Exhibition at Library of the Health Sciences Chicago Looks at History of HIV/AIDS Crisis

By Kevin O'Brien

A new National Library of Medicine traveling exhibition currently on display at the Library of the Health Sciences Chicago details the social and political aspects of the HIV/AIDS crisis. Visitors to the library will be able to view “Surviving and Thriving: AIDS, Politics, and Culture” through November 16, 2013. The exhibit is comprised of six panels which describe the first appearance of the disease, scientific efforts to understand it, and the social movement that arose to advocate for those living with AIDS.

The “Surviving and Thriving” exhibit was curated by Jennifer Brier, a faculty member of the UIC Gender and Women’s Studies Department and author of Infectious Ideas: U. S. Political Responses to the AIDS Crisis (University of North Carolina Press, 2009). Professor Brier spoke at a well-attended public event to mark the formal opening of the exhibit held in the reading room of the library’s Special Collections on October 21, 2013.

An extensive website [http://www.nlm.nih.gov/survivingandthriving/] supplements the physical exhibit with additional material. Among the materials that may be found online are images, documents, and curriculum plans.

Three copies of the “Surviving and Thriving: AIDS, Politics, and Culture” exhibit are being circulated by the National Library of Medicine. The copy on display at the Library of the Health Sciences will travel on to the University of California San Francisco after November 16. Demand for this exhibit has been very high and all three copies are reserved through 2017.

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