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We're moving... but we're still here.

Over the past year, you likely noticed the hammering of carpenters and maintenance workers as book shelves were removed and collections were moved from one side of the library to the other. The work that has been done by Daniel Cleary to physically move the reference books and the periodicals has been remarkable, and could not have been accomplished without the hard work and cooperation of Professor Hope Young, Ms. Jennefer Clarke, Ms. Toni McMillan, and several College Assistants (Julia Myers, Samantha Rossi, and Ria Hutson). Likewise, we are indebted to George Fellows and the staff of Buildings & Grounds who did much of the heavy-lifting and helped to make the move go much easier.

By the time you read this issue of *Password*, the library will be close to completely vacating its space on the H-wing. Although a smaller library is not necessarily a better library, some benefits that will result from the consolidation of all library services on the G-wing are:

**Greater access to Periodicals and Microforms.* The H-wing used to be closed at 8:30pm (Mon.-Thurs.) and all day on Sunday—but now users will not necessarily be limited based on that schedule.

**One Reference Desk.* Rather than having two Reference Desks, we will have one Reference Desk on the G-wing, which will be staffed with two library faculty members at peak times.

**One entrance/exit.* Because of budget and staffing issues, Public Safety had not always been able to station an officer at both the G- and H-wing doors. Once the library completely moves out of the H-wing and the red doors are locked, there will only be one entrance/exit for the library—the G-wing one. That will help Public Safety to make sure that those who use the library are entitled to be here.

**A leaner collection.* For many years, the library did not discard its old reference books, because our poor budgets did not allow us to replace them. Now that we've been buying a lot of new books over the past four years, we were able to discard a lot of very old, outdated materials from the reference section, making it easier for users to navigate the collection.

See the article by Daniel Cleary elsewhere in this newsletter for his unique take on the library's reorganization.

Other highlights of the past year include the installation of UV-protective film on the windows of both the library's main (3rd floor) and stacks (2nd floor), allowing us to discard the circa-1986 curtains. I'm not sure of the Feng Shui implications, but it has certainly given the library a more open appearance. We also added a new feature to our website's main page: a "Recent York Faculty Publications" button which automatically retrieves citations for articles written by York faculty members from Scopus and several other databases.

The library faculty and staff continue to impress me with their hard work and customer-oriented focus. I have now completed my third year as Chief Librarian (18 months as Acting Chief, and 18 months as Chief), and the job continues to be made so much more enjoyable by the cooperation and collegiality of those who work in the library day in and day out, twelve months per year.

Prof. John A. Drobnicki
Chief Librarian

YORK COLLEGE
LIBRARY

<http://york.cuny.edu/library>

The York College Library is here to assist you with your research needs.

Fall & Spring Hours:
Monday-Thursday, 9:00 AM - 10:45 PM
Friday, 9:00 AM - 8:30 PM
Saturday, 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Sunday, 12:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Check the Library website for changes
Remember, our online resources are available 24 hours a day.

Library brochures are available in the G-wing.

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Sabbatical Report

I was on Fellowship Leave in the academic year of 2008-2009. During the sabbatical, I undertook two research projects. One was "Standardization of Keyword Search Mode" in the field of information and library science. The purpose of this project is to demonstrate how different academic reference databases are designed and how beneficial it is to the end user if standardization is in place. The second project was "The Tardy Recognition of J. S. Bach's Sonatas and Partitas for Violin Solo" in the area of music history. The targeted audience is music students. I had been thinking about both topics for quite some time. The Fellowship Leave provided me the much-needed time for carrying out extensive research and completing the papers. The following are the abstracts of these two papers.

Standardization of Keyword Search Mode

In spite of its popularity, keyword search mode has not been standardized. While information professionals are quick to adapt to various presentations of keyword search mode, novice end-users may find keyword search confusing due to the lack of standard way of search. This article compares keyword search mode in some major academic reference databases and calls for standardization.

The Tardy Recognition of J. S. Bach's Sonatas and Partitas for Violin Solo

J. S. Bach's Sonatas and Partitas for Violin Solo hold an important status in violin repertory. However, they were not an instant success. Completed in 1720, the works did not gain enough popularity for publication and performance until the nineteenth

century. To explore why these significant works took such a long time to be recognized as masterpieces is the topic of this article. It aims at helping students obtain better understanding of the works by introducing subjects other than performing techniques. These include historical background, possible purpose of the compositions, history of performance, and writing style.

*At the time of this report, the article on standardization has been accepted and published in *Journal of Electronic Resources Librarianship*, Volume 22, Issue 1&2, January 2010, pages 28-39. The article on Bach is in the peer review process.

Prof. Di Su

Head of Reference Services

Librarian Wins Grants

Anamika Dasgupta has won the following grants:

2010 LACUNY Professional Development Grant

Received \$500 grant to attend the ASIST 2010 Annual Conference in October 2010 in Pittsburgh, PA.

2010 Long Island University Conference Grant

Received \$500 grant to present her research paper at 2010 Connections Conference in May 2010 at the University of Western Ontario, Canada.

Take Advantage of Library Services

The library offers many services of interest to faculty and students. In addition to our print and electronic resources, we offer:

**Information literacy classes.* Professors may schedule a library class whenever students must write a paper, complete an assignment, or give an oral presentation. Library faculty gear their lesson to the assignment at hand and teach students how to locate quality resources.

**Interlibrary loan.* York College faculty, staff, and students may, usually at no cost, request materials from non-CUNY libraries. Visit the Reference Desk for more details.

**Purchase suggestions.* Members of the York College community are encouraged to suggest the library purchase a specific book or access to a certain database. Library faculty take these recommendations into account when ordering new materials. Contact the subject's library liaison or fill out the recommendation form on the library website.

**Personalized research assistance.* Library faculty at the Reference Desk are happy to help students, faculty, and staff with their research questions. Stop by or contact your library liaison (see list below) for more in-depth help.

Sandra Gall Urban

Head of Cataloging

Library Departmental Liaisons

Accounting & Finance - Di Su

Behavioral Sciences - Pamela Lucas, John Drobnicki

Biology, Chemistry, Earth & Physical Sciences - Daniel Cleary

Business & Economics (including Aviation) - Di Su

English (including Journalism) - Robert Machalow, Christina Miller

Foreign Languages, ESL, &

Humanities - Scott Sheidlower, Sandra Urban

Health Education, Physical Education, & Gerontological Studies & Services - Hope Young, Robert Machalow

Health Professions - Daniel Cleary, John Drobnicki

History & Philosophy - Sandra Urban, John Drobnicki

Mathematics & Computer Science - Anamika Das-

gupta

Occupational Therapy - Hope Young

Performing & Fine Arts - Scott Sheidlower, Di Su

Queens High School for the Sciences & York Early College Academy - Christina Miller, Sandra Urban

Social Sciences - Njoki Kinyatti, Kenneth Krepp, Hope Young

Teacher Education -

Anamika Dasgupta, Njoki Kinyatti

Please visit the Library's website for liaisons' phone numbers and email addresses.

www.york.cuny.edu/library

Library Services for Students with Disabilities

York College's library faculty and staff are sensitive to the needs of those with disabilities.

The library has multiple stations that are wheelchair-accessible. The station in the G-wing is located opposite the Circulation Desk and the station in the H-wing is located at the Periodicals Desk. If these computers are

occupied by students without disabilities, library faculty will make them available to those in need.

Students with disabilities can register with Ms. Paola Veras of the STAR program (room AC-1G02a or ext. 2073) for access to the Adaptive Technology Room (3H05).

If you need special assistance in the library, please contact Prof. Scott Sheidlower at ext. 2017, the library's liaison to those with disabilities.

Prof. Scott Sheidlower

Head of Information Literacy & Liaison to the Office for Students with Disabilities

“The friendly library faculty and staff, as well as the congenial atmosphere in the library, created a comfortable environment for me to learn and gain experience.”

Internship Experience

I am currently enrolled in the Master of Library Science program at Queens College/CUNY and worked as an intern in the York College Library during Spring 2010. The course required me to work 150 hours in a library, and I was very honored and pleased that the York College Library provided me the opportunity to obtain hands-on, real-world experience within the academic framework.

With both the Chief Librarian and the Head of Reference Services as my consultants, I had the opportunity to experience many aspects of academic librarianship. I

learned about the work situations of each area of the library. First of all, I learned a lot about reference service in the library. I observed academic librarians working at the library's two reference desks and learned some of the skills needed to perform reference interviews. Shadowing the library faculty, I not only became familiar with the physical layout of the library's collections in order to refer patrons to appropriate locations, but also became familiar with the electronic databases that are available at the library. In addition, I observed information literacy classes taught by library faculty and learned the importance of collaboration between teaching and library faculty.

I was also exposed to Technical Services work, observing both the collection development and cataloging processes. Each librarian is a subject liaison and is responsible for ordering books for an academic discipline. It was interesting to learn that there are many different ways to identify appropriate materials in an assigned subject area. After working with the Head of Collection Development, I learned how to order books

online through the Coutts Oasis system. By working with the Head of Cataloging, I received an introduction to cataloging work and learned the basics of how to operate the ALEPH system. Finally, I was assigned some basic tasks by the Head of Interlibrary Loans and Serials, including using OCLC FirstSearch to search for and borrow books or periodical articles from other libraries, as well as request renewals.

In short, I was pleased to work with the librarians at the York College Library, and I learned a lot from their patient teaching and instructional styles. The friendly Library faculty and staff, as well as the congenial atmosphere in the Library, created a comfortable environment for me to learn and gain experience. I am very appreciative of the mentoring I received by every librarian; I acquired knowledge and work experience that cannot be taught through an academic program.

Yen-Huang (Joe) Lee
Queens College Intern

Editors' note: It was a pleasure working with Joe. He taught us a few things, too!



Acquisitions Report

Library faculty continue to order materials to meet students' and faculty's research needs. During Spring 2010 we ordered over \$96,000 worth of new titles for both the reference and circulating collections. In addition, CUNY Central provided \$66,500 for us to purchase textbooks; thousands of York students now have access to their classroom

textbooks at a time when the price of books has become burdensome to many students. The library had a healthy budget for the third year in a row thanks to the support of President Keizs and the York administration. The library faculty and staff remain committed to providing quality instructional and support services, and we continue to

advocate for the library's growth and development. The library always welcomes book suggestions from faculty, students, and staff and we make every effort to purchase recommended materials.

Prof. Njoki-Wa-Kinyatti

Coordinator of Collection Development

Textbooks in the Library

*The library now
has textbooks
available at the
Reserve Desk.*

During the 2009-2010 academic year, thousands of students used our newly expanded textbook collection.

In February alone, these books were used over 3,000 times. Clearly textbooks are a very "hot" item in the Library! The Library purchased over 200 textbooks based on course requirements, and all of these

titles appear in the library's catalog. Like all reserve materials, these books are located at the Circulation/Reserve Desk and may only be used in the Library for two hours.

*Prof. Robert Machalow
Head of Circulation & Reserve*

E-Resources: An Update

To meet the scholarly needs of our academic departments, the library added or upgraded the following databases since July 2009:

- Academic Search Complete (EBSCO)
- ACM Digital Library
- Business Search Complete (EBSCO)
- Eighteenth Century Collection Online (Gale)
- Encyclopedia of Journalism
- Global Road Warrior
- Slavery and Anti-Slavery: A Transnational Archive (Gale)

*Anamika Dasgupta
Coordinator of Electronic Resources*



Congratulations to the Library's
graduating College Assistants:

Yu Ting Chen (Joey)
Xin Huang (Nick)
Julia Myers

Best of luck in the future!

The Shrinking Library

York College Library is losing its footprint on the H-wing in the near future and all library operations and collections will be confined to the G-wing.

In the last few years approximately 25% of the library's paper collection (books and journals) has been destroyed. The existing print collection now complements our vastly growing electronic collection of both e-journals and e-books. The remaining

periodicals and microforms collections were relocated to the G-wing. This weeding has left a collection of books that is on average much more current and has a higher percentage of its volumes being used regularly.

We will be moving the 22 public computers in the H-wing to various places in the G-wing and we are currently being wired to add 24 new Mac computers along the windows

of the G-wing's east end. The remaining study rooms will soon be at the dead end of what was previously a passage to the H-wing area. For periodicals on microfilm, library users will be referred to the new Microforms Room on the second floor of the G-wing.

Daniel Cleary
Science Librarian

*York College
Library is losing
its H-wing and all
library materials
and personnel are
being moved to the
G-wing.*



Once again, the library hosted QHSS's three-day Annual Poster Presentation event.

The 2009-2010 year started with a bang as 80 soon-to-be ninth graders from York Early College Academy (YECA) attended a two-week summer

immersion program at York College. The program, run by York's Early College Liaison, Michele Neuhaus, was designed to introduce YECA students to college-level work and instruction in anticipation of their first York College course, Spanish 101. During the immersion program, students

School Media Corner

used the library to research topics for a health-themed newsletter. This summer, YECA's entering ninth graders will be at York again for a quilting-themed summer immersion program, while entering tenth-graders will be on campus to take Music 101.

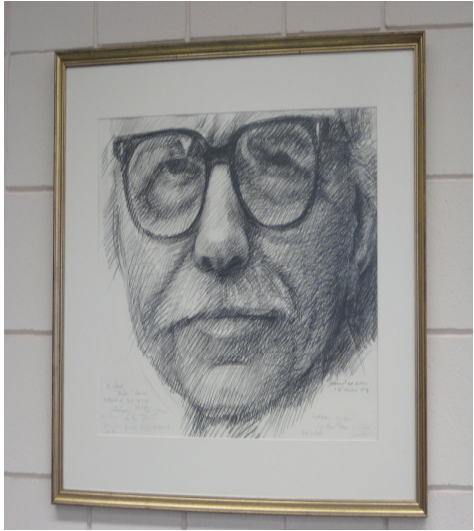
In March, Sandra Urban and I provided a workshop for AP English seniors from Queens High School for Law Enforcement and Public Safety. Students learned how to locate college-level literary

criticism.

This past year, Queens High School for the Sciences (QHSS) students made excellent use of the library's resources. As school media specialist, I provided over thirty information literacy sessions in the library's computer lab, in a computer lab in the Classroom Building, and in QHSS's smart classroom.

Christina Miller
York High School Librarian

On David Ignatow's Portrait



York College's Professor Ignatow won prestigious literary awards and published over twenty books.

The pencil portrait of the elderly man with a white mustache and glasses hanging in the York College Library is of English Department Professor and Poet in Residence David Ignatow (1914-1997). It was presented to him in the auditorium of St. Mark's Church in Manhattan at a 1984 retirement celebration of his fifteen years of teaching at York. A one-sentence announcement of the celebration in *The New York Times* had brought a full house to the venerable church at St. Marks Place. Among the audience were poets, writers, critics, men and women of letters of every description. The portrait, at the bottom of which appear the signatures of York's English faculty, was drawn by York's Fine Arts Professor Arthur Anderson. Since I, as Chair, had commissioned the portrait, it was returned to me toward the end of David's life, and I suggested it be hung in the library.

Before congress created the position of Poet Laureate in 1985, the most prestigious prize in American poetry was the Bollingen Prize, awarded at Yale University. David Ignatow was awarded the Bollingen in 1977. He also was twice awarded prestigious Guggenheim Fellowships. Professor Ignatow published more than twenty books of poetry in addition to a memoir, his *Notebooks*, and a collection of letters. Other poets published collections from these in honor of Ignatow, and in 1975 the *Beloit Poetry Journal*, which he had midwived into existence in the early nineteen-fifties, published a *Chapbook* for him, in which many other American poets contributed poems in honor of Ignatow. He served as poetry editor of *The Nation* magazine and founded several little magazines over his career. At York he was responsible for bringing some of the nation's top writers to campus for readings, among them James Wright, June Jordan, and the still little-known Alice Walker.

When York was located in the office building at 150th Street and Jamaica Avenue (now belonging to the Police Department), Professor Ignatow's creative writing classes were taught in a classroom on the basement floor. During that time he created a poetry journal called *Voices from the Basement*, featuring student writing. David Ignatow never considered the basement beneath him. He willingly taught freshman writing and beginning literature courses, along with his much-sought-after workshop in poetry; and, uniquely for faculty at that time, he took an apartment just off Rufus King Park so he could walk to school and give time to more promising students. Poet Robert Bly said of Ignatow that he "is a poet of the community, of people who work for a living, as Whitman was too, but he is also a great poet of the collective consciousness." During the depression, Ignatow dropped out of CCNY to help support his family, working, among other jobs, as a paymaster. Here is a poem he wrote from that experience:

Dr. Alan Cooper
Professor Emeritus of English

Paymaster by David Ignatow

The pay could have been more.
I felt I was giving myself
into his hands for judgment.
Thank you, he said, taking his check.
Thank me for what, I replied
silently. I am sending you home,
belittled in your own eyes.

Recent Library Faculty Scholarship & Creative Works

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Drobnicki, J. A. "Election & Selection." [Letter to the Editor.] *Clarion* (Summer 2009): 2.

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reference@york.cuny.edu

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!