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CALL Half-Day Institute on Technology

Clare Gaynor Willis

IIT Chicago-Kent College of Law Library, cwillis@kentlaw.iit.edu

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CALL HALF-DAY INSTITUTE ON TECHNOLOGY
By Clare Gaynor Willis, IIT Chicago-Kent College of Law Library
cwillis@kentlaw.edu

CALL's half-day institute on technology addressed technology issues relevant to a diverse group of librarians such as encouraging patrons to use technology and finding cost-effective alternatives to expensive software. The Continuing Education Committee organized the event, which was held at IIT Chicago-Kent College of Law on Friday, April 27.

Attendees heard from three panels and participated in an interactive "technology petting zoo." The IIT Chicago-Kent College of Law Library contributed some of its librarians' favorite technologies to the petting zoo, including two iPads, two Kindles, an iPod touch, an iPhone, and a netbook. Participants had the opportunity to try everything, ask questions, and gather opinions from fellow librarians. Additionally, because the event was held in one of Chicago-Kent's new "smart" classrooms, participants were given a tour of the new classroom technology. One of the panels even used the document camera for their presentation!

The first panel featured librarians and staff from John Marshall Law School, Louis L. Biro Law Library. Jessica Wittman, James Loesch, and Christopher Bevard discussed the challenges of getting faculty and students to adopt technology. JMLS is unique in its mandate that all instructors must incorporate technology into their classes. The library has taken the lead in providing technology and instruction and works closely with IT. They spoke about the Moodle open-source class management software, the YouSeeU software that allows instructors to comment on video of students' oral arguments, and Tegrity's lecture capture software, among other innovations. The panel stressed that, while there will always be individuals who are intimidated by new technology, or otherwise resistant to change, the key is to work with them and to show them how technology can be used to enhance their productivity, not slow them down.

The second panel featured librarians from Chicago-Kent. Clare Willis and Debbie Ginsberg discussed video

creation and editing software. Clare based her discussion on a presentation the librarians at Chicago-Kent created to teach administrative law which featured Xtranormal videos. She explained the basics of making Xtranormal videos and the pricing structure based on "Xtranormal points." Debbie discussed several options at different price points for editing audio and video. They then showed another clip of the presentation which highlighted how Xtranormal and video editing software like Camtasia could be used together to make an effective presentation.

The third panel featured librarians from law firm libraries around the city: Ann Morris from Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom, Katrina Perez from Drinker, Biddle & Reath, and Janet Smith from Latham & Watkins. All of the librarians come from multi-city and, in some cases, multi-national firms. They discussed their successes and setbacks in introducing new technology. All of the firm librarians seemed to agree that wikis were a non-starter and that email was still the best way to communicate with attorneys. The recurring theme throughout this panel was that, while newer technologies had been tested in all three firms, most were met with low adoption rates and were eventually abandoned. Communicating through email seemed to be the primary way that work flow was managed within each firm and between different office locations. The librarians also discussed different ways to use staffing and technology to answer questions over several time zones.

The CALL half-day institute provided a wonderful opportunity for librarians working in different settings to learn about and discuss technology issues. All of the panels answered interesting and thought-provoking questions from the audience. All attendees benefited from hearing the perspectives of both academic and firm librarians. The Continuing Education Committee thanks everyone who attended and presented for a wonderful morning. We also thank the Chicago-Kent College of Law for hosting the event.