CUACRL K-12 Educational Portal Task Force  
Report to the Deans, September 2016

The Educational Portal Task Force met on April 26, 2016, at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock.

Members Present: Kathy Anderson (UAM), Carolyn Filippelli (UAFS), Carol Macheak (UALR), Elizabeth McKee (UAF), Louise Montgomery (UAMS), Evelyn Elaine Yates (UAPB), Dan Boice (UAM).

The Task Force reviewed notes from the March meeting of the CUACRL deans. We are excited about the inclusion of the community colleges, and while the focus of the portal will remain on K-12 teachers, we hope that some of the material may be of use for system libraries as well.

Actions:
1. Agreed that all 118 websites on the old portal should be included in the new one. These were divided up among the six participating libraries and, over the next months, these were moved to the new portal. This involved manipulating the icons and rewriting descriptions.
2. Agreed on an organizational schema for the portal, including “Staff Picks” to highlight websites that our own librarians have found to be especially useful.
3. Dan announced at the Spring Meeting of ARKLink and CULD that we would be inviting contributions from other academic institutions in the state. There was very positive response to this. The Task Force will ask that suggestions from other institutions be sent to Task Force members for vetting before being added to the portal. Those institutions who do contribute useable links will be credited in a listing of Participating Institutions.
4. In order to publicize the new portal, we will begin contacting officers of Arkansas associations of school librarians and instructional media professionals, perhaps sending someone to speak at conferences.

The Task Force will meet again on September 29th at UALR.

On our agenda will be selecting a new chair since Elizabeth McKee has retired. Elizabeth was a leader of this project from the very beginning, and did more than the lion’s share of the work involved in setting up the original portal. She provided invaluable help in all aspects of the project, from gathering usage data to setting up the new portal, and we will miss Elizabeth’s informed enthusiasm very much indeed.

Dan Boice  
UAM