A Message from the ASLS President

Erin Rushton, ASLS President

The 2008 Annual Conference began November 5th 2008, just hours after Barack Obama was elected President of the United States. A few days later, albeit in a slightly less ceremonial inauguration, I assumed the position of President of ASLS. A year has almost passed and as I get ready to step down as ASLS President I’ve been reflecting on the challenges I’ve witnessed through my tenure. Certainly the global financial crisis has had significant impact on our lives. Other issues such as climate change, privacy, health care, the digitization of information also dominate the news and thus affect us individually.

As an academic librarian, I’ve experienced the ramifications that these issues have on our libraries. Reduced budgets, for example, means less money is available to support the purchase of library resources. The threat of global warming has compelled me to rethink how I perform work duties so less impact is made on the environment.

Unfortunately, it does not look like these issues will disappear anytime soon. That’s why it’s important, in these challenging times, to communicate with each other to share ideas and solutions. One way that ASLS tries to help is by offering relevant and engaging conference programs at conference. This year, for example, we have sessions on using technology to provide innovative library services as well as sessions related to professional development and career development. We will also be sponsoring a membership reception with SMART which we encourage you attend. This is a great opportunity to say hello to old friends, make new friendships, and meet your ASLS Board members. We have more information about other conference activities in this newsletter.

Before I sign off, I’d like to thank Regan Brumagen for all her hard work in planning the ASLS conference programs. I also would like to acknowledge all the work other ASLS Board members do to make this section a success whether it is publishing the newsletter, serving on NYLA committees or managing finances. I look forward to seeing everyone at conference!

ASLS Programs at the 2009 Annual Conference

Wednesday, October 14
♦ Preconference Workshop – An Introduction to Preservation for Libraries and Archives

Thursday, October 15
♦ Creating a Community of Libraries
♦ The Vanishing Record
♦ Federated Searching and Beyond
♦ Teaching the X - Z Generations
♦ Intellectual Freedom Inside the Wire

Friday, October 16
♦ Polishing your Portfolio
♦ Navigating the Library of Congress Labyrinth

Saturday, October 17
♦ RU There? Mobile Technologies for Libraries
♦ Show Me the "Get It" Button
♦ A Change is Gonna Come: Emerging Technology Trends for Librarians
The New York Power Authority's Niagara Project is located a few miles downstream from Niagara Falls, in beautiful Lewiston, NY. The library employs just one full-time librarian, who maintains a diverse records collection to support the day-to-day operations of a large, aging, hydroelectric power plant. The plant is adjacent to the historic Niagara University campus, and is the largest electricity producer in New York State and generates approximately 2400 megawatts of electricity. The Niagara project consists of two main facilities: the Robert Moses Niagara Power Plant, with 13 turbines, and the Lewiston Pump-Generating Plant, with 12 pump-turbines. In between the two plants is a forebay capable of holding about 740 million gallons of water; behind the Lewiston plant, a 1,900-acre reservoir holds additional supplies of this liquid fuel. Though most of the plant is closed to the public, there is a visitor’s center, called the Power Vista. The Power Vista features more than 50 interactive exhibits that invite visitors of all ages to have a completely hands-on experience as they learn about hydroelectricity and the historic role it has played in the Niagara Frontier.

We primarily collect plant and equipment manuals, inspection records, training materials, and other vital records as required by state and federal laws. Like many special libraries, we serve a special clientele. Our patrons include mechanics, electricians, welders and engineers. They have information requests that need to be filled quickly while working on equipment that was installed when the plant was built in the late 1950s. As the equipment ages the original documentation becomes increasingly important. The library collection includes unique materials that are used to repair and maintain the incredible array of large equipment necessary to run a hydro plant. In addition, the library holds conference reports, general training manuals, and computer manuals.

The library is only 6 years old, and much of that time has been spent converting a legacy system into the OpenText Livelink EDRMS, as well as scanning and digitizing as many of the original materials as possible. The Electronic Document / Records Management System is used by employees throughout the plant and many records are scanned and stored as full text PDFs. Because the plant is actually 2 plants covering several miles, it's advantageous to get as much of our documentation digitized in order to serve the needs of the staff working in the field or located at one of our more remote locations.

I also work closely with the Information Resource Center (IRC) at our headquarters in White Plains. The IRC gives us access to several important industry resources like the IHS Engineering Resource Center, which delivers to the desktop industry standards and codes, Platts RDI databases of electric industry statistics, POWERdat, BaseCase and RDI Online that monitor and compile data on electric power companies and their plants, including Annual Reports, FERC Form 1 filings, SEC filings, PSC, EEI and DOE EIA reports. The IRC also provides technical and business research services, using commercial database services and the Internet to help meet the needs of NYPA’s management and technical staff at headquarters and the sites. Additional services include current information alerts, interlibrary loan and document delivery.

Though I am the only full time librarian, I've been lucky through the years to have several assistants and interns that have helped move the library forward. As a solo librarian I am also responsible for project-wide records management policy and the headquarter’s records management program, ensuring compliance with regulatory, legal and operational requirements. This includes records retention scheduling and compliance, maintenance and retrieval of active and inactive records, document microfilming, and digital scanning and conversion services. In just 6 years the library has grown into an important resource for the plant.

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We’re Having a Party!

ASLS & SMART Reception
Thursday, October 15
6:00 – 7:00 PM
Crowne Plaza, Pearl Room

Help Support ASLS

Raffle Tickets available at the ASLS Booth

$2 a ticket or $5 for 3 tickets

♦ Corning Museum of Glass is providing a glass pumpkin
♦ A hand knit shawl and socks
♦ One pound of a special Librarian’s blend of coffee
♦ A Coffee mug
♦ Gaylord and KAPCO book repair supplies
Additional Programs at NYLA

In addition to the great programming that the Academic and Special Libraries Section (ASLS) is sponsoring, there are several workshops that should be of interest to staff of academic and special libraries.

Pre-Conference: Wednesday, October 14, 2009
But wait, I have to put a plug in for at least one of ASLS program. ASLS is sponsoring “An Introduction to Preservation for Libraries and Archives,” with Jeremy Linden, SUNY Fredonia. This is a hot topic now as more academic libraries assume responsibility for their organization’s archives. And if you have never heard Jeremy speak before, you are in for a real treat. Jeremy is a trained archivist and his knowledge is extensive.

Thursday, October 15, 2009
As more and more scrutiny is being paid to not-for-profits, it is important that libraries have their personnel policies in order. Hear Jerry Nichols, Palmer Institute for Public Library and Organization Management talk about this issue. Sponsored by LAMS, it is a session that is important for all types of libraries. Learn about personnel issues and how to avoid pitfalls that could land your organization in hot water.

For serial librarians, a SMART sponsored program “Managing Serials: The New York Landscape” brings together presenters from OCLC and Nylink to demonstrate what librarians in New York State are doing to make holdings more visible. How about you catalogers out there? Plan on attending SMART’s and Nylink’s program on RDA with John F. Meyers, Union College.

Friday, October 16, 2009
If you are concerned about funding issues (and who isn’t these days), plan on attending a legislative update session at 9:45 am on Friday. It will feature elected officials and library leaders including State Librarian, Bernie Margolis discussing how to keep library needs and issues in the funding forefront.

Management issues seem to be a hot topic this year. “Managing Up: Leader vs. Management” with Zahara Baird, Kimberly Bolan & Associates and Rebecca Lubin, Albany Public Library will address the issue of leadership or lack of in the management circle.

Also worth mentioning, is an afternoon program on collaboration. Learn how libraries in New York have collaborated in the past to create better library services. John Hammond, Northern New York Library Network and Jerry Nichols, Palmer Institute for Public Library and Organization Management will present.

For reference librarians, the annual RASS-sponsored “Best of Reference” is a program that includes panelists showcasing the best print and online reference sources of the year.

Saturday, October 17, 2009
And finally, there wouldn’t be a conference if we didn’t have at least one program addressing technology trends. “A Change is Gonna Come: Emerging Technology Trends for Librarians” with Ken Fujiuchi, Buffalo State College, Jenica Rodgers-Urbanek, SUNY Potsdam, and David Rothman, Community General Hospital Medical Library is slated for 11 am. Sponsored by both SMART and ASLS, the program will show technologies that can be implemented today as well as a glimpse into future technologies that librarians need to keep their eye on.

NYLA’s 2009 conference program is packed with great programs and interesting speakers. Don’t forget to check out the special events as well. There are library school reunions, the vitality fund event, inaugural dinner, and various sections’ luncheons. Librarians from academic and special libraries are sure to come away with having learned something new and perhaps made new friends along the way.
Insider’s Guide to Niagara Falls

What to do in Niagara Falls
A visit to the world famous Niagara Falls is a must of course. Spend some time walking around. Attractions worth the cost of admission include the Maid of the Mist, where a boat takes you to the base of the Falls. It is spectacular. The Cave of the Winds allows you to get very close to the surging water. You can even touch the Bridal Veil section of the Falls.

If you are looking for something free to do, explore Three Sisters Island and Goat Island. Bring comfortable shoes, because you can walk on the rocks near the upper rapids.

The American and Canadian Falls offer quite different vistas. If you have a passport or enhanced New York State driver's license, you can walk across the Rainbow Bridge and look back toward the American Falls. Then take a walk up Clifton Hill to view the Canadian attractions. It's very touristy, but can be entertaining.

Where to Eat in Niagara Falls, USA
Pine Avenue is about one mile from the downtown area. This is where the best Italian/American food can be found. Look for Michael's Italian Restaurant, the Como Restaurant, or Fortuna's (which is just off Pine on 19th Street) If you want to stay closer to downtown, the Seneca Niagara Casino has several restaurants, including the Thunder Falls Buffet, which will satisfy anyone's hunger. If you are looking for a more upscale restaurant, the Western Door in the Casino is nice. It is expensive, but probably worth it. Within walking distance of downtown is Third Street, which has some small restaurants and bars worth visiting. Also on Third Avenue is Donatello's Restaurant, which has good pizza, chicken wings, and submarine sandwiches (they will deliver to your hotel).

Shopping and Movie Theaters
Travel east on Pine Avenue/Niagara Falls Blvd. (Route 62) for about 5 miles and you will find the Fashion Outlets of Niagara Falls, which features more than 100 designer stores. Also on that road is a Regal Movie Theater.

Exploring the Region
There are two charming small villages located within 15 miles of Niagara Falls (take the Robert Moses Parkway north to reach both.)
Youngstown, about 13 miles north, is located where the Niagara River empties into Lake Ontario. It is the location of Old Fort Niagara, an important site in the War of 1812. If you like scary stuff, check out its Haunted Fortress event on October 16 and 17th. Call 716-745-7611 for advance tickets.

Lewiston is closer--about a six mile drive. The shops tend to close by about 5pm or 6pm, but there are a number of excellent restaurants located on Center Street, which runs through the middle of the village. Be sure to stop by the Village Bake Shoppe, buy a cup of coffee and one of their excellent pastries; then take a stroll down to the waterfront.

Both Youngstown and Lewiston will be hosting Scarecrow Festival displays along their main streets in October.

Links (listed in Alphabetical Order)
Cave of the Winds
http://www.niagarafallsstatepark.com/Activities_CaveOfTheWinds.aspx

Como Restaurant
http://www.comorestaurant.com/

Donatello's Restaurant
http://www.niagarafallslive.com/Donatello_Restaurant_466_Third_Street_Niagara_Falls_NY.htm

Fashion Outlets of Niagara Falls
http://www.fashionoutletsniagara.com/

(Insider’s Guide to Niagara Falls Continued on Page 6)
Peace, Love, and Libraries?

In keeping with the 2009 Annual Conference theme Libraries: Peace, Love, and Freedom, the ASLS booth at this year’s conference will take a look at what was going on in academic and special libraries during the late 1960s and early 1970s. It wasn’t all peace and love! Many of our campuses were the scene of protest marches and sit-ins. What happened on your campus, or in or near your library? It’s not too late to submit items for display at the booth. Debby Emerson, from the Rochester Regional Library Council, is coordinating this year’s booth with the help of Chris Walker from the Capital District Library Council. Several libraries have found photos in their archives from that time period, depicting a variety of campus events. If you find something that can be scanned and sent to Debby as a PDF or JPG file (demerson@rrlc.org), we’d be happy to display it!

We’ve collected some interesting items for our raffle as well. The Corning Museum of Glass is providing a glass pumpkin; a SUNY Albany librarian has knit a purple shawl and socks; there is a pound of a special Librarian’s Blend coffee; Gaylord and KAPCO have provided a selection of book repair supplies; and yes, we also have a couple bottles of wine. The ASLS booth will be open during NYLA exhibit hours of 12:00 noon – 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, October 15 and 9:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. on Friday, October 16. Make sure you stop by and see what our members were doing back in the 60s!

We need volunteers to staff our booth during the exhibit hours. It’s a great way to get involved with ASLS and network with your fellow conference-goers. It’s also a lot of fun! If you’d like to volunteer, please contact Debby with your availability. See you at conference!

Hold the Date!
Academic Libraries 2010
Faster Than the Speed of Bytes: Technology, Cognition, and the Academic Library
June 7 & 8, 2010, Holiday Inn Downtown, Ithaca

Brought to you by:
NY3Rs Association and Academic and Special Libraries Section, NYLA

Dinner Speaker: Dr. Debra Gagnon, Associate Professor of Psychology, Wells College
Keynote Speaker: Dr. Michael Stephens, Assistant Professor, Dominican University

Are we organically shaped by technology? If so, how can academic librarians respond? How do cognitive changes influence the way that we lead our libraries and teach our users? The conference will explore the psychology and humanization of technology as well as changes in cognitive development, based on new models of interacting with information.

More speakers, information, and associated program activities to be announced soon!
Treasurer’s Report
Academic and Special Libraries Section
New York Library Association

As of August 31st, the ASLS treasury contains $17,919.74. This amount compares favorably to $15,834.82 at the same time in 2008, and $13,523.51 at the same time in 2007.

Despite the economy, our dues allocation remains steady compared to 2008 and 2007 (A). Our non-conference expenses so far this year are far less than in 2007 and slightly less than in 2008 (B). This is largely due to a tendency to hold conference calls rather than in-person meetings.

Of course, the annual conference is when most of our expenditures occur, but it looks like we will end 2009 in a better financial position than we have in past years.

A. Dues, January - August
2009: $3,914.83
2008: $3,877.25
2007: $4,134.50

B. Non-conference expenses, January - August:
2009: $1,799.55
2008: $1,920.33
2007: $2,834.10

Kathryn Frederick