CUARL K-12 Education Portal Committee
July 2011 Report

Members:
Elizabeth C. McKee (UA, Fayetteville) Heather L. Smith (UAMS, Little Rock), Co-Chairs
Paula Reaves (UAM), Secretary Dan Puckett (UA, Fayetteville), advisory, retired 7/11
Dr. Jan Dickinson (UAFS) Dr. Marta Collier (UAF), advisory member
No member available (UAPB)

Liaison: Dean Carolyn Allen, (UAF)

Original 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 K-12 Education Portal is available at http://libinfo.uark.edu/cuarl/k12portal/. It has grown from some 40 sites in the summer of 2008 to 115 sites this summer. More than 70 of them are new or have been updated in 2011. The site descriptions in the portal have largely been created by UAF. We have sought to include content from the other CUARL institutions, but suspect that we have not identified all the education outreach being done at other system campuses. The portal received an upgrade in the thumbnail image captures to the Shrink the Web software and the screen width was expanded a little in March 2011.

Beth Juhl has provided statistics for the K-12 portal:
2008-9: 11,369 page views
2009-10: 6317 page views
2010-11: 3976 page views

It is important to note that no links to the K-12 Education Portal are currently available on other campuses’ websites. Thus, awareness of the portal would only come from educators using UA Fayetteville’s site. Beth suggests the following data may be incomplete, but 2010-11 traffic to the Libraries’ main website showed the connections to the site came from:
- UAFS – 279 visits [only link to CUARL is at http://library.uafortsmith.edu/digital.php]
- UALR – 266 visits [no direct links found for CUARL]
- UA Monticello – 3 visits [was a link to CUARL back in 2009 but the page has since been deleted]
- UAMS and UAPB – no traffic identified [no direct links found for CUARL]

History lesson plans and content for educators and researchers are being widely developed and made available on websites. Arkansas science and technology, and the arts and humanities are less extensively represented in the state. For example, Arkansas State University has a site for lesson plans in the sciences and is the newest addition to the portal. ArkansasEd.org gathers extensive information for educators, but does not link to the portal. The portal highlights the work higher education is doing for K-12 education and serves as promotion for our institutions, as well as fulfilling academia’s efforts to contribute to basic education in the state.

Suggestions for future directions:
1. Make a link to the portal at every CUARL library’s website
2. Ask Arkansas school districts or ArkansasEd.org (Dept. of Education website) to link to the portal
3. In what areas should portal expand?
4. Other suggestions?