Council of U of A Research Libraries  
Meeting of November 3, 2015  
System Office, Little Rock  

Present: Carolyn Allen (UAF), Dan Boice (UAM), Jessie Burchfield (UALR-L), Edward Fontenette (UAPB), Bob Frizzell (UAFS), Jan Hart (UAMS), J.B. Hill (UALR), Nadia Lalla (UAMS), Randy Thompson (UAF-L), Georgette Wiley (UAPB).

Carolyn convened the meeting at 8:00 a.m. and noted that the purposes of the meeting were first to discuss expectations for the Council and second to revisit and realign as necessary the committee structure.

After introductions, there was a moment of silence to honor the passing of longtime CUARL member Sandra Campbell.

CUARL Leadership: After discussion, Georgette nominated Carolyn as CUARL Chair for 2015-16. There were no other nominations, and Carolyn was elected by acclamation.

Dr Donald Bobbitt, the UA president, and Dr Michael Moore, UA VPAA, met with CUARL. Dr Bobbitt discussed the history of the UA system, as well as current challenges at the state and federal levels. Dr Moore talked at length about eVersity, noting:

- There have been 252 applications, of which 190 students have already been admitted.
- The student body at this point is 60% female, 30% African American, average age 35, and with 55 credit hours to transfer in.
- Instructors are told to refer only to the resources available through the UAM Library.
- Instructors are being incentivized to develop OERs and avoid paper textbooks.

In setting up eVersity, the System is using resources that can be utilized system-wide with significant savings for the campuses. Dr Moore instructed CUARL to work with the UA system community colleges and develop plans for further consortial activities that can help save funds.

CUARL Discussion:  
The Council discussed the mandate to include in our planning and to cooperate with the community colleges in our activities. The group noted that the community colleges will have needs quite distinctive from ours, and that eVersity’s focus on job-readiness is different from the mission of most of our campuses.

The Council felt that as we discover challenges in carrying out this mandate, we can ask the System for help in addressing them.

In order for eVersity instructors to effectively use UAM Library resources, it would be best if they met with Instructional Design Specialists and Librarians, and that the instructors fully understand the availability of student support services.
News from the Campuses:

UAF: The faculty has voted to make the school an Open Access campus. The library is establishing an Institutional Repository, in conjunction with the Law Library. There is a great deal of renovation and upgrading of the physical plant going on.

UAFS: Besides an upgrade to Sierra and a new university website, the Library has established a total of six collaborative spaces.

UAMS: Has gone with Koha for its ILS with significant cost savings. The Student Success Center has been open for a year and has been very successful. There is an Active Learning Center than can seat up to 200 students. Many bound journals have been weeded, and the physical bookstore has been closed.

UALR: There has been significant administrative restructuring, and the Library and the Archives have been gathered into the Collections and Archives Division.

UAPB: Is gearing up for the HLC visit in 2017. Campus restructuring has moved the Library’s I.T. department into the Library building, which now has two Maker Spaces. Three staff members recently received their graduate degrees from North Texas.

UAFS: Lots of administrative turnover, having lost five of the seven deans and two vice-chancellors recently. Bob will be cutting back on databases next year owing to budget shortfalls.

UAM: A new library classroom is being named in honor of Sandra Dupree Campbell. Retention, since it affects state funding, and since it has been a problem for the open-enrollment school, has been a major campus-wide focus this year.

CUARL Structure:

Mission Statement: after some discussion, Georgette MOVED “That the current Mission Statement remain unchanged for the present,” which motion was seconded and CARRIED.

Digital Initiatives Committee: This committee had been the most active of the committees, and had set up projects depending on the subject areas and particular strengths of the campuses. The subject headings need revisiting, and there was agreement that we all use the same portal. Florida provides a good example of how a project could work well on a statewide level. One area of investigation could be strengthening the work with OERs, perhaps setting up a repository. Jessie agreed to serve as Liaison.

Directors should send to Carolyn their appointments to this and the other committees.

Resource Sharing and Collection Development: The second task of the committee, that of gauging and working with specific strengths of each library, needs renewed attention, as does perhaps the entire charge. The committee members can discuss the charge and provide input to
CUARL if they recommend any changes. 
Nadia will serve as Liaison.

**Educational Portal:** This project had largely been the work of one individual, but needs to be a cooperative effort. Among other things, the committee should avoid duplication with the State Library, and should remind schools at least annually of the Portal. Perhaps we could work with public libraries for Summer Reading programs. 
Dan will head up this committee.

**CUARL Goals:**

Based on the day’s discussion, the following goals emerged:

1. **CUARL will work with the five community colleges in finding a way to incorporate them into our activities.**
   
   A March retreat could offer a chance to lay out and work through some of the issues and concerns, and to lay out some ideas. Perhaps there can be two working groups, with liaisons to ensure smooth operations.
   
   There may be some suspicion and criticism from other academic libraries, but our invitation to the community colleges will be welcoming and supportive, the result of the mandate. It will be important for CUARL members to be aligned on this, sticking together. And it will be important to get our mandate in writing from Dr Bobbitt and/or Dr Moore.

2. **CUARL will recommend to the System Office that the System webpages (at www.uasys.edu) for the community college be uniform, answering the same basic questions, and thereby providing a better tool for comparison of institutions.**

3. **Staff Development:** Although a previous attempt to set up a committee did not work out, CUARL members need to continue to work cooperatively in order to strengthen our work in this.

4. **CUARL will be pursuing statewide access to CINAHL.**

5. **Fundraising:** a previous effort on this topic did not take wing, but the group noted that we should be looking at tapping into resources from without Arkansas. Preservation is an area that attracts some significant funding, and Amigos has a good preservation program of its own.

**Future Meetings:** members felt that we could meet quarterly, and that Little Rock was the best location. If directors are unable to attend, they should send someone with the ability to vote on behalf of the library.
CUARL members thanked Carolyn for her leadership and for the wonderful lunch spread. She has set the bar high in both areas!

The meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel Boice