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Letter from the President

Dear ENY/ACRL Members,

I hope this newsletter finds you all safe and healthy during this global health crisis. This unprecedented situation is worrying for all of us as we think about ourselves, our families and friends, our colleagues, and our students, but I hope you are all managing to find some peace during this time. To our colleagues who have been laid-off, furloughed, or are experiencing reduced pay, I see you. Not all of us, or our institutions, will weather this crisis in a similar manner but I hope the community we have built in Eastern New York can help you through this period.



The spring newsletter is typically a chance for the president to illustrate the conference agenda and encourage the membership to gather at one of our regional campuses for the day. Unfortunately, we will not be able to gather together in person this spring. Nevertheless, I would like to thank the program planning committee for all of their work to date planning the annual conference and the Syracuse University Law School Library for offering to host the event. I would also like to thank all of the ENY/ACRL members who contributed proposals and the sponsors who were ready to support our annual event. The committee plans to offer opportunities in the fall to engage with some of the scheduled speakers from the day. As required by our by-laws, ENY/ACRL held a virtual membership meeting on Wednesday, May 20th. Thank you to all

President's Letter, Continued

who attended.

The chapter did hold our spring elections and I would like to congratulate the newly elected board members. They will begin their terms at the annual membership meeting. Additionally, two changes to the by-laws passed. These changes reflect the current ACRL bylaw standards, with additional language stating that this body and its members shall abide by the ALA Code of Ethics and the ALA Statement of Appropriate Conduct, and that the Vice President no longer serves as the Chair of the Program Committee, which was separated out two years ago.

I continue to invite you to use the ENY/ACRL email list to support each other during this period. Please feel free to share innovative service ideas, opportunities for virtual engagement, and supportive messages to one and other.

Sincerely,

Anne E. Rauh

ENY/ACRL President

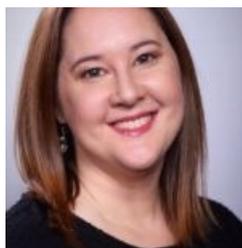
Congratulations! Our 2020 election results are as follows:

Vice President/President-Elect: Abby Adams (University at Albany)

Membership Chair: Liz King (Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute)

Secretary: Caren Bertrand (SUNY Environmental Science and Forestry)

Treasurer: Derek Sanderson (Mount Saint Mary College)



Thank you to all who participated in the elections and to all members who voted.

From the ENY/ACRL Communication Chair...

I apologize because this spring 2020 newsletter is a bit late. I hope as you read this you and those you love are safe and healthy.

We librarians are in a state of uncertainty as we navigate issues such as reopening plans, the need to provide services and resources safely without spreading illness, finding ways to keep staff safe while meeting patron needs, the desire to demonstrate libraries' relevance so that we continue to receive funding, and fears of (or actual) layoffs or furloughs of ourselves and our colleagues. Other events weigh heavily on our minds, such as the unjust killings of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, and so many others, and the resulting nationwide protests. How can we as academic and special librarians better serve our black and minority students and patrons? How can we address inequality within our profession and in our own workplaces?

I have been a member of ENY/ACRL for over 20 years, and I know that we have a strong community. We can be even stronger if we communicate more frequently. There is much to discuss. I have started by setting up a Facebook group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/ENYACRL/>. Please join, and let's talk!

I also encourage you to check out the end of this newsletter which provides information about the upcoming ACRL virtual event: "Together Wherever". Finally, please visit the ACRL website to learn more about Project Outcome. These are additional topics we could discuss in the new facebook group.

Please let me know if you have other ideas to foster or improve communication. I am listening.

Kind Regards,

-Kate Moss

ENY/ACRL Communication Chair

ENY/ACRL Professional Development Award: Courses on OER and Supporting Online Learners

by John Stawarz, Online Learning Librarian, Syracuse University Libraries

In addition to learning from library colleagues old and new at the Spring 2019 ENY/ACRL Conference at Mount Saint Mary College, Newburg NY, one of my biggest thrills was having my ticket selected for professional development prize in the annual raffle. Woot! As a relatively new librarian and the first online learning librarian at my institution, this award has allowed me to take two online courses that broadened my understanding of how libraries can support students in a variety of ways.

The first course I took was a six-week Introduction to Open Educational Resources (OER) course offered through Library Juice Academy. I've taken a number of Library Juice classes over the past few years, and this was definitely one of the most helpful. Prior to this class, I had known that OER can help replace expensive textbooks and that there are great websites offering a variety of free educational resources, but what this course offered was contextualizing OER within a broader push for affordable course materials, including incorporating library-licensed materials within coursework. I especially appreciated learning about many of the barriers that faculty, staff, and institutions face when incorporating OER within courses. Faculty, for instance, might need to spend extensive time searching for and modifying OER textbooks that could suitably meet their course needs. I'm hoping that my greater understanding of these barriers to OER adoption might help me play a role in expanding the use and development of OER at our institution.

The second online course that I was able to fund through this ENY/ACRL award was a two-week course offered by Quality Matters—an organization that some universities and colleges have partnered with to ensure the online courses they're developing meet some basic online learning standards. The course, *Creating Presence in Your Online Course*, provided ways to help create instructor, social, and cognitive presence

in online learning opportunities—all of which are important for motivating and supporting learners. I enjoyed this class so much that I ended up completing the entire seven-course Teaching Online Certificate sequence, which has also been helpful in my secondary role as an online instructor at Syracuse University's School of Information Studies.

Thank you for these professional development opportunities, ENY/ACRL! I very much appreciate being able to take part in this wonderful organization.

Art + Feminism Edit-A-Thon

by Trudi Jacobson, Head of Information Literacy Department, University at Albany

On March 5, the Information Literacy Department of the University at Albany Libraries partnered with the University Art Museum to hold a Wikipedia edit-a-thon in conjunction with the Art + Feminism project (<http://www.artandfeminism.org/#about>). This annual initiative is designed to increase the number of articles and amount of information on women artists of all types in Wikipedia, as well as increase the number of women editors. Art + Feminism describes the problem they are attempting to address:

Wikipedia's gender trouble is well documented. In a 2011 survey, the Wikimedia Foundation found that less than 10% of its contributors identify as female; more recent research puts that number at 16% globally and 23% in the United States. Further, data analysis tools and computational linguistics studies have concluded that Wikipedia has fewer and less extensive articles on women; those same tools have shown gender biases in biographical articles." (<http://www.artandfeminism.org/#about>)



Edit-a-thons are held around the world all spring, with a concentration of them in March, and everyone is welcome to attend. It is possi-

ble to learn how to edit at these events, if that is needed.

Our event attracted students, staff and faculty, as well as one community member. New Wikipedia articles for three artists were started, missing references were filled in, and content was added to enhance existing articles. In total, 3300 words and 22 references were added during the three-hour event.

If anyone is interested in hosting an Art + Feminism edit-a-thon on their campus next year, feel free to reach out to Trudi Jacobson (tjacobson@albany.edu).

The Reflection Room at Standish Library: Relax and Recharge Here

by Ali Larsen, Serials Librarian, and Catherine Crohan, Coordinator of Library Instruction, Siena College

As librarians, we probably have all seen our fair share of stressed-out students. Papers due, projects to present, speeches to give, and job/internships to apply for can send their stress levels up. Seeing a student stressed or anxious leaves us wishing we could do more to help. We decided to take our desire to support students and see what could be done to help reduce stress at Siena College's Standish Library.

The first step was identifying what we could do to help. Experiencing someone else's stress can be stressful and we often need a break after the experience. Naturally, we imagined that students also might just need a break to clear their minds, take a deep break, and refocus. The Standish Library had an underutilized student lounge on the upper level and we thought that we might transition that room into a quiet place where students can take time for themselves that did not involve schoolwork. The room has windows that let in natural light, has great views of campus, and the natural elements. The room is on the corner of the building so it is quiet but not so quiet that it is isolated or not discoverable.

We originally called our project a meditation room, but were open to other possibilities. First, we did some research into what other schools had done. We also reached

out across the college to make sure a room like this did not already exist elsewhere. We talked with several college colleagues about our idea and were met with enthusiasm and acknowledgment that a room like this was much needed. Several people offered to donate items to help furnish the room.



With the literature search results and findings from college colleagues, we brought our proposal to the library director and then to a librarian's meeting for discussion. It was met with acceptance and support. Our only major problem, as you can probably guess, was lack of funds to really do what we would

have liked to renovate the space. But librarians expertly do more with less and that is what we did in this case. Our first step was repainting the walls with a soothing color. We then commandeered two comfortable chairs from another part of the library and placed those looking out on the main quad. Library colleagues donated lamps and furniture, a plant, pillows, a yoga mat, and a paper screen for some privacy. We also took campus colleagues up on their offer to donate and were given additional pillows and a wicker basket for storage. We put a sign on the door, created in-house on a Glowforge 3D laser printer, to help educate people about the new purpose of the room. The room is technology-free and we intentionally removed most surfaces in which laptops would likely be used.

We decided to call the space a Reflection Room. To advertise the room, we placed notices in Siena's Daily Digest email system. We also made sure that those we had initially spoken to were personally notified and invited over. Faculty in the First Year Seminar program were also notified in the attempt to spread the word. A story was featured in Siena's SCoop Newsletter and there is an announcement on the digital message board in the library and the library's website. When the room first opened we had to speak with students who pulled tables back in or were using their laptops on

the soft seating to tell them the room had been repurposed. They usually received the news well and commented that they liked the atmosphere and that's why they were in there. Most also told us they never read signs. It took some time, but we soon saw less and less students trying to study in there and have witnessed some students using the room as it was imagined. The room is still considered a work in progress. Another piece of furniture is needed and a project to create art for the walls out of recycled library materials is forthcoming. We hope that this room becomes another reason students spend time in the Standish Library, time that helps them with their studies and, should it be needed, care for themselves.



More Notes from the Field

Clarkson University

In the Spring 2020 semester Public Services Librarians Lisa Hoover and Amber Dashnaw were proud to offer the University's first 3 credit hour library course: LIB201: Digital Citizenship & Information as Power!

With a focus on the access to and consumption of information within our society, particularly media and scholarly literature, the course teaches information literacy concepts to students while asking them to critically analyze their own information and media consumption habits.

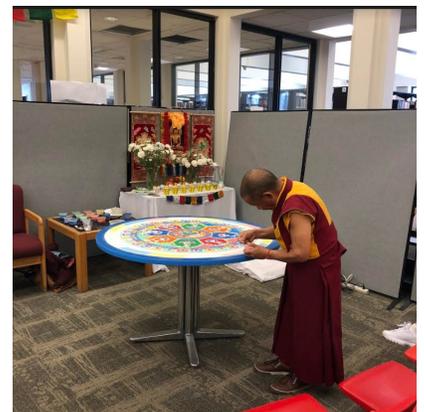
LIB201 was offered as an elective online course and saw 35 students enroll for this first semester. Future plans for the University Libraries' instruction department include more elective 3 credit courses being offered, focusing on a variety of lenses through which to discuss information literacy concepts, as well as the potential to have some aspect of the Library's instruction program become a required part of the curriculum.

Hamilton College

Amanda Page is the new Digital Curation Librarian, she joined us in February 2020. Amanda comes to Hamilton College, Library and Information and Technology Services, from Syracuse University, where she was the Open Publishing and Copyright Librarian. Taylor McDowell has joined us as Web Developer for Digital Scholarship & Digital Collections in April, 2020. He previously worked at PAR Technology as a Programmer Analyst, and is a highly accomplished drummer.

Mohawk Valley Community College

Before COVID-19 disrupted higher education in the region, Mohawk Valley Community College Utica campus library welcomed Venerable Tenzin Yignyen, ordained Tibetan Buddhist Monk, as part of the MVCC Cultural Series in mid-February. Yignyen created a ceremonial sand mandala over the course of four days and shared Buddhist teachings with visitors. A mandala is a cosmic diagram that represents the dwelling place of a deity, a Tibetan Buddhist tradition involving the creation and destruction of the mandala made from colored sand. It is ritualistically dismantled once it has been completed.



More Notes from the Field

After the governor ordered SUNY schools to transition classes to online, the library staff mobilized to meet the changing needs of the community. Librarians were part of the core group of trainers supporting faculty with instructional design and technology questions during the extended spring break period. Multiple Blackboard training sessions were held on campus and several were led or co-taught by a librarian. Faculty also signed up for remote trainings with librarians on topics such as Zoom, online course design, and Blackboard Collaborate Ultra. Jocelyn Ireland, Instructional Design Librarian, also created new library video tutorials for faculty to embed into their course sites. The library started offering research and citation help through Zoom with open office hours and by appointment starting in early April. Librarians are also being embedded into Blackboard course sites as teaching assistants for the first time. We are trying new strategies with research support for online courses, such as moderating Blackboard wikis for students to raise questions anonymously about research, and embedding helpful guides with the assignment so the relevant support is accessible in the right context. Online research support with a librarian through chat and email continue to be utilized.

When classes resumed online after Spring Break, the library remained open to MVCC students for computer usage until April 8th. The college started an iPad and laptop lending program for students with technology needs. Laptops were loaned through the library until the physical location closed. The IT department took over the laptop lending after the library closed. Librarians continue to support faculty and students remotely.

The SUNY Library Association annual conference was scheduled to take place at MVCC, but has transitioned to be online June 17-18. Winner of the ACRL academic librarian of the year award in 2019, Kaetrena Davis Kendrick, will be the keynote speaker. Registration will open for SUNYLA members May 1st and non-members May 8th. Visit the conference website sunyla2020.wordpress.com <<http://sunyla2020.wordpress.com>> for the most up-to-date information.

Siena College

"Ali Larsen presented "So Many E-books with So Many Options: What is a Library to do?" at the EBSCO User Group Conference in October."

More Notes from the Field

"John Raymond from Siena College presented with Gonzaga University for the OCLC webinar "Optimize your RapidILL service with new technology" in November."

Skidmore College

Yvette Cortes was awarded a grant to attend the 2020 Skidmore MDOCS Forum, a weekend-long Documentary Forum with public events combining festival presentations of artistic work and symposium-style conversations around an annual theme.

In January 2020, Yvette began her term as Vice President/President Elect of the Upstate New York Chapter of ARLIS/NA (Art Libraries Society of North America).

Scribner Library will celebrate Linda Hofmann's 24+ years of service at the end of the spring 2020 semester when she officially retires from Skidmore College. She began her career at Scribner as a part-time Reference Librarian before becoming the full-time Catalog Librarian. During that time, she served as the subject liaison to the History, American Studies, and Education Studies Departments.

Barbara Norelli and co-authors, Timothy Harper, Melanie Brandston, and Mary Taber, had their business case "AmNet" and its corresponding instructor's manual accepted for publication in The Case Journal.

This February Scribner Library held the 4th annual Research-a-thon. The Research-a-thon is an online challenge, created by Johanna MacKay and John Cosgrove, where students answer library and research-related questions. There are 26 questions, and the more answers students get correct, the more entries they get for gift card raffles. We had over 75 participants, which sets a new record.

Syracuse University

Peter D. Verheyen (Syracuse University Libraries) published one article and two book reviews.

"Fips" and His Eels: Fish Skin in Bookbinding" Book Arts arts du livre Canada Vol. 10 Iss. 2 (2019) p. 5 - 16. Available at: http://works.bepress.com/peter_verheyen/52/. The article presents a history of the use of fish skin in bookbinding, describes making parchment from fish, and using it on bindings.

Review of Smith, Margit J.. The Medieval Girdle Book (2017). The Papers of the Bibliographical Society of America 2020 114:1, 106-110 <http://dx.doi.org/10.1086/707511>

Notes from the Field

Review of Bogle Sophia S.W. *Book Restoration Unveiled: An Essential Guide for Bibliophiles* (2019). *Book Arts Arts du Libre Canada*, Vol. 10, No. 1, 2019. Available at: https://works.bepress.com/peter_verheyen/53/.

Peter D. Verheyen was the 48th Susan Garretson Swartzburg '60 Memorial Book Arts Lecturer at the Wells College Book Arts Center, October 17, 2019. The talk, *A Bookbinder's Journey: My analog and virtual life in the book arts*, was an autobiographical presentation about his career path, creative binding, and role building online book arts communities. It was accompanied by a viewing of bindings. Lecture recording and slides are available at https://works.bepress.com/peter_verheyen/50/.

University at Albany



Jesus Alonso-Regalado was honored with the coveted "I Love My Librarian Award". Jesús Alonso-Regalado, subject librarian for History; Latin American, Caribbean and Latino/a Studies (LACS); and Languages, Literatures and Cultures (LLC), is one of 10 public, school, college and university librarians in the country to win the American Library Association's 2019-2020 I Love My Librarian Award. He was recognized at the ALA Midwinter Meeting on January 25, 2020. A video clip of his remarks is available at <https://salalm.org/jesus-alonso-regalados-i-love-my-librarian-award-speech/> You can read about Jesús' wonderful achievement on the University at Albany <https://www.albany.edu/news/92977.php> and I Love Libraries <http://www.ilovelibraries.org/jesus-alonso-regalado> websites.

Recent Presentation and Publication:

Camille Chesley, Amanda Lowe, and Lauren Puzier presented their poster "How Can Libraries Move Towards a More Inclusive Model of Reference? A Practical Approach to Serve Distance Students" at the ACRL Distance Learning Section Instruction Group's 2nd Annual Virtual Poster Session. <https://acrl.ala.org/DLS/2020-virtual-poster-session/inclusive-model-of-reference/>

Flynn, K. H. (2020). Citation analysis of mathematics and statistics dissertations and theses at the

More Notes from the Field

University at Albany. Science & Technology Libraries.

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/0194262X.2020.1727396>

Puzier, L., & Norton, T. (2020). A Bitmoji Marketing Campaign to Connect Students with Subject Librarians. *Marketing Libraries Journal*, 4(1), 22-32. Retrieved from

<http://journal.marketinglibraries.org/>

[april2020/03_MLJv4i1_Column_Campaigns_Puzier_Norton.pdf](#)

Lasda, E.M., Gouldin, C.F., & Lowe, A.M. (2020). Rethinking Facebook: An Exploration. *Marketing Libraries Journal*, 4(1), 81-106. Retrieved from <http://journal.marketinglibraries.org/>

[april2020/06_MLJv4i1_Feature_Lasda_Gouldin_Lowe.pdf](#)

