University of Arkansas  
Council of U of A Research Libraries meeting  
Monday, August 1, 2011  
Cammack Conference Room, University of Arkansas Systems Office, Little Rock

Present: Carolyn Allen (UAF), Sandra Campbell (UAM), Wanda Dole (UALR), Mary Ryan (UAMS), Georgette Wiley (UAPB). Also present: Molly Boyd (UAF, Assistant to the Dean), Heather Smith (UAMS, Head of Learning and Teaching Resource Centers)

Access Grid alternatives. Heather Smith reviewed the options for replacing the Access Grid support software, Visimeet, because its parent company, IOCOM, had announced a plan to stop upgrading and supporting the software; however, as of Friday afternoon, IOCOM had reversed its previous decision, so everyone can continue to use the same software on the Access Grid. IOCOM has a new software to complement Visimeet that allows a free connect through desktops for a single feed in and a single feed out, which can be used by those who do not have the Access Grid system. The distance education program takes care of the Access Grid at UAPB, UALR, and UAMS, so the library directors have no charge for its upkeep. UAPB bandwidth does not support Access Grid technology, and UAM has not yet implemented the system.

Review of committees and charges. Council members reviewed the committee descriptions, charges, and membership. After discussion about the existing committees, relevant changes were made, including the disbanding and deletion of the Staff Development Committee. Individual institutions will review members and appoint representatives to each committee as needed. Molly Boyd will make the changes and post the revised CUARL Committee information on the CUARL web site (http://libinfo.uark.edu/Webdocs/dean/CUARLcommittees.pdf).

Resource Sharing and Collection Development Committee: The charge continues to be viable. Members have a commitment to acting as a purchasing consortium to offer good solutions to maximize dollars and have access to broader collections with shared resources. Although the charge of the committee is normal operations duties for collection development officers in each institution, the committee allows each institution the opportunity to communicate within the group and to document and provide public disclosure to staff and others that this work is being done and shows partnerships within the system.

Digital Initiatives Committee: This committee remains useful to faculty and staff in each institution. The committee should review strategies to supplement institutional resources and to accommodate the explosion of information access. A new focus of the committee might be shared resources in the science field. The committee could explore the issue of beginning a statewide institutional repository. The committee should review current data repository systems used by each institution with the goal of regularizing systems and access, which would provide search capabilities across collections. Researchers want to find everything available on a topic, not one item. The committee could explore the system created by the Arkansas History Commission called the Arkansas History Hub as a model.

The digital movement is so large and important that the committee should expand their scope beyond the University of Arkansas system to include other state institutions. The committee should form a plan for the design of a Website.
UAMS has a list of priorities for digitization projects and has submitted requests for funding for a digital scanner to complete those projects based on the order of critical importance. First on their list are the older journals of the Medical Society, then the newer AMS journals, then yearbooks and physicians lists, and finally matriculation ledgers for UAMS.

The Council discussed the use of discovery systems, such as Ex Libris, Summons, and Primo, and the implications for digital collections. Discovery systems might be reviewed in conjunction with digital projects.

The University of Arkansas at Monticello is currently scanning forestry documents dating back to the 1940s.

The Committee might create a scanning program, with materials to be scanned in support of faculty programs. Special Collections materials are used by graduate students, but not by undergraduates. Subject selectors should work with faculty to develop programs in support of undergraduate teaching and research.

Staff Development Committee will be disbanded as its charge is no longer relevant.

Explore the possibility of participating in Innovative Interfaces Inc. (III) training jointly with UAMS to share costs. Traveling to on location training is quoted at $2500 per person, which is too costly. The Arkansas Innovative Users Group brings in different trainers for their membership; ask them to host an Innovative Interfaces Inc. training.

Education Portal Committee. The Council reviewed a report drafted by Elizabeth McKee that shows a sharp drop in visits to the Website for K-12 resources. This may be due to a lack of recent publicity or distribution of content to interested groups. Some suggestions for driving visibility of this resource include:

- creating a portable version of Elizabeth’s workshop for teachers to be used in other regions.
- Update a brochure and send electronically to school districts in the state and the Department of Education
- Ask the Department of Education to link to the portal from their Website
- Present a workshop for teachers at the regional educational co-ops (8-10 statewide)
- Ask local public libraries to link to the site in their “homework” or student sections
- Present a workshop for teachers at the Arkansas Library Association meeting of school librarians (conducted annually during the summer)

The Council wishes to thank Heather Smith and Elizabeth McKee for the work done on this committee.

Future of CUARL. Regular meetings of the Council give directors and their representatives an understanding of what issues are of concern to each member institution and provide a scope and context for individual institution projects. The Council will continue to meet once a year in person, and to conduct other meetings through IoCom and desktop access. Documenting the work of the Council is useful for accreditation reviews, for administrator reviews and to meet their expectations for resources
Some issues of concern for Council members.

The issues of concern to the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, include the serials crisis, budget cuts, and the support of national open access initiatives.

The issues of concern to the University of Arkansas at Little Rock include enrollment numbers and funding, and the value of supporting the government documents program. Like the colleges and other units, the library would face cuts in funding if enrollment fell. UALR has a library fee and a tech fee, but this cannot be used for salaries and facilities.

UAM does not get fees; all money generated by the library, including replacement or overdue fees, goes into the general budget.

The Council discussed the issues around the government documents institutional repository status. Most libraries in the system do not have a way to track usage of government documents separate from other circulated materials. Since most current documents are produced electronically, administrators are taking another look at government documents expenditures and staff. One solution is to forgo repository status and buy individual documents on demand through interlibrary loan. Harding University uses Documents without Shelves, and pulled out of the federal repository program.

UAMS Library has to cut $300,000 in expenses to balance its base budget for 2011/12, has started breaking up its “Big Deals” such as Informa and Springer, and is not sure if it will be able to continue with the Elsevier deal with the other UA libraries after next year. It also charges $5 to fill interlibrary loan requests from UAMS personnel.

Another issue of concern to the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences is a system wide data repository. UAMS discussed the need for a repository for data sets that are now required by the National Institutes of Health data sharing policies. Previously the rule was that authors would provide the data sets upon which their published research was based, but now both the NIH and the National Science Foundation require mandatory data sharing for published research. These files are extensive. Data sharing policies directly affect researchers; however, there are no established national standards for data structures or access in the United States. The Vice Chancellor for Research has asked the library to pursue non-compliant faculty who have not submitted their journal articles to PubMed Central as required for NIH grants, and data sets will probably be next. The difficulty is in organizing and describing the data so that it can be used effectively by other researchers.

The University of Tennessee has a well-organized model for an institutional repository that is worth reviewing. Institutional repositories are difficult to populate. Some early repositories have shut down due to lack of participation from the faculty. Currently there is a bill in Congress that would require nearly all (not just NIH) federally funded research to be posted in an open access repository. If it passes, this could change the landscape of institutional repositories.

UAMS licensed DynaMed three years ago for all health professionals in the state. Ebsco agreed to allow Harding University to participate as an academic institution in the statewide license. The UAMS license renews in the spring and UAMS collections management staff will investigate whether Ebsco will allow it to expand the license again to include other academic institutions.
The issues of concern to the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff include support of K-12 initiatives, remediation programs, and STEM programs. Currently, there is a Saturday program for K-12 students in the UAPB library.