Research Incentive Fund Report

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On April 19 and 20, 2013, I used funds provided by InULA to travel to Atlanta, Georgia, for the annual conference of the Southeast chapter of the American Association of Law Librarians ("SEAALL"). SEAALL is perhaps the largest and most active regional chapter of the AALL. Attending this conference gave me the opportunity to present the work I've been doing in online teaching, to forge important professional connections, and to broadcast the fact that IU Robert H. McKinney School of Law is in the vanguard when it comes to online legal research instruction.

At SEAALL, I gave an hour-long presentation entitled "It's 3a.m. – Show Me!: A Toolkit for Screencasting Legal Research Instruction." My co-presenters included a law librarian from the University of Florida (Jennifer Wondracek), a librarian from a law firm in Decatur, Georgia (Sarah Mauldin), and a representative from Bloomberg Law (Jim Murphy). With this mix of backgrounds, we were able to give a lively and varied account of using screencasting to help teach our users to use many different legal research tools. The presentation covered the basic questions of what screencasting is and when it is best used as well as more advanced questions of choosing the best software according to needs and budgetary constraints, hosting, and ensuring compatibility across platforms. We also showed examples of good and bad screencasts, screencasting to instruct a single user, and what you can screencast "on the fly" when you've had practice.

The presentation was very well-received. Over 50 people attended – excellent attendance for a conference of about 170. We fielded quite a few questions and had a number of attendees express an interest in learning more. The conference was on a very tight schedule, so we had to conclude the questions quickly. We were, however, able to refer the attendees to our electronic "handout" – a LibGuide hosted at the University of Florida (http://guides.uflib.ufl.edu/screencasting). This e-handout contains detailed notes on different software, hardware, and hosting options, screencasting examples, copies of our presentations slides, and contact information.

In July, my co-presenters and gave this presentation again, with some hands-on enhancements due to a longer time slot, at the national conference of the American Association of Law Librarians in Seattle. In addition to being worthwhile in and of itself, presenting at SEAALL was a valuable opportunity to prepare for our appearance in front of a larger, more diverse audience.