

SCAMeL Librarian Exchange Professional Development Program
Jon Goodell of UAMS Library Visit to OUHSC Library
Sept. 30 to Oct. 1, 2010

Visiting Librarian

Jon Goodell, jgoodell@uams.edu
Web Services Librarian
[University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences Library](#)

Library Visited

University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center Robert M. Bird Health Sciences Library

Host Librarians

Michael Coffman, Michael-Coffman@ouhsc.edu
Reference Librarian
[University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center Robert M. Bird Library](#)

Mark Hopkins, Mark-Hopkins@ouhsc.edu
Library Technology Manager
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Goals of Visit

The goal of the visit was to share methods for collecting electronic resource statistics in order to identify usage patterns. Usage statistics have great potential to inform electronic collection development decision making. Information gained can also help to identify which resources are perhaps being under-marketed to our users.

The Bird Library uses a sophisticated combination of database driven statistics collection that was developed in-house. Bird also uses Google Analytics. UAMS Library uses AWStats; a web server log file analyzer. Although AWStats is very good for tracking page views, it does not have the capability to track individual clicks on each page. We feel the Bird statistical collection method is superior and have spent a great deal of time trying to translate the methods used at Bird to UAMS.

Schedule and Notes

Thursday, Sept. 30

6:00am	Departed Little Rock, AR
12:00pm	Arrival in Oklahoma City, OK and tour of Bird Health Sciences Library
1:00pm	Lunch and discussion of project with Bird Health Sciences Library librarians
2:00pm	Work on technical aspects of database driven E-resources web pages
4:00pm	Discussion of applications for E-resources database tracking on database collection development and brainstorming of research paper topics
6:30pm	Dinner with Bird Health Sciences Library librarians

Friday, Oct. 1

7:30am	Breakfast with Bird Health Sciences Library librarians
9:00am	Continued work on technical aspects of database driven E-resources web pages
12:00pm	Lunch with Bird Health Sciences Library librarians
1:00pm	Continued work on technical aspects of database driven E-resources web pages
3:00pm	Departed OUHSC Library to return to UAMS Library
8:00pm	Arrived back home in Little Rock, AR.

Description of How Goals Were Met or Not Met During Visit

We spent the bulk of our time troubleshooting database and webpage related code. Being face to face really helped this process go more smoothly than it had been in our preceding phone conversations and emails.

Several technical aspects of our project were implemented while others are still in the process of being fully achieved. We are continuing our discussions and are hopeful that we will implement a more comprehensive system of tracking electronic resource usage than is currently in place at UAMS Library.

Although we have been unable to translate all technical aspects of electronic resource statistics used at Bird Library to UAMS Library, our visit and continuing conversations have helped us to identify a vision of what data we need to collect in order to best serve our users. Our communication and work on this project has continued long after our visits to each other's libraries. This project has been a great learning experience.

Lessons Learned

It was very helpful for me personally to visit with other librarians and see how their work flow, offices, and libraries were organized.

I have also gained a greater expertise in troubleshooting ASP code and MS Access database integration. It was very helpful to be in the same room as my Bird Library colleagues to think through coding problems and discuss our vision for a more comprehensive view of electronic resource usage statistics.

Suggestions for Improvement

The SCAMeL Librarian exchange has been a great opportunity for me and I hope others will take advantage of it. One suggestion is that many libraries have high level non-librarians that would benefit from this type of visit. Technology staff do not always have ALA accredited master's degrees but do have the expertise and vision to create excellent web applications. I would encourage everyone with good ideas to apply.