

## Introduction from Kurt Kopp

We have something new and something historical for you this issue. Terry and Abbie report on an exciting new method of holding virtual meetings. We can provide this for committee meetings at no charge. Abbie and Terry also provide a history of MERLIN as that seems to be a source of some confusion. Please note that the next round of Missouri State Library LSTA digitizing grants is now open. I know that we have collections that would be perfect candidates. Hardy continues working on WebPAC problems as they are reported to him. Beginning with this issue, he will be providing a list of outstanding issues as well as those resolved in the previous month.

### State Library Announces next round of LSTA funded Grants

The State Library is accepting applications for LSTA funded digitizing grants through March 15. The actual grant period would be July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009. I would encourage you to look at your collections for suitable grant possibilities. If you have any questions, let us know. The complete guidelines and application procedure is [available here \(PDF\)](#).

## eResources: Facts and Figures

**Upcoming Meetings:** Next MCDRSC Meeting: February 7

### Report from the Survey of Library Database Licensing Practices,

published by Primary Research Group (ISBN#: 1-57440-093-2):

- ◆ The mean number of independent licenses for electronic content held by the libraries in the sample tripled from 2000 to 2007.
- ◆ The mean perceived price increase for: electronic and electronic/print combination journals, 10.64%; medical or biochemical information, 8.13%; full text, newspaper and magazine, 9.43%
- ◆ Participants reported spending an average of 290.49 hours of staff time reviewing contracts.
- ◆ Consortium purchases accounted for a mean of 30% of the database licenses by the libraries in the sample.

## eResources: Trying Out a New Method for Meeting

In our efforts to control travel cost and conserve time, the MIRACL Collection Development and Reference Services Committee (MCDRSC) used Adobe Connect for their meeting on February 7. Adobe Connect allowed us to set up a virtual meeting room, share documents and presentations, and discuss using Voice Over IP (VOIP). The four UM campus representatives and Saint Louis

University gathered at their own computers either alone or in groups and participated in the meeting. The only requirements are access to a computer with a speaker and a microphone. Although we have some things to improve, it appears we have found a better way to conduct our committee business.

LSO subscribed to a meeting room in Adobe Connect from the UM System negotiated volume

purchase agreement, primarily with MCDRSC meetings in mind. However, if other MERLIN committees are interested in using this method for their meetings please let Terry Austin ([austint@umsystem.edu](mailto:austint@umsystem.edu)) or Susan McCormack ([mccormacks@umsystem.edu](mailto:mccormacks@umsystem.edu)) know. Susan is the meeting room manager and she can arrange for other meetings.

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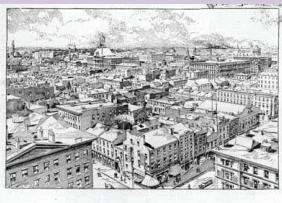
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The St. Louis Views collection visually documents the history of St. Louis through various printed media—photographs, lithographs, engravings, illustrated newspaper tear sheets from Leslie's and Harper's, maps, postcards, advertisements, broadsides, and posters, as well as some original drawings. The materials provide images of St. Louis from the 1760s to the 1970s, however the largest amount of material in the collection dates from the nineteenth century.

[digital.library.umsystem.edu/image/  
merciblic](http://digital.library.umsystem.edu/image/merciblic)

## eResources: About MERLIN

A redesigned [MERLIN Gateway](#) recently went live, and this article was written to go on the new "About MERLIN" page on the site. [Visit the new Gateway \(which was designed and programmed by LSO staff\) here.](#)

MERLIN is the name for one of the organizational groups, or clusters, of Missouri academic libraries within the larger MOBIUS Library Consortium. MERLIN specifically refers to the four campuses of the University of Missouri system: University of Missouri- Columbia; University of Missouri- Kansas City; University of Missouri- St. Louis; and Missouri University of Science & Technology (formerly University of Missouri- Rolla). The cluster also includes the two law schools and two medical schools in the University system, as well as the State Historical Society and Western Historical Manuscript Collection.

The history of MERLIN dates to the early 1990s. Electronic resource subscriptions often allow for a discount to be applied to purchases made by multiple campuses, and the University of Missouri system organized the consortium to make these purchases. Beginning in 1995, 10 databases were licensed for the UM system under this type of agreement.

When, in the mid-1990s, the MOBIUS Library Consortium formed to create a statewide union catalog system, MERLIN was included as one of the first clusters. At that point, it was given its name, which stands for the Missouri Education and Research Libraries Information Network.

Consortial electronic resource licensing continued. In 2004, the UM Electronic Resource Initiative received nearly \$1 million in an award to expand electronic resources, especially in the field of life sciences. To date, more than 75 electronic resources are purchased by MERLIN for the benefit of University faculty, staff, and students.

These electronic resources represent the research and teaching components of all of the campuses in the MERLIN cluster. These consortial purchases save the University of Missouri millions of dollars in licensing fees each year.

The consortial licensing program is managed by the UM Library Systems Office, a part of the University of Missouri System. The UM Library Systems Office also handles consortial licensing for MIRACL, a consortium that includes all of the MERLIN campuses as well as Saint Louis University and Washington University.

## MERLIN WebPAC: Open LSO Tickets

Hardy Pottinger reports that Architecture & Infrastructure has the following open tickets: self-booking/other customizations; logout to inform patron to close browser; ID page in MERLIN; Millennium System Messages; Authority Processing; and XENU Link Checker. The following problems have been resolved and tickets have been closed: UMR name change; missing cancellation button; UM/MU account v empid to login into account on the Web; empty bookbag appears twice; turn on reading history; TOC displays across multiple screens. Contact Hardy for more information.

## LSO Digitizing Activities

In January, Ian Schoone and Elaine Huntsucker scanned 12,088 pages and the students corrected the OCR for 9,694 pages. The yearbooks for Stephens College are completely scanned and are now in the OCR correction stage. We are very near to completing the scanning phase of the Missouri County Histories. We have approximately 15 remaining to obtain and scan. The Lloyd L. Gaines project is currently on hold pending copyright permissions. We are hopeful it will be available for viewing

soon. The State Historical Society of Missouri Index to Selected Missouri Newspapers grant is proceeding on schedule. We are also busy converting four collections to ContentDM format so that they can be loaded on the Secretary of State's new Missouri Digital Heritage website that will be replacing the VirtuallyMissouri site and is a joint effort of the Missouri State Library and the Missouri State Archives. More information about this new website is [available here](#) (PDF).