

SCAMeL Librarian Exchange Professional Development Program Final Report

Visiting Librarian's Report

Visitor:

Robert O. Marlin, IV MSIS, MA, CA, AHIP

Archivist,

Truman G. Blocker Jr. History of Medicine Collections

Moody Medical Library

University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston

Institution Visited:

UAMS Library, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences

Date of Visit: May 3, 2019

Goals for Visit:

- Tour the Historical Research Center at the UAMS Library
- Increase knowledge of HRC and its areas of collection, access, work-flow, policies, and other areas of interest
- Discuss possible future collaborative projects between the two institutions

Planned Itinerary:

May 2:

- Depart Galveston, Texas; Arrive in Little Rock, Arkansas

May 3:

- 8:50am Met with Timothy Nutt, Director of Historical Research Center
- 9:00 am-9:30 am Met with Historical Research Center Staff
- 10:00 am-11:00 am Presentation to the UAMS Faculty and Staff
- 11:00 am-11:15 am Met with Jan Hart, Director of Library
- 12:00 -1:00pm Lunch
- 1:00 pm-3:30 pm Visited the Butler Center for Arkansas Studies

May 4

- Depart Little Rock, Arkansas and return to Galveston, Texas

Goals Achieved:

I believe that all of the goals proposed for the exchange program were met during my visit to the Historical Research Center at the University of Arkansas Medical Sciences Library.

Goal: Tour the Historical Research Center to learn more about its history and holdings

Mr. Nutt gave me an extensive tour of his department and of the library. His department appeared to be in excellent order. The staff were all working on projects. I enjoyed seeing his collections. It appeared that the Historical Research Center collects many of the same types of materials as the Blocker Collections. I saw documents, photographs, audio-visual materials, medical instruments, memorabilia and a wonderful infant carrier.

Mr. Nutt shared with me the history of the Historical Research Center and how it was established in the late 1970s. He shared several archival collections that document the history of UAMS as well as the medical and other health-related professions in Arkansas. As someone who works at obtaining materials for my department, I was impressed with Mr. Nutt's acquisition of the papers of Joycelyn Elders, M.D., the former United States Surgeon General. I believe that Dr. Elder's collection will bring considerable notoriety to the Center. Mr. Nutt also shared how he is attempting to raise the Center's visibility both inside and outside Arkansas through his impressive promotional and programming activities.

Goal: Learn about the Historical Research Center's collecting, access, and use policies and procedures, and programming activities, as well as how the collections are promoted

During my visit to the Historical Research Center, Mr. Nutt shared his collection policies with me regarding the method of how new material is acquired by the Center. I enjoyed seeing how archival materials are exhibited in multiple areas both within and outside of the department.

Mr. Nutt also shared several of his policies and procedures regarding researchers and the use of materials at the Center. We agreed that our policies seemed to be in line with best practices utilized by other institutions.

Goal: Discuss avenues for possible future collaborative projects between the two institutions

Mr. Nutt and I discussed the possibility of collaborating on future projects. Due to time constraints, we were unable to identify a definitive collaboration however, we agreed to research topics that both institutions might find appealing. We agreed to continue to look for possibilities over the next few months.

I do believe that the discussions that Mr. Nutt and I had led to a greater mutual understanding of each other's collections.

Lessons Learned:

My day started with a tour of the Historical Research Center and the UMAS Library. During the tour I met with CaLee Henderson, Digital Initiatives Librarian, Suzanne Easley, Archivist, and April Hughes, Administrative Analyst. Each spoke briefly about some of their recent projects. I was especially interested in Ms. Henderson's work because I would like the Blocker Collections to have a position dedicated to building the department's digital presence.

I gave a presentation entitled "Louis Pasteur, X-Rays and Lunar Housing: Examining the Blocker History of Medicine Collections" to the UAMS faculty and staff. The presentation was an overview of the

holdings at the Moody Medical Library. The presentation was approximately 20 minutes and allowed for approximately 15 minutes of questions afterward. The questions were good and included how we came to obtain many of the classics, how these materials are utilized, and what areas might grow in the future. I actually learned about my own holdings as I prepared for this presentation.

We also visited the Butler Center for Arkansas Studies, a department of the Central Arkansas Library System (CALs). The Butler Center's purpose is to promote a greater understanding and appreciation of Arkansas history, literature, art, and culture. The Research Room of the Roberts Library is shared by the Butler Center and the University of Arkansas at Little Rock's Center for Arkansas History and Culture. The two institutions have made more than 10 million documents and photographs on Arkansas history available for public use. This was a beautiful facility and I enjoyed hearing about the collaborative nature of the Butler Center and the University of Arkansas at Little Rock's Center for Arkansas History and Culture.

Suggestions For Improvement:

I do not have any suggestions for improvement. The visit to the Historical Research Center was insightful. I enjoyed meeting CaLee Henderson, Digital Initiatives Librarian, Suzanne Easley, Archivist, and April Hughes, Administrative Analyst. From what I saw, they worked well together.

Site Report

Host Site Coordinator

Robert O. Marlin, IV, MSIS, MA, CA, AHIP

Archivist, Truman G. Blocker Jr., History of Medicine Collections

Moody Medical Library

The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston

Visiting Librarian

Tim Nutt, MLIS, CA

Director of the Historical Research Center

UAMS Library

Date of Visit: April 26, 2019

Preparation Time:

Preparations began in March of 2019 with an exchange of emails between Mr. Nutt and me to schedule the dates of his visit. We both had packed schedules but were able to find dates that worked for both of us. I worked on setting up a series of brief meetings with other librarians in the Moody Library. I estimate that I spent between two and three hours setting these meetings up and the display of some of the holdings of the Blocker holdings that I wanted to share with Mr. Nutt.

Host Library Perspective

Mr. Nutt's presentation to the Moody Medical Librarians was excellent and informative. He did his presentation without notes (something that I hope to do someday.) It was a good historical overview of both the library and the university. Mr. Nutt met with our Head of Reference, Head of Technical Services and with a Library Manager during his visit. These areas seemed to offer the greatest coverage of our holdings both digital and traditional.

Host Another?

I thought the visit was well worth the effort. The Blocker Collections would certainly welcome the opportunity to host another visiting archivist or librarian.

Suggestions for Improvement

There are no suggestions for improvement.