

## ARKLink Meeting Minutes

June 21, 1999; 1:30 p.m.

UALR - Law School

People in attendance were:

Henry Terrill - Harding U.

Ruth Riley - UAMS

Peggy Morrison - UAMS

Juana Young - UAF

Mary Ryan - UAMS

Mark Shores - UAM

Mary Jo Thomas - UACCH

Merle Vincent - NAC

Kathy Sanders - UALR

Sharon Kerr - UALR

Sloan Powell - UCA

Louise Lamb - NWACC

Rod Miller - ASU

Martha Coleman - Westark

Margie Hicks - Westark

Amanda Moore - UCA

Robert Frizzell - Hendrix

Bill Parton - ATU

Janet Parsch - UAF

Virginia Perschbacher - Philander Smith

David Glick - Henderson State U.

Myron Flugstad - ASU

Myron Flugstad and Janet Parsch, co-chairs, called the meeting to order at 1:35. Introductions were made.

David Glick presented summary results of the Database Purchasing Task Force's survey on databases held and databases desired. Thirty-one of 44 Arkansas academic institutions responded to the survey.

Those databases most held include: ABI/Inform (6 institutions), Academic Abstracts (5), Britannica Online (19), CINAHL (7), ERIC (10), FirstSearch (5), Lexis/Nexis (9), MLA (8), PsycLit (8), SIRS (16), and Sociofile/Soc.

Abstracts (5). Those databases most mentioned as desired include: ABI/Inform (12), Academic Search Elite (7), America: History and Life (10), Britannica Online (6), CINAHL (10), FirstSearch (20), Health Reference

Center (15), Historical Abstracts (8), InfoTrac (3?), ProQuest Direct (PA Research II) (22), Psychology (PsycInfo, PsycLit, PsycFirst) (12), Wilson (Select/Omnifile) (6), Legal Trac (10), Lexis-Nexis (6), MLA (8), and SIRS (Knowledge Source, Renaissance, Research) (6).

Thanks and appreciation were extended to David Glick for his contributions to the survey, to Henderson State for photocopying the results, and to Bob Frizzell, chair, and the other members of the Task Force for their hard work on the enormous task.

Kathy Sanders presented the Funding Task Force report. A prospects form is being developed that will enable the task force to gather data on each potential funding source. Nine possible activities have been identified for which funding might be sought, including database purchases, serials purchases, courier service, common ID card, equipment, professional development opportunities, a true union catalog, legislative packages, and digitization projects.

Peggy Morrison, chair of the Resource Sharing Task Force, presented a draft of a survey form for gathering information on what resources Arkansas academic libraries are sharing now and what they would like to share (or have others share). Any suggestions for the form should be submitted to Peggy Morrison by July 15 at [morrisonpeggy@exchange.uams.edu](mailto:morrisonpeggy@exchange.uams.edu).

Mary Ryan discussed the issue of legal status for the ARKLink consortium. An article in a recent issue of *Library Administration and Management* deals with consortial agreements (Kopp, James J. Documenting partnerships. Spring 1999: 13(2):68-77). Also, a website provides documents in use by various library consortia (<http://www.lis.uiuc.edu/~sloan/consort.htm>). Mary Ryan, Myron Flugstad, and Janet Parsch volunteered to develop a draft Memorandum of Understanding, based on the ARKLink mission statement, to be discussed at the next meeting.

Juana Young described a possible project involving representative libraries in EPSCoR states to digitize 1,000,000 science and technology volumes (books, journals, and other flat paper items). (The acronym EPSCoR stands for Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research.) EPSCoR includes the eighteen states and Puerto Rico which have historically not received substantial government funding for research. Using the approach that Carnegie Mellon University has developed for digitizing materials, it is proposed that digitizing materials can be done for \$25 per volume. Four libraries in EPSCoR states (Nebraska, Maine, Mississippi, and Arkansas) have volunteered to serve as beta sites to develop project specifications to test the feasibility of such a project. Biotechnology, forestry, and mining are possible pilot study areas. Many are skeptical of the practicality and feasibility of the project.

ASU is participating in OCLC's CORC project by contributing 20 hours per

week of cataloging time to catalog web-based resources

Discussion of Database Task Force's report: Student FTEs from the 31 responding institutions is 64,247 (not including ASU and ATU); potential number of FTEs in Arkansas academic institutions is probably around 80,000. One difficulty with the survey results is that one database might be called by several names. Also, platform choice will be an important consideration in final selection of a database. There was general consensus on the need to select one database as a pilot to test the ARKLink concept. There was also general approval to commit funds--depending on what the database is--to test the concept once a database is selected. The Task Force later decided to study the survey results more and make a recommendation on a proposed database to the full membership at the next meeting in August.

The next ARKLink meeting will be Tuesday, August 10, at 1:00 at Hendrix (subsequently changed to UCA). The meeting adjourned at 4:10. (Minutes written by Janet Parsch based on Henry Terrill's notes from the meeting.)