Disabilities and Web Design

A workshop about Web design and disabilities was conducted by the LACUNY Disabilities Roundtable and the LACUNY Web Management Roundtable on April 29, 2005 at the NYC College of Technology. The presenters were Kevin Tucker of City College, Deputy to the Vice-President for Student Affairs, and Dr. Sylvie Richards of Brooklyn College, Faculty Development and Instructional Support Specialist, Office of Academic Information Technologies.

In Professor Tucker’s PowerPoint presentation, “Understanding and Applying the ADA and Section 508,” traced the laws relating to people with disabilities from 1636 to the present. He emphasized Section 508 of the Workforce Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended in 1986. This established non-binding guidelines regarding electronic and information technologies and includes Web design. He also discussed the Americans with Disabilities Act, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability and requires reasonable accommodation for people with disabilities. After this point the law becomes unclear. Currently, section 508 does not apply to CUNY, but that could change. According to Professor Tucker, section 508 is important to CUNY because it is achievable, is verifiable, and is the right thing to do.

If CUNY adheres to 508, it protects itself from potential lawsuits against aggrieved disabled students. There is free 508 training available online. One such link for free training is the 508 Universe training: www.section508.gov/index.cfm?FuseAction=Content&ID=5.

Dr. Richards, who is available to come to any campus, taught the group how to look at a Web page and make sure it is Section 508 compliant. She told the workshop that CUNY Central’s JAWS program is free to campuses for disabled patrons to use. JAWS reads Web pages out loud from the left top across to the right top, then down a line, left to right, until it reaches right bottom. The attendees then looked at some Web pages based upon this idea and listened to them as if they were blind. Dr. Richards further pointed out that some people (mainly men) do not see colors in the same way, so using color as an indicator of where to go on a Web page is counterproductive. She suggested using www.behr.com’s explore color link to help identify colors for Web design. She recommended Dreamweaver as a good WYSIWYG (What You See Is What You Get) Web designer. It allows the easy insertion of “alt” tags for image maps. Dr. Richards demonstrated “A quick guide to ADA compliance on the Web” from the Department of Justice: www.usdoj.gov/crt/ada/websites2.htm. Dr. Richards also recommended that all CUNY’s campuses upgrade to Adobe Acrobat reader 7.0 because it is more 508 compliant. Finally, she recommended that every Web page be run through a 508 checker. To find one, search 508 checker in any search engine.

—Scott Sheidlower
The newly formed LACUNY Reference Roundtable, co-chaired by Paul Abruzzo (LaGuardia) and Louise Klusek (Baruch), sponsored an April 8 workshop on “RSS Feeds, Wikis, and Blogs” to showcase these tools as communication channels in libraries and, especially, reference departments. Over thirty CUNY librarians attended the hands-on session at Baruch College.

Steven Ovadia (LaGuardia) opened the program with a look at wikis. LaGuardia is using a wiki at its reference desk and another to promote news from the Library Media Resources Center. LaGuardia librarians use the reference wiki to create search strategies for tough questions, as a collection development tool, to pass on information about college bureaucracy and procedures, and to conduct ongoing conversations about library policies.

Ned Wall (Brooklyn) then gave an introduction to the world of blogs using a digital handout in the form of a blog (wallblog.blogs.com/presentation). He spoke about RSS feeds and demonstrated how to use Bloglines, a Web-based aggregator, to manage Web feeds.

Stephen Francoeur (Baruch) spoke about the development of Baruch’s reference blog. He showed participants how to set up a blog using Blogger, a service owned by Google, and how to add search and indexing features.

A lively discussion followed on the pros and cons of wikis and blogs.-- Louise Klusek

Freedom, imagination, and balance are important values for CUNY librarians. Such concepts were discussed during “Reengagement, Community, and the Information Environment” at City College, January 21, 2005. The session was the first in a planned series entitled “LACUNY Dialogues.” Approximately thirty CUNY librarians heard Lisa Ellis (Baruch), Kenneth Schlesinger (LaGuardia), and Chip Stewart (City) lead a lively discussion of the various roles librarians can play within their institutions.

Discussing working with library users, Lisa stressed the necessity of their interacting with information thoroughly to develop critical thinking. She asked the audience to consider what roles CUNY librarians can play in helping students achieve their goals and emphasized the need for all librarians to spend time at the reference desk to understand better the teaching function of libraries. Scott Sheidlower (York) pointed out that faculty should acknowledge the necessity of students’ knowing how to evaluate sources of information. Lisa observed that students often lack the confidence to be skeptical about information. This insecurity, according to John Drobnicki (York), also means that undergraduates have problems choosing research topics and frequently will accept the first topic suggested by a librarian. Lisa said that librarians cannot be expected to be miracle workers for procrastinators. A “disconnect” between students, faculty, and librarians was cited by LaRoi Lawton (Bronx), who said that even some librarians do not encourage creativity among their colleagues. He asked how CUNY librarians can help each other to raise our level of professionalism. LaRoi described his library’s efforts to reach out to faculty.

Ken said that “instruction is our solution” to many problems facing us. Being allowed to teach credit courses, according to Ken, will achieve the professional respect we deserve and also better help librarians support students’ “dream of education.”

Being allowed to teach credit courses, according to Ken, will achieve the professional respect we deserve and also better help librarians support students’ “dream of education.” To illustrate the “reengagement” aspect of the session, Ken explained how he made a career shift from off-Broadway associate producer. He had always been a librarian at heart, serving as an amateur reference librarian as a University of California, Santa Cruz, undergraduate by sitting at his library’s reference desk, which was not covered at night. Chip emphasized the need to create an “idea-friendly environment.” The abundance of resources available to our users does not necessarily lead to the desired effect of this wealth of information. Chip said that librarians need to be more interdisciplinary and creative to survive. Ways of doing this were addressed by the attendees. Sharon Swacker (City Tech) suggested that librarians should spend more time on their institutions’ committees. Developing Web blogs is a way of being both creative and helping patrons, according to Steve Ovadia (LaGuardia). Ken explained how the LACUNY Dialogues grew out of ideas discussed at last fall’s open house for Curtis Kendrick and characterized this first dialogue as an excellent means of communicating our concerns. —Michael Adams
Publishing Panel

On April Fool’s Day, LACUNY’s Professional Development Committee hosted a panel on publishing in the Richard Harris Terrace at BMCC. Thirty-four people attended “The Inside View: Publishing Opportunities for Library Faculty.” Following opening remarks by LACUNY president Kenneth Schlesinger, Committee Co-Chair Lisa Finder introduced the panel: Francine Graf, managing editor of Choice; Michael G. Kelley, development and production editor for Neal-Shuman Publishers; and D.H. Figueredo, director of the Library and Media Center at Bloomfield College in New Jersey and also an author and encyclopedia editor. All three panelists have backgrounds as professional librarians in addition to their careers in publishing.

Graf kicked off the panel with a discussion of publishing opportunities at Choice and other publications from the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL). She encouraged librarians and teaching faculty to submit applications to become reviewers for Choice, which publishes about six-hundred reviews in each of its eleven issues annually, as well as ten bibliographic essays per year. More information about reviewing for Choice is available at www.ala.org/ala/acrl/acrlpubs/choice. Graf concluded her presentation with some tips for publishing successfully, including read author guidelines, meet deadlines, proofread carefully, and do not give up. She can be contacted at fgraf@ala-choice.org.

Kelley followed with useful practical advice for librarians with book ideas in his presentation “From Idea to Print: Writing It Up.” For potential authors looking for publishers, he suggested reading publisher catalogs, examining published books, visiting exhibits, and checking Literary Marketplace for the name of acquisitions editors. The next step is writing the proposal, which should include the purpose, audience, market, and competition for the book. Kelley also discussed pricing formulas, standard contracts, and important topics for today’s library publishers, such as acquisitions, virtual reference, and informatics. He encouraged anyone with an idea and an interest to pursue publishing a book. His e-mail is michael@neal-schuman.com.

As a librarian, professional writer, and editor, Figueredo presented a wealth of information for prospective authors. His “forty ways to become published” included “don’t wait for inspiration,” “start at the beginning,” “look at things in new ways,” and “start over when rejected.” He stressed the importance of doing one’s homework about publishers and of presenting one’s work professionally. For beginning authors, he recommended starting small with books reviews and conference presentations before building toward bigger projects. A lively question-and-answer session followed the presentations, with much discussion focusing on the future and importance of electronic publishing. Members of the audience undoubtedly left the event with new ideas and new inspiration to carry them toward their publishing goals.—Dawn Amsberry

Fellowship Leave for CUNY Librarians

“Fellowship Leave: Sabbaticals for CUNY Library Faculty,” the LACUNY end of year event, was held on December 10 at the Hunter School of Social Work. Sharon Swacker (City Tech) moderated the session, designed to encourage CUNY librarians to take advantage of research leaves to pursue research and educational projects. The session provided an opportunity for LACUNY members to hear from CUNY library faculty who have taken research leaves to pursue a variety of research and educational projects. Library faculty from four CUNY institutions discussed a wide range of research projects. Rebecca Adler (Staten Island) completed a qualitative study of academic librarians’ feelings about change during her sabbatical. Her project led to an article later published in Portal. Francine Egger-Sider (LaGuardia) used her leave to study distance education in Newfoundland. Suzanna Simor (Queens) devoted her leave to an art history research project that explored visual representations of the Ten Commandments. Her research resulted in conference papers, articles, and a book manuscript currently under consideration. Susan Voge (Lehman) used her leave time to focus on improving teaching by taking courses in areas such as instructional design and online instruction at Florida State University. All of the speakers emphasized the value of uninterrupted research time and encouraged others to apply for sabbaticals.—Scott Johnston
Nelson Testifies about CUNY Library Faculty Status

Bonnie Nelson (John Jay) testified before the New York City Council on April 18, 2005, about CUNY library faculty status and working conditions. The following is the text of her statement.

Chairpersons Barron and Addabbo, thank you for inviting us to testify.

My name is Bonnie Nelson. I’m a professor in the library of John Jay College of Criminal Justice. I am here to describe how the critical importance of CUNY library faculty is not recognized by CUNY’s management.

It is no secret to you—in fact it has become a truism to say—that we are now an information society. The economists and labor specialists tell us that knowledge workers are the future of our country and that our educational systems must be redesigned to produce more sophisticated knowledge workers. Thomas Friedman quoted Bill Gates in the April 3 Sunday New York Times as saying, “In the international competition to have the biggest and best supply of knowledge workers, America is falling behind.”

College and university accrediting agencies now require that colleges show that they are graduating “information literate” students: students who understand how to find information, how to analyze and evaluate it, and how to create it.

The people who understand information and its organization best and how information becomes knowledge are, of course, librarians.

In 1965, the CUNY Board of Trustees (then the Board of Higher Education) acknowledged the importance of librarians to the work of the University by declaring that librarians were faculty with the same rank and titles as their colleagues in the classroom, making librarians full partners with classroom faculty in the education of our students. CUNY library faculty sit on curriculum committees, teach credit-bearing courses, and are intimately involved in the redesign of the CUNY colleges’ general education requirements. We are a central part of the ongoing effort to integrate information literacy into the CUNY curriculum.

CUNY library faculty purchase and maintain collections of books and journals, provide reference help to students and faculty, and teach classes, as we always have. But now we also purchase and maintain collections of electronic journals and provide the tools that make them easily accessible to our students and faculty on campus and at home. We catalog electronic resources and convert old and trusted tools, like library catalogs, to new uses—finding information on the Internet. We give workshops for other faculty to help them and their students understand the difference between an electronic scholarly journal article and the Web page of a crank. We create Web sites that both instruct and provide access to information. We teach about Google and other search engines and what their limitations are. We provide one-on-one reference help in person, by telephone, through e-mail, and through real-time online “chat.”

Because of CUNY’s initiative in reaching out to New York City’s public schools, CUNY campuses now include high schools and middle schools, but because of CUNY and New York City’s parsimony, these schools do not include school libraries or school librarians (in violation of New York State regulations), and now CUNY library faculty have suddenly found themselves teaching classes and providing reference help to fourteen-year-olds.

Yet even as CUNY library faculty have taken on all these additional responsibilities, often without additional personnel, we have found that our salaries and working conditions have stagnated and even regressed. Like our classroom colleagues, we have been without a contract for two-and-a-half years, and many of us have not had a raise in that time.
Nelson Testimony on Faculty Status, con’t from page 4

Yet CUNY classroom faculty have the entire summer, plus winter and spring break, in order to do their research and writing. CUNY library faculty have only six weeks of annual leave. Even worse, newly-hired library faculty have only four weeks of annual leave; it takes them ten years to reach the same annual leave as their senior colleagues, even though their professional lives depend on their publishing in sufficient quality and quantity to receive tenure at the end of five years. To add insult to injury, in the last contract, CUNY management recognized the burden that junior faculty face by providing for a full semester of reassigned research leave for all new faculty except library and counseling faculty.

Because of the stagnation in salaries and the regressive working conditions, it is becoming increasingly difficult for CUNY to recruit the best and the brightest library faculty. CUNY salaries used to be among the best in the country, and many librarians were drawn to CUNY for those salaries and for the faculty status. But other colleges in the New York area, such as LIU, now offer faculty status plus better salaries and three months of annual leave. CUNY’s management is spending millions of dollars on electronic library resources and systems but is failing to invest in the human capital—the library faculty—needed to help our students and their instructors take full advantage of the electronic world. It is our students, and the society they will create after they graduate, who will suffer for this shortsightedness. Thank You.

Professional Activities

Awards and Grants  Janey Chao (Baruch) was honored with Baruch’s Third Annual Award of Faculty Scholarship and Creative Achievement on March 17, 2005.

Jeanne Galvin (Kingsborough) and Catherine Perkins (Staten Island) received 2005 LACUNY Professional Development Grants. Jeanne’s project is “Promoting Information Literacy through Educational Initiatives,” presented as part of the Librarians’ Information Literacy Annual Conference (LILAC), sponsored by the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals (CILIP) at the Imperial College, London, April 5, 2005. Catherine presented “Instruction and Searching” at the Computers in Libraries conference in Washington, March 2005.

Carol Gee (Lehman) received a PSC-CUNY Research Award for her survey of Sinology collections in prominent research libraries on the west coast of the United States. Carol also received a supplementary grant from the PSC-CUNY HEO Professional Development Fund for the same project.

Valeda Dent and Lauren Yannotta (Hunter) received a PSC-CUNY Grant to continue their library research in rural Uganda this Summer. They also received a $5,000 Presidential Travel Grant from Hunter College to travel to Swaziland to present their work, along with Professor Kate Parry, at the 4th Pan African Reading for All Conference.

Mee-Len Hom and Wendy Tan (Hunter) received a Presidential Travel Grant to present at the China Society for Library Science Conference in Guilin, China in July.


Professional Involvement  Carol Gee (Lehman) has been elected to the board of directors of the National Chinese American Librarians Association (www.cala-web.org) for 2004-2007.

Kenneth Schlesinger (LaGuardia) has been elected Vice President of the Theatre Library Association (tla.library.unt.edu).
Presentations

Barnett, Philip (City) presented “The Librarian’s Role in Selecting and Promoting Free World Wide Web Materials to Chemistry Students, Staff, and Faculty” at the 32nd Northeast Regional Meeting of the American Chemical Society in Rochester, NY, November 2, 2004.

Devin Feldman (Queensborough) and Sheila Beck (Queensborough) gave a poster session, “It’s a Puzzlement,” at the ACRL/ NY conference at Baruch, December 3, 2004.

Rhonda Johnson (Hostos) presented “Racial Influences on the Foreign Policy of Substate Actors” and coordinated the panel “Race in International Politics: Four Perspectives on Peacekeeping, Interest Groups, Foreign Policy, and the IMF” at the International Studies Association Conference in Honolulu (www.isanet.org/hawaii) on March 4, 2005. Rhonda also presented “Intellectual Property, Copyright, and the Quilter” for the Quilters of Color Network of New York (www.qcnnyn.org) at the Hudson Guild Community Center, February 26, 2005.

Sandra Marcus (Queensborough) and Susan Sciammarella (Queensborough) presented “Mission Quite Possible: Information Literacy in the Age of Pop Culture” at the conference of the League for Innovation in the Community College (www.league.org) in New York. Sandra and Susan also served as volunteers at the hospitality table for the March 6-9, 2005, event, which attracted 2,400 participants.

Jennifer Oates (Queens), along with Alisa Rata of Southern Methodist University, presented “Revisiting New Grove Online” at the annual meeting of the Music Library Association (www.musiclibraryassoc.org) in Vancouver, February 18, 2005.

Kenneth Schlesinger (LaGuardia) presented “Portable Laptop Wireless Classroom: Innovation, Flexibility, and Pedagogy” at the annual conference of the Consortium of College and University Media Centers (www.ccumc.org) in Cincinnati, October 2004.

Suzanna Simor (Queens) presented “The Queens College Story” at the Art Libraries Society of North America (www.arlisna.org) Conference in Houston, April 5, 2005. Suzanna’s presentation was part of the session “Academic Libraries, Visual Collections, and Campus Museum Border Crossings.” She also presented “Shedding Light on Centuries Past: New Tools for Research in the Western Middle Ages,” on July 1, 2004, at the 22nd World Congress of the Czechoslovak Society of Arts and Sciences (www.svu2000.org) in Olomouc, Czech Republic. She organized the library and information resources panel for this conference. “Basic and Advanced Tools for Research in the Western Middle Ages: Late Medieval” was presented by Suzanna at the ARLIS/NA Conference in New York, April 16, 2004.

Michael Waldman (Baruch) presented “LibQUAL+ and Collection Development” at the 24th annual Charleston Conference (www.katina.info/conference), November 2004.

Patricia Woodard (Hunter) presented a paper about Philadelphia composer and publisher J. Lincoln Hall (1866-1930) as part of “A Century of Composing in America: 1820-1920,” a Music in Gotham (web.gc.cuny.edu/BrookCenter/gotham.htm) project held at the CUNY Graduate Center, November 16-18, 2004.

Publications

Michael Adams (Graduate Center) contributed entries on “Film in the United States,” “Bo Diddley,” “Jerry Lee Lewis,” and “Max Shulman” to The Fifties in America (Salem Press, 2005).


Alexandra de Luise (Queens) contributed the chapters “Periodicals” and “Serials” to Guide to the Literature of Art History 2 (ALA, 2005).


Miriam Laskin (Hostos) and Lucinda Zoe (Hostos) contributed “Making the Teaching Library an Institutional Priority: Academic Readiness, Retention and Information Literacy” to Reflective Teaching: A Bridge to Learning: Selected Papers Presented at the 31st National LOEX Conference (Pierian Press 2004).


Valeda Dent, Laura Cobus and Anita Ondrusek (Hunter) published "How 28 Users Helped Re-Design an Academic Library Website: A Usability Study" in Reference and User Services Quarterly 44.3 (2005): 232-246.

Obituary

Pamela Wonsek

Pamela Wonsek, Associate Professor in the Hunter College Library, passed away May 3 at Beth Israel Hospital. Pam had been a member of the Hunter College Libraries faculty since the fall of 1987 and served the Libraries in many positions through the years. She was named Deputy Chief Librarian in September 1999. Pam also taught Communication Studies for the Film & Media Department. Before coming to Hunter, Pam held positions at the University of Missouri-St. Louis, Hastings Public Library, Harvard University, and Mercy College.

Pam was active professionally, serving on and chairing many professional committees, and contributed articles to such publications as American Studies Today, Media, Culture, and Society, and The Reference Librarian. Pam also taught for the Salzburg Seminar in American Studies and served as a consultant there.--Louise Sherby
LACUNY Institute 2005:
Scholarly Publishing and Open Access: Payers and Players

The LACUNY Institute 2005, "Scholarly Publishing and Open Access: Payers and Players" offered a timely program on new trends and challenges in the publication of and access to information. The William and Anita Newman Conference Center at Baruch College served as the site of the May 20 event. Nearly 170 attendees, including 90 enthusiastic LACUNY members, enjoyed a rich morning program featuring a keynote speaker debate on alternative publication models and a panel of experts describing examples of institutional repositories. The afternoon offered opportunities to visit vendor tables and to attend breakout sessions that continued the themes of the morning program. The day wrapped up with an enjoyable wine and cheese social where attendees mingled with presenters and exchanged views on the compelling issues of the day.

Keynote speakers Dr. Harold Varmus and Dr. Martin Blume debated the benefits and sustainability of alternative ways to pay for publication. Nobel laureate, Varmus, a Nobel laureate in medicine, president of Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, and director of the National Institutes of Health under Bill Clinton, described the renegade model offered by his author-pay Public Library of Science (PLoS) publications, the Public Library of Biology, and the Public Library of Medicine. The PLoS initiative has received much support from scientists around the world, and the proposed business model was able to be developed through generous foundation donations. Martin Blume, a physicist and editor-in-chief of the American Physical Society, noted that the level of public tolerance for a delay in access to information varies among the sciences. Blume also took exception to the long-term viability of the PLoS business model and challenged the likelihood that foundations and American granting institutions would be willing or able to continue to pay for publishing of research. A question and answer period followed each keynote address.

The second half of the morning turned the attention of the audience to the subject of institutional repositories, as Teresa McManus, Chief Librarian of Bronx Community College, moderated presentations. Kate Wittenberg, director of the Electronic Publishing Initiative at Columbia (EPIC), described Columbia International Affairs Online (CIAO) as “a mix of scholarly materials in the field of international affairs, including working papers, conference proceedings, journal abstracts, books, maps, links to a wide variety of related sites, and a sophisticated indexing and search system.” John Townsend, director of the New York State Higher Education Initiative (NYSHEI), discussed a recent Institute of Museum and Library Services funding proposal for NYSHEI that would enable its members to develop a policy framework, build an prototype shared repository, and develop a resource model. Curtis Kendrick, CUNY University Librarian, encouraged the audience to consider how they could reach out beyond their library colleagues to bring information about alternative publishing models to their campus faculty and administrators.

Following lunch and some time with the vendors, institute participants were challenged to choose from among a compelling selection of breakout sessions. Options included gaining a deeper understanding from Marcus Banks (Frederick L. Ehrman Medical Library, New York University School of Medicine) of scientific publication and access to grey literature in an age of expanding open access, or learning from Kristen Antelman (North Carolina State University Libraries) whether publication in open-access journals leads to higher rates of article citations. Monica Berger (New York City College of Technology) and Gloria Rohmann (New York University) offered a glance into the future of cataloging in this new era of publishing. Attendees had other opportunities to learn from those more experienced by attending either Thomas Krichel’s session on RePEc (repec.org), Ron Jantz’s discussion of Rutgers’ Fedora project, or Stewart Bodner’s talk on the New York Public Library’s effort to build a successful repository. Edward Keane of Long Island University and Philip Pecorino of Queensborough Community College each offered insight into how to educate their campus faculty and administrators about the new possibilities in publishing.

Continued on page 9
LACUNY Institute 2005:
Scholarly Publishing and Open Access: Payers and Players (con’t)

Vendor presenters included Apple, EBSCO, Elsevier, ExLibris, ProQuest, Serials Solutions, WALDO, and H.W. Wilson.

The audience reception for the Institute was largely enthusiastic. One attendee commented that Institute 2005 was the “best Institute ever.” The major drawback of the Institute may be seen as too much of a good thing. As a number of attendees commented, their one regret for the day was that they could not possibly get to all of the breakout sessions. The good news is that LACUNY Institute 2005 has maintained an active Web site both before and after the Institute, complete with a growing bibliography and an interactive Wikiography (lacuny.cuny.edu/institute/2005). Those interested in getting more information about the breakout sessions may visit the Institute 2005 Web site and click on presentations that have been mounted for a number of the sessions.

Perhaps a future Institute will offer more opportunities to expand on our understanding of the important topic of changing publishing models in scholarly communications.

LACUNY Institute 2005 was chaired by Beth Evans, Brooklyn College, and Scott White, LaGuardia Community College. For a full list of the Institute planning committee, see the Institute Web site.—Beth Evans

2005 PSC-CUNY Awards Announced

The following CUNY librarians were announced as recipients of PSC-CUNY 36 Awards in May 2005.

Ellen Belcher (John Jay): "A Comparative Study of Late Neolithic Figurines from Central Anatolia"

John Drobnicki (York): "The Denial of the Armenian Genocide: A Bibliography"

John Kaser (Staten Island): "Chicago in Fiction: An Annotated Bibliography"

Rita Ormsby and Eric Neubacher (Baruch): "The Influence of Professor Abraham J. Briloff on Accounting"

Catherine Perkins (Staten Island): "Why College Students Are Using Public Libraries for Their Research"

Julio Rosario (City): "Mempo Giardinelli: Memory and History"

Román A. Santillán (Staten Island): "An Ephemeral Arch and Spectacle in Puebla, 1696"

Antony Simpson (John Jay): "Witnesses to the Scaffold: First-hand Accounts of Public Executions by English Literary Figures"

Philip Swan (Hunter): "'A very craving People': Present Giving and Great Britain's Impolitic Indian Policy in Pre-Revolutionary South Carolina"

S. Raymond Wang (Staten Island): "A Comparative Study of Students' Perceived Learning in Two School Library Media Programs"

In addition, grants were renewed for Saad Abulhab (Baruch), Valeda Dent and Lauren Yannotta (Hunter), and Jennifer Oates (Queens).
Announcements

Central Cataloging Joins SACO

CUNY Central Cataloging of the Office of Library Services has been invited by the Library of Congress to become a member of the Subject Authorities Cooperative (SACO). While any library may submit a proposal for a new subject heading, the Library of Congress is restructuring SACO so that only member libraries will be able to contribute. As a SACO member, Central Cataloging is committed to contributing eleven-to-fifteen new subject headings annually. Recommendations may be sent to Michael Borries of Central Cataloging at Michael.Borries@mail.gc.cuny.edu or 646-312-1687.

METRO Digitization Project Grants

Four CUNY campuses are among the institutions receiving $70,000 in grants from the Metropolitan New York Library Council (METRO) for digitization projects involving the history and cultural heritage of New York City and Westchester County. METRO’s Digitization Initiative assists the implementation of collaborative digitization projects among METRO member libraries through education and training and by encouraging members to share their expertise and resources.

Brooklyn College Library received $8,335 for “Brooklyn Democratic Party Scrapbooks, 1898-1927,” materials documenting the development of the powerful Democratic political machine in Brooklyn.

The Graduate Center received $7,600 for a collection of materials related to the construction and history of the Erie Canal. This project involves collaboration between the Eighteenth-Century Reading Room of the Mina Rees Library and the Seymour B. Durst Old York Library of the New Media Lab (library.gc.cuny.edu/INFO/Collections.asp#special).

Lehman College Library received $5,307 to digitize materials from the Bronx Chamber of Commerce Collection, 1894-1968.

Queens College received $7,970 for materials focusing on events at the college having an impact on the social history of the city and the nation. This project is a collaboration between the Queens College Library and the Queens College Graduate School of Library and Information Studies.

Milestones

Hal Grossman (Hunter) was appointed Substitute Assistant Professor and Reference/Instructional Librarian in September 2004.

Yat Ping Wong (Hunter) was appointed Instructor and Deputy Head of the Health Professions Library in August 2004.

Degrees Earned

Lisa Finder (Hunter) earned an MA in Liberal Studies from the Graduate Center in October 2004. Her thesis is “V. S. Naipaul and His Critics: A Study in the Politics of Representation.”

Sydney Van Nort (City) earned an MA in Art History/Museum Studies from City College in February 2005. Her thesis, “The City College Missal,” is a study of the single illuminated medieval manuscript in the Morris R. Cohen Library’s Special Collections.

Promotions

Laura Cobbs (Hunter) was promoted to Head of the Health Professions Library in July 2004. Laura had previously been Deputy Head and Acting Head.

Tony Doyle (Hunter) was promoted to Associate Professor in January 2005.

Josephine Murphy (Kingsborough) has been promoted to Associate Professor.

Kenneth Schlesinger (LaGuardia) has been granted tenure.

Wendy Tan (Hunter) was promoted to Associate Professor in January 2005.

Michael Waldman (Baruch) has been promoted to Associate Professor.

Clay Williams (Hunter) was promoted to Associate Professor in January 2005.

Resignation

Rick Uttich left City College after nearly twelve years to become Assistant Director for Reference and Access Services at SUNY Oneonta on March 1, 2005. Rick had been Chief of Public Services at City.

Retirement

Douglas Duchin has retired after fifteen years at Baruch’s William and Anita Newman Library. At a reception in his honor on March 31, comments about Doug’s career were offered by Arthur Downing, Chief Librarian, and Kristin McDonough, director of SIBL and the former Baruch chief librarian. Professor Downing gave an overview of Doug’s career, which included service in the air force, an MLS from the University of Southern California, serving as head of cataloging at Harvard Law Library, and being a vice president at both Yankee Book Peddler and Blackwell. Ms. McDonough, who hired Doug, characterized his work as combining “substance and style.” Doug, whose most recent position was as Deputy Office for Collection Management, described how as a ten year old he arranged his parents’ books by author and recounted how as an undergraduate at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, he once played bumper cars with Elvis Presley. Nearly forty librarians and staff from Baruch and several other CUNY libraries saw Doug receive a set of bookends made of blue agate from Brazil. (Michael Adams)