

SCAMeL Professional Development/Exchange Program

Visiting Librarians' Report

Name, Title and Institution of Visitors:

The Texas Medical Center Library, Houston, Texas

Joanne Romano, MLS, Head of Resource Management

Terrie Smalls-Hall, Cataloging Lead for Resource Management

Institution Visited: UT Health Science Center San Antonio Library (UTHSC-SA)

Dates of Visit: June 29th and 30th

Hosts: John Weed, Head of Collection Resources

Dana Whitmire, Electronic Resources/Serials Librarian

Goals for visit:

To learn about UTHSC-SA organizational structure, and to meet key contacts for future collaboration in problem-solving and improvement in various department workflows, learn how the library has implemented Subjects Plus for database interface display, discuss procedures for deselection, weeding and preparing items for Joint Library Facility participation, review the library's implementation of Koha, share cataloging workflows ideas for ebooks, discuss how Public Services meets the needs of their various user communities, and discover new innovations and technologies being explored by the library's IT Dept.

Planned Itinerary:

Monday, June 29th

10:30am Estimated arrival at Briscoe Library
11:00am Meet with Leadership Team and review organizational structure
11:45am Leave for lunch at Lisa's Mexican restaurant
1:30pm Walking tour of the Briscoe Library
2:00pm Meet with Koha team to discuss planning, training, and implementation
3:00pm Meet with John, Jeremy, Dana, and Andrea to discuss Subjects Plus created pages
4:00pm Meet with John and Dana to discuss JLF project and deselection
4:30pm Meet with John and Dana to discuss licensing and analysis for renewals
5:00pm Check into hotel and dinner at Aldo's (6:00pm)

Tuesday, June 30th

8:30am Breakfast meeting with Jeremy and Kelley on new technology, tools, and innovations
9:30am Meet with Andrea regarding ebook loads
10:30am Meet with Public Services librarians

11:00am Recap with John and Dana, discuss any questions, and departure

Description of How Goals Met or Not Met: Goals of The Texas Medical Center Library personnel were met during their visit to the UTHSC San Antonio library.

Lessons Learned: The TMC Library librarians discovered that by utilizing Subjects Plus, they could vastly improve how the database collection is displayed on the TMC Library website. We learned that via the use of MARC Editor scripting, we could perform certain batch edits to bib records. The UTHSC-SA cataloger does not plan to adopt RDA, and see BIBFRAME only as an add-on tool, which we agreed with. We also discovered how an open source cataloging platform, such as Koha, can be an effective alternative to purchasing an ILS system such as Voyager. We found that by experimenting on a small scale, and via collaboration amongst library departments, new technologies can be tested and presented as a new service to patrons. This was demonstrated by the UTHSC-SA library's IT department, in their willingness to purchase a small 3-D printer (MakerBot) via an NLM Emerging Technologies grant. They are working with the Public Services librarians to provide 3-D printing as a service, and as a learning tool for students who wish to explore 3-D modelling techniques.

Suggestions for Improvement: None

Site Report

Name, title, institution of host site coordinator:

Joanne Romano, Head of Resource Management, The Texas Medical Center Library

Name of visiting librarians and dates of visit:

John Weed, Head of Collection Resources

Dana Whitmire, Electronic Resources/Serials Librarian

June 25-26th, 2015

Estimated number of hours to prepare for visit:

It is estimated that preparation time spent communicating with our visiting librarians about the upcoming visit was about 2 to 3 hours, and time spent drafting documents for the planned itinerary was about 2 hours. Time spent discussing the proposed visit-- to decide topics for discussion and logistics with TMC Library managers and executive team members --was about 2 hours.

How did the visit provide a new or different perspective for the library management and staff?

All the TMC Library librarians who had the opportunity to visit with our guest librarians were very pleased to be able share the goals, successes and challenges each institution faced. There were common threads at both institutions as regards to how to best handle information management, fulfill the mission of the library, and how best to meet the challenges of emerging technologies and evolution of the librarian's role.

Would your institution consider hosting another exchange? Definitely.

Suggestions for improvement: That we space the visit dates further apart, perhaps about two to three weeks. Also, next time, it would best to provide about a 10 minute lag time from one meeting to the next, so visitors

and hosts don't feel overwhelmed in trying to follow the planned itinerary. However, both institutions kept the schedule flexible and fluid, so there was no stress about ending a session early or late. It was a most enjoyable experience.