

MOBIUS Consortium

CASE STUDY

INN-Reach Provides Faster ILL Fulfillment at a
Lower Cost for MOBIUS

Overview

Since its founding in 1998, the library consortium 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.

The Challenge

PROVIDING AFFORDABLE, EFFICIENT ILL SERVICES

For many years, librarians in Missouri have been committed to sharing materials with users at diverse institutions all around the state, but they found traditional interlibrary loan systems 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 wanted an affordable, seamless, patron-initiated borrowing system that removed the time-consuming and resource-intensive hurdles of traditional ILL.

Solution

A RESOURCE SHARING TOOL THAT ENABLES SPEEDY, COST-EFFECTIVE ACCESS TO MORE MATERIALS

After considering all the options, MOBIUS chose Innovative's INN-Reach to power the MOBIUS union catalog and provide ILL access to its users. INN-Reach is a resource sharing tool that connects multiple libraries through their local ILS, allowing them to have a shared catalog and patron-initiated requesting.

INN-Reach 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.

“MOBIUS users often bypass local systems and go directly to the MOBIUS union catalog because they know they’ll have speedy, seamless access to a much larger universe of library materials,” says Donna Bacon, Executive Director of MOBIUS.

Results and Benefits

MORE RESOURCE SHARING, LESS COST

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.

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 Bacon. “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.”

“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



Get in touch

If you're interested in discussing INN-Reach for your library, contact us:

www.iii.com • sales@iii.com • (510) 655-6200