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Greetings From the Chief Librarian's Office



The library is the heart of the College's academic life and holds a unique position on campus. No other department so symbolically represents the academic heart of

the college like the library.

2012-2013 has been a challenging but also a productive year. While declining budgets caused anxiety CUNY-wide and immensely affected York College, the library continued to strive to provide quality service. Even with reduced personnel due to faculty research leave, we remained committed to providing students, faculty, staff, and the college community with excellent service.

It is my pleasure to report some highlights. In our efforts to ensure that the York College Library remains technologically well-positioned and student-centered, we upgraded the computers in the information literacy classroom and added more computers to accommodate larger classes. In addition, the library will reintroduce laptop reserve services and launch a reservation system for

computers.

Also, I would like to emphasize our commitment to students and teaching information literacy, which has become more critical than ever. During the academic year 2012-2013, library faculty taught numerous information literacy classes, instructed students at the reference desk, provided individualized research sessions, and collaborated with classroom faculty. We continue to work in partnership with academic departments and the IT Department to enhance student learning. Library faculty and staff remain committed to empowering students to become independent life-long learners.

The ability for all York College Library users to access resources, both physically and digitally, remains our major priority. In order to provide library services to both day and evening students, we increased library hours, provided students with extended study hours during final examinations, and expanded our print and electronic resources. Also, the library welcomed Adjunct Lecturer Mr. Thomas Evans thanks to additional funding from the Administration.

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CUNY Librarians and Faculty Status

In 1938, there were four colleges in what was then known as the City Colleges of New York: Hunter, Queens, Brooklyn, and City College. In that year, the Board of Higher Education (BHE) revised its Bylaws and made the Library on each campus an academic department, with the “professional librarians” becoming faculty. However, the majority of librarians, then known as “Library Assistants,” were excluded: only the small number of those with the rank of Assistant Librarian, Associate Librarian, or Professor-Librarian were included as members of the instructional staff. It wasn’t until eight years later, in 1946, that the Library Assistants, who made up about 90% of the librarians, were made full members of the instructional staff with the right to vote and serve on faculty committees. Thus, *all* librarians had faculty status in the City Colleges of New York as of 1946.

Librarians still held their own distinct ranks, however, and were paid at lower levels than the rest of the faculty. It would take another two decades of lobbying for librarians to achieve their next hurdle. CUNY Chancellor Albert Bowker hired Robert Downs, Dean of Library Administration at the University of Illinois, to evaluate the situation of librarians in the University. The so-called “Downs Report” of February 1965 recommended, among other things, that the BHE’s Bylaws be changed to eliminate the various librarian titles and move librarians to their corresponding faculty ranks, with requisite salary increases, and that promotion to Assistant Professor in the libraries be based on advanced graduate level education. After subsequent approval by the Board and the City Council, CUNY librarians had faculty ranks and faculty pay as of Nov. 22, 1965, in addition to their earlier faculty status.

But library faculty in CUNY continue to work a twelve-month calendar rather than the faculty calendar that follows the academic year. This is despite the fact that librarians must publish research articles and meet the same standards for reappointment, tenure, and promotion as those faculty who teach in the subject departments. One could argue, then, that library faculty are still paid less than the classroom faculty, since librarians have to work a longer year for that same salary. Library faculty also do not have the right to elect their chairperson, as the other faculty do – the appointment of the library chair (i.e., the Chief Librarian) by the college president is part of the CUNY Bylaws.

CUNY library faculty have made great strides over the past 75 years, and continue to strive toward clearing future hurdles, such as achieving full equity with the classroom faculty by being put on the faculty calendar.

Prof. John A. Drobnicki
Head of Acquisitions

(This article is adapted from a much longer presentation given at the LACUNY Dialogues, May 10, 2013.)

York Library Archives

The York College Library Archives includes both textual and non-textual documents that relate to the history of York College, from its beginnings to the present day, including newspaper clippings from the age of former president, Milton G. Bassin, bulletins and yearbooks from each year of the College's operation, photographs of groundbreaking events and various ceremonies, and much more.



The library also administers the York College Black American Heritage Foundation Music History Archive (BAHF), started in 1984 by Clarence L. Irving, Sr. The BAHF Archive includes documents and artifacts that commemorate the Archive's founding, as well as photographs, posters, music scores, memorabilia, record albums and instruments that relate to musicians and musical groups who had their roots in or a connection to Southeast Queens. One of the Archives' centerpieces is a saxophone that belonged to Al Sears (pictured above). Presently, the library's archives are closed to the public, but some items from the BAHF Archives, including Al Sears' saxophone and Lewis Latimer's clarinet, are on display on the 3rd floor of the library.

Both archives are maintained by the library's archivist, Professor Robert Machalow. York Library will consider items for donation that relate to the history and operations of the College or to musicians and musical groups with a connection to Southeast Queens. Contact Professor Machalow at machalow@york.cuny.edu

*Prof. Robert Machalow
Head of Circulation & Reserves*

Library Tutorials Now Live!

Students, faculty, and staff often have similar questions about using library resources and services. I am happy to announce that several video tutorials are now available on the library website by clicking on the "How do I...?" link (or directly via <http://www.york.cuny.edu/library/tutorials>).

There are currently four tutorials available, and they cover how to search the York Library catalog, how to request books from other CUNY libraries, how to use our interlibrary loan service to request articles and books from elsewhere, and how to access the library's electronic resources from off-campus. Be sure you have your sound on as you watch these videos because verbal instructions are given and library policies are explained.

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This is an on-going project and I will post more tutorials as time permits. Over the summer, I plan to post several more tutorials based on common questions I have heard during information literacy classes and while working with students at the library's reference desk. First up: how to read a citation. Please let me know if you have any comments, questions, or suggestions; you can reach me at surban@york.cuny.edu or 718-262-2022.

*Prof. Sandra Gall Urban
Head of Interlibrary Loan & Cataloging*

Library Instruction: A Status Report

Over the years, York College Library has developed and maintained an active library instructional program to support the college curriculum and students' learning. The Information Literacy (IL) program is well received by students and classroom instructors. As a team effort, all full-time library faculty members plan, schedule, and teach information literacy classes.

Classes are taught as one-shot workshops (most popular), multi-session classes, and library resource orientations. In addition, librarians provide research consultations to individuals and groups.

Since the current IL classes are not credit-bearing, we design the sessions according to the nature of requests. Speech, Writing, and Biology are the top three disciplines that request library instruction classes. Thanks to the Chief Librarian's advocacy, the college's IT department expanded the library's Information Literacy Computer Lab (AC-3G09) from 18 to 21 workstations.

Information Literacy Sessions 2006-2013

| Academic Year | Number of classes | Number of Students |
|---------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| 2006-2007 | 140 | 2,512 |
| 2007-2008 | 162 | 2,898 |
| 2008-2009 | 113 | 2,037 |
| 2009-2010 | 100 | 2,405 |
| 2010-2011 | 130 | 3,250 |
| 2011-2012 | 134 | 4,020 |
| 2012-2013 | 167 | 4,321 |

*Prof. Di Su
Coordinator of Information Literacy*

School Media Corner

As Queens High School for the Sciences at York College (QHSS) and schools across the country begin to formally integrate the *Common Core State Standards* (CCSS) into their curricula, school librarians like myself have a wonderful opportunity to play a big role in the process by articulating learning objectives in library lesson plans and aligning skills and strategies to the new standards. The American Association of School Librarians (AASL) *Standards for the 21st Century Learner* fit easily into the new CCSS; the AASL has developed two resources to simplify the transition: the *AASL Crosswalk to the CCSS* and the *AASL Lesson Plan Database*. *AASL Lesson Plan Database* authors designate *AASL Learning Standards* in their lesson plans via a drop-down menu; the standards are then automatically aligned with the CCSS via the *AASL Crosswalk to the CCSS*.

Being embedded at QHSS for eight hours a week provides me the opportunity to meet with students and teachers. I met with teachers to design and schedule information literacy classes, find journal articles for use in their classrooms, and provide assistance in accessing and searching York Library's databases. Over the past year, QHSS and York Early College Academy (YECA) students had 28 information literacy sessions, 8 research consultations (in-person meetings that lasted 30 minutes or longer), and many email reference interactions.



I recently hosted library tours for approximately 40 mostly 9th and 10th graders participating in York College's Annual Science and Math Expo on May 28. Students were from QHSS, YECA, Martin Van Buren High School, Edward R. Murrow High School, and John Bowne High School. During the short tours, students learned about the difference between Dewey Decimal and LC classification, saw some of the areas of an academic library, and viewed the Black American Heritage Foundation Music History Archive exhibit and the library's Jane Austen's exhibit (pictured above), "Celebrating 200 Years of Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*." There were some Janeites in the group!

Prof. Christina Miller
High School Librarian



**Congratulations to York Early College Academy's
first graduating class, the Class of 2013!**

Google Scholar Features

Google Scholar, <http://scholar.google.com>, is a free search engine that finds citations from many sources, including articles, theses, and books. The search engine is linked to York Library subscriptions of full-text publications as long as one uses the special link on the Articles and More page. When off-campus, sign in to your VPN account to access full-text articles available through York's subscription databases.

A drop-down menu on the right side of the search box connects users to an advanced search that allows them to conduct Boolean searches and specify date ranges, authors, and journal titles.

Below is an example of a Google Scholar citation with a discussion of its features.

[Smoking-based selection and influence in gender-segregated friendship networks: a social network analysis of adolescent smoking](#)

L Mercken, [TAB Snijders](#), ... - ..., 2010 - Wiley Online Library

Aims The main goal of this study was to examine differences between...

[Cited by 20](#) [Related articles](#) [All 7 versions](#) [Cite](#)

Click on "Cited by 20" for a list of twenty publications that cite the article. Many of the newer citations will have "Fulltext at York" links to their right. Click on "Related articles" to find a set of similar articles. Click on "Cite" to view citations of the journal article in MLA, APA, and Chicago style.

APA citation:

Mercken, L., Snijders, T. A., Steglich, C., Vertainen, E., & De Vries, H. (2010). Smoking-based selection and influence in gender-segregated friendship networks: a social network analysis of adolescent smoking. *Addiction*, 105(7), 1280-1289.

Prof. Daniel Cleary
Head of Serials & Science Librarian

Please Help Keep the Library:

Conducive To Studying

- Talk in a quiet voice so you don't disturb those around you.
- Put your cell phone on vibrate or silent mode.
- Step outside to answer or make a call.

Clean & Inviting

- Do not "reserve" computers or group study rooms with your personal belongings.
- Eat outside of the Library.
- Only bring in water that is in a spill-proof container. No other drinks are permitted.

Library rules are enforced at the request of York students.
Students, faculty, and staff thank you for your consideration!

Prof. Sheidlower Gives Closing Talk at Third Annual Connecticut Information Literacy Conference



On June 7, 2013, Prof. Scott Sheidlower and Prof. Christina Miller headed up to Capital Community College, which is located in the old G. Fox & Co. department store building in downtown Hartford, Connecticut, to attend the third annual Connecticut Information Literacy Conference. The day-long conference, sponsored by the Council of Connecticut Academic Library Directors (CCALD) and WT Cox Information Services, was themed “Enlightened Hunters and Gatherers: Teaching Information Literacy Skills For Life.” The conference was attended by librarians (mostly academic) from many states (but mostly Connecticut).

In her presentation, entitled “Teaching Information Literacy for Life: Addressing the Issues,” the keynote speaker, Sharon Weiner, Professor of Library Science and W. Wayne Booker Chair in Information Literacy, Purdue University Libraries, spoke about the need to articulate what information literacy means in education, everyday life, health, finances, and the workplace. She said that information literacy is not just an educational issue, but also a societal issue and stressed the importance of going beyond helping students achieve “course-level success.” In her talk, Weiner stressed that in order to graduate information literate

students who are prepared for the workplace, it is necessary for the “workplace” – the employers, the corporations, etc. - to become partners in the process, by developing and sharing workplace information literacy models, for example.

Three breakout sessions dealt with browsing Google, embedded librarianship, and promoting professional resources in a college education program. In the breakout session Prof. Miller attended, Prof. Gwen Verkuilen-Chevalier, Head of Collection Development and User Services, Saint Anselm College in Manchester, New Hampshire, gave an inspiring presentation about integrating professional materials into information literacy classes. In Prof. Verkuilen-Chevalier’s classes, students not only learn how to find books, search databases, and cite sources, they also learn about education associations, educational publishers’ resources, lesson plan databases, and grant givers – in short, they encounter the kinds of things that make learning more authentic and will help them in their careers.

Prof. Sheidlower gave the closing presentation that was entitled: “Building Community for the Future: Far Transfer and Information Literacy Instruction.” Far transfer is another term for transferability of both skills and information concepts. Prof. Sheidlower’s talk focused on how to enhance students’ ability to transfer the skills they learn in the information literacy classroom into their lives as well as ways to increase students’ memory of what they learned. As he often does in his information literacy classes, Prof. Sheidlower used humor as a way to get his point across.

The conference was recorded and a link to the podcast will be made available through CULIBS (CUNY librarians’ listserv). Visit <http://ctinfoilit.wix.com/conference#!2013-conference/cjg9> to see the conference agenda, biographies of the speakers, and abstracts of presentations.

Prof. Scott Sheidlower, Head of Reference, and Prof. Christina Miller, High School Librarian

Interlibrary Loan via ILLiad

Over the past academic year, there have been some changes in Interlibrary Loan (ILL) Services here at York College Library. The biggest change is the switch to online-only requests via our interlibrary loan program, ILLiad. There are several benefits to this change, but one very visible one is that library customers can now easily request most items straight through library databases without copying and pasting text from one webpage to another.

In the recent past, customers had to fill out an online form, which was submitted to the ILL librarian via email. Now, when someone searches library databases and York Library doesn't have an article—or searches WorldCat.org and CUNY doesn't have a book—he or she can simply click on “Request item via interlibrary loan” to have the ILL form filled out automatically. This improves the accuracy of the information in each ILL request and the speed with which customers get their article or book. For more on how to request items via interlibrary loan, consult the library's interlibrary loan tutorial at <http://www.york.cuny.edu/library/tutorials> or ask for more information at the Reference Desk.

ILLiad is a very powerful interlibrary loan tool. It allows you to check on the status of your ILL requests, download electronically delivered articles, request renewals for interlibrary loan books, and more - from anywhere, at any time. If you have not yet created an ILLiad account, visit the library's “Interlibrary Loan” link and follow the instructions.

*Prof. Sandra Gall Urban
Head of Interlibrary Loan & Cataloging*

Library's IT Upgrades: Making Good Services Better

The library is happy to share several recent upgrades: a stand-alone scanner, four new heavy-duty printers, and new computers in the library's Information Literacy classroom. Furthermore, there may soon be a computer reservation system that allows students to reserve computers.

Students, faculty, and staff have been using a new device, “Book ScanCenter.” This stand-alone scanner is located in the Library's Copy Center and allows students, faculty, staff, and visitors to scan documents without having to log in to the York system.

This new scanner is an easy-to-use, self-service document scanning solution for library patrons. Designed with large buttons, the Scannx Book ScanCenter touch screen guides the user through the scan process, including choosing the file format, image quality, color depth, file naming, and “scan-to” destinations. Scanning is free and does not deduct money from users' college accounts.



Scanned images can be converted into PDF, searchable PDF, Word, JPEG, TIFF, and PNG file formats and sent to users' email accounts or saved to an USB drive. In the future, students will also be able to save to their network drive folder.

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For students wanting to print, all library printers were replaced with heavy-duty network printers in Spring 2013. These printers allow two-sided printing and the printers' toner levels are monitored remotely by the College's IT Department.

Also in Spring 2013, the library's Information Literacy classroom (AC-3G09) was upgraded. The classroom now has twenty-one new PCs with Windows 7 operating system. Students can now login to their network accounts and print while in the classroom.

Lastly, the IT Department is testing a computer reservation system that would allow students to reserve individual computers. The three PCs and one MAC dedicated to testing the system can be found in an area next to the Reference Desk. Students have requested this service; stay tuned for updates on its progress.

*Mohammed Jahed Sarwar
College Laboratory Technician*

Recent Library Faculty Scholarship & Creative Works

Cleary, D. E. (2013, May). [Review of the book *City cycling*, by J. Pucher & R. Buehler (Eds.)]. *Choice*, 50, 1669.

Cleary, D. E. (2012, December). [Review of the book *Green cities of Europe: Global lessons on green urbanism*, by T. Beatley (Ed.)]. *Choice*, 50, 687-688.

Dasgupta, A. (2013, May). [Review of the website *Center for Media Literacy*]. *Choice* 50, 1619.

Dasgupta, A. (2013, January). [Review of the book *How to find out anything: From extreme Google searches to scouring government documents, a guide to uncovering anything about everyone and everything* by D. MacLeod]. *Choice*, 50, 837.

Dasgupta, A. (2013, January). "Academic social networking sites: Features, issues, and challenges." 9th International Conference on Technology, Knowledge, and Society, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada.

Dasgupta, A. (2013, January). Chaired a themed session entitled: "Technologies in health services." 9th International Conference on Technology, Knowledge, and Society, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada.

Dasgupta, A. (2013, January). Received Graduate Scholar Award at the 9th International Conference on Technology, Knowledge, and Society for having demonstrated significant scholastic achievement and leadership skills.

Dasgupta, A. (2013). Undergraduate research, Part I: Reading scholarly articles. *Reference Librarian*, 54(2), 177-180

Dasgupta, A. (2013). More than just a reference librarian. *Reference Librarian*, 54(1), 78-80.

Dasgupta, A. (2013). Accepted an invitation to become the subject editor for Computer and Information Technologies for *Resources for College Libraries: Career Resources*, a publication developed by Choice/ACRL (Association of College and Research Libraries).

Dasgupta, A. (2012). Received 2012 LACUNY Professional Development Travel Grant: \$500.

Drobnicki, J. A. (2013, May 10). "The history and future of librarian faculty status." LACUNY Dialogues, CUNY Graduate Center.

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Miller, C. (2013, June). [Review of the book *Siege and storm: Grisha trilogy, Book 2*. By L. Bardugo]. *Voice of Youth Advocates*, 36, 72.

Miller, C. & Urban, S. G. (2013, May 9). "Reading and learning strategies for college students." Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning, York College, Jamaica NY.

Miller, C. (2012, December). [Review of the book *Immortal lycanthropes* by H. Johnson]. *Voice of Youth Advocates*, 35, 487.

Miller, C. (2012, October). [Review of the book *Mariposa gown* by R. Gonzalez]. *Voice of Youth Advocates*, 35, 358.

Miller, C. (2012, August). [Review of the book *Shadow and bone* by L. Bardugo]. *Voice of Youth Advocates*, 35, 274.

Sheidlower, S. (2013, June 7). "Building Community for the Future: Far Transfer and Information Literacy Instruction." Closing Session, Connecticut Information Literacy Conference, Enlightened Hunters & Gatherers: Teaching Information Literacy Skills for Life, Capital Community College, Hartford, CT.

Sheidlower, S. (2013). [Review of the book *101 great, ready-to-use book lists for teens*, by N. J. Keane]. *American Reference Books Annual*, 44.

Sheidlower, S. (2013). [Review of the book *Technology and literacy: 21st Century programming for children & teens*, by J. Nelson & K. Braafladt]. *American Reference Books Annual*, 44.

Sheidlower, S. (2013). [Review of the book *Fundamentals of managing reference collections*, by C. A. Singer]. *Public Services Quarterly*, 9, 61-62.

Sheidlower, S. (2012). [Review of the book *The 21st-century black librarian in America: Issues and challenges*, by A. P. Jackson, (S. M. Baako), J. C. Jefferson, Jr. & A. S. Nosakhere]. *Public Services Quarterly*, 8, 341-342.

Sheidlower, S. (2012). [Review of the book *Cost control for nonprofits in crisis*, by G. S. Smith]. *Public Services Quarterly*, 8, 251-252.

Sheidlower, S. (2012). [Review of the book *Ucontent: The information professional's guide to user-generated content*, by N. G. Tomaiuolo]. *Public Services Quarterly*, 8, 252-253.

Sheidlower, S. (2012). "Thorpe, Jim." In *African American National Biography Online*. New York: Oxford African American Studies Center.

Sheidlower, S. (2012). "Wilson, Dooley." In *African American National Biography Online*. New York: Oxford African American Studies Center.

Urban, S. G. (2013, February 26). *How do I find books at York College Library?* [Video file]. Retrieved from <http://www.york.cuny.edu/library/tutorials>

Urban, S. G. (2013, February 26). *How do I get books from other CUNY libraries (CLICS)?* [Video file]. Retrieved from <http://www.york.cuny.edu/library/tutorials>

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