

SCAMeL Librarian Exchange Professional Development Program

Site Report

Host Site Coordinator

JoAnn Van Schaik
Senior Director, Technical Services
Preston Smith Library
Texas Tech University HSC, Lubbock

Visiting Librarian/Dates of Visit

John Weed
Electronic Resources/Serials Librarian
Briscoe Library
University of Texas HSC at San Antonio
May 27-28, 2009

Estimated Number of Hours Preparing for Visit

Host Site Coordinator met separately and later as a group with the librarians who supervise the Cataloging, Acquisitions, and Serials/Homepage areas to discuss topics of interest expressed by the visiting librarian prior to his visit. Site coordinator identified materials of interest (e.g., TTUHSC Libraries' organizational chart) for the visit and coordinated travel and agenda items with visiting librarian. Amount of time spent in preparation was between 7-8 hours spread over several weeks.

New or different perspective gained by host library and staff

TTUHSC Librarians learned that even though both participating libraries have branches, the staff organization, responsibilities, reporting lines, and workflow differ substantially in some areas. Although the two libraries do have some program and institutional similarities, other programs, personnel, funding, and institutional demands and history probably account for some of the differences.

Although Technical Services staffing structure differs in the two libraries, both deal with issues of heavy workload for some staff members, and deficient skill levels in other, often long-term, staff.

Collection development for branches is handled differently at the libraries, mostly because of the programs located at, and the size of, the branches.

Although many topics were discussed, including workflow, CE opportunities, electronic product acquisition, etc., the Librarian Exchange visit surprised some and reinforced in other TTUHSC Librarians that although structurally different, the UTHSCSA Librarians wrestle with many of the same issues and concerns as they do.

Hosting another Exchange?

The TTUHSC Libraries would gladly host another Exchange. It is definitely a program from which both the host and visiting libraries can learn much. Following the Exchange visit, the TTUHSC Catalog Librarian expressed an interest in applying for an Exchange grant in 2010.

Suggestions for Improvement

Better marketing is needed for the SCAMeL Librarian Exchange Professional Development Program. Since there are so many ways to get information to people electronically now, that approach might be investigated.

As librarians at SCAMeL member libraries become more aware of the Exchange program, the number of applicants will likely increase. If that happens, SCAMeL may want to consider increasing the number of awards granted each year, if funding is available.

Although all items were covered on the visiting librarian's agenda, we needed dinner and lunch with him to get it all discussed. A little more time might have been helpful. A visit to one of our branches by this visitor would have been beneficial, although it would have increased the time needed for the exchange and the cost.