Liaison: Dean Carolyn Allen, (UA, Fayetteville)

Members:
Elizabeth Chadbourn McKee (UA, Fayetteville), Co-Chair
Heather Smith (UAMS, Little Rock), Co-Chair
Paula Reaves (UA, Monticello), Secretary
Dr. Jan Dickinson (UA, Ft. Smith)
Dr. Marta Collier (UA, Fayetteville)
Dan Puckett (UA, Fayetteville), advisory member
Leslie Watkins (UALR) (resigned Jan. 11, 2007)

Charge:

The U of Arkansas Educational Portal Task Force was charged on October 11, 2006 “with the mission of developing a shared website dedicated to providing information and tools to teachers K through 12 drawing from materials provided by various colleges, departments, and programs of the UA research universities.

- Identify programs and resources at each institution, wherever curriculum is developed
- Identify opportunities for partnerships with K-12 programs
- Determine how a portal should be established and monitored
- Develop a promotional plan.

Report:

The U of A Education Portal is to be a central and useful site to direct K-12 educators to sources of information on curriculum, lesson plans, tutorials, projects and other links to websites that might be useful for Arkansas teachers. Our goal is to make access to online resources easy for busy teachers through a website that will allow them to find educational content and support materials already available on the Internet.

We met through the access grid several times during the spring of 2007 to discuss the project and preliminary designs for the database. We reviewed similar portals in other states. We reviewed possible layouts and queried our webpage designers and colleagues with experience in page layout and database design to understand what options were available to us and what an initial product would look like. Heather Smith designed a preliminary layout for us and Beth Juhl at UAF developed and produced a database prototype. Beth used Websnapr to add a thumbnail image of the homepage of a few test sites. Both the image and the website’s name can be links to the actual site. The prototype is available at: http://libinfo.uark.edu/k12portal/portaltest.asp

The committee reviewed the initial subjects and “teacher zone” components and has a list of minor changes for the headings in the database, to be incorporated into the schedule of the web database designer when it is possible. We have not provided those until now. The summer and early fall delay is our own. The summer session was a difficult time for us to
meet as committee members had divergent schedules and the fall semester was quickly filled with teaching assignments. The committee members will now actively populate the entries in the database.

We feel that an active step needed to keep the content of the database current is to determine contacts in each of our institutions to find what teaching materials are available online and to keep up our awareness of new resources. We have debated the desirability of including resources outside the state, but as there are numerous competing websites, we recommend staying initially with Arkansas state resources. Many Arkansas sites do, however, quickly lead to outside resources themselves. We are primarily trying to serve Arkansas teachers, but feel that at some point we may not want to exclude the external resources if we are to have a quality portal.

Our short-term goal was to have a working framework of our portal available to teachers by fall 2007.

We need to populate the database, create and enter good descriptions of each site for the database, then advertise the portal through state associations and our own university web pages. We would like to announce the portal to school superintendents and principals, as well as teachers to give the portal better promotion.

As a whole, we have found this to be a time-consuming project that will require an ongoing commitment. We hope the Deans will be able to add a member to replace the UALR member we lost and can add “content contacts” from each campus to assist us.

With special assistance from Beth, Dan, and Heather we have accomplished:

- Organization of links within the portal
- Simple understanding of criteria for links to be included in portal
- A basic design of the portal with thumbnail links to the websites chosen and icons that link to each university (courtesy of each UA campus)
- Space on the web server at UA Fayetteville and a running prototype for the portal

Ongoing requirements will include:

- Keeping the portal current, possibly running a link checker regularly
- Making sure all the links are not “broken”
- Keeping up with changes to the pages we link to
- Adding new sites
- Updating descriptions of sites

We have appended a list of potential sites we have collected and a list of categories we have revised and would like to incorporate into the database prototype. We would like to incorporate a CUARL banner, rather than a UA banner that you see on the current prototype when the Dean’s group has developed something like that for CUARL.

Appended:  
CUARL K-12 Education Portal (categories)  
CUARL K-12 Education Portal Database (screen captures)  
CUARL Links with Descriptions
CUARL K-12 Education Portal (categories)

Subject Links
Economics
English / Languages
  Reading
  Spelling
Fine Arts
Health & Physical Education
  Mathematics
Sciences
  Agriculture
  Biology
  Chemistry
  Physics
Social Studies / History
  American Government/Civics
  Arkansas History
  Geography
  History

Teacher Zone
Professional Development
Professional Organizations
Grant Resources
Copyright and Ethics of Use
Blogs and lists
Books and authors
Arkansas school districts
Research
Free resources

Header
Banner to be suggested by Deans
Welcome
Site map
Should we have other Arkansas ed websites (AETN, ADE)?

Top bar
Home
Search
Subjects
Teacher Zone
Suggestions or contact us

Footer  Contact Us
(Links to CUARL campuses through images)
UA  UAM  UAMS  UALR  UAPB  UAFS
Education Portal Database (screen captures)
CUARL Links with Descriptions

1). UA Research Libraries Links:

Arkansas Archeological Survey Teaching Resources
http://www.uark.edu/campus-resources/archinfo/teachers.html
This website offers information about archeology in Arkansas with a focus on Native American culture and tools. It includes access to helpful handouts, packets, videos, books, and exhibits for classroom enrichment.

University of Arkansas-Pine Bluff Aquaculture and Fisheries Center of Excellence
www.uaex.edu/aqfi
This site includes information about aquaculture and fisheries near the delta area. It offers information about the degree programs at UA-Pine Bluff, as well as links to more aquaculture resources.

University of Arkansas-Pine Bluff Head Start Program (dead link, cannot find new one)
http://www.uapb.edu/academics/safhs/safhs_head_start_partnership.htm

University of Arkansas-Monticello Mathematics website (one professor’s site, ?)
http://www.uamont.edu/facultyweb/annulisj/

University of Arkansas-Monticello Special Education website
http://www.uamont.edu/facultyweb/hoppe
This site is maintained by a faculty member at UA-Monticello and includes special education resources as well as information about autism, parent experiences, and teacher experiences with special needs children.

University of Arkansas-Monticello Mathematics and Natural Sciences website
http://www.uamont.edu/facultyweb/huntj
This website links to a faculty member at UA-Monticello. It includes many links to ornithological resources as well as a variety of other animal resources.

University of Arkansas-Monticello-geology and butterflies
http://www.uamont.edu/facultyweb/edson/Menu_page2.htm
This site includes information and photographs about monarch butterflies, as well as many photographs of various rocks and minerals.

2). Other Arkansas Links:

Agriculture in the Classroom – Farm Bureau
This includes information on the Agriculture in the Classroom program, utilized to help students understand more about farming and its part in the production of our food and clothing. It includes links to other relevant agricultural sites and resources for children.
Arkansas Department of Education Teachers Curriculum Resources
http://www.arkansased.org/teachers/resources.html
“The information on this page is focused on providing Arkansas teachers with access to a wide variety of resources they may find helpful in preparing lesson plans and in helping students.”

Arkansas Department of Education
http://arkansased.org/
This site encompasses information on teaching in Arkansas, links to a variety of teaching resources, including links to specific schools, testing information, administrative information, budgeting, as well as student and parent resources.

Arkansas Comprehensive Literacy Model
http://www.arliteracymodel.com/
“The University of Arkansas at Little Rock (UALR) Partnerships in Comprehensive Literacy (PCL) is a school-reform model dedicated to increasing student achievement. The model uses literacy as a tool for measuring school improvement in four related areas: student learning, teacher perceptions, school climate, and school processes.

Arkansas Council of Economic Education
http://www.arkeconed.org/
“The mission of Economics Arkansas is to promote economic literacy and the economic-way of thinking to students in Arkansas by empowering educators to teach the fourth “r,” real life economics.”

Arkansas Department of Parks and Tourism – Arkansas Kids
http://www.arkansaskids.com/
This site includes information on possible educational family vacations, facts about Arkansas, state park information, as well as games for children.

Arkansas Center for Space and Planetary Sciences – Space Center Public Outreach – University of Arkansas
http://spacecenter.uark.edu/81.htm
This website offers information on free workshops for teachers to promote teaching at current state standards. The workshops include information on astronomy, the solar system, and the use of robotic telescopes.

Arkansas IDEAS (Internet Delivered Education for Arkansas Schools) associated with AETN
http://ideas.aetn.org/
“Arkansas IDEAS is Internet Delivered Education for Arkansas Schools provided by the Arkansas On-line Professional Development Initiative through a committed partnership of the Arkansas Educational Television Network and the Arkansas Department of Education.”

Arkansas IDEAS - Teacher Resources
http://ideas.aetn.org/classroom_tools/teacher_resources
This site links to many teaching resources for “technology-enhanced lesson plans,” including PBS lesson plans, as well as a link to an online library of resources.

Arkansas Leadership Academy
http://www.arkleadership.org/institutes_teacher.htm
“The Purpose of the Teacher Institute is to develop Arkansas public school teacher-leaders who are continuous learners and are actively engaged in a statewide, networked learning community which supports the use of diverse teaching and learning practices that will result in high teacher performance and student achievement.”

Arkansas Multi-Agency Wetland Planning Team – Teacher’s Tour (under construction)
http://www.mawpt.org/tour/

Arkansas Quick Facts from the US Census Bureau
http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/05000.html
This site includes the latest census information on Arkansas residents compared to national information.

Arkansas Reading Association
http://www.arareading.org/
“The Arkansas Reading Association, an affiliate of the International Reading Association, is a professional organization of individuals, institutions and councils dedicated to promoting reading and developing literacy.”

Arkansas Science Teachers Association
http://users.aristotle.net/~asta/
This includes information about the Arkansas Science Teachers Association with links to resources in the areas of biology, geology, physics, chemistry, astronomy, and possible lesson plans.

Arkansas Social Studies Education Resources
http://www.archaeolink.com/arkansas_social_studies.htm
This site includes a wide range of links to subjects like Arkansas heritage, geography, economy, and history.

Arkansas State Parks – For Schools and Teachers
http://www.arkansasstateparks.com/schools/
This website has a wealth of information on planning field trips to Arkansas state parks with free online resources.

Arkansas Renewable Energy – Teacher Resources
http://www.arkansasrenewableenergy.org/education/teachers.htm
This site includes information on teaching about renewable energy resources in the classroom for wind, solar, and water technologies.

ASLA – Arkansas Teacher Education Loan Registration form
https://loans.edfinancial.com/Loans/statebrand/statear/l826509/Edloan/arteacher.aspx
This is a link to the Arkansas EdLoan Teachers Eligibility Form.
Arkansas Physics Teacher Education Coalition – University of Arkansas
http://www.uark.edu/depts/physinfo/phystec/welcome.html
“The Physics Teacher Education Coalition (PhysTEC) is an aggressive effort to build
working relationships between the major contributors to the development of physical
science teachers: the science department, the education department, and the regional
school systems.”

Butler Center Manuscript Collection – Arkansas History
Included in this site is a collection of teaching materials about Arkansas local and
state history, possible teaching plans, and teaching resources.

Department of Arkansas Heritage – In the Classroom
http://www.arkansasheritage.com/in_the_classroom/
“The Department of Arkansas Heritage offers a variety of educational packages for
teachers, students, and parties interested in learning more about Arkansas's historical,
cultural, natural, and artistic heritage.”

Earthquake Resources for Kindergarten and Elementary School Students and Teachers - UALR
http://quake.ualr.edu/schools/elem.htm
This website provides links to virtual field trips of fault line areas, earth science
teaching plans, and earth science teaching resources.

Good Teaching Practices – UALR
http://www.ualr.edu/star/www/goodteachingpractice.asp
This site includes links to resources about effective teaching practices, as well as
different learning styles.

Historic Arkansas Museum - Educational resources and free teacher lesson plans about
Arkansas history and heritage
http://www.arkansashistory.com/educational/resources.asp
“At Historic Arkansas Museum we have developed extra tools to supplement
teachers' own classroom explorations of Arkansas history. Each is unique and has
been developed for particular grade levels. In addition to these downloadable
resources and our loan box program, we offer teacher fieldtrips and workshops to
help keep you current with the Arkansas Education Association's requirements.”

Partners in Health Sciences - UAMS
http://k12education.uams.edu/default.htm
This website has information about the Partners in Health Sciences program with a
sickle cell virtual lab and human body puzzles.

Teacher Resources from the Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation
http://www.wrfoundation.org/index.php?page=resources&sub=toolbox&num=2
This site provides links to Arkansas resources in the areas of humanities, science,
technology, history, and education.
Teacher Lesson Plan – The Arkansas Memory Project
http://memory.loc.gov/learn/lessons/98/local/intro.html
“The collection of an archive of primary source materials constitutes the principal activity of a year-long American Studies class focusing on historiography and the use of primary sources. Students collect primary source materials from their families or local communities. In analyzing these primary sources, students examine the interplay between national, state, local, and personal history. Over a period of several weeks, students produce a digital collection modeled on the Library of Congress' American Memory.”

Teachers.Net – Arkansas Teacher’s Chatboard
http://teachers.net/states/ar/
This links to a chatboard with Arkansas teachers as participants on a variety of subjects.

William F. Laman Public Library – Education Resources Page
http://www.laman.net/education.html#Educator
This site includes a multitude of links to Arkansas school district websites, university websites, testing and financial aid resources, and teaching resources.

3). Other Education Links:

Agriculture Education Resources (from Agriculture and Extension Education)
http://www.cals.ncsu.edu/agexed/resources/resources.html
This website provides links to “presentation materials and teaching ideas that current students in AEE and agricultural teachers throughout North Carolina will find helpful.”

U.S. Department of Education – Education Resources Organizations Directory (EROD) for Arkansas
http://wdcrobrocolp01.ed.gov/Programs/EROD/org_list_by_territory.cfm?territory_id=ar#top
This website provides links to state agencies including areas such as child care, adult education, children with special needs, technical education, grants, libraries, humanities, and higher education.

U.S. Department of Education – International Education Programs – A World of Resources for K-12 Teaching
http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/iegps/resources-k12.html
This site includes information about the mission of the Department of Education, programs and scholarships available, educational plans, and student resources.