CUARL
Meeting Summary
August 15, 2008
9:00, Access Grids

Members present: Carolyn Allen (UAF), Sandra Campbell (UAM), Wanda Dole (UARL), Mary Ryan (UAMS). Note: Wilma Cunningham was unable to attend but provided a report.

Also present: Anne Marie Candido (UAF), access grid operators for UAF, UALR, UAMS

K-12 Educational Portal

Carolyn Allen, reporting on progress of the K-12 educational portal project, indicated that feedback from various educational groups and teachers has been very good so far. There was interest especially in the “faculty zone” and “student zone” pages. She would like the CUARL campuses to continue to solicit information from faculty for more content and contacts. She asked each member to contact her provost about soliciting more content for the portal. All agreed they would do this.

Elizabeth McKee would like feedback from the CUARL members about the K-12 portal brochure and bookmark. Mary Ryan suggested that these be distributed at the next ARKLink and ArLA meetings.

Carolyn mentioned that she would request from the UAF Honors College and Scholarships Office some helpful links that would inform college-bound students about scholarship opportunities. The other CUARL campuses could do the same regarding any honors and scholarship programs. The links could be provided through the CUARL web site.

Carolyn suggested that to promote the K-12 portal the Committee could send it out to school superintendents and craft a cover letter. A mailing list should also be created for libraries throughout the state. Sandra volunteered to acquire this list. Also, a note could be sent to all the ArkLink libraries (including the State Library).

Digital Collections

Anne Marie Candido conveyed Wilma Cunningham’s report on the digital collections portal in her absence. UAFS has acquired ContentDM and has already begun digitizing the UAFS yearbook archives to post on the portal. Wilma also sent to Judy Ganson a prioritized list of collections they intend to digitize and to be posted on the portal.

The group agreed that the digital collections portal should be promoted at the ArLA conference. Wilma had suggested that it also be promoted at an upcoming workshop of public school teachers. Wilma also mentioned that Jan Dickinson would like to remain on the Portal Committee.
Wanda reported that UALR’s work with digital collections would focus on the governors’ papers and other Arkansas materials being sent to the joint Central Arkansas Library System (CALS) and UALR Arkansas Studies Institute and be done in conjunction with CALS. CALS is already using ContentDM.

Mary Ryan reported that UAMS is digitizing many of the photos in the Library’s photograph collection and making them publicly available through the Library’s Web site at http://libcontentdm.uams.edu/HRCDigitalCollections.htm, and that they are photographing many of their museum items as well.

Sandra Campbell reported that she will ask Mary Heady, Special Collections Librarian at UAM, to contact Carolyn Allen to discuss joint projects with UAF.

**Resource Sharing**

Wanda Dole indicated that she had nothing to report on resource sharing. The people on that Committee are working on a report and will have one at the next meeting.

**Staff Development**

Sandra did not have anything to report from the Staff Development Committee.

**CUARL Logo**

All members agreed that the logo created by Beth Juhl of UAF was the best and that it should be designated as the official CUARL logo. However, the individual institutional logos will also be used when appropriate.

**Library Budgets**

Carolyn reported that at UAF, faculty and non-classified staff received modest raises despite a stagnant budget. The UAF library has over $200,000 shortfall in funding for materials as a result of the rise in serials prices, resulting in a continued serials review identifying non-core, expensive, and little-used serials that can be cut so that books can be purchased. Carolyn will report back on the efficacy of this exercise.

Mary Ryan reported that, despite a significant budget increase last year and this year, the UAMS Library’s budget was $250,000 short of what was needed to continue current subscriptions (they used one-time money to supplement the journal budget). In order to balance the journal budget, three positions and several journal and database subscriptions were cut. Salaries this year
increased for all positions, and some merit raises were given. The opening of the new hospital and satellite campus in Fayetteville might have an impact on upcoming budgets. Wanda reported that this is the fourth or fifth year that the UALR administration has agreed to raise the budget level for the library by $50,000. There was a 1 percent merit pool for faculty salaries, but the University did not cut back on benefits. Five searches for library personnel are currently underway.

Sandra reported that the UAM budget did not receive a significant increase or decrease in the operating funds. Although the classified employees received a salary increase, the UAM faculty did not receive an increase in salary. Depending on state revenues, faculty might get a salary boost around November.

**UAF Tuesday Times Blog**

Carolyn showed the CUARL members the UAF Libraries’ weekly *Tuesday Times* staff blog, which is posted on their StaffWeb. All the members were interested in receiving the link to the blog. The URL is: [http://ualibrary.wordpress.com/](http://ualibrary.wordpress.com/) Response from staff about the blog has been overwhelmingly positive thus far.


**Usability Studies**

Wanda Dole mentioned that she attended an interesting session on Web site usability studies at the ARL/University of Virginia/University of Washington conference on library assessment in Seattle in early August. She was especially taken with the Carnegie Mellon model. She will send to the other CUARL members the link to a couple of PowerPoint presentations given at the conference. She asked the other members to contribute their own Web site usability strategies, as well. The Web link to the report on the conference is [http://www.libraryassessment.org/](http://www.libraryassessment.org/)

**ACTION ITEMS**

Carolyn asked each member to contact their provost about soliciting more content from faculty within their respective institutions to be added to the K-12 portal. All agreed they would do this. Carolyn will draft a letter for this purpose.

Elizabeth McKee would like feedback from the CUARL members about the K-12 portal brochure and bookmark.

Carolyn suggested that to promote the K-12 portal the Committee could send brochures out to school superintendents and craft a cover letter. A mailing list should also be created for libraries
throughout the state. Sandra volunteered to acquire this list. Also, a brochure could be sent to all the ArkLink libraries (including the State Library).

Carolyn asked that the K-12 portal be offered through a link on the top levels of all the CUARL home pages. This has already been done at UAF. All agreed to put the link on their Web site.

The group agreed that the digital collections portal should be promoted at the next ArLA conference. Wilma had suggested that it also be promoted at an upcoming workshop of public school teachers. Wilma also mentioned that Jan Dickinson would like to remain on the Portal Committee.

Anne Marie Candido will schedule the next meeting in the spring after consulting all the members about the best date.