

# PASSWORD

News from York College Library

Volume 3, Number 1, Spring 2009

## Greetings from the College's Chief Librarian



It is hard to believe that another academic year has finished at York. During the Summer, the Library Faculty and Staff will be working on several projects that will hopefully improve access to our collections.

Some recent improvements to the Library's public areas include the purchase of 50 more green soft "Ally" chairs, which most students seem to enjoy. As I write this, staff from the Information Technology Department are in the midst of installing 20 new Mac computers in the Library, which should give users more options for their computing needs. To meet the curriculum and research needs of York students and faculty, we ordered approximately \$75,000 worth of new books during the Spring. Be sure to come in and use them! We have also recently installed new alphanumeric touch terminals on the Library's photocopy machines, which now permit students to use their free Lab printing accounts to make

copies in the Library.

I was honored and humbled to be appointed by President Keizs in January as the seventh Chief Librarian in York's 42-year history. Although I am now in my 14th year as a Library Faculty member at York, I continue to be inspired and energized by our students, and consider it a privilege to work with the Library Faculty and Staff who do such a wonderful job everyday, all year long.

*Prof. John A. Drobnicki, Chief Librarian*

### Library's High School Librarian Wins Grants

Ms. Christina Miller received the 2009 *We the People* "Picturing America" Bookshelf grant awarded by the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) in cooperation with the American Library Association. This grant provided Queens High School for the Sciences at York College and York Early College Academy with 22 books and supplementary educational materials such as bookplates, bookmarks, posters, and teacher's guides (*see photo on page 4*). Also, Ms. Miller has been selected to attend one of the NEH's Landmarks of American History and Culture workshops and will receive a stipend to cover living expenses, books, and travel costs to and from Cleveland, Ohio.

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## PA Program Funds Library Collection

York College Library cooperates with other academic departments to develop its specialized reference collection. The Physician Assistant Program, chaired and directed by Dr. Robert Brugna, provided the Library with five thousand dollars to update supplementary texts and other reference books primarily for use by Physician Assistant students. The Library additionally purchased reference and circulating titles to supplement nursing and other health professions' collections. Many of these titles will be helpful to students in general education courses as well. As the college expands its academic programs in allied health and

other areas, the Library greatly appreciates financial assistance from academic departments in order to meet students' needs.

*Daniel Cleary  
Science Librarian*

### DVDs In the Library

Books are not the only materials available to York College Library users. The Library recently began purchasing DVDs and cataloging them; that means that DVDs show up in the CUNY+ library catalog. Browse our up-and-coming collection by selecting *Call Number* from the search options

and typing "DVD" in the search box.

The Library has collected and lent out VHS video recordings for many years. Currently VHS titles can be browsed remotely via an Excel spreadsheet (link on the Library's webpage) or in person via a notebook of our holdings. Eventually the library catalog will contain both VHS and DVD titles.

All audio-visual materials are located behind the circulation desk and may be borrowed.

*Sandra Gall Urban  
Head of Cataloging  
& Acting Head of Reference  
Services*

## Newsletter Staff

### Co-editor

Anamika Dasgupta  
Christina Miller  
Sandra Urban

### Graphic/ Layout Designer

Anamika Dasgupta  
Christina Miller  
Sandra Urban

## Reserve Collection

Each semester, professors place course materials on Reserve in the Library. Reserve materials include textbooks, answer keys, and supplemental readings. These items may be used only in the Library and for a limited amount of time. Reserve materials are kept behind the Circulation/Reserve desk on the third floor of the Library's G-Wing and a valid York College ID is required to use this collection.

*Prof. Robert Machalow  
Head of Circulation & Reserve*



## Library Technology Upgraded

York College Library is proud to announce that all its PCs were upgraded. Library users now have access to Microsoft Office 2007, which includes Word, Excel, and PowerPoint. Other software upgrades, such as CutePDF, allow students to create professional-quality documents.

Library computers are reserved for York College students, faculty and staff except for eight guest workstations, including one designated ADA station. As of March 30, 2009 all library computers require personal student or faculty log-in. By signing in with individual username and password, students have access to secure server space to save their documents. If unable to sign in to the computer, please visit the IT Help Desk at 2E03.

Please note that this username/password will also provide you with fifty dollars of printing as well as complete access to library databases from



home via your VPN account.

The Library would like to extend a very warm thank you to Khaled Sarwar, Shah Masom and Joel Fernandez of the York College Information Technology

### Highlights

- Students now have access to more than 20 new Mac workstations in the Library.
- Students now have individual secured server space to save their work.
- Students can now use their OCS Printing Account to make photocopies in the Library.

Department. Their hard work, excellent communication, and wonderful follow up on even the smallest of details was much appreciated.

*Daniel Cleary  
Science Librarian  
& Liaison to the IT Department*

## Explore CUNY+

This is a continuation of the series that began in the last issue of *Password*. The previous article offered tips to maximize book searches. This article addresses other features of the CUNY+ Online Catalog.

### Journal Title Search

CUNY+ is more than a book catalog. For example, you can search periodical titles by using *Journal Title Search*. Despite the wording, *Journal Title Search* displays results for magazines,

newspapers, and other serials available in paper, microform, and/or electronic format. *Journal Title Search* retrieves serial titles only, not individual articles. York's print and microform holdings are also listed in binders available throughout the Library.

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## School Media Corner

In York Library's Information Literacy classroom, students of Queens High School for the Sciences at York College (QHSS) learned to use Boolean operators and truncation to better search the Library's online catalog, databases and e-books. Students also learned to evaluate websites, use Google's Advanced Search, and differentiate a popular magazine from a journal. These sessions help students complete their assignments as well as

prepare for college work.

York Library purchased books to support QHSS and York Early College Academy curricula and, in addition, received a donation from the Prescott Fund for Children and Youth to purchase books for the Children's/Young Adult Collection

*Christina Miller*  
High School Librarian



**Picturing America Grant Collection**

### Information Literacy Update

York's librarians are dedicated to helping students, faculty, and administrators do better research. Librarians teach information literacy skills during one-on-one sessions and in classes. According to faculty, students who have received library instruction turn in higher quality assignments after the class. Students also report that information literacy classes are helpful in completing assignments. Librarians teach information literacy skills in classes, during faculty development workshops, and in sessions tailored for students with disabilities. During the 2008-2009 academic year, York librarians taught 113 information literacy sessions. As head of the information literacy program at York it is my hope that we will increase the number of classes in the 2009-2010 academic year. Faculty can schedule a class by contacting me at either x2017 or by e-mail, [ssheidl@york.cuny.edu](mailto:ssheidl@york.cuny.edu).

*Prof. Scott Sheidlower*  
Head of Information Literacy

### Explore CUNY+

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#### My Account

You may use this function to view items currently borrowed and due dates. One may also renew items via *My Account* and check the status of CLICS (CUNY Libraries Inter-Campus Service) requests. To use CUNY's CLICS service, you must have an active York College ID. Remember to visit the Circulation Desk each semester to activate your ID card.

A successful CUNY+ search leads to relevant information, time efficiency, and satisfaction from accomplishment. How do we achieve this? It will be another topic in a future issue of our Newsletter. Stay tuned!

*Prof. Di Su*

### Databases: An Update

To meet the scholarly needs of our academic departments, the Library has added the following new databases since July 2008.

- ARTstor
- Cabell's Directory of Publishing Opportunities for Business, Education, and Psychology & Psychiatry
- The Economist Historical Archive 1843-2003
- 18th Century Collections
- IEEE Computer Society Digital Library Service
- LitFinder
- The Making of the Modern World
- Research Starters Sociology

From July 2009, the College community will have access to:

- ACM Digital Library
- Slavery & Anti-Slavery: A Transnational Archive.

*Anamika Dasgupta*  
Coord. of Electronic Resources

York College / CUNY  
94 - 20 Guy R. Brewer Blvd,  
Jamaica, NY 11451

Phone: (718)262-2026  
Fax: (718)262-2997  
Email: [reference@york.cuny.edu](mailto:reference@york.cuny.edu)

[www.york.cuny.edu/library](http://www.york.cuny.edu/library)

## Library Departmental Liaisons

- **Accounting & Business/** cmiller
- **Behavioral Sciences/** Lucas, Drobnicki
- **Biology/** Cleary
- **Chemistry/** Cleary
- **Earth & Physical Sciences/** Cleary
- **English/** Miller, Machalow
- **Foreign Languages, ESL & Humanities/** Sheidlower, Urban
- **Health Education, Physical Education, & Gerontological Studies and Services/** Young, Machalow
- **Health Professions/** Cleary, Drobnicki
- **History & Philosophy/** Drobnicki, Urban
- **Mathematics & Computer Studies/** Dasgupta
- **Occupational Therapy/** Young
- **Performing & Fine Arts/** Sheidlower
- **Queens High School for the Sciences/** Miller
- **Social Sciences/** Kinyatti, Krepp, Young
- **Teacher Education/** Dasgupta, Kinyatti
- **York Early College Academy/** Miller, Urban

## Recent Library Faculty Scholarship/ Creative Works

Cleary, D. E., & Drobnicki, J. A. (2009, Feb.). "Major Donation to Library," *Academic Affairs Update*, III (1), 5.

Dasgupta, A. (2008, Dec). "Water in Disguise," *Science & Children* 46(4): 28-31.

Dasgupta, A. (2009). Two book reviews for *American Reference Books Annual* and *CHOICE*.

Drobnicki, J. A. (2008, July). Review of *The USGenWeb Project* website. *CHOICE*, XLV(11), 1920, 1922.

Kinyatti, N. (2009). Two book reviews for *American Reference Books Annual*.

Miller, C. (2009, May 21). Book recommendation in *New York Teacher* (NYSUT newspaper).

Sheidlower, S. A. (2009). Beyoncé Knowles. In P. Finkelman (Ed.), *Encyclopedia of African American history, 1896 to the present: From the age of segregation to the twenty-first century*. New York: Oxford University Press.

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Su, D. (2008, October 1). A Critical Review of Violin Solos Section of the NYSSMA Manual (ERIC Document Reproduction Service No. ED502952).

Urban, S. G. (2008, Nov.). "The Paule Marshall Collection," *Academic Affairs Update*, II(7), 8.