Mildred Lowe Award Winner

Catherine M Dwyer
(Government Documents Librarian, The University at Albany) is the 2009 recipient of the NYLA/GIRT Mildred Lowe Award for outstanding contributions to government information librarianship.

Ms. Dwyer is the University’s main access person for government documents in all formats. She is an acknowledged expert on topics including congressional publications, census information, scientific reports, and other government resources for SUNY’s faculty, students, and staff, as well as beyond the University community. She is sought out by SUNY faculty doing research for their peer-reviewed papers and is instrumental in assistance with government documents and related research materials for much of the University’s scholarly output. She also regularly conducts government documents instruction sessions for the University’s library science students. In prior recognition of these and other contributions, Ms. Dwyer received the SUNY Albany Award for Excellence in Librarianship in 2000.

In addition to her work at the University, Ms. Dwyer has been active in professional organizations including the Eastern New York Association of College and Reference Libraries and the Capital District Library Council Government Information Interest Group. She also served as President of the New York Library Association’s Government Information Roundtable in 1995/96. She has published extensively in national journals including the Journal of Government Information, Cataloging & Classification Quarterly, and The Reference Librarian.

Congratulations to Catherine Dwyer from NYLA’s Government Information Round Table!

Cathy received her plaque and award funded by LexisNexis at CDLC on December 3rd.

Notable Document Award

The New York Library Association Government Information Roundtable (NYLA/GIRT) is seeking nominations for the Notable New York Document Award. This award honors government agencies that have produced notable documents distributed through the New York State Documents Depository Program. We need your help in identifying nominees. Categories to look for include reference publications, informational documents, and notable agency efforts (need not be limited to a specific document).

Is the document useful, informative, logically and attractively presented, innovative? These and other qualities can be considered in choosing nominees.

Additional information about the award, including previous winners, can be found on the NYLA web site at: http://www.nyla.org/index.php?page_id=201

A copy of the nomination form is included in this newsletter for your convenience. You can also print it from the website mentioned above, or you can request it from Mary Redmond via email (mredmond@mail.nysed.gov) or at (518) 474-5957. The form must be submitted by December 31, 2009.
Remembering Mildred Lowe

The presentation of the latest Mildred Lowe award is a good opportunity to look back on the career and contributions of the person in whose name the award was created. Mildred Lowe was a founder and first president (1978-80) of the New York Library Association Government Documents Round Table. Prior to that time, she was one of the leaders of the independent New York State Government Documents Task Force. She and other members of that group sponsored (and issued proceedings of) a number of two-day documents workshops in various places in New York State, published and distributed a newsletter, and worked on draft New York State printing and depository legislation. In 1982-1983, she served as Co-Chair of the Task Force on Federal Depository Library Service in New York State, which produced what has been called a "model plan" for depository library service.

Following receipt of a BA in Sociology from Brooklyn College and an MLS from Pratt University, Mildred Lowe completed her doctorate in Library Science at Columbia University in 1972. She was the Director of the St. John's University Division of Library and Information Science from 1979 until her retirement in 1987.

Mildred Lowe was a delegate to the 1978 New York State Governor's Conference on Libraries and an alternate delegate to the 1979 White Conference on Library and Information Services where she pressed "the case for national policy, guaranteeing public access to government information on all levels to the people we serve." (New York Library Association, Government Documents Roundtable, Proceedings of the Inaugural Meeting at the Annual New York Library Association Conference, Syracuse, New York - October 18, 1979)

Until her tragic death in an automobile accident on August 22, 1988, Dr. Lowe continued her passion for the right of public access to government information. By recognizing others in the profession who share this deep commitment, NYLA/GIRT hopes to keep Dr. Lowe's spirit and work alive for future generations.

The Albany Scene: State Library Expands Digital Documents Offerings

The New York State Library has added to its collection of New York State Museum publications by scanning, and making freely available as PDF documents, Museum Memoirs and Handbooks from print copies in the State Library's collections. Museum Memoirs and Museum Handbooks are also keyword searchable. For more information about these and other NYS Museum publications scanned by the State Library, see http://www.nysl.nysed.gov/scandocs/museum.htm

The State Library has also recently digitized official publications from the 1967 New York State Constitutional Convention: Proceedings of the Constitutional Convention of the State of New York, April fourth to September twenty-sixth, 1967; Documents Numbers 1-60; Reports Nos. 1-16 (Temporary Commission on the Constitutional Convention); and Rules of the 1967 New York State Constitutional Convention and Pertinent Resolutions and Statutes. The 1967 Convention was the last State Constitutional Convention held in New York State. Voters rejected all of the proposals at a November 7, 1967 election. Additional information on this and other New York State Constitutional Conventions and Constitutional History documents scanned by the New York State Library is available at http://www.nysl.nysed.gov/scandocs/historical.htm#Constitutional
Getting Ready for Tax Season

Following the decision by the New York State Department of Taxation and Finance not to mail personal income tax forms to individual taxpayers, libraries may get more requests for forms. Libraries that received forms last year will be sent a Form TP-3, Bulk Tax Forms Order Blank for Volunteer Groups, Libraries, and Service Agencies. The libraries are asked to follow the instructions on the form and to return it within ten days.

The Department plans to mail forms by January 2, 2010, earlier than usual. Libraries will have the forms before Taxation & Finance sends postcards to taxpayers encouraging them to visit the Tax & Finance Web site or their local library to obtain forms.

Libraries ordering forms will receive: forms and CDs as ordered; a poster to display near the forms; and a shrink-wrapped packet that contains one copy of each form that is listed on Form TP-3. The library can photocopy forms if its supply runs out before it reorders. In response to many requests, forms will be three-hole punched to fit binders.

The Library Form Order contact email address is nystax-forms@tax.state.ny.us. Fax is (518) 435-8531; telephone is (518) 244-1911. Libraries should include their library's account number or have the number ready if they call.

Let the Sunlight In

The Attorney General's SunlightNY.com Web site provides access to statewide government information that "until now has been scattered and difficult to retrieve." Features include browsing/searching capability of legislative member items, campaign finance, state contracts, state corporations, charities, bills, bill jackets, and state/local elected officials. Video Tutorials, Project Resources, and Frequently Asked Questions aid the user in locating the desired information. The Project Sunlight Web site address is http://www.sunlightny.com/snl1/faces/app/index.jsp

Think “Spring” with Info from the Cornell Cooperative Extension

You don't have to live in the Albany area to benefit from the Cornell University Cooperative Extension Albany County's “Capital District Growing Trends” newsletter. This email-delivered publication is a valuable source of information on growing conditions, continuing education opportunities, and links to useful websites throughout New York State and beyond, on topics including pesticide management, invasive species, and forestry. Issues are sent free of charge as PDF files attached to email messages; requests to be added to the list should go to Chuck Schmitt, Extension Resource Educator, Albany County at cds34@cornell.edu.
Nominate a New York Document

The New York Library Association/Government Information Round Table honors agencies that have produced notable documents distributed through the New York State Documents Depository Program. We need your help in identifying nominees. Categories to look for include: reference publications, informational documents, and notable agency efforts (need not be limited to a specific document). Is the document useful, informative, logically and attractively presented, innovative? These and other qualities can be considered in choosing nominees.

Print the form below to make a nomination by December 31, 2009.

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State/Province: _______________________________________

ZIP/Postal Code: ______________________________________

Work Phone: __________________________________________

E-mail: ______________________________________________

Mail nomination forms to: Mary Redmond, New York State Library, Cultural Education Center, Albany, NY 12230

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2009/2010 GIRT Officers

**President and Treasurer:** Robert Dowd, New York State Library

**Vice President/Program Chair:** Kacper Jarecki, Windsor Park Community Library

**Secretary and Newsletter Editor:** Martha Smith, Elmira College

**NYS Documents Committee Chair:** Open

**Webmaster:** Jesse Daly, New York State Division of the Budget

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We're on the web!

www.nyla.org