

**SCAMeL Librarian Exchange Professional Development Program
Site Report**

Host Site Coordinator

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Visiting Librarian/Dates of Visit

Emily Patridge
June 17-18, 2008

Estimated Number of Hours to Prepare for Visit

Our liaison librarians needed ½ - 1 hour of time to prepare for their meetings with Emily. The liaison coordinator estimated that she spent 6-7 hours in preparation, and some of that time included two meetings with the liaison librarians. The host site coordinator spent approximately 2-3 hours total developing an itinerary, researching hotel information, and attending liaison meetings.

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

Here is a summary of comments from the liaison librarians who met with Emily:

“I found it very interesting hearing about how their library is working to build their liaison program and how it differs in setup from the UAMS Library’s Liaison Program. From the management perspective, it was interesting hearing how the UT Southwestern MCL departmental structure and staffing differs from ours. It encouraged discussion of how our library might increase areas of staff involvement and expand our current interdepartmental projects.”

“Our libraries face similar challenges in initiating a liaison program, but we have slightly different approaches that in part reflect some differences in each library’s culture. Emily also shared a couple of creative ideas for marketing and delivering services that would be easy, inexpensive, and fun to implement here.”

“Very refreshing to discuss different ways of staffing that have pros and cons; different ways of providing liaison activities; discussing and defining what really should be covered by ‘liaison’ work; sharing thoughts on how to make the most of our staff that takes into account the expertise and the relationships with units outside the library; the ways to ensure that the

library as a whole values liaison activities; and just talking about faculty/staffing relationships and responsibilities.”

“Emily's program was a little more developed than we thought. They spent more time planning liaison assessment which is what we're lacking at UAMS. Her program is also a little more progressive than the traditional reference-centric model since they include library faculty and staff to participate in their program....Emily's perspective and differences were refreshing and made me think a little differently about how a liaison functions with a department and who (including staff) can participate in the program.”

Would your institution consider hosting another exchange?

Yes – all of the UAMS librarians participating in Emily’s visit agreed that we would host another exchange. As one liaison said in response to this question, “Definitely - because we are not geographically close to peer libraries, we have few opportunities to meet, formally or informally, to exchange ideas and experiences or to build new professional relationships.”

We hope to have librarians at our institution apply for this program next year.

Suggestions for Improvement:

A couple of our liaisons felt that the visit should be a bit longer in length (perhaps at least one full day), but how long a visit should be will depend on what the visiting librarian chooses to focus on during the visit. One of our liaisons said the following: “As mentioned several times during the visit, an extra day would be needed to have a more comprehensive experience for both the exchange librarian and the host institution. With more time, I think Emily could have visited a few of our liaison contacts and committees (like the GME collaborative working groups) to interview them about their satisfaction with our program and the tasks we perform for these special groups. I say this because she expressed an interest in our committee work. Also, I think it would have been beneficial to us if Emily had time to share more information (surveys, assessment tools) about her program so we could learn from her as well.”