Council of U of A Research Libraries meeting
Monday, April 29, 2013
Mullins Library 486, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville

Present: Carolyn Allen (UAF), Sandra Campbell (UAM), Bob Frizzell (UAFS), Anne Liebst (UALR), Mary Ryan (UAMS), Georgette Wiley (UAPB). Also present: Molly Boyd (UAF, Assistant to the Dean).

Committee Reports
Digital Initiatives Committee Report
Sandra Campbell, liaison to the committee, asked UALR and UAFS to nominate a member to the committee, so every library is represented. UALR no longer keep archives or have staff devoted to archives, since their holdings were merged with the Butler Center for Arkansas Studies at the Arkansas Studies Institute, a department of the Central Arkansas Libraries System.

After reviewing the digital committee report, the CUARL members discussed whether there were any projects we could be doing jointly to make the digital initiatives more robust. A digital collection is an excellent way to showcase unique collections and to make collections more usable to the public. Working jointly, this group could explore the possibility of collections that overlap or that would potentially be useful to host institutions or curricula. If we work together, we might put together a proposal for assistance from the UA system. UAF has plans to create a digital center in the library, if it is funded, which may be able to assist with staffing issues faced by the other system libraries in joint digital projects.

Bob Frizzell reported that UAFS has digitized its yearbooks and are in the process of digitizing their student newspapers. Mary Ryan reported that UAMS has digitized the back files of the Journal of the Arkansas Medical Society, which has a lot of material on efforts to improve the health of the poor in Arkansas. These include reports through the 1920s.

Sandra Campbell reported that UAM has digitized photographs which represent the history of UAM and are available online through the library’s “Centennial Celebration Collection.” UAM is also in the process of digitizing materials from the School of Forest Resources and working on a plan to digitize the yearbooks.

Two topics that may be common to all institutions are nursing and agriculture. We should engage the extension agents in the University of Arkansas system more readily as they are a great source of information that could be digitized. The SEC libraries discussed members to look at their collections to determine if rural poverty is a suitable topic for a joint collaboration for a digital project.

The State Library funded Quick Start for ContentDM; when their subscription expires, UAM, UALR, and UAPB will no longer have access to ContentDM. The Resources Sharing and Collection Development Committee should decide whether to ask the system to collectively fund ContentDM for all campuses or if each campus should subscribe individually. If we decide collaboratively to engage together on an improvement project, we can make the case to the system. It would be worth putting together a proposal for the system president. Although the State Library is cancelling their subscription, they extended the hosting time so those libraries won’t lose their digital collections just yet.

The State Library has also ceased funding OCLC’s First Search. ArkLink is trying to negotiate a subscription price for members and has asked all libraries to send in FTE numbers for subscription
calculations, but some libraries have not yet responded. If libraries do not subscribe to First Search, their holdings will not show up in Worldcat. Faculty utilize First Search on a regular basis. This is another proposal we could submit to the system because of the importance of the service. Funding would make us less dependent on the mercies of other groups for a tool that is essential to our operations. Dean Allen suggested that we gather up the FTEs for each of the system libraries and ask OCLC for the cost for all libraries, then she would take that proposal to UAF Provost Sharon Gaber, and ask her to submit it on our behalf to the system president or to fund it.

The Digital Initiatives Committee report should be corrected to read: “Currently digitization projects are initiated and housed in UAPB’s Cultural Center and Museum. (John Brown Watson Memorial Library System is working through the Title 3 office to secure digitizing equipment for library system projects).”

Also, on the list of digital projects by subject, add UAMS and UAPB history. (Send links to collection). Link UALR to the Arkansas Studies Institute website.

**Resource Sharing and Collection Development Committee report**

Mary Ryan reported that the Committee spent a lot of their time and effort negotiating with Elsevier to renew group titles and ended up with a three-year renewal with price increase caps and an opt out clause for budget cuts (their clause was linked to decreases in state funding, which does not cover other budget cuts). Elsevier wanted to charge us a sharing fee for the first time. UAMS spends one third of its collections budget on Elsevier titles.

The committee also investigated the possibility of extending a consortial agreement currently shared between UAMS and UALR for SciFinder Scholar (3-D chemical models), but the American Chemical Society refused that request. The committee also extended a proposal to Thompson Reuters Biological Abstracts, but they did not respond.

How well does ArkLink serve everyone’s needs? What they do is beneficial to the majority of our institutions, but is most beneficial to the smaller institutions.

The committee’s next step will be FirstSearch / Worldcat, as that is the most pressing issue and must be dealt with soon.

Sandra Campbell noted that at the ArkLink meeting, there was a discussion of whether to purchase ebooks with the balance remaining in the ArkLink account. ASU Jonesboro has purchased Jstor ebooks.

**K-12 Education Portal Committee report**

The use of the portal is declining. We need to decide what to do with the project. The report includes samples of other statewide portals, which Molly sent to the group late, so they can review them after returning to their home libraries. The portal provides a priority service to an educator only once or twice, because once they know the sources, they go directly to them. Have we promoted the site to education professors in the state, so they can share with students newly beginning in the field?
UA Monticello has asked Kathy Davis to replace Paula Reaves, as Kathy has a strong interest in education and has been tasked with gathering resources from the UAM campus for inclusion in the portal. Currently they have only three resources represented in the portal.

On page 2 of the report, UA Monticello notes the following correction: “UAM has posted the portal address on its subject guides page for Education. UAM plans to recommend that the University webmaster place a link attached to the portal’s icon on the library’s main website.” Also, UAPB notes the following correction: “UAPB is transitioning to a new discovery system. The link for CUARL education portal is being re-established.”

The portal needs more content to be added from each of the universities. Maybe we could utilize a LibGuide. Each of the universities also needs to provide assistance in promoting it. All librarians doing instruction could promote the portal in their presentations.

Part of our goal or mission is to provide support to K-12 teachers. We should not get rid of it, but look at creating a more useful tool. Dean Allen will encourage Elizabeth to get more input from committee members and delegate tasks to them to get them more engaged and involved with the project. The committee could suggest materials and also be in charge of checking and updating links. They could also work with the Education departments on their campuses to gather suggestions for what they need in such a resource, and for content to post.

**New Initiatives or Programs**

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) currently require any authors publishing articles resulting in whole or in part from NIH funded research to deposit their articles in PubMed Central within a year of publication, but faculty must first obtain copyright permissions from their original publisher to make that possible. Although currently researchers can pay for copyright clearance for PubMed with NIH funds, some publishers are charging $3000 for that clearance.

The [Fair Access to Science and Technology Research Act](https://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/111/hr6742) would extend the NIH requirement to any federal departments and agencies with an annual extramural research budget of $100 million, which currently includes eleven departments, including the Department of Agriculture, Department of Commerce, Department of Defense, Department of Education, Department of Energy, Department of Health and Human Services, Department of Homeland Security, Department of Transportation, Environmental Protection Agency, National Aeronautics and Space Administration and the National Science Foundation. This act shortens the embargo period to six months instead of twelve, and also includes pre-published materials in an attempt to promote productive reuse and computational analysis of those research papers.

A recent directive from the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) directed all federal agencies with more than $100 million in R&D expenditures to submit plans by the end of August for making the published results of research they funded freely available within one year of publication. Since this is a directive, it does not have to be approved by Congress.

Although the future of the FASTR bill is uncertain, the White House directive is in effect and the open access trend will probably not be turned around. The NIH has a tool universities can use to track compliance for their institution. The UAMS library runs a monthly report for departments and deans, and sends a full report to the Vice Chancellor for Research. The NIH has begun to report non-
compliance with open access publication requirements and will begin to withhold funds from non-
compliant institutions.

We are reluctant to being working toward an institutional repository. If we do begin work on a system-
wide repository, we should not duplicate the efforts of these federal repositories. Everyone in the state
could benefit from the contributions we make to a repository. There is a wealth of material out there
that hasn’t been published. We would have to develop guidelines on what should not be included; the
content must be vetted, which can be a politically difficult situation.

The CUARL should put together a working group to explore the situation and issues. We could invite
people in from other institutions to talk about how they created a repository, what to do and what to
avoid. Dean Allen does not believe that faculty are ready to contribute to a repository just yet. We
shouldn’t worry too much about the technical requirements of a repository, as that will be controlled by
the Information Services departments, but we should look at what are the necessary pieces, content,
sustainability, buy in, conceptualization, etc.

PLoS is a large open access publisher, funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, which is a non-
profit organization of scientists committed to making the world's scientific and medical literature freely
accessible to scientists and to the public. Their database is probably the biggest success in open access
publishing and includes major scientific journal titles. PLoS is experimenting with publishing details and
ideas earlier in the publication process in an attempt to open up and accelerate the research process.
Important discoveries are made when ideas are shared with related disciplines, which can provide new
approaches and different views.

BioInformatics departments throughout the country are building databases of patient data with all the
personal data removed. Vanderbilt is one of the leaders of these projects, which allow researchers to
compile huge amounts of data to discover things like medication interactions, or to study regional
differences in patient diagnoses, treatments, etc.

Updates and Reports
UA Fort Smith opened their newly renovated library and held their dedication on April 3. The addition
doubled the size of the library and renovated the older half. It included new HVAC, electrical,
landscaping, and finishes. The seats were doubled, they have more computer access, a 24-hour study
area, which is already proving to be not large enough. The 24-hour study area does not have a door
counter or outside security system. Students enter by swiping their ID cards. It is unstaffed, but has
security cameras, red emergency alarm buttons, and a panic phone. They first installed four computers
there, but have already added more. The campus police want it shut down when classes are not in
session, such as Thanksgiving, Christmas, etc., but students still use it. The student FTE has doubled in
the last ten years, but the library has added no new staff for the larger building. They believe that
enrollment has plateaued.

They have increased their collection of e-books through E-brary to 125,000, but hard copies still get
more use. UAFS has a limited materials budget, of which three quarters is spent on the serials and
database subscriptions. They use the earnings from the Foundation for materials budget.

UA Little Rock has a new Provost, Zulma Toro-Ramos. Provost Toro-Ramos is a library advocate and is
working to increase the library budget. Wanda Dole will be retiring as library director on June 30, as the
buy out of her contract was approved by the Board of Trustees. CUARL members expressed that they will miss Wanda and appreciate her contributions to the group and to the state.

UA Pine Bluff will welcome its new chancellor, Dr. Laurence B. Alexander on July 1st. UAPB has also been approved for a master’s degree program in Computer Science. The UAPB library is implementing a new discovery system in summer 2013, Ex Libris Primo Central. They are looking into a book trial and monitoring faculty response. They transformed the auditorium into a student art exhibit, which was very successful, and several area schools toured the installation. They also had a guitarist to perform. The UAPB library celebrated National Library Week by presenting Unsung Hero Awards to community members. They selected individuals who were behind the scenes consistently and diligently working for the betterment of the community without recognition.

UA Monticello also has a new provost, Jimmie Yeiser. The Higher Learning Commission approved a new program for an online MFA in Creative Writing and a Master’s of Teaching and Physical Education online degree program. The new Dean of Nursing has asked the library to investigate new procedures for weeding nursing materials. The suggestion is to shelve the Nursing section in the stacks so that only current information is displayed, and to put outdated information in an archival Nursing section.

UA for Medical Sciences opened their Active Learning Center, which is a response to the accrediting body’s requirement of more active learning in the classrooms. Students get an assignment, and are formed into teams of six, take an individual readiness assessment test, take the test as a group, then online class discussions over quiz topics, and finally, take that information and apply it to situations as a group. This is a team-based learning exercise, which is revolutionizing medical learning for the first two years of candidacy, replacing many traditional lectures. They built a large room in the library, equipped with technology, a 24/7 space, which is used as a study space when the active learning classes are not in session. Test scores have improved. UAMS renovated the other public spaces in the library as well.

UAMS’s budget is ok for this year, having been approved for an increase that is expected to cover serials increases. UAMS is buying more e-books. The major reference tools are stolen due to flaws in the checkpoint security system. UAMS has redesigned their Website. Librarians spend a lot of time working to ensure compliance with NIH requirements for open access scholarly publishing. They have created a letter draft that faculty can submit with their submissions to journals, that stipulates the funding requirement for deposit in PubMed Central.

UA Fayetteville hosted a Library Workers’ Day Ice Cream Social, as they have for the past several years. A committee is appointed, who takes nominations for staff awards, recommends selections, and then the awards are made at the social. It is a program that is well received, and is an enjoyable event. We have also started having surprise Popcorn Friday events, where we just pop some popcorn in a commercial popcorn popper that was donated to the Libraries, every few weeks or so, and the staff love it. It is good for morale and smells good too.

UAF hosted a special event, 40/50/100, to honor the 40th anniversary of the Buffalo River's designation as a national river, the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Ozark Society environmental conservation group, and the 100th anniversary of the birth of Neil Compton, founder of the Ozark Society. They also hosted a Promotion and Tenure event for the Provost, which was our third year. All faculty who received promotion or tenure during the year were asked to select a book that was influential to their careers or life and explain that choice, and from that a commemorative booklet was made and an exhibit was mounted in the Walton Reading Room of the books and the faculty’s
comments and photographs. A reception was held in the Walton Reading Room for the honored faculty and their families and guests, at which the Provost and Chancellor gives speeches.

UAF also hosted a film festival again this year, the third year. This year’s theme was Fellini in February, and we got attendance of 40-60 persons per movie. Attendees are polled to help select a theme for next year.

UAF will be hosting an exhibit of rare materials and books from the Remnant Trust during the spring semester of 2014. These are wonderful materials related to innovation, liberty, and independence, and the Trust allows browsers to hold and look through some of the materials, which is amazing.