Minutes of the CUACRL K-12 Education Portal Committee

July 26, 2018

Present: Laura Cameron, UA Fayetteville; Carolyn Macheack, UA Little Rock; Kristin Cooke, UA Little Rock; Kathy Anderson, UA Monticello; & Louise Montgomery, UAMS

Absent: Daniel Boice, UA Monticello; Evelyn Yates UA Pine Bluff & Carolyn Filippelli UA Fort Smith

Kathy Anderson, Chair, called the meeting to order at precisely 10:00 a.m. Introductions were made for Kristin Cooke, our newest member on the Committee. Carol Macheak will be rolling off since Kristin will be representing UA Little Rock. K-12 Education falls within the scope of Kristin’s academic support as the new Student Engagement Librarian for UA Little Rock. We will miss Carol and greatly appreciate her Institutional memory especially since only she was aware that the CUACRL Portal Committee had been in existence prior to 2014.

Kathy informed us that she will also be leaving the our Portal Committee in order to represent UA Monticello on another CUACRL Committee. Since Dr. Boice is also the liaison to CUACRL for the Education Portal Committee, he will remain as the UA Monticello representative on the Portal Committee.

Since Kathy is giving up her position as Chair of the Committee she asked that we decide who would take her place. Louise nominated Laura and Carol seconded. All approved, including Laura.

Laura began her role as Chairman with an update of her findings from the Portal Survey conducted last year. It was hoped that there would be teachers willing to be contacted for follow-up for a usability study. There were not enough respondents willing to be contacted for follow-up in order to do a usability study. Also, based on the survey results, the Lib-Guide format does not provide information according to how teachers search for information. Teachers primarily want resources according to format such as video, website, lesson plan, field trip ideas, worksheets, games, etc. We need to transform the portal and provide the searcher with the ability to filter by format and subject. After we launch the new site with the appropriate Filters, we can conduct the usability study.

Laura will approach Beth Juhl and Dylan Herd, web developers at UA Fayetteville, to see what they can offer us in terms of website re-design. Laura has envisioned a LibGuide reformat or a WordPress design including a more visual landing page. Laura will email us those page ideas. Word Press is used so heavily that it is possible to find examples of website templates we might adopt. The basic WordPress design could be a gallery or portfolio layout. The main issue is providing Filters by format for the teachers.

We analyzed some of the data from the survey results showing that AR sites are useful. 41% said they would use AR sites. The most popular AR site is the Arkansas Department of Education. The Portal is lacking statistics. We discussed partnering more with ADE. Kristin said that any tweet with the hashtag #Arkansas STEM will be retweeted by ADE.

The Portal is lacking regional and local information. More local speakers and lecturers are needed as well as resources. A regional FILTER would be helpful.

The Committee voted to continue to provide mostly AR resources but not exclusively. Other resources with AR specific content will be included – especially statistical resources and maps.
Since Laura has chosen broader subject categories rather than the list view currently in place, we will need to either eliminate categories/pages or condense categories into a subject area. For example: a subject called *Professional Development* can host these pages Blogs; Careers; Teaching Skills

http://uark.libguides.com/CUACRL-Portal

Visually, the Portal page will become a group of clickable subject icons which will take the user to the specific links and descriptions. The collaborative logo will not be used. *Reference* page can be parsed out and topics moved to appropriate subjects. Laura designed a home page mock-up of subject blocks sized according to the survey results. The size of each block roughly corresponds to how many teachers said that subject was important to them. Hopefully she will email everyone a copy of that mock-up.

The LibGuide mock up showed 3 columns with navigation at the top. Each column held boxes of topics with uniform bar shaped headers. See Laura’s email...

We must code each website with meta data in order to create FILTERS.

Kristin felt strongly that the *Suggestion box* should be predominant on the page inviting user engagement thus creating a sense of ownership.

Right now, the email from the LibGuide page goes to everyone on the Committee. That can remain the same but needs to be updated for committee member changes.

Laura directed us to the *Chat Reference* and the contact information. We decided that the *Chat Reference* is not needed.

**SURVEY MANUSCRIPT**

We all agreed that the data obtained by the survey will be useful for other librarians and represents good research.

Laura suggested that a 3rd member complete the coding of the qualitative data since there were discrepancies. According to precedent, a 3rd reviewer of the data is preferred, rather than incorporating both opinions. Kristin agreed to perform the additional coding. Carol stated that Kristin was a good candidate for this job because she will be more objective, not having been part of the committee.

Louise agreed to perform a literature review for the manuscript. Laura recommended that the review include any article about teacher use of AR State resources in the classroom; a landmark study on how teachers pull resources from the web; how libraries influence teacher picks for resources; & link farms provided by libraries and usability. This should only be about 700 words.

We will meet in Fayetteville, AR mid-October. We will focus on conceptual development through November, 2018. Laura plans to design the new site with developers over the winter. Laura’s graduate student staff populate data along with our changes and recommendations.

Hope to promote to AR School Librarians at professional meetings during the summer of 2019 and Fall 2019 at Curriculum Conference. Plan to conduct a usability study in the Fall of 2019.

Laura provided an overview of the proposed usability study including methods, tools, convenience sample etc. She has already put together a script of questions for users. It might be possible to use eye tracker software from U of A.
ACTION ITEMS

• Laura to continue to explore redesign with UA Fayetteville web developers
  Can we export current libguide content into a spreadsheet for weeding and categorizing?
  We may end up using “card sorting” software to determine the website subjects
  Will need to assign a format and subject tags to each resource

• Kathy will ask Dr. Boice to see if he can scope out the Governor’s plan for an AR Educational website. Participants at a Governor’s conference for Education last winter reported that this was in the works.

• Kathy will send an email introduction of Laura Cameron to the Coop Directors. We hope to continue that important relationship since they are a good source for dissemination of information.

• Kristin will code discrepancies in qualitative survey

• Laura will host next meeting

• Dr. Boice will ask about Community College representation for this committee.

Respectfully submitted by

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