Liaison: Dean Carolyn Allen, (UA, Fayetteville)
Original members:
Elizabeth Chadbourn McKee (UA, Fayetteville), Co-Chair
Heather L. 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)
no member available (UAPB)

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 CUARL education portal prototype is available at http://libinfo.uark.edu/k12portal/. Click the red “Test Database Link”, choose a category, then you can view some sample sites with brief descriptions and scroll across any site’s name to connect to the actual website. The portal committee members appreciate the original design that Heather made and the committee modified, and then the work of Beth Juhl, who prepared the site and the database for us. Note that the software Web Snapr gives thumbnail sketches of the sites beside the site descriptions. Committee members identified some 40 sites that have been entered into the database by committee members and the education graduate assistant at the U of A. The following steps seem to us to be the next ones we need assistance and direction on.

- Is the content acceptable considering the original charge, which specified “UA research universities?” Many sites so far have Arkansas content, but are not UA related. Committee members are concerned that the content on the site will be too limited if we only include the CUARL institutions. Please advise us.
- CUARL system banner for the site, so that the multiple universities involved are highlighted
- It is OK to use the individual institution logos and would you like us to? Permissions?
- We need additional committee members to assist with the site:
  a replacement for the UALR member
  a UAPB member
- What improvements are needed? What else would the directors like done to the site?
- Release date. When would you like us to release it?
- Additional contacts to work with each university’s committee member are needed at each institution to help us stay abreast of appropriate content.
- Promotion of the site. We have a flier that could be updated and disseminated. Committee members have proposed professional conferences as a suitable avenue. Cost and manpower to produce and distribute fliers?
- Other directives for us?