eBooks and ebrary at the Queens College Libraries

In the Fall 2009 Special Edition of PageDown, I reported on the Textbook Initiative Fund (http://qcpages.qc.cuny.edu/Library/information/newsletter/PD_Fall09.pdf). Through special funding from the City University of New York, textbooks and other materials were purchased to support undergraduate coursework. These materials have been circulated through our Reserve Services unit. To date, the program has been a huge success. We hope that funding will be provided for next year, so that we can continue to assist students who need help with acquiring curricular materials. The Textbook Initiative Fund is also intended for the acquisition of electronic books, and the Queens College Libraries have been exploring—along with other CUNY libraries—various options. Therefore, I am pleased to report that Queens College and all the other CUNY libraries have acquired access to a large collection of eBooks through ebrary, an electronic book vendor. Our comprehensive package of over 45,000 titles provides a highly interactive eBook database that covers all academic subject areas. The content is multidisciplinary, with titles from all the leading academic publishers. The subjects of Business, Marketing, and Economics (15%), Humanities (21%), and Social and Behavioral Sciences (21%) comprise the largest number of titles, although Computers and Information Technology (10%), Life and Physical Science (8%), Engineering and Technology (8%), Education (7%), and Reference and Maps (7%) are also well represented.

Any number of patrons can access ebrary content at the same time from any computer with Internet access. What is particularly attractive about ebrary is that the collection continues to grow, with several thousand titles added yearly. Our subscription is for three years. We believe our users will find, as librarians at other institutions have discovered, that the “number of items in the database is a real strength because students can expect to find academic material of value with some confidence.”

An exciting feature of ebrary is that the titles encountered are not merely static electronic recreations of printed volumes (e.g., PDF documents), but are dynamic databases that provide users the opportunity to interact with the library’s online catalog and other information available on the web. Our librarians are customizing the “InfoTools” software to ensure that Queens College patrons obtain the maximum benefit from this resource. We are excited about the availability of ebrary and encourage its extensive use. The QC Libraries are dedicated to acquiring and providing access to the digital materials of the 21st century. To that end, ebrary is a solid accomplishment that provides a foundation upon which we can continue to build and to move forward in supporting the teaching and research mission of the college.

For more information on ebrary, please visit http://site.ebrary.com/lib/qc/home.action and/or “Ask a Librarian” at http://qcpages.qc.cuny.edu/Library/research/emaillibrarian.php.

Robert Shaddy
Professor and Chief Librarian

A Generous Family Supports Queens College Libraries

Benno and Evelyn Feldmann-Ansbacher '61 with QC President Jim Muyskens at Library Donor Reception

Evelyn Ansbacher graduated cum laude from Queens College in 1961. Her academic achievements earned her election to Phi Beta Kappa. An education major, she had set her heart on teaching early on, and taught in a Queens elementary school for three years before deciding to devote herself to raising a family. She married her husband of 49 years, Benno Ansbacher, five months before graduation.

Late in 2007, Evelyn experienced health concerns, involving a replaced hip and broken leg. In her honor, her husband Benno established the Evelyn Feldmann-Ansbacher Library Endowment.

This generous act was the most befitting tribute to a woman who enjoyed a lifelong love of reading and learning. She remembers the countless hours she spent in the college library surrounded by a world of books and how the experience enriched her life and that of her fellow students. She strongly believes a rich library is the backbone of a great college, and that the education she received at QC was equal to, if not surpassing, that offered by any Ivy League school.

Her love of books continues to this day, and is shared by her entire family, her children, Debra and Jonathan, and their spouses, one of whom is also a QC alum (’83). The parents’ generosity has been transmitted to their children, who have contributed to the endowment since the beginning. Even their four grandchildren (ages 3 to 14) take great pleasure in the joy and educational value of reading.

We at the Queens College Libraries are much indebted and very grateful to Evelyn, Benno, and the entire Ansbacher family for their generosity. The unrestricted endowment they have established enables us to continue revitalizing our facilities and enrich library resources for present and future generations of Queens College students and faculty.

Shoshana Kaufmann, Professor
Associate Librarian and Development Officer
been a pioneer in the fields of multicultural education and intellectual freedom, and has inspired generations of library school students. Advocating for the inclusion of ethnic materials in libraries and the publishing of works of ethnic and multicultural authors, Prof. Cohen was a charter member of the Freedom To Read Foundation as well as co-founder of the Long Island Coalition Against Censorship. He was co-founder and coordinator of the ALA Social Responsibilities Round Table’s Task Force on Ethnic Materials, later renamed the Ethnic and Multicultural Information Exchange Round Table (EMIERT). Recipient of numerous awards, Prof. Cohen was awarded the American Library Association’s highest honor, honorary membership in 2007 at the age of 98. In addition, he was instrumental in establishing the position of Queens Poet Laureate as well as continuing the work of the Friends of the Queens College Library.

After meeting personally with David (Dave) Cohen and learning about archival research, I understand just how deeply this man has fought for our sacred first amendment right: freedom of expression. I am honored to have played a key role in the creation of this exhibit, “In Celebration of a Library Legend, David Cohen: A Pioneer in Multicultural Education and Intellectual Freedom,” which opens in the Norman and Carole A. Barham Rotunda on April 7 and runs through August 31, 2010.

Karen Klein
Exhibits Intern
The Jean Huffman Wong Maurice Sendak Collection

Queens College Libraries are very fortunate and proud to own a unique collection of books, posters, videocassettes, and regalia, which are illustrated, written, or based on the work of the renowned artist and author Maurice Sendak. Generously donated by Jean Huffman Wong, a librarian whose niece is our own Education Librarian, Professor Suzanne Li, Ms. Wong first came across the work of Maurice Sendak while wheeling her young daughter in a stroller around their Upper West Side neighborhood. She spotted his miniature Nutshell Library on display in a bookstore near Columbia University. With the purchase of Alligators All Around, Chicken Soup with Rice, One was Johnny, and Pierre, the collection began.

“Sendak, in my mind, was always at the top of the list. He wasn’t emphasized in Library School and I never wrote any papers on him, but in my estimation, he is as important—or maybe more important—than Caldecott, or Dickens, or Jane Austen. He reached the hearts and minds of small children. I admire him for the incredibly creative man he is,” said Wong.

Among book lovers, Maurice Sendak is an international household name for just about any age group. He was born in 1928 in Brooklyn to Polish-Jewish immigrants who influenced his unique visual and literary style of storytelling. Sendak’s very first illustrated book, *Atomics for the Millions*, was co-authored by Queens College Professor Maxwell Leigh Eidensohn of the Chemistry Department. The Caldecott award-winning *Where The Wild Things Are* (1963), *In The Night Kitchen* (1970), and *The Nutshell Library* (1962), among many others, are considered outstanding classics of children’s literature. A true Renaissance man, he has achieved world-wide recognition for his contributions to literature, art, the theatre, and other creative ventures, and has received the highest of honors, including a National Medal of the Arts, awarded by President Clinton in 1997.

Suzanne Li, Assistant Professor
Education Librarian,
and Lisa Flanzraich, Media Librarian

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Prof. Michael J. Miller, Associate Librarian for Public Services in the Rosenthal Library, has announced the release of new Web content available on the newly updated CUNY website. (C)OPYRIGHT@CUNY [URL: http://www.cuny.edu/libraries/services/copyright.html] is a user-friendly Web resource designed to support the CUNY community in making independent, informed decisions about copyright compliance and educational fair use. Prof. Miller chaired the Task Force organized by library faculty in consultation with CUNY’s Office of General Counsel. The new pages update the 2003 Copyright Guidelines for CUNY Libraries to respond to more recent developments in course management software, e-reserves, and social networking tools. (The 2003 Guidelines should be retired to your background resource files.)

Divided into three sections to address our major constituencies—librarians, faculty and staff, and students—the site consists of scenarios of specific intellectual property challenges frequently brought to librarians’ attention. Brief responses are provided with links to related copyright concepts and legislation for additional information. The site is further enhanced by links to recommended FAQs, free tutorials, and other online tools.

Prof. Miller will be offering a workshop in tandem with the college’s Center for Teaching and Learning to explore copyright issues and class/research-related use of others’ intellectual property. Watch for that May date in the QC Mailer. Please contact him if you would like to invite him for a discussion at your departmental faculty meeting. He can be reached by email at Michael.Miller@qc.cuny.edu and also by phone at 718-997-3761.

Michael J. Miller, Associate Professor
Associate Librarian for Public Services and Educational Technology Librarian

New People

Ilias Khan joined us in December 2009 in the capacity of Web Resources Technician. Ilias is a graduate student in Computer Science and is using his love of programming to work toward building a career as an application developer. His interest in libraries began with a project he did as an undergraduate, which involved building a library management database that recommended books to users. Here at Rosenthal, he is responsible for keeping our website up-to-date and is working on several projects to improve the services we offer online. His favorite thing about working in Rosenthal Library is the staff members here; he says, “The more I talk to them, the more amazed I am by their friendly approach.” Ilias is a capable and friendly addition to our staff, and has already made several useful contributions to our website and our subject guides.

Nancy Feasberg, Lecturer
Web Services Team Leader and Humanities Librarian

Margaret Lam comes to the Rosenthal Library after graduating with an MLS from the QC Graduate School of Library and Information Studies. Margaret also has a BA and MA in Chemistry from QC. She worked in the Multimedia Commons for the preceding four years. We’re happy to have her join the librarian ranks at Rosenthal, and know that our patrons will benefit greatly from her thorough knowledge of our campus, library facilities, and the collections here.

Michael J. Miller, Associate Professor

LuAnn Lupia also joins Rosenthal Library after completing MLS credentials at the QC Graduate School of Library and Information Studies. While in that program, LuAnn was a research assistant in the reference department at Brooklyn College and pursued an independent study here in the QC archives. Along with her research skills, LuAnn brings terrific teaching and instructional expertise garnered from her work as a Spanish language teacher in the NYC and Maryland school systems. With her commanding grasp of instructional technologies, she’ll also be working in the Instructional Services area to advance the Library’s in-class and online activities related to the evolving ENGL 110 information literacy initiatives.

Mary Santora joined the Public Services Department in the Rosenthal Library in the Fall 2009 semester. She had previously worked for Circulation as a part-time employee for seven years. With her great record and down-to-earth, fun attitude, she welcomed the calls from her co-workers to fly up the ladder and join us full-time. Mary has taken on the hefty work of managing the Informational Service Desk with its 20 student employees, coordinating the research office scheduling, and assisting in special administrative projects for Public Services. Mary is a graduate of CUNY’s Baruch College with a BA in English and a minor in Journalism.

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Jean Huffman Wong with Maurice Sendak

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Michael J. Miller, Associate Professor
Our 22nd season includes installation, drawing, painting, sculpture, ceramics, works on paper, photography, and new media. Responding to the contemporary dialogue of art and the public, the exhibitions and their programs touch on multiple themes that engage the arts today. The Art Center offers this ongoing conversation in contribution to the new program of General Education at Queens College, particularly to its emphasis on learning beyond the classroom.

Crystal Clear, Lieberman

Crystal Clear / / Sculpture & Prints by Claire Lieberman
(March 11–April 30, 2010)
Introducing an artist who uses multimedia to explore narratives linked to contemporary ideas of survival—personal, political, ecological, etc. Claire Lieberman’s sculptures, prints, videos, and micro-installations evoke the culture surrounding modern material objects and their rapidly changing societal meaning. Drawing on pop culture, and technology, she bridges a gap between the physical and intangible, between relative permanence and the ephemeral, as she strives to create, in her words, an “unfamiliar, if lively, realm where formal and innovative practice overlap, even conflict.”

Illusion/Allusion
The Sculptures of Susan Sills
(May 6–June 30, 2010)
The season’s finale will be a romp in which the artist’s whimsical, free-standing sculptures reconstruct the timelines of modern art history, making way for a playful narrative. Released from the confines of their frames and thrust into real space and time, life-sized cutouts of familiar images will take on new dimensions for the viewer that invariably provoke not only whimsy, but fresh insights into art’s potential future.

For more information, please visit http://qcpages.qc.cuny.edu/Art_Library/artcenter.html or call 718-997-3770. The Art Center is grateful to its friends and sponsors for their support.

Suzanna Simor, Associate Professor, Coordinator of Art Library Services and Director of the QC Art Center

At Queens College we are proud of our friends. You can help by becoming a Friend of the Library today! If you are already a Friend, please share this newsletter with a friend or colleague.
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All contributions are tax deductible. Please make your check payable to Queens College Foundation/Rosenthal Library. Donations of $50 or more allow borrowing privileges.

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Telephone ____________________________

Celebrating A Library Legend, David Cohen: A Pioneer in Multicultural Education and Intellectual Freedom
(April 7–August 31, 2010)
On exhibit is a treasure trove of archival material, including plaques, photographs, report cards, lesson plans, books, posters, and family memorabilia to tell the fascinating story of David Cohen, a remarkable man, truly an American library legend.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY
SPRING BOOK SALE
MAY 3–6, 2010
Bargain books in ALL subjects—paperbacks and hardcovers!