

SCAMeL Librarian Exchange Professional Development Program

Site Report

Host Site Coordinator

Lisa Berry, MALS, AHIP
Associate Director for Information Services
HAM-TMC Library
Houston, TX

Visiting Librarian/Dates of Visit

John Fullinwider, MLS
Manager, Research Support and Education Services
UT Southwestern Medical Center Library
Dallas, TX
September 3-4, 2009

Estimated Number of Hours Preparing for Visit

Host Site Coordinator arranged meetings with the HAM-TMC Library Outreach Librarian, Partnership and Marketing Coordinator, TMC Education and Outreach Librarian, Associate Director of the NN/LM SCR, and the Associate Director for Information Services. A tour the UT School of Health Information Sciences - Houston was also arranged. Each staff member visited provided the Visiting Librarian with materials associated with their specialties. The Site Coordinator also provided accommodation information and the agenda for the visiting librarian. Preparation time was approximately 6 hours.

New or Different Perspective Gained by Host Library and Staff

While the two departments involved in the exchange were not directly equivalent, many duties do overlap. The Partnership and Marketing Coordinator, who also works as a Clinical Informationist, discussed the measures used when evaluating an informationist program. The HAM-TMC evaluation approach has been more of a direct patient "length of stay" approach, but our Visiting Librarian was viewing evaluation from a cost savings for medical personnel approach. This evaluation approach is an avenue for the HAM-TMC Library to consider in the future.

Our Outreach Librarian was pleased to spark interest in the Visiting Librarian to engage in a wider variety of outreach programs. Our grants, awards and information kiosks for working with special populations were of particular interest to him. Our GoLocal project has also inspired our visitor to investigate his area's GoLocal project in more detail.

The Associate Director for Information Services discussed various program ideas, including looking at non-traditional roles the library can play in a medical center. Of particular interest to the Associate Director were the ideas of creating a feeling of equality and partnership with researchers and administration at served institutions. Discussions on the challenges of managing departments full of diverse employees were also helpful for both parties. A common thread in the management conversation was what little management/administrative training is received in an MLS program.

Hosting another Exchange?

The HAM-TMC Library would be happy to host another Exchange. The experience was very positive. This program allows for a good one-on-one exchange of ideas without the host site expending a tremendous amount of effort.

Suggestions for Improvement

A marketing effort that would advertise that this program is not only for degreed librarians would be advantageous. I can see great potential for sharing among IT, marketing, and other administrative areas; those roles that are not traditionally filled by a librarian.

LMB
9/09