Message From The ASLS President - Have an Attitude!

At this year’s ALA Conference, I caught Dr. Louis Schmirer’s presentation, "Emerging Visions: Libraries and Education in the 21st Century." His focus was not on the latest technologies of this new millennium but rather on the core of teaching: attitude. He did note that attitude could be positive or negative! However, he emphasized that a positive attitude, being the best we can be, is an intricate part of being a good teacher. Attitude can spark the interest of the most reluctant learner.

Many librarians will argue that they are not teachers. I must disagree. The library webpage is designed for easy access to educational links; finding aids to archival materials are the main tools of many dissertation authors; and the reference interview provides a one-on-one instruction session. Since most librarians do not regularly teach in a formal classroom setting, they do not think of themselves as teachers, but they are in one capacity or another. And it is the attitude they exude in these capacities that generates success in "students."

When I think of attitude, I think Yoda: "Do, or do not. There is no try." The stereotypical image of a librarian does not conjure up "attitude." Yet, librarians are often the doers, striving to provide services and resources to the multitudes. It is their attitude (and hard work) that keeps censored materials accessible; new technologies available; and some organization in the overloaded information world. I am proud to be a member of a profession of doers!

Carol Anne Germain
University at Albany

ASLS Website: New Page to Reflect the Section’s History

The ASLS website has been placed on the NYLA server and now has a "permanent" address. You can access the homepage at http://www.nyla.org/asls/ASLS_home/ASLSHome1.htm. Alternatively, you could go to the NYLA homepage at http://www.nyla.org/ and choose "Sections." From there, choose the "Academic and Special Libraries - ASLS" link.

The web committee plans to make several changes to the site over the course of the summer. These include adding information about how to subscribe and unsubscribe to the soon-to-be-implemented ASLS listserv; information about our Section’s new Conference Scholarship; a welcome message from our President, Carol Anne Germain; and a special feature on the Section’s history.

Long time ASLS member Carol Lagasse of the Capital District Library Council, has kindly offered to share her expertise of the Section’s history with the committee. She will be researching our archived documents at the New York State Library Archives in order to prepare an accurate and insightful article. If you have any interesting memories, photographs or special knowledge of the Section since its inception in 1954, please email Carol Lagasse at caroll@cdlc.org so that she might integrate this information into her research.

Finally, I’d like to thank everyone for your comments and suggestions. These have been invaluable as we continually work to improve our web presence. These pages are intended primarily to serve the ASLS membership. If there is anything you would like to see added, omitted or otherwise altered, email Sheri Webber at sheri.webber@purchase.edu. Oh, and keep an eye out for the next Newsletter when the Website report will contain information about how to play the Website Treasure Hunt and be automatically entered in the Annual Conference Raffle!

Sheri Webber
SUNY, Purchase
ASLS Sponsored Awards

ASLS/Ridley’s Book Bindery Student Internship Grant

Applications are now being accepted for the 2002 ASLS/Ridley’s Bindery Student Internship Grant. Since 1992, the Academic and Special Libraries section of the New York State Library Association has awarded an annual grant of $1,000 to a New York State academic or special library to support a paid internship for one graduate student in library studies. The purpose of the grant is to provide practical work experience for a graduate library student who is interested in pursuing a career in academic or special libraries.

This year the recipient library will be chosen from the Western New York Library Resources Council region. Academic and special libraries in the region are eligible to apply for the internship grant. Once the award has been made, the library chooses an appropriate intern to complete the project.

Criteria for judging the successful internship project:
- Strength of the applicant’s statement of project need, the clarity of project goals, and the presentation of an achievable work plan
- Evidence of value to the student in preparation for professional work in academic or special libraries
- Evidence of value to the student through the successful implementation of a project that has the potential for significant impact on the host library’s programs or services.

Recent winners of the ASLS/Ridley’s Book Bindery Student Internship Grant include:
- 2000 - Sojourner Truth Library, SUNY: New Paltz
- 1999 - Library Consortium of Health Institutions in Buffalo
- 1998 - Werner Health Sciences Library, Via Health/Rochester General Hospital
- 1996 - Learning Resources Center, SUNY: Cobleskill

For application information, contact David Harralson (dharalson@utica.uesu.edu or 315-792-3041), ASLS Past President.

Who Represents the Spirit of Librarianship to You?

Who represents the essence of librarianship to you? I’m sure you can think of someone. Each year, ASLS presents the award to an ASLS section member who clearly exemplifies an exceptional and unique spirit in academic and special libraries. Please nominate that worthy person whom you greatly admire.

Last year’s winner was Jean Sheviak, from The Capital District Library Council in Albany. Jean was nominated, not only for being a "wonderful colleague" but also supportive leader who mentors and wholeheartedly supports her employees. Jean has long been actively involved in NYLA, ALA, the academic library community, and much more. We congratulate her and send her our warmest good wishes! She indeed represents "the spirit of Librarianship." Who could you suggest?

This year the Spirit of Librarianship award will be cosponsored by the New York 3R's – the Reference and Research Resources Councils, in honor of the contributions of all of New York’s academic and special librarians. To nominate someone, send a one-page nominating letter and include brief biographical information on the nominee, explaining why you believe this person exemplifies the "spirit" of ASLS librarianship. Nominations are due by Friday, August 2, 2002. Post or email nominations to David Harralson, ASLS Nominating Committee, Gannett Library, Utica College, 1600 Burrstone Road, Utica, NY 13502-4892, or dharalson@utica.uesu.edu.

Send a Colleague to NYLA Conference on Scholarship

ASLS now sponsors a Conference Scholarship that pays NYLA conference registration plus $100 to help offset conference expenses. ASLS members may nominate a colleague or themselves. Nominees should be a “front-line” librarian and an ASLS member.

To nominate someone - or yourself - send a one-page letter, including brief biographical information as well as a statement describing why the nominee is deserving and what they might gain professionally from this award. Nominate someone immediately! (by August 2, 2002) Send or e-mail nominations to Dave Harralson, ASLS Nominating Committee, Utica College Library, 1600 Burrstone Road, Utica, New York 13502 or dharalson@utica.uesu.edu.
It Takes a Forest to Raise a Sapling: reflections of a "new" ASLS member

After accepting a librarian position with the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry in June of 1998 one of the first things on my "to do" list was to join NYLA and its ASLS section. I had heard of the NYLA organization but never had the opportunity in previous positions to participate on any level. One of the keys to this new found opportunity was and still is a very supportive library director. My director, Betsy Elkins, "took" me to my first NYLA conference in 1998 and introduced me to the amazing library network and learning opportunities that are available as a NYLA member. During my first conference I saw colleagues from library school, librarians I worked with via the SUNY system and librarians that I had heard about and had been wishing that I could meet.

Since that initial introduction to NYLA I have continuously attended NYLA's annual conferences and with each conference have come new professional opportunities. The transition from being a "new" member to an "active" member has come from my belief in myself as a librarian and the support of my colleagues. In 2000 I was nominated for and received the ASLS Dewey Fellowship. This was a turning point in terms of my involvement with NYLA. During the 2000 conference I was mentored by ASLS members and began to have a better understanding of the NYLA sections and how the conference really comes together. In 2001 I was asked to join the ASLS board as a Director and during the 2001 conference continued to be mentored by ASLS members.

For 2002 my involvement with ASLS has increased. For the upcoming conference I will be a presider, a monitor, will staff the booth and overall will be a proud ASLS representative at the conference. The 2002 conference will be my 5th - yet it still feels like it was yesterday when I nervously filled out my first NYLA membership form and hoped that I could somehow find a niche and become a part of this dynamic organization. Thanks to support from colleagues and ASLS members I have been able to grow professionally and have it benefit both myself and NYLA. To me the "forest" of librarian colleagues (including ASLS members) have helped this "sapling" become established. I hope that other new and existing ASLS members can transition to becoming active members and find their niche in NYLA.

Jane M. Verostek
SUNY College of Environmental Science & Forestry

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@Your Library in Buffalo from October 23 – 26, 2002: ASLS Sponsored Programs

The following programs have been developed by ASLS for the annual meeting in October.

Virtual Cooperation: WNYLibraries.org
This is an opportunity to discover how cooperation can result in a product of benefit to all, a virtual union catalog. The role of academic and special libraries will be highlighted in this presentation.

Thursday, October 24
1:30-2:45 pm
Speakers: Gail M. Stanis, Ph.D., Executive Director of the Western NY Library Resources Council and Sheryl Knab, Regional Services Coordinator and VUC Project Manager.
President: Lisa Seivert, Director of the Lewiston Public Library

Hidden Treasures of Buffalo
Curious about the special collections in Buffalo? Hear about what makes the Karpeles Manuscript Library unique; why the Buffalo and Erie County Library is the place to do research, and the incomparable materials held at the Buffalo and Erie County Historical Society. Representatives from each institution will present highlights from their collections.

Thursday, October 24
4:30 - 5:45 pm
Speakers: Cynthia VanNess, Buffalo & Erie County Public Library; Patricia Virgil, Buffalo & Erie County Historical Society; Christopher Kelly, Karpeles Manuscript Library
President: Lisa Seivert, Director of the Lewiston Public Library

Glimping the Future 2002
What will happen when we can carry the contents of a large library in our wallets? Multimedia presentation focusing on technology developments and the impact on libraries, reading and learning. Come hear David Cossey give us an idea of the things to come.

Friday, October 25
8:00 - 9:15 am
Speakers: David V. Cossey, Executive Director, Information Technology Services, Union College
President: Jean K. Sheviak, Executive Director, Capital District Library Council

Marketing: not a Dirty Word!
Keep your library relevant by marketing your programs and services! Learn why communicating your message is critical to any organization, and learn strategies for keeping your library in the forefront.

Friday, October 25
10:00 - 11:15 am
Speakers: Dr. Nancy A. Cunningham, Ph.D., Medical Library Administrator, Dr. Edwin A. Mirand Library, Roswell Park Cancer Institute; Marianne Eimmer, Head of Reference and Instruction, SUNY College at Fredonia; John W. Ellison, Associate Professor, School of Informatics, Department of Library and Information Studies, University at Buffalo
President: Kathleen Gundrum, Nylink, SUNY, State University Plaza

InfoLit for ALL Students
Information literacy is surfacing in all educational settings: elementary, secondary and postsecondary. Panelists will provide insight into the challenges, rewards and innovative strategies undertaken to deliver information literacy.

Saturday, October 26
8:30 - 9:45 am
Speakers: Jennifer Quigley, Reference/Instruction Librarian, SUNY Brockport; Dr. Lorna Petersen, State University at Buffalo
President: Carol Anne Germain, Networked Resources Education Librarian, University at Albany

Energize Your Career Through Mentoring
Learn about creating and maintaining mentoring programs. Speakers will discuss experiences with both established and recently created programs and will review the pros and cons of informal vs. formal mentoring.

Saturday, October 26
10:00 - 11:15 am
Speakers: Kathleen M. Miller, Executive Director, Rochester Regional Library Council; Maggie Horn, Library Systems Implementation Specialist, SUNY OLI - Office of Library and Information Services
President: Jane M. Verostek, M.L.S., Senior Assistant Librarian, F. Franklin Moon Library, SUNY College of Environmental Science & Forestry
The Hidden Treasures of Buffalo

Are you aware of the many wondrous sites and collections that reside in and around Buffalo? If not, then you should plan to attend the Conference program “Hidden Treasures of Buffalo” sponsored by the Academic and Special Library Section of NYLA. Three of the collections that will be highlighted during the program in October are the Buffalo and Erie County Historical Society Library, the Buffalo and Erie County Public Library, and the Karpeles Manuscript Library.

The Buffalo and Erie County Historical Society is housed in the only permanent structure from the PanAmerican Exposition and exhibits a variety of “Buffalo Mades” products and inventions that helped make the city a major industrial center. Other exhibits highlight the people, places, and things that make Buffalo the city that it is.

The Buffalo and Erie County Public Library is home to many special collections and items, the most well known being the original manuscript of The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn by Mark Twain. The Mark Twain Room at the Central Library permanently displays various editions of Huck Finn from around the world. Also on display are original John James Audubon prints, with a different bird shown each week.

Founded in 1983 by David Karpeles, the Karpeles Manuscript Library has the world’s largest private holding of original manuscripts and documents, numbering over 1 million items. Buffalo is the location of one of seven museums that the Karpeles Manuscript Library operates throughout the country, offering rotating exhibits of portions of the collections. The library also offers an extensive outreach program to schools and universities.

Conference goers will find that Buffalo and the surrounding areas have much to offer visitors. You are invited to take some time to explore and experience the unusual and unique. Western New York has many outstanding art museums and galleries, theatres, historical sites and museums, natural wonders, and lots of friendly, helpful people!

Lisa Seiver, Director
ASLS Director

Everybody Wins: Student Interns

As a May 2002 graduate of Syracuse University’s MLS program, my four month internship at SUNY-ESF Moon Library was the perfect way to end my graduate student training. The internship was of obvious benefit to me – the opportunity to be mentored by highly skilled librarians and to gain first hand experience with reference, ILL, archives, cataloguing and information literacy instruction.

However, I also feel that internships can be mutually beneficial to student and sponsor. For example, I was able to offer my time and Microsoft Access skills to facilitate a quick analysis of a patron survey. In addition, I could offer insights and resources from my recent MLS coursework, such as knowledge of a web-based interface of LC subject headings created by Mississippi State University (see: http://fantasia.cs.msstate.edu/lesshib/index.cgi).

The mutual benefit to student and sponsor was due largely to the formal structure that accompanied the internship, including oversight by a faculty member and a required proposal, learning agreement, and evaluation (see: http://istweb.syr.edu/courses/advising/careerplanning/internships.asp for more info.). Of course, the internship was also a success because of the great match between Moon Library and myself and the wonderful librarians I had the opportunity to work with at Moon!

Ann Marshall
Syracuse, NY
Tales of Change in a Corporate Library

The Lillian R. Hayt Memorial Library is a small corporate library serving the Healthcare Association of New York State (HANYS) and its members. HANYS is a trade association representing non-profit and public hospitals, health systems, nursing homes, home care agencies and other health care providers across the state of New York. Nearly every hospital in New York State is a member.

Established in 1965 (in what was then the Hospital Association of New York State), the Hayt Memorial Library was created through the donations of Mr. Emanuel Hayt in memory of his wife Lillian R. Hayt. Mrs. Hayt was a noted expert and scholar in hospital and health law. In 1969, the library became a member of the Capital District Library Council. In 1995, it was designated an Electronic Doorway library by the New York State Department of Education. The library contains 2,088 books and manages 350 active journal subscriptions. It was listed as the 19th largest Specialty/Research Library in the Capital District in the July 6, 1998 Capital District Business Review.

The Library fulfills many traditional, and increasingly more nontraditional roles. The Librarian is responsible for reviewing and coordinating all book and periodical orders throughout the association, which encourages sharing among the departments and a more centralized system for obtaining publications. In recent years, patrons have eschewed checking out one of the library’s books in favor of obtaining more concise and timely journal articles. As a result, interlibrary loan is on the increase. As a net borrower, the Hayt Library received a total of 197 items and loaned 137 items last year. The Library participates in both CDLC and DOCLINE interlibrary loan systems. As in many libraries, reference queries are declining but are still a significant presence (193 queries per month in 2000, 112 per month in 2001).

In 2001, two big changes occurred affecting the Hayt Library, fostering a ripple effect of many smaller changes, with more to come in the future. First, longtime librarian Elaine Rotman retired, and the position was scaled down from full time to twenty hours per week. Second, the HANYS organization as a whole downsized and reorganized in September. As a result the library went from being a part of HANYS’ department known as the Healthcare Educational and Research Fund (HERF) to becoming a part of its Information Services Department. The former department focused on educational opportunities for hospitals and staff, and the latter department focuses on better use of technology by the HANYS organization.

Cutbacks in the Librarian’s hours have meant the reduction of at least one service. A monthly Table of Contents service was eliminated because it was not used by a significant number of HANYS staff and therefore did not justify taking the time to photocopy the table of contents of every journal received by the library and put them into a monthly guide. Partly out of a desire to find an appropriate replacement for the TOC service, the Library developed an online survey of user needs which was e-mailed to all HANYS staff in late May of 2002. Results of this survey are still pending and will help shape the future of the library and the services it provides.

A new focus on technology, and an increased reliance of HANYS staff on the Internet for information has let the Library to institute some educational activities to help patrons use search engines more effectively. A highly successful 10 part E-mail series on web searching techniques and an informal brown bag lunch presentation on searching with Yahoo and Google were well received by the HANYS staff.

Future plans for the library hinge on knowledge management concepts. The Chief Operating Officer of HANYS visualizes the library as being the “knowledge management nucleus” of the organization. This means that the focus of the library is changing from acquiring outside sources of information to better managing internal information across the different divisions, and making the information that comes in and is generated by HANYS accessible to all staff. The first step, to be led by the Library, is to implement an updated company Intranet this summer.

Future projects for the library focus on targeting the appropriate information to staff through a current awareness service, and a movement towards updated technology such as subscribing to online full text databases, and implementing Ariel and setting up an Electronic Funds Transfer System account for Interlibrary Loan. The need to downsize has remained present and some changes may not be implemented without cutting other areas first (for example cutting back on subscriptions to help fund a full text database).

It has been said that one thing you can always count on is that things will always change. The Hayt Library has seen significant changes in the past year, and anticipates no diminution in this trend!

Elaine M. Lasda
Healthcare Association of New York State
News, Reports, and Announcements

News from the Legislative Committee
The New York State Legislature passed the FY 2002-03 state budget in late May. The budget includes no new state aid for libraries, which is disappointing news when the libraries are being used more than ever. What can we do to help? The NYLA Legislative Committee encourages us to communicate our disappointment to senators and assemblyperson running for office next November. We should also communicate that we will only vote for people who will demand that the state budget include the needed increases in state aid for libraries. In the fall, the NYLA Legislative Committee will be identifying library contacts for each of the 211 legislative districts who will be prepared to call or write on behalf of library funding. The districts will be divided by 3Rs Council areas, and Legislative Committee members will identify the contacts. If you are interested in being one of these contacts, please contact Dottie Heibing (dheibing@metro.org). The time commitment is low, and it is an opportunity to learn about the legislative process and to make new contacts in your area. Finally, though the ALA Annual Conference is behind us now, I want to mention that ACRL offered a pre-conference called "Legislative Advocacy Workshop." Its purpose was to develop skills in library advocacy and gain practical information from long-term library advocates who shared their experience and sage advice on the art of persuasion. Speakers included: James Neil, and Charles Beard. Perhaps a similar workshop will be offered in New York state and many of us could attend.

Dottie Heibing, Metropolitan New York Library Council

Membership Committee Help Wanted
One of the responsibilities of the Membership Committee is the development and staffing of the ASLS exhibit booth at the annual NYLA Conference. In the past, the booth has provided a central area for the gathering and networking of ASLS members.

Please volunteer to help staff the booth for any amount of time. If you're interested, contact Ian Duckor (iduckor@mail.nysecd.gov w 518-474-6976) and we will get back to you with a list of specific times to see if any fit your schedule. Contact Ian also if you would like to help design the booth.

Treasurer's Report
The Academic and Special Library Section of NYLA began this year (January 1, 2002) with $12,407.71 in assets. Revenues to date (June 3, 2002) for the section are $1,670.01 in dues. Expenditures to date are $642.41 for printing, labeling and mailing the Spring ASLS Newsletter and for Board travel and meeting expenditures. This leaves ASLS with $13,435.31 as of June 3, 2002.

Financial income and expenditures for this year has been low but this will leave us well prepared for the 2002 Conference costs and activities of the Section through the next year.

OCE Funding Source Changes
Funding for the Office of Cultural Education (OCE), which includes the State Library, State Archives, State Museum, and Public Broadcasting, has been cut from State general funds. Funding for OCE will now come from a special revenue account funded by increased fees collected by county clerks on local government records transactions (deeds, mortgages, etc.)

The change in funding reflects a long-standing struggle over control of the State Education Department, which is overseen by the Board of Regents. The Governor's original budget proposed shifting OCE out of State Ed. and into a newly established entity, the New York Institute for Cultural Education (NYICE). The institute would be under the control of an appointed special panel. The legislature rejected that, but agreed to change the way the Office is funded, using the county clerks' recording fees instead of the general fund.

None of this necessarily bodes well for the long-term continuation of OCE as part of the State Education Department. It is difficult to ascertain what the impacts of that kind of change would be.