

## INN-REACH AT MOBIUS



MOBIUS, a Missouri-based library consortium that includes more than 70 academic, public and special libraries, is dedicated to providing equal access to library materials for all users in the state. Founded in 1998, MOBIUS continually adds libraries to the consortium and implements new programs that empower library users through improved access to an expanding union catalog of library materials that now includes more than 7 million unique titles.

### CHALLENGE

Librarians in Missouri were committed to sharing materials with users at diverse institutions all around the state, but they found traditional interlibrary loan systems to be frustrating, clumsy, and costly. These librarians challenged themselves to find a solution that would provide equal access to library materials throughout the state, regardless of the size or budget of each library community. They sought an affordable, seamless, patron-initiated borrowing system that removed the time-consuming and resource-intensive hurdles of traditional ILL.

*"Library users have access to materials that they would never have known about and are empowered to find their own information online and order it themselves. Our libraries can focus their precious resources on collection development and expansion of service, rather than being weighed down by a big bill for ILL."*

—Donna Bacon, Executive Director  
MOBIUS

### SOLUTION

After considering all the options, MOBIUS chose Innovative's INN-Reach to power the MOBIUS union catalog and provide access to its users. INN-Reach's one-touch fulfillment has transformed resource sharing between Missouri's libraries, making it faster and more cost-effective, while exponentially increasing items available to library users.

One-touch fulfillment allows patrons to request items from any MOBIUS library right from the online union catalog, and INN-Reach's powerful technology processes the request with no more work for the lending and borrowing libraries than for a local hold request.

Today, the MOBIUS Union Catalog has expanded to include more than 25 million items, serving over 1.5 million people. A courier service delivers library materials to member libraries once per day, 5 days per week.



*INN-reach allows us to give equal access to all of our library users, and empowers our users to find new sources of information. With INN-Reach, we've removed the hurdles of traditional ILL and can offer faster fulfillment at a lower cost to our libraries.*

—Donna Bacon  
Executive Director  
MOBIUS

## RESULTS

The MOBIUS INN-Reach system currently handles approximately 200,000 patron-sourced transactions a year at a cost of approximately \$2 to \$3 per item, as compared to the \$25 to \$30 per item cost of traditional interlibrary loan, thus significantly increasing access to library materials while dramatically lowering costs.

“Everyone wins in this scenario,” says Donna Bacon, Executive Director of MOBIUS. “Library users have access to materials that they would never have known about and are empowered to find their own information online and order it themselves. Our libraries can focus their precious resources on collection development and expansion of service, rather than being weighed down by a big bill for ILL.”

## ABOUT MOBIUS

Since its founding in July 1998, MOBIUS has transformed library services for the citizens of Missouri. The consortium’s purpose is to share library materials, information, and services using accessible, cost effective methods. Today, the MOBIUS Union Catalog has expanded to include more than 25 million items, serving over 1.5 million people from the higher education community and the state of Missouri.

MOBIUS has 70 members, which include 61 academic libraries, four public libraries, two special libraries, the Missouri State Library, and two Associate Members, serving a total of 143 physical branches. MOBIUS manages INN-Reach, a union catalog and resource sharing tool from Innovative, as well as their Sierra library services platform for member libraries.

## ABOUT INN-REACH

INN-Reach expands libraries’ books and material resources without a significant investment in new materials or traditional interlibrary loan (ILL). By seamlessly integrating multiple libraries via their local online systems, INN-Reach’s shared catalog enables patrons to easily find and request materials online.

Only INN-Reach offers one-touch fulfillment that eliminates layers of processing, significantly reducing the staff time it takes to process a loan request. With INN-Reach, resource sharing between libraries is faster and more cost-effective than any other method, while exponentially increasing the items available to users without disrupting the libraries’ normal workflows.

## For additional information:

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