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# Tulsa library expands offerings by joining out-of-state consortium

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By NOUR HABIB World Staff Writer | 0 comments

With a single agreement, the Tulsa City-County Library has expanded its collection exponentially.

Last month, the library system joined a consortium of out-of-state libraries that will give patrons access to a catalog containing about 60 million items. The Tulsa library collection has about 2 million items.

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The consortium, called MOBIUS, started in Missouri more than 15 years ago. The Tulsa City-County Library was the first out-of-state partner to join MOBIUS once it began looking to expand, closely followed this month by a Colorado alliance of libraries.

Sue Anderson, collection management manager for the Tulsa library, said joining MOBIUS will provide Tulsa residents with "a good balance" of material.

"It allows easy access to millions of books that we could not provide to our customers before

joining," she said.

Many of the members in the Missouri and Colorado groups are academic libraries, meaning they carry academic titles — such as textbooks — that the Tulsa public library does not.

"We stick to a lot of popular materials," Anderson said.

Soon, the consortium will also include members such as the Missouri History Museum and the Missouri Botanical Garden. Anderson said these members have specific materials, such as on particular plants, that the Tulsa library does not have.

Since the Tulsa library joined the consortium last month, it has exchanged about 200 items.

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The same courier system that the library already uses works with the courier system for MOBIUS, so transporting the books back and forth does not cost additional money.

And because the Tulsa library is lending more books than it is borrowing, the per-item exchange fee balances in its favor, Anderson said.

In addition to specialized books that the library doesn't have, MOBIUS will be useful when books the library does have are all checked out. For example, groups that are looking for 20 copies of a single book will be more likely to find that many when using MOBIUS.

The check-out period for MOBIUS materials is three weeks, with the possibility of renewing two times. Books generally arrive within three days to a week, Anderson said.

What materials individual libraries will share is up to them. Currently, the Tulsa library is sharing only print fiction.

"We may expand, but we just got it up and running, and we just want to make sure it's running smoothly before we share more-fragile material," Anderson said.

She said MOBIUS is a much faster and smoother process than the InterLibrary Loan program that has been used, which requires staff members to contact other libraries individually to request titles.

Now, library users will be able to search MOBIUS online immediately if they do not find the item in the Tulsa City-County Library Catalog.

For more information about MOBIUS, call the AskUs Hotline at 918-549-7323 or visit [www.tulsalibrary.org](http://www.tulsalibrary.org).

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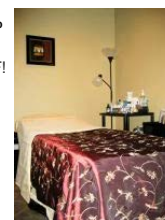
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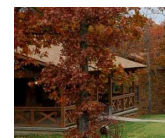
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