The Library as Center of Innovation

While our Egyptian ancestors may have used papyrus – and medieval monks copied manuscripts by hand and chained books to library shelves – the library profession has always sought novel means to capture, organize and classify information. As early as the 1970s, we used computers to create standardized records for transmitting and sharing library holdings information. It’s mystifying that popular stereotypes of librarians depict us as prisoners of past traditions.

In an academic environment, library faculty in many respects are the first to explore and harness new technologies. Certainly, we were one of the first on campus to explore blogging – and immediately perceived Wikis as a means to promote collaborative online learning. What’s exciting and an ongoing challenge is how to apply social networking tools and commercial software to support specific pedagogical and learning initiatives in both virtual and face-to-face instructional environments. Librarians always seek creative ways to incorporate these into teaching and research as a bridge to accessing and evaluating the complex and fascinating world of information.

The original motto of the professional association, Special Libraries Association – which just celebrated its centennial – is Connecting People with Information, as viable and relevant as ever. Only the means of delivery have changed. Nevertheless, we must acknowledge our challenge to keep up with our students, who daily break boundaries by seamlessly and effortlessly adopting new technologies. In fact, current research demonstrates the future of librarianship will not be teaching search techniques, but rather how to effectively evaluate and interpret the mountains of information and data we must navigate through daily.

We value our strong, symbiotic relationship with Information Technology. While in a sense IT primarily is responsible for delivery, the library facilitates access to content. As centers for innovation and transformation, today's libraries are committed to piloting new software, applying mobile devices, and hosting institutional repositories with access to both born-digital and repurposed historic resources.

One major sea change is that libraries no longer simply will function as passive repositories of information, but proactively will be involved as producers and online publishers of new content and scholarship. Rather than waiting for visitors, we’re here to stimulate online learning, promote information literacy, support data collection and applications, and reinforce knowledge of ethical uses of intellectual property.

The Leonard Lief Library’s theme for 2011-2012 is the Library as Center of Innovation. It’s driven by our resourceful library faculty working in tandem with Lehman students and discipline faculty. We aspire to transform the processes of teaching and learning – which ultimately empowers our students as independent learners and fosters a rich, dynamic environment for inquiry, dialogue, research and scholarship.

--Kenneth Schlesinger, Chief Librarian
What's New in the Education Library?

We’re happy you asked! Due to popular demand, we now have five new sections in our Juvenile Collection. These are physically separated from the rest and have special color-coded tape:

1. Easy Foreign Language (green/brown)
2. Easy Holiday (green/pink)
3. Easy Picture Books – i.e., no words (green/black)
4. Easy Realistic Fiction (green/yellow)
5. Juvenile Graphic Novels (yellow/black)

We hope these books will be easier to locate for students in Literacy and Early Childhood Education courses.

The Juvenile Book Collection contains about 10,000 Easy, Juvenile, and Young Adult books. We acquire award-winning titles each year in all these categories. Our goal is to purchase outstanding foreign language and multicultural children’s literature for use in the classroom.

Another addition is our collection of EducText (Teacher Resources) books. These include “activity books” from Scholastic, lesson planning guides in various subjects, math textbooks used in the School of Education’s MathUp! Discovery Center, as well as sample middle and high school math textbooks donated by Professor Emerita Helene Silverman (early childhood and childhood education). These sample textbooks are excellent sources for lesson planning and curriculum development. Education students are encouraged to browse this collection and borrow these books.

And, of course, we still have our historic textbook collection for research in curriculum development over the 20th century - a good starting point for research papers in the history of education.

--Wendy Brenner and Madeline Cohen

Amnesty - During the Month of December 2011

Get your late charges forgiven in exchange for donating Spanish language Children’s Books!

The Library is sponsoring a donation drive for the children of San Juan del Sur Biblioteca Movil in Nicaragua. For more details: http://www.sjdbiblioteca.org/

As you complete this busy semester and are hard at work on final papers and exams – please check around your home for overdue library books you’ve been meaning to return. If you return your overdue items during the month of December 2011 - your fines will be waived in exchange for the donation.

Do not return materials to the Drop Box outside the Library for Amnesty. Please return all overdue materials to the Circulation Desk.

Amnesty does not pertain to Recall Fines, lost or damaged books, or Reserve items including eReaders, calculators, Study Room keys, laptops, Reserve books.

For additional information, please contact the Circulation Desk at 718-960-8576.

New Reading Series at Child Care Center

The Library and Child Care Center launched a new monthly reading initiative on November 11. Library faculty and staff will select and read picture books to the class of 3-year-olds and the pre-K class in the Child Care Center.

Library faculty Alison Lehner-Quam and Adelaide Soto inaugurated this series by reading three books, including Violet’s Music by Angela Johnson, a picture book about a girl looking for other children who love music as much as she does, and Robert McCloskey’s Caldecott Prize-winning Blueberries for Sal, about a girl, and a young bear, who both lose and then find their mothers when picking blueberries.

Alison and Addy finished with an ensemble rendition of Polar Bear, Polar Bear, What Do You Hear? by Bill T. Martin, illustrated by Eric Carle. Since classes had been studying the five senses, the children enjoyed the opportunity to hear the various sounds animals make in the book.

The Library will host the December Reading. “We’re excited about this new initiative with the Child Care Center, which fulfills our community outreach mandate,” says Chief Librarian Kenneth Schlesinger. “Research demonstrates that reading aloud to children is the most effective means to reinforce literacy. These are potentially our future Lehman students – and it’s never too early to start!” Library faculty and staff look forward to engaging with the youngest members of the Lehman community.

--Alison Lehner-Quam

Congratulations! New Library Baby!

We happily announce the birth of Science Librarian Jennifer King’s daughter, Sarah Eng. She was welcomed into the world on August 31 at 3:50 AM weighing in at 6 pounds, 4 ounces. Mother, father, and Blue (cat) are excited about this new addition to their family.
CUNY Academic Commons:
A Home for Departmental Conversations

“The CUNY Academic Commons,” to quote Wikipedia, “is an online, academic social network designed to foster conversation, collaboration, and connections among colleagues across the CUNY colleges.” Groups with names such as CUNY-wide Composition and Rhetoric, American Studies at CUNY, and the nearly 100 member-strong CUNY Games Network have brought together scholars from across the University to discuss academic topics of common interest.

While many of the Library’s faculty are members of multiple inter-university groups on the Commons, we’ve also started using the system to promote intra-departmental conversations related to teaching and learning. We’ve found the Commons to be an ideal forum for sharing practical teaching tips, archiving articles from library literature related to information literacy and pedagogy, and for fostering online conversations.

Faculty in academic departments often don’t have time to meet together on a regular, informal basis to talk about what’s working in their teaching and what isn’t. Given the asynchronous nature of its discussion boards, the Commons allows all faculty, regardless of schedule, to keep up with colleagues’ thoughts and insights about teaching, and pose questions to the group when they arise.

Perhaps more importantly, a record of the group’s tacit knowledge emerges through the collective posts, which can serve as a kind of “cultural repository” for new faculty members or a database of practical classroom insights. The ability to share articles also lets this group create a mini-library in the scholarship of teaching and learning, accessible anywhere, at any time.

Getting started on the Commons is easy. If your department isn’t yet part of it, set up a group at http://commons.gc.cuny.edu/.

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QR Codes in the Library

Have you noticed these strange-looking squares in the subway or on newspaper and magazine ads?

What is it? When I ask students in an Information Literacy class to identify it, I usually get the response: a barcode. This is somewhat true, but the correct term is a QR code.

QR stands for Quick Response code. They are already widely popular in China, Japan and the UK. To read a QR code, you need a smartphone like an iPhone, Android, or BlackBerry with an installed QR reader.

If you don’t have a QR reader installed, you can download one at http://tiny.cc/freeQRReader. Once installed, you can scan a QR code, but the phone will still need to be connected to the Internet or it won’t work. Voila! The mysterious code converts into information after it’s scanned. This is usually the link to a website, a person’s phone number, or a short text or text message. Currently our Library has QR codes at the Circulation and Reference Desks.

We plan to soon place QR codes in the library stacks. They will be placed on the front side of shelves in a specific subject area, such as Languages and Literature. You will be able to scan these codes, then lead to a subject-specific Research Guide on the Library website. Stay tuned!

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24/7 Chat Goes Mobile

How often are you on the subway on your way home, and you want to check databases to use in your research paper? You bring up the Library website on your mobile device, but you really don’t know where to begin. Then you remember you can chat with a librarian from your smartphone! You downloaded this site from the QR code (see related article) you saw posted in the Library. Now is the time to use this app!

If you downloaded the 24/7 Chat QR code on your smartphone, you can open up a chat box and start typing your question. A librarian will “answer” and give tips on databases and other ways to start researching your topic. At the end of your chat, a transcript with all the links will be sent to your e-mail.

Library Research Guides, EBSCOhost databases, and the “Ask a Librarian” page all feature 24/7 Chat boxes. We have found that students and faculty are increasingly using this service, introduced last spring, as they discover how useful it can be from off-campus.

Lehman’s Library is truly 24/7 – our services are never “off.” Now, try starting your research as you commute with our mobile 24/7 chat application. Just take a picture of the QR code (upper left column) and download the chat site to your smartphone.

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--Stefanie Havelka

--Robert Farrell

--Madeline Cohen
USA.gov Connects You to Apps and Mobile Websites

USA.gov, the U.S. government’s official Web portal, can be considered a one-stop shop for government information. You can connect with USA.gov through Facebook, Twitter, RSS feeds, YouTube, and Tumblr, as well as through its blog and other social media sites on a wide range of topics. It’s easy to locate and find government information, including vital government services and timely resources.

USA.gov now provides a webpage with complimentary apps available for download on your mobile device at http://apps.usa.gov/. You can also visit http://apps.usa.gov/accessible/ for a text-only, accessible site. These apps enable you to view government resources whenever and wherever you are.

In the Mobile Apps Gallery, you can view over eighty apps in English and eight apps in Spanish on different topics. These apps were developed for iPhone, Android, and Blackberry, but may not work on every platform. The site offers a search menu and alphabetical list of apps.

You can get alerts from featured apps including National Hurricane Center Mobile Site, MY TSA, USAJOBS, and Product Recalls.

There are some lighthearted apps, too, such as Baby Name Playroom, where you can search the most popular baby names using official Social Security data.

You can find contact information for elected officials in Congress-A Pocket Directory, help catalog biodiversity of the planet in Encyclopedia of Life Uploader, and explore topics on mobile learning in ADL Learning Guide. You also can view the most wanted terrorists in FBI’s Most Wanted, check on the status of your refund in IRS2go, and make healthful food decisions with My Food-a-Pedia. Find the latest weather conditions on the National Weather Service app.

Student Veterans can also use apps like TBI Pocket Guide, National Resource Directory, PTSD Coach, Tactical Breather, T2 Mood Tracker, and Veterans Affairs Mobile.

If you have a suggestion for a government app, e-mail USA.gov with your idea. See http://www.usa.gov/Mobile/AppStore/FAQs.shtml for more information on Apps.

--Rebecca Arzola

What Makes Us Unique?

Did you know that Lehman’s Library was the first in CUNY to offer eReaders to our students?

Using Student Technology funds, the Library purchased Nooks, Pandigitals, and iPads. These new eReaders and tablets are the latest additions to our current collection of ten SONY Readers Touch Edition. Wireless eReaders enable patrons to download and view electronic books. eReaders have a great zoom function, highlighting ability – not to mention portability. We are also in the process of purchasing the latest release from Apple, the iPad 2. We’re excited about this new technology, and students are now able to borrow the SONY Readers for seven days.

Please understand that borrowers will need to sign a loan agreement accepting responsibility for loss, damage, or repair costs to the devices. Your library record must be in good standing. For your enjoyment, the SONY eReaders have been loaded with twenty public domain literary works. Details on loan periods for our other eReaders will be available soon.

--Adelaide Soto

Fall Readings

Professor Susan Watson-Turner from Journalism, Communications and Theatre began the Fall Library Reading and Discussion Series with her composition, The Fire Inside: The Story and Poetry of Nikki Giovanni. Her engaging interpretations – accompanied by student reader Natasha Burgos – were highlighted by anecdotes for faculty and stories for students.

In his Eavesdropping: An Intimate History, John Locke of Speech-Language-Hearing Sciences discussed the history of eavesdropping, which has evolved with changes in our concepts of privacy and intimacy. Some of the rewards of eavesdropping include vicarious intimate experiences, personal power, and social control.

--Rebecca Arzola
New Faculty

Madeline Cohen started in October as the Library’s new Head of Reference. Last year she served with distinction as substitute Education Librarian. A former Director of Newsweek and ABC News Libraries, Madeline developed innovative Intranet resources to empower researchers and reporters to independently access information. She has two degrees from Hunter College, including a master’s in history. Her M.L.S. is from University of Maryland.

Jennifer Poggiali joins Lehman this Fall as Instrucional Technologies Librarian. The former Web Content Manager at Lincoln Center Institute, she trained master teachers in database searching and Web 2.0 technologies. Jennifer has two master’s, from Pratt Institute in library and information science and history of art and design, and is already proving herself as an emerging art history scholar.

Robin Wright is our new Health and Human Services Librarian. She formerly served as Reference Librarian at St. Barnabas Hospital in the Bronx and had previous assignments in the libraries of New York Academy of Medicine, Lenox Hill Hospital, and Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, as well as Hunter’s Health Professions Library. In addition to her library degree from Pratt Institute, she studied sociology at Princeton and has an M.B.A. in health care administration from Baruch-Mount Sinai School of Medicine.

Our Tireless Support Staff: Making the Library Work for You

The Leonard Lief Library’s support staff are the unsung, frequently unrecognized heroes of the services we provide to students and faculty. They work in Acquisitions, Circulation, Education, Fine Arts, Interlibrary Loan, Library Office, and Reference. You encounter them in public services – as well as behind the scenes, where they support our mission to “provide staffing, facilities, resources, and services that meet the information and scholarly needs of members of the College community.” As you might imagine, many support staff have years of experience, and some are even Lehman alumni.

--Rebecca Arzola

Standing: Bienvenida DelCastillo [COA-Acquisitions, 15 years, Lehman alumna], Susan Sciarabba [COA-Acquisitions, 18 years], Deborah Argenti [COA-Cataloging, 26 years, Lehman alumna], Madeline Soto [CAA-Library Office, 31 years], Jasmial Rivera [COA-Library Office, 9 years]

Seated: Eugene Laper [CAA-Interlibrary Loan, 17 years], Angelica Colon [COA-Fine Arts, 12 years, Lehman alumna], Wendy Brenner [COA-Education, 7 years], Elizabeth Mena [COA-Stacks Supervisor, 5 years, Lehman student]. Not pictured: Evelyn Santiago [COA-Reference, 20 years]

“I enjoy working in the Education Library because I have a soft spot for books (especially children’s books) and for students needing help.”

“Working at the Library for twenty-plus years and helping provide the right information to our students is truly gratifying.”

“I have had the privilege of collaborating with many people and departments at Lehman College for thirty-one years. I find that Emerson’s quote, ‘Skill to do comes of doing,’ describes this college environment.”

“I like inviting people from other places to come to Lehman. They never expect that there is this beautiful, green campus with wonderful old trees and stately old buildings in the middle of the Bronx.”

Check Our Useful Websites:
- Ask a Librarian 24/7: http://www.lehman.edu/library/ask-us.php
- CUNY Library Catalog: http://tiny.cc/CUNYcatalog
- Electronic Resources: http://www.lehman.edu/library/find-articles.php
- Lehman student e-mail: http://www.lehman.cuny.edu/lehman/live/
Building a Digital Library in Costa Rica

Last summer was very exciting when I spent a month working on a digital library project at the Monteverde Institute (MVI) in Monteverde, Costa Rica. Monteverde Institute’s mission is to foster study-abroad programs through sustainable living projects at the local and global level through place-based education, applied research, and collaborative community programs.

MVI maintains a small physical library and employs a local librarian, Marlene Leiton-Campbell. The library’s main goal is to support students, researchers, and the community in their information needs, focusing on the Monteverde Zone. You can view MVI’s website at http://www.monteverde-institute.org/library.html.

In 2007, University of Vermont Library associate professor Laurie Kutner spent her sabbatical at the MVI library. She acknowledged the necessity to have easy access to locally-produced, research-based information. Thus, the MVI Digital Library was born. It contains unpublished bilingual research documents produced by students and focusing on local sustainable community development, community health, and tropical ecology. The Digital Library website is http://www.monteverde-institute.org/mvi-digital-collections.html.

I first became involved with this project in 2009 as a graduate student and helped to create a new digital library collection on community health. This summer my primary task was instruction and outreach associated with the Community Health collection. The only completely bilingual, full-text searchable digital collection in the MVI Digital Library, it provides a unique level of access to information for the local Spanish-speaking community.

Because this collection is comprised of research-based documents focused on increasing understanding of a wide variety of community health issues in the Monteverde Zone, it has wide applicability to local healthcare practitioners and administrators in Costa Rica, as well as the general public, educational institutions, and future researchers. The collection focuses on such topics as HIV, exercise, nutrition, mental health, and menopause.

To market this collection, I conducted presentations for different local community constituencies, such as the public clinic, yoga studio, farmer’s market, and health food store. I also created bilingual print information materials for wide distribution, library informational videos, and video tutorials to support use of this digital collection.

It was extremely rewarding to work with the local community to make these digital health collections more known. I hope to return soon to continue my digital library outreach work.

--Stefanie Havelka

Chinese Exchange Librarian in Residence

This Fall the Library hosted its third Exchange Librarian in residence, Huaiqing Zhan from Shanghai University Library.

A native of Fujian Province in southeastern China, Mr. Zhan attended East China Normal University in Shanghai. Although he had never patronized a library before, he chose library science (now called information science) as his major because he thought the library “was a quiet place for reading books.”

As he started to learn about library operations, however, he realized that, contrary to his belief, the library is not at all a quiet place. It is thriving with challenging and interesting tasks and activities. Mr. Zhan graduated with a bachelor’s degree, and in 1995 joined the Library of Shanghai College of Technology. He was later transferred to the school’s new Library when it expanded to become Shanghai University in 2000. He worked as a reference librarian, responsible for database construction, website design, and teaching information literacy. In 2010, he earned a master’s degree in library science and information/archival studies from Shanghai University.

Currently he is an assistant professor of research at SHU, mainly responsible for overseeing general reference work, teaching information literacy, conducting staff training classes, promoting library services and resources, designing databases, compiling citation and indexing reports, and assisting with faculty grant applications.

Mr. Zhan took part in CUNY’s Librarian Exchange Program, observing and studying American library operations, to enhance his ability to serve library users. Specifically, he wanted to learn and exchange ideas with library faculty at Lehman and CUNY on new developments in information literacy, information/academic commons, embedded librarianship, new databases and search engines, and issues in library management. Mr. Zhan attended meetings, lectures, presentations, and workshops which greatly expanded his knowledge and experience.

Since New York is one of the world’s largest cosmopolitan cities, Zhan also explored the diverse and colorful culture the Big Apple has to offer. As Shanghai is a comparable city, he enjoyed contrasting the two.

The Library enthusiastically welcomed Mr. Zhan’s residency, and was interested in his research, sharing ideas, exchanging dialogue, and learning from his expertise.

--Kachuen Gee
From Vinyl to Digital

Over the years, the Library acquired a significant and comprehensive collection of 3,000 long-playing music vinyl recordings ranging from Gregorian chants to jazz improvisation, Broadway shows, rock and roll, and experimental computer-generated compositions. The collection also features spoken recordings including plays, books excerpts, and poetry readings. This is an important collection containing many rare and highly regarded recordings that could be used by Lehman students if they are digitized and made accessible via computer.

The Library has started to digitize the LP collection and the digitized recordings will be accessible on the Safari multimedia playback system. This involves recording and editing all tracks from each record album to extract a single file. Each track is saved and identified as a digital audio file. Files are uploaded to the Safari server and grouped as a playlist (similar to iTunes) named after the album’s title. We have already completed albums on this new system.

Students and faculty are welcome to visit Fine Arts to listen to these albums and tracks on any of the twelve headphone-equipped workstations.

--Ed Wallace and Wayne Halliday

New Statewide Information Delivery Service

To address increasingly tight budget constraints, a group of New York State libraries has started the Information Delivery Service (IDS) project. IDS libraries have agreed to share books and article copies free of charge. Therefore, each library can concentrate on purchasing books in specific subject areas. For example, one library will be designated as the computer science library and focus its purchasing on that subject.

Books can be requested by any patron anywhere in the IDS library system and delivered through Interlibrary Loan. Ultimately, the goal is to have at least one copy of every book published in the United States held at an IDS library and available for patrons.

This summer IDS held a conference to assess progress of this program. Currently sixty-three New York State libraries participate, and five more, including Lehman, are joining in Fall 2011. More information about IDS and a current list of members can be found at:
http://idsproject.org

--Eugene Laper

Undergraduate Art and Art History Research in New York City

New York City is one of the best places in the world to research art and art history. Besides the collections at CUNY, the New York Public Library’s Mid-Manhattan branch has robust, if well-worn, circulating and reference collections that should meet the needs of most undergraduate non-majors. For more extensive research, students may wish to visit the Schwarzman Building’s Art and Architecture Collection, which is accessible from the south end of the library’s main Reading Room.

A quiet, book-lined room with its own reference and paging desks, the atmosphere in the Art and Architecture Collection is one of concentration and studiousness. Books are non-circulating and must be paged from closed stacks. Students should ask at the Art Reference Desk for help paging a book, as the process is different from that of the main Reading Room.

Besides books and bound periodicals, the Mid-Manhattan and Schwarzman Building provide access to several invaluable art databases not currently available at Lehman: Avery Index to Architectural Periodicals, which covers architecture, archeology, design, and more; Art Index Retrospective, an electronic database of the print Art Index (which Lehman owns); and ARTbibliographies Modern, which covers the art of the late 19th century through today. The Avery Index is particularly crucial for research papers on architecture. Its coverage, which extends back to 1934, is second-to-none, although undergraduates may be frustrated by its lack of full-text articles.

Student researchers who have exhausted the resources of CUNY and NYPL can also avail themselves of the superlative collections at the Brooklyn Museum Libraries and Archives, Frick Art Reference Library, and Museum of Modern Art’s Library. All are open to undergraduate students, though access procedures vary. Students should review each library’s website carefully before planning their visit, and should keep in mind that all three collections are closed stacks and non-circulating.

Students should also be advised that museum libraries can be surprisingly conservative – the Frick had a dress code until at least the late 1980s! – and they may not allow researchers to bring coats, bags, pens, post-it notes, cell phones, or other items into the library. Courtesy, seriousness, and attention to rules should be the researcher’s watchwords at these libraries.

Since 2009, the holdings of these three museum libraries have been joined in an online catalog called Arcade http://arcade.nyarc.org/. This catalog searches books and periodicals, as well as specialized resources such as artist files, image collections, and archives not available anywhere else in the world. It is truly a treasure trove for ambitious art students.

--Jennifer Poggiali
Oral History Captures What They Remember

The Lehman College Oral History Project is well under way in creating a living history about the development and growth of our campus and its programs. The Project is spearheaded by Dean of Arts and Humanities Timothy Alborn, Professor Emeritus Jacob Judd, oral historian Tabitha Kirin, and Special Collections Librarian Janet Butler Munch. Interviews are video-recorded digitally in Lehman’s state-of-the-art Multimedia Center using high-definition cameras. Two workshops have been held to train project interviewers. A sampling of those already interviewed includes:

Sylvia C. Saracino, a Hunter alumna, described what it was like to be an undergraduate student on this campus in 1939. She discussed what the campus looked like, the classes she took, and the vibrant intellectual and social life. Following graduation, Sylvia worked on the Manhattan Project, and even describes her experience living in post-World War II Japan.

Dennis R. Papazian came to the College in 1946 as a student government representative from Wayne State University to attend the inaugural meeting of the Collegiate Council for the United Nations. Here he was noticed by former First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt, who singled him out for a special task. Her conversations with him left an enduring impression.

Jacob Judd, longtime former Chair of Lehman’s History Department, reflected on his work in what was then Hunter’s School of General Studies. He describes the transition from Hunter to Lehman College in 1968, and what it was like to be a faculty member during that era. Pressing issues like curriculum, governance, open enrollment, and the 1970s New York City fiscal crisis are detailed. Dr. Judd’s interview also offers insights into Lehman’s first President Dr. Leonard Lief, and the role of the instructional staff union, the Professional Staff Congress.

The oral history interviews are maintained in the Library’s Special Collections. They help document our rich history and assist in research that generates the College’s publicity, productions, and publications. These interviews also have put us in contact with many former faculty, staff and alumni, who maintain a deep interest in our campus.

--Janet Butler Munch

New Library Master’s Thesis Repository on Lehman Connect

While the College will soon launch CUNYfirst, an initiative that will consolidate many resources into a multifaceted platform, the Leonard Lief Library, with assistance and guidance from the IT Division, is embarking on a launch of the Master’s Thesis Repository on the new SharePoint portal called Lehman Connect. This endeavor will make this important digital collection more easily accessible to users.

The Master’s Thesis Repository contains Thesis, Capstone, and Master’s Papers from 2006 to the present. These documents are submitted to the Library as PDF text and image formats. Through the use of SharePoint, Master’s Theses and Capstone Projects will be stored in a secure repository, easily accessed only by authorized users of the Lehman community.

The Search tab in the Repository site will allow users to search by keywords within documents, as well as metadata such as Author, Title, Advisor, and Department. Basic Search is similar to a Google-type search, with additional features such as the ability to enter phrases and wildcards (to search for variant word endings). Two useful tabs are Browse by Advisor and Browse by Department, which bring up all documents sorted by Advisor or Department. Searches can be modified on the results page to limit by facets such as date, author, advisor, and department.

We hope this new service will provide users with tools to examine previous submitted and accepted Master’s Theses and projects in order to assist them when planning and creating their own work. All submitted materials are covered under a license agreement signed by the student and advisor. The Thesis and other documents in the Repository are subject to copyright law, as explained in the CUNY Copyright Guidelines: http://www.cuny.edu/libraries/services/copyright.html

--Wayne Halliday & Madeline Cohen
REBECCA ARZOLA received a Faculty Recognition Award for Service in May 2011.

MADELINE COHEN and WAYNE HALLIDAY presented “The Library Master’s Thesis Repository on Lehman Connect” at the CUNY IT Conference in December 2011. They partnered with Lehman IT Division staff members David Stevens and Rasun Williams.

RAYMOND DIAZ received an Outstanding Contribution to the College Award at Convocation in September 2011.

ROBERT FARRELL presented “Unpacking College Research Assignments – Mapping Back to the Common Core” at the 22nd Annual New York City School Library System Fall Conference. He also presented an overview of the Library’s Learning Outcomes Assessment Activities, sponsored by the CUNY Assessment Council at the Graduate Center.

KACHUIEN GEE will present “Summary of Research Findings on the Family History of Yuan Shi-kai: A Current and Updated Report” at the 5th World Confederation of Institutes and Libraries in Chinese Overseas Studies International Conference in May 2012 in Vancouver. She is a special consultant to the Chinese American Librarians Association’s Northeast Chapter.

STEFANIE HAVELKA presented “Creating Collections through Collaboration: An Innovative Digital Library Project in Monteverde, Costa Rica” at the ALA/IRRT Pre-Conference with Laurie Kutner of the University of Vermont and Cindy Dykes, Project Associate, Monteverde Institute Digital Library Project, in June 2011. She also presented “An Innovative Digital Library Project in Costa Rica: Creating Collections Through Collaboration” at LACUNY’s International Relations Roundtable.

STEFANIE HAVELKA and ALEVITNA VERBOVETSKAYA presented “Smart(phone) Searching: Information Retrieval on the Go” in November at Hunter College.

JANET BUTLER MUNCH presented a lecture for Lehman’s Women’s Studies Program on, “Lady Historian Martha J. Lamb (1826-1893): Brought American History to Life.” She also facilitated a discussion at CUNY Graduate Center on Patrick Tracey’s Stalking Irish Madness: Searching for the Roots of My Family’s Schizophrenia for CUNY Institute for Irish-American Studies.


SUSAN VOGE, former Head of Reference, was appointed Professor Emeritus in Fall 2011.

ROBIN WRIGHT is Chair of the Professional Recognition Committee of NY-NJ Chapter of the Medical Library Association.
Bon Voyage, Voge!

It was with mixed feelings that I responded to Susan Voge’s intention to retire from her position as Head of Reference on October 1. Since this is something she has planned for a long time, I applauded her decision, but knew we would miss her as a stalwart part of the Leonard Lief Library.

Susan began at Lehman in 1988 as Education Librarian, then was appointed Reference and Social Sciences Librarian in 1990. After a decade of service, she was named Coordinator of Library Instruction. Before I came to Lehman, I was certainly aware of Susan Voge’s reputation throughout CUNY on Information Literacy issues. When I joined Lehman four years ago, I transferred Susan to Head of Reference, at her own request. She has effectively managed this busy and demanding operation, while supervising three full-time faculty members.

Susan is simply a wonderful colleague. A Bronx native and member of the first graduating class of Cardinal Spellman High School, she has a strong sense of personal ethics that informs everything she does. She sets a high bar for library service, particularly for the benefit of Lehman students. On countless occasions, we’ve seen her drop what she’s doing to assist a student in need, with patience and humor. At Susan’s suggestion, we changed our faculty recruitment listings to: outstanding commitment to public service.

Moreover, given her quiet, unassuming demeanor, we’re all impressed with Susan’s kindness, consideration of others, and insistence on doing what is right. She has also been a valuable asset to her Lehman faculty colleagues, particularly in health sciences and Social Work. From my own perspective as Chief Librarian, I consulted Susan on numerous occasions behind the scenes. In each instance, she shared her wisdom, refined sense of library practice, and – notably – acute understanding of her library colleagues. In some instances, I altered my proposed decision – for the better.

For these reasons and more, in my valediction to library faculty and staff, I characterized Susan Voge as the conscience of the Leonard Lief Library. Fortunately, she is not going too far since she has agreed to stay on as an Adjunct librarian this academic year.

--Kenneth Schlesinger
We've discussed the possibility of CUNY and MNNU developing an Exchange Program or working together collaboratively. What initiatives would you recommend?

Although NMMU is international, our librarians rarely get to know how our U.S. counterparts work – and our U.S. counterparts know very little about us. What little we do know is gleaned mainly from overseas visitors and international online interest group memberships. On-the-job, first-hand learning, discussion, and observation will help broaden experience and contribute to progress of our library and information services.

I feel positive about my country’s future. Our youth are a new breed – the likes of which have never been seen before – and they clamor for change for the better. I believe that our libraries and librarians are able to support South African development by promoting open access, having the courage to defend access to information, and optimally using scarce resources to provide access. Most importantly, to facilitate when needed how to critically and analytically information problemsolve.

The opportunity for libraries and librarians to support and shape the future of South Africa is endless. We have the will, but do not always have the means or the support.

I salute all librarians!


--Kenneth Schlesinger
Making WAVES in the Bronx

During World War II, the Lehman campus was home to the U.S. Naval Training School (Women’s Reserve). From February 1943-February 1946, we were the “boot camp” for over 86,000 women from across the country who joined the WAVES (Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service), a volunteer women’s reserve unit in the U.S. Navy.

Former WAVE Nancy Lynch Castellano came back to campus last May as a guest speaker. She told us about her work training and instructing WAVES recruits at the U.S.S. Hunter – as the Navy then dubbed our college. Over a six-eight week rotation cycle, typically 5,000-7,000 WAVES at any one time were transformed from civilians into naval personnel, who were either readied for assigned duties or sent for specialized training.

Nancy Castellano, who wrote Looking Back at the WAVES: A Chronicle of 90,000 Navy Women of World War II (2007), recently donated to our Special Collections various Naval publications, newspaper articles and clippings, postcards, and photographs documenting the WAVES and her wartime service. Through period photographs, we can see WAVES on this campus during regimental marches and in the nearby apartment buildings commandeered by the Navy for enlisted and officer housing. These research materials supplement our rich College history, and help us appreciate the contributions these pioneering women made during the war.

--Janet Butler Munch

RESTORED FALL 2011 HOURS

REGULAR HOURS
October 31 – December 13
Monday – Thursday 9:00am – 9:45pm
Friday 9:00am – 6:45pm
Saturday 10:00am – 5:45pm
Sunday 12:00pm – 7:45pm

CLOSED
November 24 – 27 Thanksgiving Recess

EXTENDED HOURS
December 14 – December 20
Wednesday – Tuesday Open until MIDNIGHT
** December 21 until 9:45pm **

INTERSESSION HOURS
December 22 – January 26, 2012
Monday – Friday 9:00am – 4:45pm
Saturday & Sunday CLOSED

CLOSED
♦ December 23 & 26
♦ December 29 & 30
♦ January 16, 2012 (Martin Luther King, Jr. Day)