

ARKLINK MEETING MINUTES

November 13, 2003
Harding University

The meeting was called to order at approximately 1:00 p.m. by Chair Amanda Moore.

A library directors' meeting was held earlier in the morning. Moore (Hendrix) said the group discussed possible ARKLink initiatives and shared news from their respective institutions.

Database Purchasing Task Force

Task force chair Renee LeBeau-Ford passed out a current list of the databases for which ARKLink has arranged consortial purchasing. The CINAHL renewal came out less expensive than last year since more schools decided to participate. The next database renewal is PsycINFO. ABC-Clio – which has a new sales representative for Arkansas – is also coming up for renewal. Renee reported that she used 2002 FTE figures from the Department of Higher Education department, since the 2003 figures were not available yet.

Renee suggested that ARKLink needs to gather comments on what libraries need in terms of database purchasing. She and Anbolyn Potter of Univ. of Arkansas-Monticello will work on some kind of survey to assess database needs at ARKLink institutions. The results of such a survey could be fed back to the State Library's Network Advisory Committee, which makes decisions on how LSTA monies are spent.

LeBeau-Ford and Potter will begin arranging new database trials, including computer user manuals in the form of electronic books, as well as some online reference book packages.

LeBeau-Ford also reported that Univ. of Arkansas-Little Rock will be joining the ARKLink Reciprocal Borrowing program.

Collection Development Task Force

Virginia Perschbacher reported that two persons had been elected "in absentia" to leadership positions in the Collection Development Task Force. Spreadsheets with data on periodical holdings for 2 and 4-yr. institutions will be available soon. The task force also suggested that monograph budgets be a next area of study. Wendy Davis of Pulaski Tech recommended that the task force look at Spanish language resources, in light of a visit to her campus by Sen. Blanche Lincoln's staff to investigate access to such materials.

Resource Sharing Task Force

Kristine Shrauger (Univ. of Arkansas-Fayetteville) reported that Peggy Morrison (Hendrix) is the new chair of the task force. Shrauger said the task force would like to collect figures on borrowing transactions as well as offer training on basic Interlibrary Loan skills. Morrison will be leading the development of a grant proposal to fund an Iliad interlibrary loan service as well as expanding the Trans-Amigos courier service.

Fund Raising Task Force

Myron Flugstad (Arkansas State) facilitated the task force meeting since Janet Parsch (UA-Fayetteville) stepped down as task force chair.

Governance Task Force

Henry Terrill (Harding) reported that ARKLink's Federal Tax ID number as well as other correspondence had been mistakenly mailed by the IRS to an institution in Pennsylvania. A kind person at the aforementioned Pennsylvania institution forwarded the materials on to Terrill. Terrill also said the group has filed for Arkansas tax-exempt status and advised that the group get the federal tax-exempt status first, then the state.

New Projects

Besides the Iliad and courier service projects, Moore shared that she and Morrison will be working on developing resource guides of ARKLink materials that can be shared. Examples include copyright polices, web subject guides, database instructional handouts and information literacy programs.

Moore reported that the newest member of ARKLink is the Clinton School of Public Service. The representative's name is Edwina Mann. Someone also reported that Shorter College in North Little Rock has lost its accreditation and is no longer functioning as an institution of higher education. These changes keep the ARKLink member roster at 47 institutions.

Virginia Perschbacher reported on Wal-Mart's upcoming pilot project to offer two-year college degrees to its employees at a reduced rate. Northwest Arkansas Community College (NWACC) in Bentonville will be heavily involved in the project. NWACC will provide registration, library services & support, and will be the site through which students apply for financial aid. The course content will come from other institutions. The pilot project with 500 students begins on Feb. 4. Renee LeBeau-Ford of UALR reported that her institution plans to offer the remaining two years of coursework to those who obtain the two-year degree.

Moore reported that the meeting would be her last as ARKLink chair. Kaye Talley takes over as chair for the coming year. A nominating committee was formed to select a chair-elect to replace Talley when her term ends. Nominating Committee members are Wendy Davis, Sandra Dupree, and Susan Goldner.

Other Business

Chair Moore recognized Secretary Mark Shores for his many contributions to ARKLink. She presented him an original ARKLink tee-shirt and an ARKLink Outstanding Service Award. Shores was leaving UA Monticello to assume a new position at Ball State University.

Renee LeBeau-Ford is currently serving as chair of the College and University Libraries Division (CULD) of the Arkansas Library Association. She has been contacted by ACRL officials about CULD's participation in ACRL activities at the national level. She was told that CULD officers need to be a member of ACRL in order for the CULD to have official ties to ACRL.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:45 p.m.

Mark Shores
ARKLink Sec'y