Members present: Leslie Watkins (UALR), Elizabeth McKee (UAF), Heather Smith (UAMS), Paula Reaves (UAM), Carolyn Allen, Dean of University Libraries at Fayetteville and liaison from CUARL was also present, Janet Sanders (UAFS) was not present.

This was the first meeting of the Educational Portal Committee, one of five committees established by the Council of University of Arkansas Research Libraries (CUARL) to facilitate resource-sharing between the six research institutions in the University of Arkansas system: UAF, UALR, UAMS, UAM, UAFS, UAPB. The other committees are named Emergency Management Committee (Disaster Recovery), Staff Development Committee, Digital Initiatives Committee, and Resource Sharing and Collection Development Committee. Each committee is made up of representatives from the University of Arkansas Research Libraries at UAF, UAMS, UALR, UAM, and UAFS.

The charge of the Educational Portal Committee is to develop a shared Website dedicated to providing information and tools to K-12 teachers in Arkansas. Resources on the website would come from the various colleges, departments, and programs of the UA research universities. It is envisioned as a “one-stop shopping” site which is easily accessible by K-12 teachers to gain access to lesson plans, curriculum, materials, ideas for projects, etc. The working points of this committee are:

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

The committee is to complete a preliminary report which is due 3/1/07 and a final report which is due 8/1/07. A working prototype of the website should be up and running by the start of the fall semester, 2007. It is to be housed on a server located at UAF. The committee was told to operate without thought to cost, just focus on the “best case scenario”.

Elizabeth McKee from UAF was selected by the committee to be chair. Members of the group would use the Access Grid for meetings, making it possible for the members from Little Rock and Fayetteville to teleconference. Paula Reaves from UAM agreed to drive to UAMS in order to participate in the meetings until which time Monticello can come online the grid. This committee is in no way connected with ArkLink. Also, this committee’s charge is to find materials, not create them. For the second meeting on 1/10/07, the committee members were supposed to concentrate their efforts on finding within their home institutions places and programs in which curriculum is being developed.