Council of U of A Research Libraries meeting  
Monday, April 16, 2012  
Cammack Conference Room, University of Arkansas Systems Office, Little Rock

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

Access Grid Update  
Mary Ryan reported on behalf of Heather Smith, who is out on leave. UAM does not have Access Grid equipment installed on their campus. Another alternative to explore is IVN compressed video network, which UAMS received via a Broadband Technologies Opportunity Program (BTOP) grant to hook up libraries and hospitals through the state. BTOP is funded through the National Telecommunications and Information Administration office of the U. S. Department of Commerce. One disadvantage of the IVN is that only the person who is speaking is displayed on the monitor, unlike the Access Grid which shows all participants. A second possibility is Skype, a free resource that uses the existing Internet infrastructure.

Resources Sharing Committee Report  
The Resources Sharing Committee is exploring options for projects they may undertake to build and share collections. These include the upcoming renegotiation for the Science Direct agreement for a shared collection from Elsevier. UA Fayetteville has joined the WEST (Western Regional Storage Trust), a Center for Research Libraries and the California Digital print repository program. Since libraries are looking to thin collections to free up space, collaborative print repositories between Arkansas libraries may be further explored. UAMS is weeding journals that appear on PubMed Central, with free access, as they have a federated search that will link back to PubMed from their catalog. UAFS also weeded 40% of bound volumes last fall after checking to see if back files were available online. System-wide, libraries are trying to make more space for student programs, so this group could work on identifying one print copy set among the libraries, and agreeing to deliver interlibrary loan request from CUARL libraries free of charge. Several consortia are involved in identifying major print resources and planning for their retention in central print repositories. These consortia may charge a fee for non-members or for access to repository materials. On the other hand, libraries do not want to drop expensive journals, then pay a fee for copyright use if borrowers seek more than five in a year. We can’t digitize and place online anything published since 1923; however, most major publishers have digitized their holdings and charge for access. We should not try to duplicate what other groups like GWLA and WEST are doing. Our selections should also mirror the curriculums of member institutions.

In addition to print repositories, the Resources Sharing Committee is looking at LOCKSS consortial agreement for all campuses. LOCKSS was originally established as a national consortia of academic libraries for preservation.

Another project being explored is a consortial agreement for Scifinder Scholar. Currently UAMS and UALR share an agreement for this database that contains 3-D modeling of chemical structures, and are looking to expand that agreement to share costs.

The Resources Sharing Committee might also look at scholarly communication and support for open access publishing. We might look at international agreements like the Berlin Agreement. The bill for the Federal Research Public Access has been in Congress for four years. The Committee could look as a group at current legislation and advocacy groups. ARL does a good job of tracking information and notifying its members of pending legislation and opportunities for member involvement to oppose
lobbyists representing big business, but it might make a strong statement if we responded as a group, all UA libraries. Any statement would have to be vetted through the system attorneys and government liaisons, but it would make a stronger impact if we responded as a group.

Another topic for consideration is a state-wide university repository. UA Fayetteville Libraries and UITS has aligned ourselves with the Center for Advanced Technology (CAST) in making available their huge data sets, which could be useful for undergraduate research if freely available on the web. This project might prove the beginning of a repository. By starting with something definitive like this project, we can then build up to a state-wide efforts. UA Fayetteville has the capacity to support a hefty program. UAMS has a repository of patient information and needs to provide access to large data sets in compliance with NIH research grant stipulations. Researchers do not want to make their raw data available before they have the opportunity to mine it fully in their research. Scientists would give more immediate buy-in if we could provide assurances that outsiders would not abuse their material. Their concern is to hold material until patents are obtained or material is published. How is the material vetted? Could it be used for promotion or tenure applications? UAMS has a need to publish huge data sets, but there are not yet any standards. Perhaps we could limit access to only faculty in the UA system? Undergraduates are perhaps not as concerned about providing access to materials.

To support this initiative, we need to produce talking points, present to faculty, make sure we all are on point and giving the same message, then such a project may be well received by the administration. It is not, however, a high priority on campuses at this time, as it would require huge funds to initiate. It may require two or three full time employees to manage. We would do best to first cover topics that may be of use to each campus, for instance, nursing or agriculture. Luti Salisbury maintains the Federal AgNic database for rice; maybe this could be a model for statewide information. Since the system is creating a new Ph. D. in Nursing program, we could create a body of information that would be useful to both undergraduate and graduate nursing programs, a cohesive database of materials to be used by every nursing program in the state.

Another source of material could be the statewide dissertations and theses. We would have to come up with an agreement that students would sign to give access. The Committee should explore this issue further, create a proposal that lists the advantages, disadvantages, procedures, etc. then present to CUARL.

**Educational Portal Committee Report**

Elizabeth McKee provided a report for the CUARL Educational Portal, which shows that access to the portal is decreasing each semester. Member libraries should provide a link from their Websites to the portal, as well as talk to faculty in the Education Departments. Right now Elizabeth is doing all of the work to maintain the site, but it shouldn’t fall on just one person. We need more participation, submissions, and publicity. Some promotional ideas are:

- We could highlight the Website in instruction to students.
- We could set up a booth with a trifold presentation at school librarians workshop.
- We could send out a letter to the Education Department in the fall and ask that it be distributed to educators statewide.
- We could design a new brochure and send electronically to all member libraries.
- We could send it to Education Honors Society members.

**Digital Initiatives Committee Report**
The Committee will conduct a brief survey of current digital resources held by each of the member libraries, including completed and projected projects. They will meet in June to consider standards, and intend to collaborate with Sally Hawkes at the Arkansas State Library, who could have a significant input in how a statewide digital collection is developed, which would eventually expand to include all libraries in Arkansas. UAMS wrote a grant to obtain a new scanner. UAM submitted a grant proposal for digitization equipment to the Amigos Fellowship and Opportunity Award.

**Individual Reports**

Speaker John Palfrey, author of the book Born Digital, gave a good presentation about how research shows adults and children use technology similarly. Educated adults use a pedagogical approach to finding information. The younger generation is still not making the move toward digital books. Palfrey indicates that about 66% prefer to use physical books, and print out articles to read that they find in digital format. The Digital Public Library of American (DPLA) is a program established to offset Google Books private holdings of digital material. A current trend is to create digital books on demand in Libraries. OCLC uses two business models, one for the U. S. and Canada members and another for members in foreign countries.

The Greater Western Libraries Association (GWLA) is making a move to require a 2% surcharge of the face value of a product for access to journals and databases for non-members. This surcharge could evolve into higher fees with no caps. They have hired a new technical staff member and voted in Southern Methodist University as a new member. They are continuing the Western Waters project with reserve funds.

Crystal Bridges library is open to the public. UA Fayetteville Libraries collaborated with library staff prior to their opening, including providing storage for their materials and participating in the search for a library director, Katherine Peterson. UA Fayetteville staff worked with Jason Dean to assist him on how to use Innovative. UA Fayetteville Libraries’ staff is currently working with Crystal Bridges staff to identify a digital collection project. Although it is still in the planning stages, such a project might include something unique to Arkansas, such as botanical prints related to Arkansas, Civil War history materials, or the Neil Compton collection. We want to create a sustainable online exhibit. UA Fayetteville is also looking to establish an internship program for students in Special Collections.

UA Fayetteville Libraries is considering establishing a new diversity grant award that is tied to research using the U of A Libraries’ collections as a major resource.

UA Fayetteville Libraries is testing a new program to allow patrons to specify delivery locations of materials requested from the Libraries. The software is available through Millennium, and patrons can select the location from their ILL request. Any physical item can be requested by students to be delivered to any of the branch libraries, where it is more convenient for patrons to pick up, while faculty may request items to be delivered to their campus office address.

UA Fayetteville Libraries is implementing StackMap, which allows patrons to get a map and directions to any item in the library with just one click. The software integrates directly with the library catalog and is compatible with any web-enabled device. Libraries’ staff have provided detailed information about each stack and its range of contents and floor maps to the company, who are currently loading that information into their location software.
UA Fayetteville Libraries are running a trial of an Ivina BookScan Station, which allows patrons to digitize book pages and documents at no charge to replace traditional copy machines. The computer lab has traditional flatbed scanners, but users have to wait for the station to be open and log in through the network, which takes more time than the walk in BookScan Station, which is ready to operate with the touch of the screen. We are evaluating this as a more current technology than traditional scanning. The BookScan Station has a patented book-scanning technology that improves image quality and protects the book spine by eliminating the dark, shadowy areas appearing near the center margins of the book.

UA Fayetteville Libraries have reached an agreement with campus Information Technology Services to manage the iPads available for checkout at Mullins Library. The Libraries currently have three, and have loaded all three with the same electronic books and applications that allow users to check out books from the Fayetteville and Springdale public libraries. The books loaded include a selection of 100 classic works no longer in copyright and thus freely available in electronic format and 20 paid titles from current best seller lists, like the Steve Jobs biography. The Libraries is also investigating the possibility of purchasing and downloading to an iPad titles that are requested by patrons when the book is lost or checked out. This option may be cheaper than obtaining the title through Interlibrary Loan, and it is faster. Availability of the iPads encourages users to explore new technology.

Before the beginning of the fall semester, UA Fayetteville Libraries opened up four bays by compressing and relocating stacks of books on the fourth level of Mullins Library and installing new furniture that is moveable and conducive to group study. Group study rooms remain in high demand in Mullins Library. The new furniture includes comfortable lounge type seating, light weight desk chairs, tables, and white boards. These areas are in very high use for study groups.

The UA Fayetteville Libraries is implementing a new electronic door count scanner called SenSource that uses a laser beam to count patrons entering the building. It is fully automated, with data available online at any time, and no longer requires our staff to read and record the current numbers from the door counter, which we currently do several times a day. The Libraries will use the same technology in Mullins and in the branch libraries.

The proposed merger between AMIGOS and Missouri libraries is driven by OCLC changes in operations. The smaller libraries are not able to manage on their own and need additional venues to get the electronic resources they need. Bigger groups mean bigger discounts. Half of medical libraries have dropped AMIGOS and do not get OCLC or ILL through AMIGOS. The courier service does not benefit larger libraries; it is meant to benefit the smaller ones, but the low volume does not justify the cost of service.

The UA Fort Smith addition to the library will be occupied in August, then the existing space will undergo renovation, with the entire collection moved by February. UA Fort Smith has recently added ebrary, doubling their existing collection with general ebrary titles. UA Fort Smith is also investigating the purchase of a discovery tool, if the budget will allow it.

UA Monticello has requested a technology upgrade for printing processes. Information Technology has tentatively planned to make the library a virtual lab. David Ray, the provost of UA Monticello, is retiring.

UA Medical Science is changing its curriculum for the first two years to incorporate more practicums, small groups, and active learning. The library has provided the space for this new collaborative program, and renovations will continue into the summer.
UA Pine Bluff is presenting the *Mary E. Benjamin Annual Educational Access Conference* that is heavily supported by the John Brown Watson Memorial Library system. This year’s conference will promote problem-based learning in an effort to enhance instruction and to focus more on student-centered learning.

The problem-based approach has also been used successfully by the UAPB Library Committee to encourage discovery of library resources by students and faculty and additionally to gain consensus by committee members on a five-year plan for the future direction of the library system.

In celebration of National Library week, the UA Pine Bluff library system partnered with the Department of English, Theatre, and Mass Communications to present the *August Wilson Symposium*. This symposium featured distinguished UAPB faculty, Bob Hupp from Little Rock’s Arkansas Repertory Theatre, Ekundayo Bandele of the Hattiloo Black Repertory Theatre in Memphis, and Lawrence Blackwell, professor of theatre at the University of Memphis who all presented various elements from the works of Wilson including connections to African influences.

UAPB Pine Bluff’s library system is also transitioning to *Primo Central*, its new discovery system that will bring most of the library system’s resources under one research platform to more greatly augment student discovery of content.

The current schedule of two meetings per year, one in the fall and one in the spring, is preferred.