

ARLIS/NA + VRA 3rd Joint Conference 2016 | Seattle
Poster Session

Paranormal Activity in the Library — *Krista Ivy*, Reference + Instruction Librarian, University of California, Riverside

It all began with questions about Carmen, the Library ghost. Who is she? How did she die? Have you seen her? Unfortunately, there was no institutional history or information available on the resident specter of Rivera Library. This all changed when the University of California, Riverside Library authorized an investigation by The Paranormal Research Society (PRS) at UCR in 2012. This was an overnight study to gain evidence about Carmen and the general paranormal state of the library. Following the investigation, the library collaborated with the PRS in 2014 and 2015 to host Halloween ghost tours. These tours served to introduce attendees to the PRS, a student organization and their activities. The PRS student members lead the library tours highlighting paranormal hot spots throughout the building and discussing evidence gathered during the investigation. Breaking from the serious nature of campus libraries and hosting cultural activities such as the Ghost Tour, provides students an opportunity to learn and inquire in a safe and inviting environment. Collaborating with the PRS on planning, marketing, and assessing provides both library staff and students invaluable experience. Ultimately both organizations benefit from the collaboration. The PRS gained campus exposure to prospective members and was able to highlight their most successful investigation to date. The library was able to provide a fun, intriguing, and educational event to celebrate the Halloween holiday by encouraging patrons to interact with the library space while learning about its' history and folklore.