. MOBIUS continues to be a wonderful service and investment for Missouri's education future."

Northwest Missouri State University

Northwest is the home of the Missouri Academy of Science, Mathematics and Computing, which allows especially talented secondary students to complete high school and obtain an Associate of Arts Degree at the same time by taking collegiate courses. Northwest's tree-filled campus also serves as the official Missouri State Arboretum.

"The MOBIUS consortium with its Common Library Platform is proving to be a great boon to education and scholarship in this part of Missouri. Most of the state's printed informational resources are in the central region and in the two major metro areas. The CLP's INN-Reach borrowing allows us to obtain most of those materials much more quickly and easily than before. At the same time, I am often surprised by how many of our Owens Library materials go out to students at the state's largest and most renowned institutions. The benefits to us all can hardly be computed," said Robert W. Frizzell, Director of Libraries.



Successful Collaboration Requires Local Investment

I AM FREQUENTLY asked – even more frequently in recent years given the funding pressure affecting all higher education institutions – whether MOBIUS member institutions can cut back on their purchases of new print publications for their libraries because the Common Library Platform gives easy access to such a wealth of material located all over the state. In a similar vein, I am also asked why print materials even matter, now that “everything” is available electronically on the Web.

These aren't silly questions. They go to the very heart of why collaborations such as MOBIUS and the Common Library Platform produce such significant benefits for college students and faculty in Missouri. There is no ques-

tion that a significant portion of the published information that is produced worldwide is done so only in electronic form or both in print and electronic form. The fact remains, however, that print publications – books and scholarly journals – constitute the bulk of the materials needed by students and faculty in higher education. In fact, even the richest institutions in the country can afford to acquire only a small fraction of the world's output of printed scholarly information, which grows significantly each year.

Moreover, higher education institutions do not purchase the same materials. In the MOBIUS Union Catalog (MUC), the percentage of titles that are held by more than one institution

is less than 40 percent.

Therefore it is critical that each participating institution continues to invest in its print collection. Only by working together can we ensure that our students and faculty have access to the print resources on which they depend. The CLP borrowing/lending statistics bear this out. As soon as the CLP system came online, inter-institutional borrowing and lending statistics shot up, and each year they continue to increase by significant margins, confirming the need for the type of service provided by The CLP.

*George Rickerson
Executive Director*



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The advertisement features a collage of images including a large stylized 'M' logo, a historical document titled 'GRAND', a newspaper clipping titled 'SPRINGFIELD', a botanical illustration of a flower, a historical document titled 'VRANO METRIA', and a sports poster for 'OKLAHOMA vs. MISSOURI'.

Some links include: Linda Hall Library of Science, Engineering & Technology, University Archives, University of Missouri—Columbia, Kansas City Public Library Special Collections, Springfield-Green County Library District and Rare Books from the Missouri Botanical Garden Library. Virtually Missouri is funded by LSTA funds distributed by The Federal Institute of Museum & Library Services and administered through the grant programs of the Missouri State Library, A Division of the Secretary of State's Office.

MOBIUS News Link is produced under the authority of the Executive Committee of MOBIUS. Please send your comments to: RickersonG@umsystem.edu

<http://MOBIUS.missouri.edu>

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