The leaves are starting to look a bit colorful and the 2007 NYLA conference is just around the corner. We hope you can join us October 17 — 20 in Buffalo. All of the NYLA sections have worked hard to put together an outstanding agenda of programs and workshops. ASLS is excited to offer a full day Continuing Education workshop, Social Networking Tools, on October 17 and six great conference programs ranging from cataloging to bibliomining to mold.

All ASLS members and prospective members are invited to the ASLS Membership Meeting on Thursday, October 18 from 6 - 7 p.m. We'll be gathering at the Chocolate Bar, which is located inside the Hampton Inn just down the street from the convention center. This is a perfect excuse to eat dessert before dinner! The Chocolate Bar (http://www.buffalochocolatebar.com) is known for its wonderful desserts with a focus, of course, on CHOCOLATE. A selection of fine wines and martinis will be available from the bar, and ASLS will provide the desserts. Come and meet your ASLS Board members, enjoy dessert, and you'll be eligible to win one of our door prizes. What could be better than wine and chocolate after a busy day at the conference?

You'll want to stop by the ASLS Booth at the conference and make sure you have tickets for our raffle. Incoming ASLS President Aprille Nace has put together a wonderful basket of items featuring a special glass piece from Corning Glass. This year our conference booth will be highlighting all the academic and special libraries that make our section what it is. You can help us make sure your library is represented! We are looking for items with your library or institutional logo on them to display at the booth. It could be anything - an easy example would be a folder or report cover with the institution's logo on it, or a postcard or brochure or pamphlet. Of course other items would be welcome if available, such as mugs, caps, or t-shirts. You can send your items to our booth chair, Chris Walker, at the Capital District Library Council, or if you're elsewhere in the state, send them to the closest Regional Library Council (3Rs). (Christine Walker, Capital District Library Council, 28 Essex Street, Albany, NY, 12206-2027.) Please let us know if your library is an institutional member of NYLA/ASLS. Institutional members will get special recognition at the ASLS booth. It would be great if we could get at least one item from each library represented in our membership!

I'd like to say a huge thank you to our board members and committee members for all their hard work over the past year. Thanks to their efforts, we have put together an outstanding slate of conference programs, created a new membership brochure, grown our institutional membership, and started a new electronic newsletter. These folks take time from their already busy days to plan and carry out the activities that make ASLS a strong and vibrant section that is a voice for academic and special libraries in New York State.
The Academic and Special Libraries Section of NYLA is pleased to put forth a slate of officers for the 2007-2008 program year. Candidate information appears below. All ASLS members should have received an ASLS ballot in print or electronic format in September. Thank you for taking the time to cast your vote and to endorse and support these candidates.

**Candidate for Vice President and Conference Programmer/President-Elect**

Erin Rushton  
Science Reference Librarian and Bibliographer  
Binghamton University

**Candidate for Secretary/Web Liaison**

Amy Pass  
Information Literacy Librarian  
The Sage Colleges  
Albany Campus Library

**Candidate for Director**

Karen Gardner-Athey  
Library Systems Training Specialist  
SUNY Office of Library & Information Services

**Candidate Information**

Erin Rushton  
Erin Rushton is a Science Reference Librarian and Bibliographer at Binghamton University focusing on subjects ranging from Biology and Nursing to Women's Studies. She received her M.L.I.S. from Dalhousie University in Halifax Nova Scotia in 2004. She joined NYLA in 2005 and has served as Secretary/Web Liaison on the ASLS Board for the past two years. Her current research interests include emerging technologies, digital reference services, and intellectual freedom.  
Statement of Interest: As the current ASLS Secretary/Web Liaison, I've had the opportunity to become familiar with the many topics of interest to ASLS, and have met many of its members. This experience has fostered my appreciation for ASLS, and the role it plays for librarians in New York. If elected, I hope to build on the work of past presidents by encouraging librarians as well as academic and special libraries to become active ASLS participants.

Amy Pass  
Amy Pass is the Information Literacy Librarian at the Sage Colleges, where she manages library instruction initiatives. Previously, Amy worked as a librarian at SUNY Empire State College, serving adult learners in a distance-learning and mostly online environment. Before moving to New York in 2004, Amy was active in the library community in Washington, D.C. and worked in several special libraries, a government library and a law library. She served as the newsletter editor and member of the board of the DC Chapter of the Special Libraries Association, where she was awarded a "Member of the Year" award in 2001. She also enjoyed volunteer work at the Martin Luther King Public Library in DC and participating in a digitization project at the Washington DC Historical Society Library. Amy received her B.A. in English from SUNY Geneseo and her M.L.S. from The Catholic University of America in Washington, DC.  
Currently, Amy is active in the Capital District Library Association's Information Literacy group and is looking forward to opportunities even more involved in the upstate NY library community.

Karen Gardner-Athey  
Karen Gardner-Athey is the Library Systems Training Specialist at the SUNY Office of Library & Information Services in Albany.  
Statement of Interest: I have enjoyed being a Director of ASLS these past two years and would like to continue as a Director for the next two years. I believe that my work experience with the State University of New York libraries has been of value to ASLS and I hope to be able to continue to represent and address the concerns of ASLS members as well as work with the Board to support the goals and objectives of ASLS.

ASLS Slate of Officers

The polls will remain open through October 5, 2007.  
THANK YOU!
ASLS Membership Meeting

You are invited to the ASLS Membership Meeting
Thursday, October 18, 2007
6 p.m. - 7 p.m.

Join us at The Chocolate Bar (http://www.buffalochocolatebar.com), 114 Chippewa St. inside the Hampton Inn just down the street from the convention center.

Desserts will be served.
There will be door prizes!

Come to the 2007 NYLA ANNUAL Conference!

October 17—20, 2007
Buffalo, New York

For registration and conference information, go to www.nyla.org

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The ASLS Newsletter is published three times a year by the Communications Committee of the Academic and Special Libraries Section of the New York Library Association, Judy Fischetti and Tessa Killian, Co-Editors. ADDRESS: ASLS Newsletter c/o Southeastern NY Library Resources Council, 21 S. Elting Corners Rd, Highland, NY 12528; Phone: 845-883-9065 Fax: 845-883-9483; email: judyf@senylrc.org or killian@senylrc.org
The Healthcare Association of New York State (HANYS) is a trade association representing not-for-profit hospitals and other health entities in New York State. HANYS has maintained a small library since the late 1960’s, which originally served the membership, but evolved to primarily serve HANYS policy analysts, educational program organizers, communications people and other staff.

As with many corporations, HANYS has had to become leaner and more nimble in the twenty-first century. With the internet and e-mail, information is delivered to members in an expedited manner. Analysts are better able to obtain government information and other free resources, relying less and less on the library for reference (however Interlibrary Loan requests for journal articles have increased).

Although reference and information gathering tasks are no longer a significant role for the library (and librarian), HANYS has seen the value of maintaining an information professional, using traditional library science skills in broader ways that facilitate the organization of new types of information.

First, the library is the engine driving a project to create a comprehensive records inventory for the organization. As librarian, I will visit each department and assess its print and electronic records. The end result of this inventory will be a Microsoft Access database with key information about where information is housed, the nature of the content and other metadata that will facilitate locating important documents and other materials across departments. The library, working with the Information Services Department, will kickoff this project in late September and hopes to have it completed by the end of the year.

Related to this project is an initiative to organize in one location the data that HANYS’ analysts receive from outside sources. As librarian, I am responsible for assigning metadata to these datasets, so that analysts can readily identify what type of data is in each set, and what government restrictions might be applied to the dataset. For example, a minimum number of records must be accessed at one time from certain data provided by the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Studies. This is because there is concern that too small of a dataset might make it possible to identify personal information about specific Medicaid/Medicare recipients. With complex and diverse regulations to follow, and a need to prove that the datasets are not stored at HANYS for longer than allowed, this metadata creation and dataset organization is a critical project for which the library plays a central role.

Another information organization project is to develop taxonomies for the publicly accessed website and internal intranet site. HANYS is migrating its intranet to a SharePoint 2007 platform with the intent to move to a collaborative, wiki-type approach.

Working with the web development team, the librarian has provided input on a basic architecture for housing information on the new intranet/wiki, in order to facilitate the input of knowledge and resources directly by staff. The librarian is also working with the web team to facilitate a more planned and intuitive public website, and has begun this process by identifying how the site is currently structured. Using Inspiration, a simple-to-use software that facilitates creating a hierarchy for information, I created an outline of the majority of the current site’s content. Using this outline, we have our work cut out for us, and can see inconsistencies, redundancies and outdated material. The next step will be to create a taxonomy for a new public site, which will be built from scratch.

Working on these new projects, for me, is taking traditional library science skills and applying them to a new set of information organization and classification problems. It is an opportunity for innovation and a way to stay relevant in this information-based organization.

Elaine Lasda Bergman has been Librarian at the Healthcare Association of New York State since 2001. In addition, she is Reference Librarian and Reference and Gerontology Bibliographer for the Dewey Graduate Library, University at Albany.
ASLS Programs for the 2007 NYLA Conference

ASLS has an exciting and varied line-up of programs for the NYLA Conference in Buffalo this October. Come and join us for these programs:

Join Jane Smith, Sarada George and Kenn Harper from the University of Rochester as they discuss the methods and findings of the two-year ethnographic study on the research habits of undergraduates in “What Are They Thinking?” Thursday, October 18 from 1:30 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.

For Web/Library 2.0 discussion, “Baby Busters, Gen X, and Born Digital Babies”, with Stephen Abram, SirsiDynix; Friday, October 19, 8:00 a.m. – 9:15 a.m.

Michele Brown, Cornell University will take us on a journey through a forest of fungi, in “Mold, It’s Not Just For Breakfast” Saturday, October 20, 9:35 a.m. – 10:50 a.m.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Isola Ajiferuke, University of Western Ontario introduces us to data mining for libraries in “Bibliomining Made Easy”. Saturday, October 20, 8:00 a.m. – 9:15 a.m.

Experts Eleanor Brown, Cornell University and Marcia Trauer-richt, Rochester Institute of Technology share their experiences, joys, and frustrations in cataloging the oddities of special collections in “You Want to Catalog What?”. Friday, October 19, 10:30 am – 11:45 a.m.

“So You Want to Be in Charge”, will feature Melissa Jadlos from St. John Fisher College with the academic library viewpoint and Karen Kreizman-Reczek, Bureau Veritas, a special library, sharing practical advice and tips on how to interview, and how to be interviewed, for a leadership position. The program will be held Friday, October 19 from 4:00 p.m. – 5:15 p.m.

Isola Ajiferuke

Marcia Trauer-richt

Melissa Jadlos

Karen Kreizman-Reczek

Academic Libraries 2007
The Library is Everywhere: Maps and Minefields

Thursday, November 1 – Friday, November 2, 2007. The Saratoga Hotel and Conference Center, Saratoga Springs, New York. Sponsored by: NY3Rs Association and the Academic and Special Libraries Section, NYLA

The theme of the conference is taken from the Talis White Paper in which four principles are addressed:
The library is everywhere;
The library has no barriers;
The library invites participation;
The library uses flexible, best-of-breed systems.
The audience for the conference is directors and senior management of academic libraries. Registration for the conference is $110.00. Speakers include: Stephen Abram, Vice President of Innovation at Sirsi/Dynix, David Lankes, Associate Professor and Director of the Information Institute at Syracuse University, and John Meador and Susan Currie, Binghamton University.

For registration and further information, go to the conference website: http://ny3rs.org/AL2007/
Fall is the start of the academic year, and it’s also the start of the legislative season. Why is that important? NYLA is developing strategies to build on the successful library advocacy efforts from last spring. This year’s task will be more difficult because of the effect the sub-prime financial market problems are having on Wall Street. You may not realize how much Wall Street bonuses matter to the taxes collected by New York State, but it’s a significant amount. NYLA legislative priorities for this year include making permanent the $8 million in supplemental system aid and $14 million in public library construction funding that was included in the 2007-08 budget. Also in the priorities are a $2 million increase in coordinated collection development funding for academic libraries and $5 million to expand the Statewide Internet Library (formerly the NOVEL databases).

Academic and special librarians can help to make this happen! How? Come to the NYLA conference program on The New York Knowledge Initiative at 8:00 on Friday morning October 19 to meet legislators and other government leaders and talk to them about your concerns. Or stop by the NYLA Legislative Committee booth for more information on library legislation and NYLA priorities. Consider joining the New Yorkers for Better Libraries Political Action Committee, which provides funds that allow NYLA to help those who can help libraries in Albany. Go to www.nylibs-pac.net for more information or to make a donation. Come to NYLA Lobby Day on March 11, 2008 and make your voice heard!

Jean Sheviak, ASLS Representative to the NYLA Legislative Committee

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Join ASLS for a Pre-conference Continuing Education Program!

**Social Networking Tools**

Wednesday, October 17, 2007 10:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m.

You hear people talk about them, but what are they and how could you benefit from using them?

In the morning, participants will discover “Tools for Connecting Staff and Patrons.” How do you network and connect with patrons, suppliers and staff? Are you doing it the same way you did 5-10 years ago? If you are, then you are missing out on using new business tools for connecting in often unexpected and positive ways. The tools include blogs, online business networks, and other social networking software. These tools allow us to do virtually what we used to do face-to-face.

Tools to be viewed and discussed include:

- Facebook
- Skype
- Twitter
- LinkedIn
- LibraryThing
- Flickr
- SlideShare
- YouTube
del.icio.us

In the afternoon, “New Ways of Collaborating” will be discussed and explored. These tools can be used by librarians to collaborate with patrons, staff members and other colleagues. Specific collaboration tools — such as Google Docs, Zoho, and PBwiki — will be reviewed and discussed. We will also discuss how the tools can be combined (mashed up) in order to create distinctive user experiences. The day will end with the group brainstorming how to introduce some of these tools at their institutions.

Speaker Jill Hurst-Wahl is president of Hurst Associates, Ltd. and is an information consultant with more than 20 years of business experience. She frequently gives presentations and workshops on social networking tools, helping participants to understand what they are, how to use them, and how to reap the benefits.

As you’re making your plans for the 2007 NYLA Conference, remember to register for this great CE opportunity! For more information about the conference, and links to registration forms, please visit NYLA’s Conference page at: [http://www.nyla.org/index.php?page_id=70](http://www.nyla.org/index.php?page_id=70).
ASLS Raffle

The Corning Museum of Glass, library of ASLS Vice President/President-elect Aprille Nace, donated a wonderful collection of items to be raffled off at the NYLA conference in Buffalo.

Included in the gift basket are the following:

Admission for 2 to The Corning Museum of Glass (http://www.cmog.org/index.asp?pageId=1252), 2 Complimentary Make Your Own Glass Experiences (http://www.cmog.org/index.asp?pageId=672 ), One XL Adult Corning Museum of Glass Hot-Spot Tee-Shirt, 2 special packets of Gentian Sage flower seeds, AND, a large Ming Bowl made by William Gudenrath, Resident Advisor at The Studio. This lovely purple bowl, is about 5 inches deep and 6 inches across. Go to http://www.cmog.org/index.asp?pagId=1168 to learn more about William Gudenrath. Total value of the basket: $250

Raffle tickets will be available at the conference, or contact any ASLS board member. The tickets will cost $2 each or $5 for three tickets.

Tips for Mid-Career Librarians

Dear Lorol,

Whew! I’ve passed my tenure review! Now, I am eligible for a Sabbatical next year. I have no idea what kind of activities would qualify me to take one. Any ideas?

Signed,
Finally Resting
Comfortably

Dear Resting,

Congratulations! That is a wonderful accomplishment and I am sure you deserve all the rest you can get!

Sabbaticals are great opportunities to explore any number of interests. Start by talking to your colleagues as to the type of projects any of them have pursued. Try to imagine yourself actively working on a project which is not driven by day to day demands. Do you have any particular interests that you have always wished you had the time to devote to but could never quite find room in your busy schedule? Are there any burning research activities that might result in proposals or projects which could ultimately benefit your library or community? Are you sitting on the next “Great American Novel?”

Be creative and remember to have fun. This is a time to recharge your professional batteries.

Good Luck!

Lorol, the Liberated Librarian