

CULAR Fall Meeting

November 7, 2025, 9:00-10:30 AM

University of Arkansas at Little Rock (Downtown) AND Zoom

In attendance:

<p>Arkansas State University April Sheppard</p> <p>Arkansas State University – Beebe Ron Russ</p> <p>Arkansas Tech University Angela Black</p> <p>Harding University Amy McGohan Jean Waldrop</p> <p>Hendrix College Britt Anne Murphy Melissa Freiley</p> <p>John Brown University Rachel Maxson Taylor Vanlandingham</p> <p>Lyon College Kasey Meyer</p> <p>Southern Arkansas University Del Duke</p> <p>University of Arkansas Community College at Rich Mountain Brenda Miner</p> <p>University of Arkansas-Fayetteville Leah Johnson</p>	<p>University of Arkansas-Fort Smith Carolyn Filippelli Roxy Wylie</p> <p>University of Arkansas-Little Rock Bonnie Bennet Carol Macheak Emily Bowie JB Hill Mitch Bennett</p> <p>University of Arkansas Medical Sciences Karen Dickinson</p> <p>University of Arkansas-Monticello Malcolm Harris Renee Cherie Clark</p> <p>University of Arkansas-Pine Bluff Shenise McGhee</p> <p>University of Arkansas-Pulaski Tech Ronica Crutchfield</p> <p>University of Central Arkansas Janice Weddle Liz DiPrince Rodney Lippard</p> <p>University of the Ozarks Chatham Ewing</p>
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1. Angela Black called the meeting to order at 9:04am.

2. April Sheppard moved to adopt minutes, Britt Anne Murphy seconded.

Minutes approved.

3. Angela Black gave a chair report:

- Spring CULAR meeting was a big success and featured discussions on technical services.
- We surveyed academic librarians in the spring on collaborations with high school librarians. The survey showed that we didn't currently do much with them, but that there was lots of interest. The preliminary results of the survey were presented at the AAIM Conference which included discussion with media specialists. The results of the survey, along with the results of a survey of media specialists by Cassandra Barnett, were presented at the 2026 ArLA Annual Conference. Angela noted that there were about 20 people in the room and added that she hoped to turn the survey results and discussions into an article for *Arkansas Libraries*.
- At the ArLA Annual Conference, we set up a CULAR table at the New-ish Member event along with other Communities of Interests (CI). Nine people joined CULAR.
- We also hosted Artificial Intelligence in Arkansas Libraries Unconference the day before the ArLA Annual Conference. The unconference was attended by 36 people and featured Jason Coleman discussing ACRL's "AI Competencies for Library Workers."
- Budget discussions:
 - CULAR has a modest budget (\$500) that mostly provides coffee and small treats for meetings. Funds may also be used for speakers, but university catering is expensive and does not leave much.
 - At the AI Unconference, we did have to charge a small \$25 fee. This fee went into ArLA's general funds, but we paid catering out of CULAR funds. Angela has put in a request to transfer money into CULAR to ensure that we end the year balanced. Janice Weddle gave a brief background on why CI funds go into ArLA's general funds. Members then discussed how to prevent similar issues in the future.
 - Next year's budget: Angela stated that she is going to ask for \$1,000

for next year. This is partially because many institutions are now charging rental fees to book meeting spaces. Funds would also help cater lunch, pay for keynote speakers, or help provide professional development, such as from ACRL.

- Meeting attendees spoke in favor of using funds for professional development. Discussion included looking into possible discounts and charging a small fee if needed. Angela added that the profit from the AI Unconference might be able to be used for professional development.
 - Britt Anne Murphy asked if \$1,000 was enough to do the things we want to do. It was noted that ArLA has a tight budget and one approach might be to ask for \$1,000 this year and then ask for more the following year.
- Angela ended her report by thanking several people in CULAR and ARKLink as well as Cassandra Barnett for her K-12 work. Members of the CULAR planning committee and John Boone were thanked for their service. She also thanked JB Hill and UALR Downtown for hosting the meeting for free. She ended by encouraging new members, new voices, and new people to be officers, as well as encouraging people to ask questions on the CULAR listserv. She stated that the best part of CULAR is talking with people about improving our world and our libraries.
 - Britt Anne Murphy then asked the minutes to show that members love what Angela has done with CULAR this year.

4. Subcommittee Report on Education Outreach:

- Britt Anne Murphy noted that the task force is loosely structured, but comprised of people interested in work with high school librarians along with Cassandra Barnett. The task force meets on a monthly basis. The task force has gained enough interest, including receiving signatures at the ArLA Annual Conference, that they are ready to submit a new community of interest (CI): Collaboration of Academic and School Librarians. The task force or steering committee had invited 7-8 school librarians as well as a few academic librarians from areas of the state not previously represented. This group will lead efforts to connect high school librarians to academic

librarians at the local university or college throughout the state by using regional co-ops as a geographic designation.

5. Election of Officers for 2026: Angela Black stated that John Boone had to step down as vice-chair due to unforeseen circumstances. Because of this, a special election will be needed to fill his role. Britt Anne Murphy went over the nominations for open positions:

- Special Election for Vice-Chair/Chair Elect 2025: Britt Anne stated that since the vice-chair will become chair in January, that they searched for someone with previous experience as CULAR chair. Jessica Riedmueller has agreed to be chair if elected.
- Vice-Chair/Chair Elect for 2026: A nomination for Alan Robinette was received. At the time of discussion, he had not responded yet to the nomination. He later agreed to serve.
- Secretary: April Sheppard agreed to remain secretary.
- Voting: Voting will be conducted electronically through the CULAR listserv.

6. New Business. Angela Black then led discussion of new business:

- Proposal to move listserv to Google Groups: Angela noted that other ArLA listservs are moving to Google Groups as part of the ArLA website migration. CULAR is different and our listserv is maintained by the University of Arkansas. However, it is run by Beth Juhl who will retire soon and currently Angela has not heard if anyone will step in to maintain the list. She then asked if this was an opportunity for CULAR to also migrate to Google Groups, noting that .edu lists are FOIAable.

This led to a discussion of whether ARKLink would move to the same Google Group. It was noted that there is already confusion about what ARKLink does that is different than CULAR, and that having combined listservs could be adding to the confusion. Rodney Lippard recommended separating lists. After discussion, it was agreed to revisit the question and focus on CULAR for now.

Janice Weddle made a motion to move CULAR to a CULAR Google Group. Britt Anne Murphy seconded. Motion passed.

- Proposal to affirm/change CI Name to: College and University Libraries of Arkansas: Angela stated that while doing research on CULAR, she discovered that our name, as approved by the ArLA Board, was “College and Research Libraries of Arkansas” but everything going back to 2022 uses “Librarians,” including our bylaws.

Britt Anne Murphy gave background on why “libraries” was used over “librarians” when the name was changed to CULAR. She noted that “librarians” implies that one must have an MLS to be a member and they didn’t want to exclude those without one.

Angela noted that if we use “libraries,” that this will trigger a bylaw change. Britt Anne made a motion to officially change the name in the bylaws from “librarians” to “libraries.” Janice Weddle seconded. Rodney Lippard spoke against the motion, stating that CULAR is for the individual and ARKLink is for the library. He added that he worried that using “libraries” would add to the confusion between the two groups.

It was then noted that our bylaws state that a 14-day notice is required to introduce a topic before voting. Angela added that this meeting was the introduction of the topic and that voting will occur electronically in 14 days. Janice then made a friendly amendment to the motion to submit the proposed wording changed to the bylaws to the CULAR membership for vote. Fourteen voted in favor and one opposed. Bylaws state that 15 votes are needed for a motion to pass. Motion failed by one vote.

- Subcommittee for CULAR Document Management: While researching CULAR’s name, Angela discovered that our documents are in several different locations. To address this, she is assembling a few people to find past documents and put them together in one place, focusing on minutes and bylaws from the last 5 years. The committee can also notify the CULAR board when they discover inconsistencies and outdated information.

Jean Waldrop agreed to chair the subcommittee; Kasey Meyer and April Sheppard agreed to help.

Britt Anne Murphy noted that in the past CULAR has hesitated putting minutes online due to the current environment. This led to a discussion to make minutes only available to members and behind a password on the ArLA website.

7. Open Forum: Angela Black then led discussion on other items people would like to see CULAR take on. It was noted that CULAR does not have a logo and discussion focused on the need for a logo. One suggestion was to reach out to ArLA Webmaster, Oliver Jennings, to create a modified version of the ArLA logo with the CI's name under it. Angela agree to contact Oliver.
8. Adjournment - Kasey Meyer moved to adjourn. Amy McGohan seconded.

Meeting adjourned at 10:20am.

Minutes prepared by April Sheppard.