

PASSWORD



News from York College Library

Volume 1, Number 1, Spring 2007

Greetings from the Acting Chief Librarian



Welcome to the premier issue of **PASSWORD**, York Library's new online newsletter! We're pleased to offer this resource to the college community - and it is in good hands with Co-Editors Anamika Dasgupta, Di Su, and Hope Young.

Let me introduce myself: I'm Kenneth Schlesinger, York's new Acting Chief Librarian. I'm a Visiting Professor for one year from LaGuardia Community College, where I am Director of Media Services. It's an exciting time to be at this library - and I'm ready for the challenges ahead.

As you may be aware, York's Student Government Association gave \$200,000 to the Library to buy new books to supplement our collections. We are grateful for Student Government's support - and pledge to spend these funds wisely.

Further - through generous CUNY Compact funds - we will be undertaking Phase I of the Library's space renovation this spring. Please anticipate seeing new carpeting, comfortable furniture, a new

Reference Desk, and expansion of current computer facilities. We're excited about this reinvestment in the Library and hope to create an Information Commons that is welcoming and inviting to our students. Please see Noel Gamboa's article in this issue for further information.

Moreover, we're refining our Information Literacy programs, devising a series of library liaisons to academic departments, increasing access to electronic resources, and looking for creative ways to communicate with you and serve you better. Please read submissions by library faculty to get a sense of how we are expanding and enhancing these programs.

As always, I welcome your suggestions at x2025 or kschlesinger@york.cuny.edu

*Prof. Kenneth Schlesinger
Acting Chief Librarian*



Grace Avila

Manager of Circulation and Reserve

The 1st Runner-up of York College Employee Recognition Award, Spring 2007

Other Nominees:

- Rose Dunne
Staff, Cataloging
- Vickitoy Meyers
Secretary to the Chief Librarian

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The York College Library Committee: The Benefits of Collaboration and Care

The library revitalization that York College Library Committee members have motivated into action proves that faculty, students, and administrators working together can effect significant and enduring change. Guided by the leadership of three York College professors and student government officers, the Committee has more than fulfilled its mandate to function as an advisory body that proactively works for the growth and well-being of the library. Extended library hours, additional staff, equipment upgrade, facilities renovation, and an infusion of funds dedicated to updating holdings are among the many changes the Library Committee recommended and is now helping to see implemented.

Composed of faculty and student representatives from each academic department, the Library Committee

has taken an active, forceful role in helping to secure the Library's integrity as one of the College's vital academic resources. In 2001, Professor Larry Johnson, who was then serving as Chair, played a fundamental role in bringing the Library's depleted resources to faculty and administrators' attention. Since that time, his successors, Professors James Papa and Lindamichelle Baron, have continued to gather and present data about the Library's "chronic under funding," write reports, and advise administrators.

The Library Committee's tenacious efforts have clearly reaped rewards. Following many of the Library Committee's recommendations, President Keizs has authorized a multi-pronged action plan to address

long-standing conditions, focusing on four areas: acquisitions, staffing, technology, and facilities. Last year, the York College Student Government donated \$200,000 for Library acquisitions, which is a prime example of the cooperative spirit the Library Committee fosters.

Members of the current Library Committee are committed to making sure this spirit and work continue. Collaborating with colleagues and students, making informed recommendations, and advocating for the Library's growth and development, we will help to ensure that the York College Library is comparable to other libraries within CUNY.

*Prof. Linda Grasso
Chair, Library Committee*

E-mail Reference Service

Members of the York College Community can now receive reference help via e-mail. E-mail your question(s) to reference@york.cuny.edu and have a librarian help you with your information need.

Newsletter Staff

Co-editors

Anamika Dasgupta

Di Su

Hope Young

Graphic/ Layout Designer

Anamika Dasgupta

New Faculty: Profile

Anamika Dasgupta

I'm a new Evening/ Weekend Librarian at York College. I earned my MLIS degree from Florida State University, specializing in Children's Information Seeking Behavior in Relation to Digital Resources. Currently, I am enrolled in a Ph.D. program at Palmer School of Library and Information Science, Long Island University. Prior to joining York College, I worked at St. Athanasius School, where I developed the school's first-ever library program.





Library Undergoes Major Renovation of Entryway

After continued lobbying efforts by York College Student Government and Library faculty under the aegis of President Keizs and Vice President Posman, a total Compact funding of \$340,000 is currently reserved for York College Library, from which \$247,000 is earmarked for renovation of the physical space. This transformation includes long-awaited carpet replacement by the G-Wing entrance, installation of a metal and glass partition to form a multi-purpose room at the present Photo ID location, a stylish glass paneled Reference Desk, new state-of-the-art furniture including 40 computer workstations in 10 carrel clusters, as well as comfortable lounge seating for leisure reading.



As you enter the renovated space, expect a display of cool colors since the primary function of the "brain of the College" is to stimulate your senses. New floor and wall patterns in checkerboard and stepped forms, which campus facilities has already introduced in the new Student Lounge at the 3H-Wing and other strategic locations, depict York's "on the move" energy.

As we say, If you build it nice, they will come - and stay. This is the ruling principle behind the Office of Administrative Affairs, spearheaded by Dean Ron Thomas. Of course, speedy and efficient information retrieval must be achieved by upgraded computer and networking equipment, supplied by Peter Tighe of Information Technology.

"The Academic Core building may be considered the heart of campus, but the Library is the brain of the school."

~ Alicia Allen, Class of 2006
York College Student Government President, in a discussion with CUNY Senior Vice Chancellor Allan Dobrin.

The Buildings and Grounds team have made initial preparations for wiring and clearing the space, and actual carpet and primary installment of furniture is scheduled during Spring Break to create minimal disruption to activities. The second delivery phase of modern furniture is expected in early June. Acting Chief Librarian Kenneth Schlesinger is committed to involving library faculty and staff in the project's successful implementation.

Noel Gamboa
Campus Planning

Student Views

"Marked improvement, more comfortable, and more student friendly. Now I want to be in the Library more often. In addition, I do think we need more study rooms."

Rosaline Mellanson-King
Medical Laboratory Technology

"I think that the new improvements in the G-Wing are aesthetically pleasing. If you want suggestions for improving the Library, I would suggest having an area where students that are studying together and working together are sectioned off from the students that are

studying quietly. Another suggestion would be to have more electrical outlets so that students who would like to work on their own laptops would be able to do so."

Gregory Christopher Norman

Information Literacy at York College Library

Information Literacy corresponds to the idea that we live in an information-rich environment, and the ability to navigate this environment successfully is not intuitive. Rather, it is a skill that requires training and nurturing. It is easy to type a search term into Google and find several million hits. To identify which of these hits is trustworthy is more difficult.

One objective of Information Literacy classes is to provide students with skills to do a targeted search for information that can be successfully

applied to class work. Another goal is to teach student to identify what makes information "good." The final objective is to give students skills so they become lifelong learners.

Since the beginning of the Spring semester, the Information Literacy program has scheduled sixty one-hour sessions. The majority of these have been tailored especially for faculty who brought their class to the Library, such as ENG125, and some have been one-hour stand-alone sessions for the disabled, or student support services. Lib-

rary faculty have taught these sessions in our Information Literacy classroom (3H09), where students have access to Internet-connected computers and faculty use a smartboard for instruction.

Over three months close to 1,000 students have been taught Information Literacy classes. Because we are committed to supporting student success, librarians are here to help you.

Prof. Scott Sheidlower
Head of Information Literacy

New Acquisitions: Thanks to the College Student Government

York Library would like to thank Student Government for their generous donation of \$200,000 for library materials. For the first time in my 17 years, Library faculty is able to celebrate rejuvenation of its outdated collection. They have been working hard behind the scenes, evaluating and selecting appropriate materials, which have begun to arrive from our book supplier. We hope to finalize this project by the end of the fiscal year. We have ordered \$40,000 worth of books in the sciences and health professions, \$21,600 in political science, history, and law. The Library is committed to providing students, faculty, and staff with a balanced and current collection.

For more information, please refer to York College Library's [Collection Development Policy](#).

Prof. Njoki Kinyatti
Coordinator of Collection Development

Interlibrary Loan Service (ILL)

The York College Library offers/provides an adequate and extensive collection of books, periodicals, videos, and on-line resources to meet the study, instructional, informational and normal research needs of its clientele. However, given the wide range of user needs, sometimes the responsibility to provide specific resources cannot be met solely by our local collection. Therefore, the Interlibrary Loan department of the Library provides an essential service to our faculty, students, and staff as a means of greatly expanding the range of materials available to them through this national and international network of lending libraries.

We submit our requests through an online computer system that allows us to send messages automatically to other institutions. Materials requested should be described as completely and accurately as possible. We make every attempt to secure a copy of the requested item/s by verifying each request and locating holding libraries before sending out the requests.

The selection in choosing how

materials will be ordered is determined by the proximity and cost policy of the lending library. Sometimes it is difficult to borrow certain categories of materials, such as reference books, textbooks, new books, or very old and fragile materials and periodicals (other than photocopies). At times, we may also be unable to locate the item.

The decision of the type of materials loaned is at the discretion of the lending library. They place restrictions on the use of the borrowed items, such as the due dates, renewals, and the cost for lost or damaged items. Each item requested has to be sent via the mail or a special delivery system, so the length of time to search, process, and receive materials through the ILL system is usually two weeks.

Interlibrary loan is not a right, but a privilege and there is no guarantee that, if a request is sent, the material will be loaned. It is our goal to be of service to our college and our clientele.

Prof. Hope Young
Head of Interlibrary Loan

Introducing CLICS

As an important part of "Patron-Initiated Document Delivery Services," CUNY has implemented *CLICS* [CUNY Libraries Inter-Campus Services], a new book delivery service that lets you request a book from any CUNY library to be delivered to you for pick up at any other CUNY library. This is in addition to our traditional Interlibrary Loan service, which mainly covers libraries outside the CUNY system. This service is limited to CUNY undergraduate and graduate students, faculty members or staff members with an active library account at one of the CUNY libraries. To learn more about how to use CLICS and the policies related to this service, visit [CLICS Policies and Guidelines](#).

*Prof. Di Su / Head of Circulation and Reserve
Grace Avila / Manager of Circulation and Reserve*

Electronic Resources and Remote Access

York College Library has access to thousands of journals, magazines, and newspapers through its reference databases. Some of these databases are paid for by CUNY, while others are paid for by York. The funds for the products paid for by York come from various sources: the Library pays for some, while others are generously supported through Tech Fee or by York College Auxiliary Enterprises. Also, since the Library subscribes to hundreds of periodicals in print format, we receive complimentary access to the online versions of selected publications.

The easiest way for a vendor to provide access to its online product is by IP address. Every computer has an IP number, and all of the computers on a network (e.g., the York College network) are within a specific IP range. Thus, when you are using a computer on the York campus, the vendor automatically knows that you are authorized to access the database because of the IP address of the computer. When you are off-campus, however, the vendor does *not* automatically know that you are authorized, since your IP address would come from your Internet

Service Provider (e.g., AOL). There are two ways to access York's licensed databases from off-campus.

Through the generosity of CUNY's Office of Library Services, York Library has a proxy server to authenticate remote users. When you click on the green house link for the electronic resources from a computer that does *not* have a York IP address, you will be presented with a screen asking you to enter the 14-digit barcode number from the back of your York ID card. After you submit your barcode number, you will be connected to the database. In order to use your library barcode for remote access, your account must be active and without any block on it. You must activate your Library barcode every semester by going to the Circulation desk with your valid York ID (with current semester sticker) and your paid Bursar's receipt. Some of the electronic resources that we temporarily have access to in order to evaluate their usefulness for potential future subscription (i.e., trial access) are often not accessible by library barcode through the proxy server.

A second way to access licensed databases from off-campus is

through VPN – Virtual Private Network. Logging in to VPN is as if you were using a computer on the York campus, so you can connect to the databases easily by clicking on their yellow links. Students should click on the "Student VPN" link on the Library's electronic resources page to log in to VPN, and Faculty/Staff should use the "Faculty VPN" link. For students, your default VPN username is your first initial followed by your last name; and your default password is the last five digits of your Social Security number. For students who have the same initial and last name as other students, there will be a number added to your username. If you have trouble logging in to VPN, contact the IT Help Desk: 718-262-5300, or go to Room 2E03 in the Academic Core building. (York faculty and staff should contact the IT Help Desk to set up their VPN accounts.)

As York Library's representative on CUNY's Electronic Resources Advisory Council (ERAC), I am interested in hearing your comments and recommendations regarding our licensed databases.

*Prof. John Drobnicki
Coordinator of Ref. & Electronic Resources*

New Environment and Signage Committee

The Library's Environment and Signage Committee is an ad hoc group created to address concerns with "quality of life" issues in the Library – the physical plant, its safety and how it appears to students. The Committee makes recommendations for improvements in safety, access to resources and appearance. Members of the Committee represent a broad cross-section of library service areas.

After an initial assessment, the Committee resolved to divide its mission into several phases. The first and most important phase focuses on signage, safety, and housekeeping in public service areas, with an emphasis on making the Library's entrances more welcoming. Subsequent phases will focus on the Circulation/Reserve area, Administrative

Office, non-public areas of the H-Wing, and the Library's Conference Room.

Presently signage is excessive, outdated, torn and yellowed with age. In addition, there are areas where signage is needed to improve access to resources or provide directions to areas within the Library. Signage is also needed to designate classrooms; the Information Literacy Lab; circulating, reference, juvenile, and oversized collections; periodicals and microforms. The Committee adopted a "less is more" philosophy and recommends starting at "ground zero" by initially removing all signs except those that must remain until replacements are available. All new signage will be uniform in color and style, and conform to Americans with Disabilities Act

guidelines. No signs will be posted on doors, pillars, or glass surfaces.

In addition to signage, the Committee recommends removing file cabinets, oversized garbage pails, antiquated circular bulletin boards, and pamphlet holders that are not suitable for the type of pamphlets used by the Library.

Along with recent acquisition of new books, installation of new carpeting, an upgraded website, and many other improvements in the Library, the Environment and Signage Committee's suggestions will make the Library a state-of-the-art and user-friendly facility within the York College community.

Christina Miller
York High School Librarian

Queens High School for the Sciences at York College

The Library welcomes Principal Jie Zhang, new teachers and the class of 2010. School Media Specialist Christina Miller begins her fifth year as the library liaison to the Queens High School for the Sciences (QHSS). QHSS, on the York College campus, is one of the City's specialized high schools requiring top tier performance on a citywide entrance exam. It is a small (400 students), academically competitive, public high school. High school students use the York College Library.

Since September 2006, Ms. Miller has provided QHSS students over 40 informational sessions to assist them with assignments in Chemistry, Environmental Science, English and Music. Using the Library's Information Literacy Lab, students were taught to search the Library's online catalog (CUNY+) for books and its online databases for e-books and periodical articles.

In October 2006, Ms. Miller attended a QHSS faculty meeting to orient teachers to the Library's video collection: how to locate titles from the Library's website,

borrow videos, and request additions to the Library's collection. Videos requested by teachers in the spring are now in the classrooms.

Ms. Miller created a book display in September to coincide with Banned Books Month and another in October to coincide with Teen Read Week to showcase the Library's collection of the Young Adult Library Association (YALSA) Alex Award winners. In February 2007, a display commemorated African American History and Culture Month.

Ms. Miller continues to meet with teachers regularly on Thursdays to plan assignments and assist with Library services and is available to discuss special needs or sessions desired by any QHSS faculty.

Christina Miller
York High School Librarian

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Library Departmental Liaisons

For contact info., click [Subject Liaison](#)

- **Accounting & Business/** Su
- **Behavioral Sciences/** Lucas, Drobnicki
- **English/** Miller
- **Foreign Languages, ESL & Humanities/** Sheidlower, Miller
- **Health Education, Physical Education, & Gerontological Studies and Services/** Young, Krepp
- **Health Professions/** Cleary
- **History & Philosophy/** Drobnicki, Lucas
- **Mathematics & Computer Studies/** Dasgupta
- **Natural Sciences/** Cleary
- **Occupational Therapy/** Young
- **Performing & Fine Arts/** Sheidlower, Su
- **Queens High School for the Sciences/** Miller
- **Social Sciences/** Kinyatti, Krepp, Young
- **Teacher Education/** Dasgupta, Kinyatti

Recent Library Faculty Scholarship/ Creative Works

Dasgupta, A. (2007). *Who moved my desk?: Future reference platforms*. Presented at the LACUNY Institute 2007: Technology with a face: High tech meets high touch, CUNY Baruch College, New York, NY.

Drobnicki, J. A. (2007). Kroc, Joan Beverly. In *The Scribner Encyclopedia of American Lives* (vol.7, pp. 316-318). New York: Charles Scribner's Sons.

Schlesinger, K. (2007). Co-chaired conference: *Performance Reclamation: Research, Discovery, and Interpretation*, Theatre Library Association at New York University, New York, New York.

Schlesinger, K. (2007). The French Revolution in the making of modern drama [Review of the Tragedy Walks the Streets]. *BROADSIDE*.

Sheidlower, S. (2006). Chaired panel: *Technology: More efficient -- or is it?* at the CUNY's 5th Annual IT Conference, John Jay College, New York, New York.

Sheidlower, S. (2006). *Sticks and stones: Words CAN harm you!* Poster session at the 4th Annual Faculty Conference: Rethinking and relearning diversity: From conflict to inclusion, University of Maryland, Adelphi, MD.

Sheidlower, S. (2007). *Edutainment with a bun: Librarian as stand-up comic!* Presented at the ACRL's [Association for College and Research Libraries] 13th National Conference.

Su, D. (2007). Conner, Nadine. In *The Scribner Encyclopedia of American Lives* (vol. 7, pp. 93-94). New York: Charles Scribner's Sons.

Su, D., editor. (2007). *Collection development issues in the online environment*. Binghamton, NY: Haworth Information Press.

Young, H. E. (2007). Green, Cecil Howard. In *The Scribner Encyclopedia of American Lives* (vol. 7, pp. 218-219). New York: Charles Scribner's Sons.

Young, H. E. (2007). Johnson, Samuel Curtis. In *The Scribner Encyclopedia of American Lives* (vol. 7, pp. 283-286). New York: Charles Scribner's Sons.