

Site Report 2010: SCAMeL Librarian Exchange Professional Development Program

Report on visit to University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences Library (UAMS)

Visiting Librarians

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

Mark Hopkins, MSKM Mark-Hopkins@ouhsc.edu
Library Technology Manager
[University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center Robert M. Bird Library](#)

Host Coordinator

Mary Ryan RyanMaryL@uams.edu
Library Director
[University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences Library](#)

Schedule / Meeting / Notes

July 6, 2010

- 5:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
 - Driving from Oklahoma
- 12:30 p.m.
 - Arrived at UAMS Library, quick tour
- 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
 - Met with Jon Goodell and went over a review of the existing UAMS library infrastructure for the implementation and integration of the E-Resource statistics collection and reporting system. This was followed by a discussion of some of the potential uses of statistics. The last item of the day was to look at a collaboration timeline for sharing and collecting utilization data

July 7, 2010

- 9:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.
 - Began setup and customization of E-resource statistics collection and reporting system as needed for UAMS
 - Discussed support process for implementation of E-resource statistics collection system including completion of items not finished during exchange visit
 - Discussed implications to making this type of tool available to a broader group with more libraries.

Lessons Learned

One of the most valuable things gained from this exchange was to see how another library similar to ours operated both virtually and physically. Conceptually this project was very translatable. What we learned was what UAMS offered in terms of services and online content that was different from ours. These differences pose questions about how content would be presented, and all these small differences generated very interesting discussion about the use and interpretation of any statistics that would be collected as a byproduct of this project.

Another valuable lesson learned was being better able to visualize how the extension of an application to collect and monitor statistics would be handled, both at a two-library setup, or for instance a larger regional setup. Being able to discuss the reasonable expectations necessary to complete a project like this provided invaluable insight on how we might eventually be able to extend this project out to more libraries.

Having a room full of librarians from varying focuses (computing, reference, administration, etc.) provided a strong sounding board for this project. Specifically, we were able to hear how other would / could use these statistics to actually accomplish something. This helped us think about how to best present and collect information to make it translate into day-to-day action.

Suggestions for Improvement

In preparing for this exchange we spent several phone meetings and one online meeting discussing ideas with the host library. We learned many valuable things at this meeting. While this small group was certainly necessary to get things started, what we learned at UAMS while incorporating many voices that were not part of the grant was invaluable. One definite improvement for anyone participating in an exchange is to focus strongly on thinking whom else might be valuable to have in the room for some of the meetings. The sounding board of some many varied experiences was wonderful.

Hosting Another Exchange

The Bird Library felt very positive about the exchange. Even with the growing number of ways to connect with colleagues, it was a truly great experience to get to sit down and work on a collaborative project with other librarians, to see how other libraries operate, and to better personally get to know those who we will share enduring professional relationships.

Estimated Number of Hours Preparing for Visit

Michael Coffman, Jon Goodell, and I had several pre-exchange meetings to discuss the anticipated schedule and items we would like to cover and which we could realistically do so. Approximately 6-8 hours were spent between these meetings and emails towards having all materials necessary have a successful exchange.

Special Thanks

Thank you SCAMeL! This exchange was a unique opportunity for us to share our work and build relationships. For us in particular as new librarians, see how another library similar to ours works up close was a wonderful experience.