A Message from the ASLS President

Erin Rushton, ASLS President

Where did summer go? It is hard to believe August is upon us already. Like many of you, members of the ASLS Board have had a busy summer. In May, we met for a Board meeting and started work on revising the ASLS Leadership Manual. The purpose of this manual is to help new Board members transition into their new roles. The Board also discussed improvements to make to the ASLS website. In particular, we want to have more photos of ASLS members. Do you have photos to share or any suggestions to liven up our site? We would love to hear from you.

Speaking of the ASLS Board, the ASLS election results are in. Our new Vice President/President-Elect is Blake Carver from the New York Power Authority - Niagara Project. Our new Secretary/Webmaster is Leigh Mihlrad from the Albany Medical College. We are also happy to announce that Amy Pass from The Sage Colleges is a new ASLS Director. Amy currently serves as our Secretary/Webmaster and we are happy that she is continuing to serve on our Board.

On a final note are continuing with finalizing conference preparations. You can read more about our programs in this newsletter. We hope that you are planning to attend Annual Conference this year. If you do go, be sure to stop by our booth to say hello.

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An Intern and Membership Too!

The Academic and Special Libraries Section (ASLS) of the New York Library Association (NYLA) offers an annual $1,000 student internship grant to a New York State academic or special library. Sponsored by Ridley’s Book Bindery (Ithaca, NY), the grant enables the recipient to conduct a project planned by the library and implemented by a student currently enrolled in a graduate-level library studies program. This year the winning library will also receive a complimentary institutional membership to NYLA.

What are we looking for…

- Internship in any area related to academic or special librarianship, including direct service, special projects, or analysis of services and operations.

- Internship projects that are supervised by an individual with an MLS from an accredited school of library science.

- Internship projects that involve at least 120 hours of service to be completed by the intern prior to the end of the academic year 2009/2010.

Details and application available on the ASLS website http://www.nyla.org/index.php?page_id=48
Spotlight on a Special Library
Eastern New York Correctional Facility

Eastern New York Correctional Facility, located in Napano, NY in Ulster County, is a maximum security prison for males 16 years of age and older and houses more than one thousand inmates. The General Library employs one full-time professional librarian and one part-time librarian. Inmate clerks are also assigned to the General Library and perform a variety of clerical duties, including circulation tasks, collection and periodicals maintenance, interlibrary loan and outreach services. Inmate clerks also help other inmates use the automated card catalog. The collection contains over 8,000 books, more than 200 audio books, and nearly 300 videos for use by inmates and staff plus subscriptions to almost 50 magazines and newspapers. To meet the different language needs of the inmate population, reading materials are available in English, Spanish and Chinese. In addition to a wide array of fiction, the library has material on drug and alcohol treatments, resume writing, interview skills, job hunting, carpentry, plumbing and other trade skills, all of which supplement existing programs in the facility and are intended to help incarcerated individuals transition back into society as productive members of their communities. Also, inmates can request material from other libraries through the interlibrary loan service facilitated through the Ramapo Catskill Library System. Besides books and audiotapes, the General Library offers a variety of programs for the inmate population including business and writing workshops, poetry and book discussion groups, life skills classes and cultural heritage events.

To attend the General Library at Eastern Correctional Facility, an inmate must submit a written request to the senior librarian at least three days in advance of the date that he wishes to attend. Inmates must not be scheduled to work or be assigned to another program such as the academic school or substance abuse treatment during the time that he requests to come to the library. A call-out or attendance list is printed and distributed throughout the facility and only those inmates on the list may attend the library on a particular day and time. Inmates confined to their cells for disciplinary or medical reasons are entitled to receive books or audiotapes from the library; request forms are sent to these inmates and inmate clerks deliver the requested materials to the cells on a regular basis. The senior librarian is responsible for providing books and periodicals to inmates housed in the Special Housing Unit, a section of the facility where inmates are kept in segregation.

The General Library at Eastern operates similar to a public library with a few exceptions. To safeguard the collection, the library has closed stacks. Because only library staff and inmate clerks have direct access to library materials, proactive readers’ advisory is crucial to helping inmates find reading materials that fit their interests and needs. Facility librarians now have limited Internet access for the purpose of facilitating interlibrary loans and reference questions. Many library staff go offsite to work on some reference questions that cannot be answered using the print sources available in the General Library or the government websites to which librarians now have access. Prisoners have access to the same materials available in public libraries except CDs, which are considered a security risk, and books containing information that violate established Media Review Guidelines, like instructional works on martial arts skills, books inciting violence against others and disobedience to law enforcement officers or material advocating lawlessness.

In the New York Department of Correctional Services, General Libraries offer inmates services and programs that meet the educational, vocational, informational and recreational needs of the inmate population. During their confinement, many inmates discover that libraries provide a refuge from the daily grind of prison life, and many choose to fill their leisure hours reading for pleasure, pursuing educational goals or exploring personal interests.

Janet Dymond, M.S.I.S.
Senior Librarian
Eastern NY Correctional Facility
Do You Know Someone Who’s Got the Spirit?

Know an ASLS member who clearly exemplifies an exceptional and unique spirit in academic and special libraries? We are seeking nominations for the ASLS Spirit of Librarianship Award to recognize just such a person (could even be you.) More details and application available on the ASLS website


ELECTION RESULTS

Congratulations to your Newly Elected ASLS Board Members*

Vice President/President-Elect
Blake Carver
New York Power Authority - Niagara Project

Secretary/Webmaster
Leigh Mihlrad
Albany Medical College

Director
Amy Pass
The Sage Colleges

*Positions will take effect at the Annual NYLA Conference & Trade Show this November.
Tips for New Librarians
Researching 101 for the Librarian

Many colleges and universities require librarians to conduct research and publish - yes, to avoid perishing (and earn tenure and/or promotions). It may seem intimidating but the task is certainly doable. Conducting research and writing also provides you with the ability to develop your expertise. Over time, you will find you are well versed on the topics you select to research. The best way to get into the process is by getting started, here is a basic (very basic) strategy to help you begin:

Generating Ideas – ideas are important – they provide the seeds to get your research going.

Look around your library, you will find:

- New initiatives — are they working?
- Old programs – are they still working?
- Problems – are they causing headaches? And can your research provide solutions to make them less onerous? These are excellent research fodder.

Technology

- Test the usability of your catalog.
- Measure the use of technologies used in the classroom.
- Analyze the public service technologies (e.g., IM reference).
- Review your digital collections and their usage.
- Examine your Web site’s traffic patterns.

Outreach

- Conduct a survey of your teaching faculty and how they use the library.
- Study how students use the library (you may be surprised).
- Investigate how campus services (e.g., residential life, study abroad) work with the library.

Outlining your research plan – yes, write it down; it will help you keep focused and on track.

- Objectives – what are you looking to discover?
- Literature Review – what is already researched and published on your topic?
- Methods – what are you going to do and how will you measure the outcome?

Collaborations – partnerships can be invaluable.

- Write with a fellow librarian.
- Work with the teaching faculty on a joint project of interest.
- Team up with someone from a sister institution to compare services and resources.

Be Prepared

- Time – this is very time consuming – plan and pace yourself.
- Audit a methods/statistics class to sharpen up on those skills.
- Learn survey and statistical tools (e.g., SPSS, Survey Monkey) before you start – the learning curve may cost you time.
- Check your institution’s research requirements – you may have to get approval for using library data, conducting interviews or creating surveys.
- If you need to use screen shots (e.g., for a database, catalog), get permissions as you go.
- Take into account financial costs (e.g., subject participation incentives, transcription fees, software) at the start of the project. You may need to ask for funding or write grants to support your research.

Most Importantly

- Select a topic you like and want to know more about – you will be working on this for a long time.
- Let other colleagues know about your research, they can provide invaluable feedback. They will often provide that push when you’re 100% sure.
**ASLS Programs at the 2009 Annual Conference**


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wednesday, October 14</th>
<th>Federated Searching and Beyond</th>
<th>Friday, October 16</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Preconference Workshop</strong></td>
<td><strong>Polishing your Portfolio</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>An Introduction to Preservation for Libraries and Archives</strong></td>
<td>Preparing for the job market, promotion and tenure, or a career change, in a year of tighter budgets? Get professional advice from Susanne Markgren, columnist for Career Q&amp;A and a SUNY Purchase librarian.</td>
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<td>This full-day introduction to preservation for libraries and archives will be taught by Jeremy Linden, Head of Archives and Special Collections at SUNY Fredonia. Participants will learn how to extend the life of their collections through proper storage and handling, as well as how to reduce the impact of common environmental hazards such as moisture and pests. This is a great workshop for those seeking to learn about preservation or wanting a solid refresher course in caring for collections.</td>
<td>Exploring a federated search product for your library? Come hear reviews of various products from libraries using them. Are they worth your dollars? Do they achieve the Google-like simplicity patrons want and expect? Plus, learn about the latest on the University of Rochester’s eXtensible Catalog, an alternative model for providing access to library collections.</td>
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| Bridget Schumacher, University at Buffalo  
Erin Rushton, SUNY Binghamton | |  
Christine Pruzin, Library of Congress |
| **Thursday, October 15** | **Navigating the Library of Congress Labyrinth** |          |
| **Creating a Community of Libraries** | Join Christine Pruzin, from the Library of Congress, as she takes a tour through the many superb digital collections available online at The Library of Congress website. |
| **President’s Program** | |  
Friday, October 16 |
| Be inspired by partnerships between libraries offering unique programming and services to patrons. Hear from Carol Sandler, National Museum of Play in Rochester; Barbara Billingsley, Central Library of Rochester and Monroe County; and Andrea Tillinghast-Thompson, Red Jacket Community Library about collaborations between special and public libraries. | |  
**Saturday, October 17** |
| Intellectual Freedom Inside the Wire | **RU There? Mobile Technologies for Libraries** |          |
| In this program, sponsored by IFRT and co-sponsored by ASLS, hear from correctional facilities librarians as they discuss the challenges of balancing the profession’s commitment to intellectual freedom and social responsibility ideals. | How are libraries using mobile technologies in reference services, exhibitions, instruction, or online services? How are library websites being modified to accommodate mobile users? Find out in this exciting panel presentation with librarians from academic libraries across the state: Logan Rath, SUNY Brockport; Elaine Bergman, University at Albany and Ken Fujiuchi, Buffalo State College. |          |
| **Teaching the X - Z Generations** | |  
Paul Lehmann, Utica College |
| Find out what library instruction teaching strategies work with each generation of learners. Learn how to communicate effectively with these different types of learners. | |  
Logan Rath, SUNY Brockport |
| **The Vanishing Record** | |  
| |  
Tom Ottaviano from the SUNY Geneseo Library and Bob Dowd from the New York State Library discuss threats to online government information and how this impacts library collections & services. | |
NYLA Conference Programs continued
Saturday, October 17

Show Me the "Get It" Button

Cyril Oberlander, SUNY Geneseo

Traditional ILL and delivery models are not living up to the expectations of our academic library users who only care about getting the resources they need in the quickest way possible. Learn about new models of resource sharing that are being piloted in NYS from Cynthia Bertuca, University at Buffalo and Cyril Oberlander, SUNY Geneseo.

A Change is Gonna Come: Emerging Technology Trends for Librarians

Jenica Rodgers-Urbanek, SUNY Potsdam

In this program, sponsored by SMART and co-sponsored by ASLS, hear from a panel of experts talk about technologies you can implement in your library today as well as the top technologies to expect in the near future. Panel members include Ken Fujiuchi, Buffalo State College; Jenica Rodgers-Urbanek, SUNY Potsdam and David Rothman, Community General Hospital Medical Library.

Tips for Mid-Career Librarians

Dear Lorol,

I’m getting very nervous. Our administration has forewarned us that we face some bleak economic times in the very near future and hasn’t ruled out layoffs. I’m fairly secure in that I have rank, but the librarians do not have tenure or a union which makes us quite vulnerable. It’s been a while since I was out in the job market and I’m sure there would be stiff competition for most available positions. And then there is my age……

Worried

Dear Worried,

Unfortunately, your fears are not necessarily unfounded. However, now may be the time to initiate a proactive approach before you could potentially find yourself in a crisis state. Updating your resume is an absolute first step. Try and focus on skills that have a broad appeal across disciplines - management skills, budgeting, and training. Use this exercise as an opportunity to boost your own morale; take a good look at all the things you have done and accomplished - the variety of your experiences and how all those skills can be generalized to any number of positions and occupations. Lastly, try not to let your imagination only run to the negative - your mindset has a lot to do with how your age may be perceived.

Good luck!

Lorol
Free Conference Registration!!!

We are looking for a few good applicants to the ASLS Conference Scholarship. The scholarship pays for full NYLA Annual Conference registration for an ASLS member.

**Applicants/Nominees must:**
- Be a NYLA/ASLS member in good standing
- Be a non-managerial/administrative library staff member in an academic or special library.
- Provide a brief statement describing how they will benefit from attending the Annual Conference.
- Applications are due September 1, 2009

Send to: Aprille Nace, Rakow Research Library, 5 Museum Way, Corning, NY 14830 or naceac@cmog.org

The successful library applicant will be notified by September 16, 2009.

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**Treasurer’s Report**

Academic and Special Libraries Section  
New York Library Association

**Treasurer’s Report 2nd Quarter, 2009**

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<th>Beginning 2nd Quarter Balance (4/01/2009)</th>
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