

SCAMeL Professional Development/Exchange Program

Report Submitted July 15, 2015

PARTICIPANT:

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INSTITUTION VISITED:

Robert M. Bird Health Sciences Library
University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center
1000 Stanton L. Young Blvd | Oklahoma City, OK
June 17-18, 2015

VISIT GOALS AND FINDINGS:

New Mexico (NM) and Oklahoma (OK) are rural states. Both are long time NN/LM SCR members and Resource Libraries for their respective states. However, HSLIC is the only Resource Library for the state of New Mexico. Oklahoma has three. Oklahoma is the more populous state of the two by more than a million people and the smaller state geographically. Both states have 3 cities that contain the major concentration of population and resources. All share one significant demographic. Nine per cent (9%) of Oklahoma's population is American Indian (AI) and 10.4% of New Mexico's population is American Indian.

The purpose of this visit is to identify areas of common concern, sharing of best practices, and development of a shared library project in the area of community-engaged health information outreach.

I consulted with the Bird Health Sciences Library (BHSL) faculty on their outreach initiatives to rural physicians in order to gain an understanding of how New Mexico (NM)'s programs, services and initiatives to rural physicians are similar or not. I learned that both NM and OK provide borrower's privileges for a charge to physicians throughout their respective states.

I consulted with BHSL faculty on their outreach to American Indians in Oklahoma in order to gain an understanding of how NM's programs, services, and initiatives to American Indians are similar or not. I learned about recent BHSL outreach activities to the Chickasaw Nation.

We discussed at length the differences in AI tribes from their population size (some are very small), their political organization and infrastructure (including health care) and how this affects

outreach to these communities. For example, many tribes in OK and NM administer their own health care programs and services. Some are still Indian Health Service direct-services tribes. Indian Health Service practitioners have access to the National Institutes of Health (NIH) library. The Chickasaw Nation which runs its own health programs has Clinical Key. Some tribes have Institutional Review Boards for research approval, usually the larger tribes such as the Cherokee Nation in OK and Navajo Nation in NM.

Identify common areas of interest or concern. Outreach to small communities and finding the correct connections to do outreach are both of concern. The attrition of hospital libraries is a common trend in both states. The OK state wide consortium for purchasing is very robust. Shari has been conducting a two year project to train health information specialists through out OK. She asked about HSLIC's *Good Information for Good Health* CME course as she plans to put the training for health information specialists online. The Bird Library has had an HIV-AIDS outreach project funded by the National Library of Medicine.

Discuss support for a joint UNM-OU outreach project. As result of this visit:

- Pat Bradley will have the Bird Library faculty put on the *Tribal Health Connections- Trusted Information for Native Communities* email list for sharing information and notifying them of the quarterly conference calls for those interested in Native American health information outreach throughout the country.
- The Bird Library faculty expressed an interest in conducting a health information needs assessment study of health care practitioners serving AI populations in Oklahoma. Such a study was done in the Four Corners states in 2004-5.
- Pat will forward Joy and Shari, the final report and interview guide (questions).
- An individual at the OU School of Public Health was identified as an initial contact to learn about the organization and infrastructure of AI health care in Oklahoma.

SCHEDULE AND NOTES

Day 1 June 17, 2015

Morning travel from Albuquerque

12:45 pm – Flight arrived an hour late. Shari picked me up at the airport and took us to lunch with BHSL faculty librarians—Tara Malone and Jean Longo.

2:30 pm – Full tour of the Bird Library with Shari, introducing me to faculty and staff, describing their duties as we as we went along.

3:30 pm – Met with Shari to discuss general goals of the visit. We also discussed at length the similarities and differences in services and organization of the two libraries and shifts in the library profession.

5:00 pm – Leave the library for dinner at a local restaurant with BHSL faculty librarians: Tara Malone, Phill Jo, Prasanna Vaduvathiriyam, and Shari Clifton.

7:00 pm--Shari dropped me off at the hotel following dinner

Day 2 June 18, 2015

8:30 am – BHSL Director, Joy Summers-Ables picked me up at the hotel and took me to the library.

9:00 am – Met with Bird Library faculty/librarians to discuss specific outreach activities completed or underway in both states.

11:00 am – Power Point presentation to Bird library faculty by Pat Bradley

Noon – Lunch at the faculty club with Joy, Shari and Walee Chotikavanic Head, Access Services

1:00 pm – Work session on a possible collaborative project with resulting action items.

3:00 pm – Adjourn, depart for the airport and Dallas.

LESSONS LEARNED:

- Just because New Mexico and Oklahoma are rural states and next door to each other they have distinctive differences in demographics and size.
- Even if states share a common demographic characteristic their outreach is variable.
- Outreach librarians in predominately rural regions face similar challenges.

ASSESSMENT

- The SCAMeL Exchange was easy to apply for and the re-imbusement process and reporting requirements were smooth.
- I highly-recommend the exchange for anyone interested in stepping out of their box to see how others do similar work.
- The informal learning structure of the visit was refreshing and resulted in valuable exchanges and discussion

THANKS

I thank SCAMeL and Directors of our respective institutions for providing me the opportunity for this visit and for their financial support. I appreciate the hospitality of all faculty and staff members at the Bird Health Sciences Library.