A Message from the ASLS President

Regan Brumagen, ASLS President

The Academic Librarian conference, *Faster than the Speed of Bytes: Technology, Cognition and the Academic Librarian*, was held last month in Ithaca. The conference, sponsored by ASLS and the New York 3Rs, was a great success, bringing librarians all over the state together to discuss important issues relating to technology’s effect on cognitive processes and how this in turn affects library services and collections. You can find links to the presenters’ handouts and presentations at [http://www.nyla-asls.org/AcademicLibrariansConference/](http://www.nyla-asls.org/AcademicLibrariansConference/). ASLS was pleased with how well the conference met the needs of librarians in our state, based on comments from attendees.

We now turn our attention to finalizing our program for the annual NYLA conference, to be held November 3-6, 2010 in Saratoga Springs. You can find descriptions of our conference programs in this newsletter.

Also, in this newsletter, we are excited to offer two new columns. Mary Lindner will write the "Mid-Career Strategies" column. Mary is the Curriculum Library Cataloger/Reference Librarian at The College of St. Rose. She is currently the NYLA NMRT Awards Chair and the SMART Mentoring Program Chair.

We also would like to welcome new columnist Jill Tarabula who will offer advice on job searching and related issues in her "Career Connections" column. Jill has been working as a librarian in technical services for the past two years and is responsible for managing electronic resources. Prior to this she has worked as a reference and instruction librarian in community college, special and public libraries.

We hope you will join us at the fall NYLA conference! For those interested in being more involved in ASLS, we are always looking for candidates to run for ASLS offices. These openings are announced on the ASLS list. If you are a member of ASLS, but not currently on the list, contact me at [brumagener@cmog.org](mailto:brumagener@cmog.org) to be added. And as always, please contact ASLS with any suggestions and ideas for future conference topics. We’re interested in your opinions and in your involvement!

ASLS Booth for 2010

We are already busy planning our ASLS section booth for the 2010 conference in Saratoga. In keeping with the conference theme, “The Library: Your Story Starts Here”, we would like to feature stories from our member libraries.

Does your library have a story to tell? Did something momentous happen in your building? Perhaps a researcher used your library for an important book or article. Do you have a connection with someone who went on to become famous? Tell us your story and we’ll feature it in our booth. It’s even better if you have pictures, or an audio or video to share. Maybe one of your staff went above and beyond the call of duty to help a library user, or there was a major event held in the library. Send us your stories and your pictures!

Once again, Corning Museum of Glass has generously donated a piece of glass for our section raffle. The booth committee is also seeking other items to be given away as door prizes, so if you would like to donate something (or would like to persuade a friend or colleague to donate something), we would be very grateful.

Please send your booth ideas, stories, pictures and donations to Debby Emerson at the Rochester Regional Library Council, [demerson@rrlc.org](mailto:demerson@rrlc.org).

Thank you!
Tips for New Librarians
Unpacking the Conference

Conferences are GREAT!! For a new librarian (and many who are not) these events open up the chance to learn about new technologies, techniques, processes, and products. They provide the opportunity to meet valuable colleagues and establish networking connections. Attending a conference can also be a bit overwhelming – there’s a lot to do and take in. It may leave you feeling a little drained on your return “home.” Plan some time to unpack the conference to get the most from the experience. Here are some tips to help with the process:

♦ Set aside some time each day over the 1st week back to go through conference resources.
♦ Sort and organize the materials you picked up from vendors, workshops and committee meetings.
♦ Make a list of vendor and colleague follow-ups.
♦ Contact these individuals over the next several months to take advantage of trials, discounts and/or professional opportunities.
♦ Review presentation handouts and your notes to decide how you will integrate this knowledge into your library efforts.
♦ Distribute items you have picked up for your home librarians (e.g., streaming media brochures for the multi-media librarian).
♦ Create a “must read” list of recommended literature, access those materials and read them over the coming months.
♦ E-mail a new colleague you met to acknowledge the exchange and that you would like to continue a particular discussion.
♦ Contact presenters who really impressed you and thank them for their session – these may turn into lifelong relationships!
♦ Start working on the committee assignments you signed up for.
♦ Jot down ways in which you will approach the next conferences (e.g., different lodging, similar timing with vendors).
♦ Sponsor a brown bag lunch at work to share your conference experience with local librarians.
♦ If you have blogged your conference experience, add these post-conference activities.
**Elections**

By the time you read this, the ASLS elections will have concluded. We have some wonderful candidates running for office this year and we hope you voted for them!

Our Vice President/President Elect candidate is Elaine Lasda Bergman from the University at Albany. Elaine has been a very active ASLS member having served twice as a Director and as Treasurer for 2004-2009.

The candidate for Secretary/Web Liaison is Jill Tarabula from SUNY Buffalo. Jill was the ASLS scholarship winner last year and we are glad she is interested in serving on the Board.

Jill Dixon from Binghamton University is our candidate for Treasurer. Jill has been an active NYLA member for several years and we are also glad she is interested in serving on the Board.

And finally, we have three candidates for Directors. Sheryl Knab from Western New York Library Resources Council has just completed a two year term as Director and we’re happy she is willing serve another term. Marcy Strong who was been both President of SMART and NMRT will also be joining the ASLS Board as will Erin Rushton from Binghamton Universities who just completed her term as ASLS Past President.

ASLS would like to extend their congratulations and a warm welcome to our newest Board Members.

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**Treasurer's Report 1st Quarter, 2010**

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<th>Revenue Description</th>
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<td><strong>Ending 1st Quarter Balance (3/31/2010)</strong></td>
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**2010 BOARD ROSTER**

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NYLA Legislative Committee Report

Programs at the ALA conference in Washington made clear that the crisis in library funding is deepening in many states. Systems are closing or consolidating, and many states have been forced to eliminate or severely reduce services and cooperative programs that libraries have come to depend on.

As of this writing, the status of New York State library funding remains unclear. The legislature had completed work on a budget which left in place the Governor’s $2.4 million dollar additional cuts to Library Aid. This was the fifth cut in library funding in two years and reduced library funding to 1998 levels. On July 7, the Governor vetoed a bill which includes language authorizing some of the library system operating aid and directing how the 2010-2011 Library Aid funds will be allocated. The Governor submitted a revised bill for covering those issues, but the Legislature rejected that bill on July 13. We have no idea when this situation will be resolved. One thing that seems certain: the reductions will be applied to all library funding including programs for academic and special libraries such as coordinated collection development aid, hospital library services programs, and regional automation programs.

The Legislative Committee had hoped that lack of funds might spur the Legislature to pass legislation which would benefit New York libraries without costing money. NYLA’s 2010 legislative priorities included a several such bills. On May 25, members of the committee held a mini lobby day to discuss the status of these legislative efforts. We met with leaders such as Assembly member Jonathan Bing, Chair of the Libraries Committee; Senator Suzi Oppenheimer; and staff of the Assembly Ways and Means Committee to discuss the positive effects these bills would have. Near the end of the legislative session we had success with one of our proposals. A bill to permit libraries and library systems to engage in cooperative bidding was passed in both the Assembly and Senate and is expected to be signed by the Governor. Two other bills (allowing BOCES-libraries internet partnerships and making public library systems eligible for local government efficiency grants) were passed in the Senate but unfortunately did not make it out of the Assembly Ways and Means Committee. For more information about these bills go to http://www.nyla.org/index.php?page_id=1837.

For the first time, New Yorkers for Better Libraries Political Action Committee is putting together a report card to inform New York voters about their State Legislators actions on legislative issues relevant to libraries. They expect to highlight legislators of distinction by awarding both the Ex Libris Award (for legislator(s) with the best voting record on library issues) and the Fahrenheit 451 Award (for legislator(s) with the worst voting record). Check http://nylibs-pac.net/ for more information about the PAC or its legislative report card.

We thank you for your continued efforts to keep your legislators informed about library issues you think are important!

Jean Sheviak
ASLS Legislative Committee Representative

(Career Connections, Continued from Page 2)

It’s easy to talk about things we are good at. Try to select something that directly relates to the position. On the other hand, it is difficult to reveal a shortcoming. We are human, and therefore, we aren’t perfect. The search committee realizes this too, and they expect you to have a weakness. They will want you to share it, but they also expect you to have a weakness. They will want you to share it, but they also want you to tell them how you are addressing it. Perhaps you aren’t completely comfortable speaking in front of a group, and this position will require you to make occasional presentations or teach a class. You could admit this to the search committee, and explain to them that you have enrolled in a public speaking class or have joined a group like Toastmasters International.

3. Why did you apply for this position?
At some point, someone will ask why you applied for this particular position. Before you go to the interview, think about what attracted you to the position. Surely it was more than a job title, geographic location or salary. Make a bullet list of the reasons you liked the position. These should include any one of the many responsibilities, but may include several. Is there a way to tie them together? Recently I applied to a position that was several hours away from my home, but would move me closer to my sister. I was very interested in the position because of the type of work and tools involved, but what made it even more attractive was the opportunity to relocate nearer to family. During the interview, the question came up, and I explained my interest in the work responsibilities and the organization. Because the position would require a significant move, I was also able to explain why relocating would be a positive experience for me.

You can never be too prepared for an interview, and with the competition climbing as the number of available positions dwindles, it is up to you to present yourself in the most positive and appealing light. Following these tips could make all the difference.
When visitors arrive at The Hastings Center, in Garrison, NY, they often comment on the beautiful view the property offers of the Hudson River Valley. The Center has called Garrison its home since 1997 when it moved from Briarcliff Manor, NY and took up residence in what was formerly the Malcolm Gordon School. Yet, it’s not the scenery that makes the Center unique but what happens within the institute.

It is difficult to write about The Hastings Center Library without first discussing The Hastings Center itself. Founded in 1969 by Dan Callahan and Willard Gaylin, the Center has since played a central role in the birth and development of bioethics. It is the oldest independent, nonpartisan and nonprofit bioethics research institute in the world. The mission of the Center is to address fundamental ethical issues in the areas of health, medicine, and the environment as they affect individuals, communities, and societies. This is accomplished through the creation and sharing of knowledge, research projects, journals, clinical education programs, and participation in government and on private advisory committees.

Many of the bioethical issues studied by Hastings Center researchers receive national and international attention. The ethical implications surrounding topics like synthetic biology, healthcare resources and reform, mental health therapies and neurosciences, genetic engineering, new reproductive technologies, human subjects research and end of life care have all been recently discussed and debated in Hastings Center projects. Because The Hastings Center’s scholars study these and similar issues, they are often called upon by the media and policy makers to weigh in as experts in the field.

The Robert S. Morison Library was founded one year after the Center’s birth in 1970. It’s named after the late Robert S. Morison who helped establish the Center and served on its first board of directors. The library supports The Hastings Center’s research programs and projects, as well as the interests of Hastings Center Fellows, visiting scholars and the general public (by appointment). It is housed in what was originally constructed in 1955 as the gymnasium for the Malcolm Gordon School and is a depository for over 9,000 books, journals and visual materials. The Library also serves as the site for Center meetings and conferences. It is open Monday - Friday from 9 AM to 5 PM.

The Morison Library’s holdings include books on the sciences, philosophy and topics surrounding the field of bioethics. There are many unique items in the collection, including compete sets of the Center’s own publications: *Hastings Center Report* and *IRB Ethics & Human Research*. The library also retains copies of intellectual content created by staff, board members and fellows. These take the form of books, reports, documentary and case studies and various forms of unpublished material. Currently the library holds back issues of over 200 journals and participates in the National Library of Medicine’s DOCLINE interlibrary loan program.

As the solo Librarian for the Morision library, I manage all aspects of library operations. One of the most enjoyable aspects of my job is meeting the researchers who participate in the Center’s visiting scholar program. This program brings in visitors each month who perform research utilizing the Center and its resources. Projects are often book or thesis driven. Visitors are required to make presentations to the staff during lunch when they first arrive and again on their departure. Following each presentation, members from the Center research team provide feedback, helping to narrow or expand a chosen topic.

A great way to learn about the work that goes on at The Hastings Center is to explore its newly designed web site at http://www.thehastingscenter.org. Many of the resources offered on the website are free; including the Centers own *Bioethics Briefing Book* which contains 36 overviews of issues in bioethics of high public interest. http://www.thehastingscenter.org/Publications/BriefingBook/Default.aspx.

For more information about the Morision Library please contact the librarian’s desk at sheak@thehastingscenter.org or call (845) 424-4040 x256.

Karen Tauss - Shea
Library Manager
There are several reasons why you may be thinking about taking on a library intern. Maybe you or your supervisor, have been contacted by a library school student requesting an internship. Or perhaps there are projects you would love to get done, if only you had the extra help or a particular expertise. Whatever your reasons, here are a few points to consider:

**Library interns can bring new energy into your library, as well as a fresh perspective.** They are usually in library school: immersed in recent research, interested in the current trends, and often familiar with the latest technology. A library intern can also be an extra worker and may even bring a particular skill set that you are looking for. All of these can be assets for you and your library.

**However, you need to have time for an intern.** An internship that benefits both you and your intern takes time; time for setting goals and planning projects, time for training and guidance, time for writing letters of recommendation after the internship has ended, etc. How much time will vary by intern and intern project/duties, but do be prepared to invest some time.

Tips for a successful experience with an intern:

- **Interview an intern candidate before committing yourself.** Treat the potential intern as you would an applicant seeking a job – ask for a resume, conduct an interview, make sure this is a good match.

- **Set goals and objectives for the internship.** Having clear goals and specifying ways each goal will be reached helps to ensure a mutual understanding of what the internship will entail.

- **Think about how you will mentor your intern.** Mentoring might mean simply providing appropriate guidance through a project and being available to answer questions. Or it could mean more: discussing certain aspects of your job and issues facing libraries, as well as providing career advice and promoting involvement in professional organizations.

- **Have the intern work on a project.** Completing a project during the internship allows the intern to provide a tangible benefit to your library and gives the intern something concrete to add to his resume.

- **Choose the intern project with care.** Is the project something the intern can work on independently, after some initial training? If not, how will you manage working collaboratively? If the intern will be working on a project outside your area of expertise, what kind of training and support can you provide?

- **Provide clear guidelines.** The clearer you are on what you want your intern to do, the more likely you are to be satisfied with the result.

- **Require the intern to produce a project report.** The report should detail the steps taken as well as the final product. This report can be useful to you later – when you want to replicate or add on to the work your intern started and also when providing references for your intern.

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**ASLS Awards**

Last fall, the ASLS Board learned that the Ridley Book Bindery was no longer able to fund the ASLS/Ridley Book Bindery Student Internship Grant. While this news was disappointing, it did provide the impetus for ASLS to review and evaluate its awards and grants. A small task force recommended that ASLS develop two new awards that recognize and support ASLS members. The new ASLS Excellence in Library Innovation Award replaces the ASLS Spirit of Librarianship Award and the ASLS Conference Award and its purpose is to recognize the achievements of an ASLS member who is creative, innovative and visionary in the field of academic or special librarianship. The new ASLS/New York State 3Rs Special Project Grant replaces the ASLS/Ridley Book Bindery Student Internship Grant and enables the recipient to pursue a special project at an academic or special library that benefits both recipients’ professional development and strategic mission of the institution. Information about these awards will soon be available on the ASLS website.

We encourage you and your colleagues to apply! ASLS would like to thank Ridley Book Bindery for their support over the years and would also like to thank the 3Rs for their generous support in funding the new special projects grant.
NYLA Programs

Thursday, November 4, 2010
♦ Mary Chimato, currently with North Carolina State University will present: "How to Be the Bad Guy without Being Bad." How to hold effective performance improvement discussions and build personal responsibility for performance, shifting it from the manager to the employee.
♦ Nicki Lerczak, Genesee Community College: "Going Where the Patrons Are: Embedded Librarians." Find ways to offer comparable instruction to all students regardless of their physical location.
♦ Elena V. MacGurn, from The Johnson Graduate School of Management Library: "Maximizing Your Online Presence." Learn how to get ready for your traffic and see real examples of how to optimize pages to convert visitors into patrons.

Friday, November 5, 2010
♦ Lisa Forest, from Buffalo State College: "Creative Programming For The Frugal Librarian" As state and local economies suffer, librarians can be too quick to dismiss innovative programming ideas in their libraries. Contrary to the assumptions of campus administration, many creative programs can be initiated and run with little or no expense. Learn how to transform your library from "the building with all the books" to a more lively space for engaged learners.
♦ Karin Wikoff, Ithaca College Library: "Providing Support for Electronic Resources." Troubleshooting technical problems, plus additional information that covers how to provide access to electronic resources.

Saturday, November 6, 2010
♦ Margaret Smith & Alexa Pearce, both from NYU: "Implementing New Technologies for Reference Services." Strategies for the planning, marketing, and assessment of new technologies for reference services.
♦ Sheridan Harvey, Library of Congress: "Women’s History Resources at the Library of Congress." Learn about the extensive women’s history collection at the LOC with lots of fun examples.

New York Library Association
ASLS/Academic & Special Libraries Section
c/o Southeastern NY Library Resources Council
21 S. Elting Corners Road
Highland, NY 12528

TO: