UIC Libraries host CARLI Resource Sharing Open House

By Thomas Mantzakides

On Thursday, April 6, 2017, both the UIC Richard J. Daley Library and the Library of the Health Sciences-Chicago hosted the CARLI (Consortia of Academic Research Libraries in Illinois) Resource Sharing Open House. 11 registered guests attended the all-day session which featured tours of both the Daley Library and LHS-Chicago.

The annual open houses – one usually held in the Chicagoland area, and the other downstate - are intended to showcase library spaces and services, demonstrate workflows, and provide an opportunity for staff in the consortia to meet in person to discuss various issues related to resource sharing.

Upon entering Daley’s Room 1-470, guests were provided with folders containing handouts of Interlibrary Loan practices, I-Share procedures, and the Library’s most recent newsletter from Fall 2016, which featured the Library of the Health Sciences Renovation Grand Opening on the front cover.

The session began at 10:00 a.m. with University Librarian and Dean of Libraries, Mary Case, offering brief welcoming remarks in which she stressed how important membership in the consortia is for UIC and thanked everyone for attending. A tour of floors 1-4 of the Daley Library followed, featuring a brief stop at the Special Collections Department on the 3rd floor. Attendees later gathered in the Interlibrary Loan (ILL)/I-Share staff offices where ILL Coordinator John Matthews and I-Share Supervisor Kathleen Kilian discussed the workflows and in-unit processing performed in their shared space. A quick demonstration of the scanner used in ILL was also featured just before the lunch break.

Following lunch, a shuttle bus transported guests to the Library of the Health Sciences. In the Olga Jonasson Classroom, Associate University Librarian and Associate Dean, Kathryn Carpenter provided a brief overview of the Library’s history/renovation before Clinical Assistant Professor & User Experience Librarian Gerald Jurek led a 30-minute tour of the newly renovated first floor. Several attendees demonstrated keen interest by asking insightful questions concerning expenses and space utilization. Comments were also made about how beautiful and appealing the floor looked.

Access to Resources Librarian Kevin O’Brien followed the tour with a brief overview of Docline, which was a feature that not many of the guests knew about since they were not employed at a Health Sciences Library. O’Brien covered the workflow that staff follow.
in processing Docline requests and displayed slides that offered screenshots of the software’s interface.

Library Specialist and 2017 Extra Mile Award Winner, Thomas Mantzakides then followed up O’Brien’s presentation with a quiz meant to test the guests’ knowledge of certain “best practices” in resource sharing as listed on the CARLI website. The interactive game was played on kahoot.it and had been recommended by Senior Library Specialist Joel Sanders. The game concluded with winners being given some small prizes – the winner, Travis Eastham from DePaul University, walked away with a charger, a UIC pen, and an NNLM/GMR post it stickers.

Finally, guests concluded the Open House with a visit to the Special Collections Department on the 3rd floor. The space featured an exhibit entitled “Contagion, the images of Black Bodies in Visual Culture.” Special Collections staff members also displayed some books of interest (including the oldest known book in the collection) and set them on the table.

How did the Library do? In the past, CARLI staff follow up with the Open House attendees by sending them a survey to ascertain their experiences at UIC. If the number of smiles and warm conversations observed during the course of the day are any indication, it would seem that both campus libraries acquitted themselves quite well!

Thomas Mantzakides, MSLIS
Library Specialist
UIC Library of the Health Sciences-Chicago
tmantz1@uic.edu