A Message from the ASLS President

Debby Emerson, ASLS President

As I am writing this, we are in the middle of a wonderful, busy summer. It goes by so quickly. A recent email message from the NYLA office about registration for the Annual Conference reminded me how soon the fall academic semester will be upon us.

During my year as president of ASLS, one of my goals is to encourage academic libraries to become members of NYLA. Many of us are personal members, but what about the libraries we work in? Since NYLA's mission is "to lead in the development, promotion and improvement of library and information services and the profession of librarianship in order to enhance learning, quality of life, and equal opportunity for all New Yorkers", it seems logical to me that all libraries in the state should be organizational members. NYLA Executive Director Michael Borges and I collaborated on a letter that was sent out to all academic libraries late in June, encouraging them to join NYLA. Of course, we also hope they will join ASLS! You can help by asking your library to join NYLA, if it is not already a member.

Why should individuals and libraries join ASLS? Our role is to "represent the interests and concerns of academic and special libraries to the New York Library Association; to serve as a channel for academic and special libraries to work in support of the objectives of the New York Library Association; to provide a general forum for all academic and special libraries in New York State; to provide means for further education and professional development of academic and special librarians; and to promote the development and improvement of academic and special libraries in New York State." There are a number of organizations in the state that represent academic and special libraries, and we should support and participate in the ones that are relevant to our own libraries. I like to think that ASLS is especially important because it is our connection to a statewide organization that represents ALL types of libraries, and being part of this larger group gives us, and our libraries, a stronger voice.

Benefits of NYLA Membership
Your library can reap huge rewards from its NYLA membership. NYLA's Vendor Partners offer member libraries (and individuals) exclusive discounts on a wide range of products and services from auto and home insurance to grant research information. As one ASLS board member reported, "Our library had both a building and space consultant come in this year, free of charge, due to our NYLA membership." What a wonderful benefit! Visit NYLA's Vendor Partner page at http://www.nyla.org/index.php?page_id=1201 for details on participating vendors and available discounts.

Your friends are already here!
Is your library listed here? It should be! Academic and special libraries that are currently institutional members of NYLA include:

Brookhaven National Laboratory
College of Westchester
Cornell University Libraries
E. H. Butler Library, Buffalo State
Fordham University
Fulton-Montgomery Community College
Hamilton College Library
Herkimer County Community College
Hilbert College
Hobart & William Smith Colleges
Hodgson Russ LLP
Hofstra University Library
Jamestown Community College
Juilliard School Library

(Continued on page 2)
ASLS Awards: Nominations Sought!

The 2007 ASLS Spirit of Librarianship Award: Who Will Receive It?!
Each year at the NYLA Annual Conference, ASLS presents its Spirit of Librarianship Award to a section member exemplifying an exceptional and unique spirit in academic and special libraries.

Do you know someone deserving recognition for their work in or with libraries?

To nominate someone, send a one-page nominating letter and a brief biography of the nominee, explaining why you feel this person exemplifies the “spirit” of ASLS-Academic and Special Libraries librarianship.

Submit nominations via email to Kathleen Gundrum, ASLS Past President: gundrumk@nylink.org. Please use “ASLS Spirit Award” as the subject line.


ASLS Conference Scholarship
The conference scholarship pays the full NYLA annual conference registration. ASLS members may nominate colleagues or themselves. Nominees should be "front-line" librarians and ASLS members. Submit nominations via email to Kathleen Gundrum, ASLS Past President: gundrumk@nylink.org. Please use “ASLS Conference Scholarship” as the subject line.

ASLS/Ridley Book Bindery Student Internship Grant
This annual grant for $1,000 is awarded to support one paid internship for a graduate student in library and information studies. The purpose of the grant is to provide a student practical work experience in an academic or special library. Criteria for judging a successful internship project include 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 an academic or special library; and evidence of value to the student through the successful implementation of a project that has the potential for a significant impact on the host library's programs or services.

Submit nominations and an application form via email to Kathleen Gundrum, ASLS Past President: gundrumk@nylink.org. Please use “ASLS Ridley Award” as the subject line and submit your application by August 17, 2007. An application form as well as a list of past recipients are on the ASLS web site at http://www.nyla.org/index.php?page_id=299.

Thank you!

(Continued from page 1)

LaGuardia Community College
Lincoln Center Institute
Manhattan College
Maria College
Molloy College Library
Munson-Williams-Proctor Art Institute
Nassau Community College
Nazareth College
New York Chiropractic College
New York Society Library
NYIT
North Shore University Hospital
Palmer School of Library and Information Science
Pratt Institute
Queens College
Rakow Research Library, Corning Museum of Glass
Simmons College Library
St. Bonaventure
St. John Fisher College
St. Johns University
St. Joseph's College
Stony Brook
SUNY Brockport
Syracuse University School of Information Studies
University at Albany (SUNY)
University at Buffalo (SUNY)
Utica College
Become active with ASLS!

Contribute your ideas to the annual NYLA conference!
Meet librarians from around the state!
Hone your web skills as the ASLS secretary/web master!

Run for an ASLS Board position!

Get involved!!

For 2006/2007, the ASLS board is seeking candidates for three positions. All open board positions are elected positions, taking effect following the NYLA Annual Conference in Buffalo in October.

Contact Kathleen Gundrum, ASLS Past President, at gundrumk@nylink.org or via phone at 518-443-5444 to express interest in a position. Please contact Kathleen by August 2, 2007.

Open positions:

**Vice President (President Elect):** Serves for three years; in the first year as Vice President (President Elect), in the second as President, and in the third as Past President. Program chair for the NYLA Annual Conference. Attends NYLA Programmer Meetings and ASLS board meetings. Serves as chair of the ASLS Program Committee.

**Secretary/Webmaster:** Elected for two years. Attends and serves as recorder at ASLS board meetings. Posts information to ASLS web site.

**Director:** Elected for two years. Attends ASLS board meetings. Contributes to section programming and board activities.

ASLS Elections Are Going Electronic!

For 2007, ASLS will hold its board elections electronically. Candidate statements and information will be distributed with electronic ballots to all current ASLS members. If NYLA does not have your e-mail address on file, you will receive a print ballot. Watch for your electronic ballot in September.
Spotlight on an Academic Library  
The Conrad N. Hilton Library of  
The Culinary Institute of America, Hyde Park, New York

Many people are surprised to learn that The Culinary Institute of America is an accredited, four-year college, offering both Associates and Bachelors degrees. At both levels, students study not only culinary and baking arts, but foreign languages, history (food history, but also world history), management, mathematics, psychology, purchasing, restaurant law, writing, and other subjects.

Therefore, the second surprise for many people is to learn that the ca. 76,000 volumes in our library include not only cookbooks, but a well-rounded collection of books to aid students researching and writing on a wide variety of topics.

The library also subscribes to about 280 periodicals; most of these are related to food, restaurants, and business. We supplement them with subscriptions to databases from EBSCO (including its Hospitality and Tourism Index), Hoovers, InfoTrac, and ProQuest.

The library maintains several special collections. One collection includes about 30,000 menus from restaurants in every US state, over 80 foreign countries, and ships, planes, and trains. Most of these menus are from the 1950s and later, but there are older ones, dating back to 1855. Examples of research in these menus include doctoral research for a history of airline travel in the US (airline menus) and for a study of ethnic restaurants in Germany and the US.

A collection of over 1000 rare books includes cookbooks and books on food history, wine, beer, wine making, beer making, etc. This is complemented by a collection of historical recipe pamphlets from food and appliance manufacturers.

The special collections are accessible to anyone by appointment; the main book collection is available to the public at any time when the library is open. In addition, the Information Services Librarian takes reference questions from not just students and CIA staff, but from CIA alumni and people with no connection to the CIA. Only CIA students and employees may borrow books directly from the library, but all circulating books are available for interlibrary loan. For more information, contact the CIA’s reference desk at c_crawfo@culinary.edu or (845) 451-1322.

Learn more about The World's Premier Culinary College at www.ciachef.edu.

Christine Crawford-Oppenheimer  
Information Services Librarian

Electronic Delivery of the ASLS Newsletter

This is the first issue of the ASLS newsletter to be delivered to your email address in PDF format only. Besides saving postage and paper costs, the newsletter is delivered speedily to your email address. Please keep your email address current with NYLA. We will only mail paper copies to ASLS members without an email address.

This newsletter is also published electronically and is available on the ASLS section of the NYLA website at http://www.nyla.org/index.php?page_id=304.
**Treasurer’s Report**

Second Quarter 2007  
April 1, 2007 — June 30, 2007

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Upon the conclusion of the Second Quarter of 2007, ASLS is in sound fiscal shape. Our dues allocation is up $900.00 compared to Q2 of last year. This may be due to membership renewals being processed a couple of months earlier than last year. We also received our annual $1,000 from Ridley Bindery to fund our internship program. This money was disbursed in early July; this disbursement will be reflected in the Q3 statement. Our expenses were minimal this quarter, consisting of funding for the 5/11/07 board meeting (travel and lunch), and for the publication and mailing of our newsletter. Our finances leave us well positioned for the conference expenses in the fall.

Respectfully Submitted,

Elaine M. Lasda Bergman  
ASLS Treasurer  
lasda.bergman@gmail.com

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**Come to the 2007 NYLA ANNUAL Conference!**

October 17—20, 2007  
Buffalo, New York

For registration and conference information, go to [www.nyla.org](http://www.nyla.org)

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**YOU CAN HAVE ONE OF YOUR VERY OWN!**

Yes, The ASLS T-shirt, penguin/ASLS logo is available in a variety of sizes: S,M,L,XL,2X

Shirts are $6.50 /ASLS members $8.00 /non pls $4.05 shipping  
Make checks payable to New York Library Association, specify size(s) and send to:  
Carol Anne Germain  12 Second Street Albany, New York 12210
2006 ASLS/Ridley’s Book Bindery Internship Report
Opening the Door: The Rakow Research Library at the Corning Museum of Glass

As an ASLS Ridley Book Bindery Intern, I took on the challenge of creating three original activities that can be successfully implemented at The Rakow Research Library at the Corning Museum of Glass using materials from within the library’s specialized collection. This project builds partnerships with area educators and the staff of the Rakow Research Library. Activities within the library correlate to specific New York State Educational Standards that are effectively and actively addressed while visiting the library. Also, teachers may optionally benefit from engaging in mini-units developed for use within their own classrooms. There are both pre and post activities developed for teachers to do with their students. This enables the students to be prepared and engaged while participating in the library activity and gives educators the opportunity to extend the learning experience into their own classroom situations. All activities are designed to significantly enhance and enrich the curriculum being carried out in the classroom.

The first task of the project involved developing a reference document that would be able to address the standards and indicators in a tangible, well organized, user-friendly format. The New York State Department of Education has an excellent database for locating grade and subject specific standards and indicators. I used this site: [http://www.emsc.nysed.gov/nysatl/standards.html](http://www.emsc.nysed.gov/nysatl/standards.html) to compile a document that spans all subject areas and grades. When planning lessons that correlate to specific library materials, it is advantageous to have a tangible, physical resource. This reference document provides a broad overview of the standards and lists the standards with all of the state recommended indicators. The process of creating standards-based activities becomes more effective and efficient with the use of this reference document.

I worked collaboratively with Regan Brumagen, Education and Outreach Librarian and Mary Cheek Mills, Manager of School and Docent Programs. Both were instrumental in brainstorming ideas and giving me direction. It was imperative to have a strong sense of what the library and museum would need accomplished most. As a result, two of the activities have a sixth grade focus and one is constructed in a general format that can easily span grades five through twelve by adjusting the level of analysis to reflect the participating audience.

The first mini-unit is focused on the sixth grade social studies curriculum and explores the evolution of glass from 500 BC until 1300 AD. The interactive lessons place primary importance on critical thinking skills. For example, students will decide if an account describing the discovery of glass, by Pliny the Elder, in *Naturalis Historia*, is an example of a reliable authoritative primary resource. Another activity has students inventing their own piece of historical fiction detailing how the first gaffer might have invented glassblowing. The activity planned for the library gives students a chance to play the role of archeologist. Students will use a timeline with pictures from the Corning Museum’s glass collections and historical information derived from the library’s collection to decide the period and place of origination of a particular piece of glass that is photographically portrayed on a laminated card. The students will work on “excavation teams” to defend their opinions concerning the pieces and be encouraged to cite evidence that supports their opinions by using the timeline.

The second mini-unit correlates with the current exhibit at the Corning Museum of Glass. Students explore the worlds of science, art and math as they investigate the model making of Leopold and Rudolf Blaschka. The Blaschkas’ models bridge science and art exquisitely and the library activity stimulates students to cross this bridge between art and science. Students actually have the opportunity to create their own sea creature drawing using selections from Gosse’s *A History of the British Sea-anemones and Corals* in the same way Leopold Blaschka did when he began his fascinating career. After studying the Blaschkas’ models and experimenting with drawing a sea creature at the library, the students will be motivated to expand upon their drawings and use the drawing as a plan for constructing an actual model.

*Stacey Wicksall*

Contact Aprille C. Nace (naceac@cmog.org) for further information about this project.
**Tips for New Librarians: Learning Doesn’t End with the Degree!**

Today’s library is moving forward at a phenomenal pace. Librarians need to keep up with emerging technologies, changing policies, new instructional techniques, and innovative products and services. While new librarians may be fresh out of graduate school, they still need to maintain acquired skills and knowledge to stay current with the library environment. Here are some strategies which may help:

- Attend continuing education sessions at your local 3Rs.
- Take an online course offered through SLA, ACRL, ALA, etc.
- Subscribe to and read library literature.
- Select a few pertinent blogs and review them regularly.
- Participate in pre-conference workshops.
- Read and post to library-related listservs.
- Search the Internet for step-by-step tutorials for skills-based needs.
- Form a local group and meet monthly to discuss current library issues.
- Participate in educational alumni events.
- Set up database alert profiles for specific topics of interest.
- Pick something you want to learn more about and log your strategies.

**LIBRARIANS ARE TRULY LIFELONG LEARNERS!!!**

Cut this out and pass it along to a new colleague

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**Tips for Mid-Career Librarians**

Dear Lorol,

What’s all this buzz about Strategic Planning? I thought that was for administrators. I just want to provide the same quality services for my users that I have always provided without any of this nonsense.

Signed,
Traditionally Happy

Dear Happy,

Congratulations on your desire to provide quality service; that’s just the spirit good Strategic Planning is hoping to capitalize on!

Strategic Planning is an opportunity to clearly identify your library’s mission and codify your values regarding the provision of services. In addition, Strategic Planning identifies ways which will allow for ongoing dialogues regarding improvements to your users’ experiences. How do we know we are doing a good job? Is it solely through subjective observation — they looked pleased when they found the resource they were looking for and said “Thanks”? What kind of stumbling blocks did they perhaps have to hurdle? How accessible is the material, really? Is there enough lighting in the stacks to see clearly? What kinds of data do you need to present in support of improving your library — both the operations and the collection contents? Do you have means for collecting this data? The development of goals and a means for evaluating progress towards meeting those goals are key elements of Strategic Planning that can help you answer those questions more objectively. I’m sure you have ideas on how things could run more smoothly or of new resources that could improve service provision and user happiness. Here’s your chance to get your ideas on the table and to participate in assessing progress towards implementing them. Who better but the people on the front lines to have the information first hand on what works well and what needs to be fixed? Why leave this important work to administrators?!! Hope your good spirit grows!

Lorol
The Liberated Librarian