Moving Towards the Millennium

This issue marks the beginning of the fourth year of publication of PageDown, and once again I am pleased to use this forum to report on last year’s accomplishments and this year’s plans.

Shannon Bong
Chief Librarian

Instructional Services
We experienced considerable success with our instructional services, which included the new elective course Information Literacy (LIB 100), as well as CUNY+ and Interlibrary workshops. Nearly 7,000 students participated in one or more of the 443 instructional sessions we offered, representing a 6 percent increase in participants and a 9 percent increase in sessions.

Approximately 300 students enrolled in Information Literacy, which was taught in four, one-credit sections each semester last year. A wide range of students, including first-semester freshmen, ACE, SEEK, and upper division students, enrolled in the course. This fall we are offering five sections.

Librarians are now part of the Freshman Year Initiative (FYI). Professors Ann Davison and Alexandra DeLese, Interim Coordinator of Instructional Services, are reviewing the library research component of English 110 to ensure that it meets students’ research needs for freshman year and beyond.

To meet the increasing demand for CUNY+ and Interlibrary, we have converted office space into a third teaching room (331). Two video projection units were acquired to improve visual display in rooms 223 and 225. New computers were installed in all three spaces. Funds for this equipment upgrade were provided by the Associate Provost’s Office.

Collections Continue to Grow
The Library added 6,301 new titles and 11,292 volumes in the last year. This brings our volume count to 740,306. We also acquired 190 audio recordings, 174 video recordings, and 2,058 CD-ROMs, multimedia, and other computer files.

The Library has started to restore some cancelled journal subscriptions and is selectively adding new titles in print and/or electronic format. Although general price increases for serials are about 12 percent per year, the Library budget does not increase proportionately. Therefore, we monitor the acquisitions budget carefully so that serial costs for one division of the College will not affect another’s allocations. Department library liaisons and librarians work together to maintain a balance between monographs and journal purchases.

We continue to bring broken and brittle books back to life with an in-house repair program. The College Office Assistant responsible for commercial binding and book repairs audited a book conservation course and has expanded the type of repairs that can be performed cost effectively.

Our Queens College archival collection grew to 611 linear feet. New material is being added to our preliminary processing queue. Access is by appointment; call 3650.

CUNY+ Enhancements
The Bibliographic Access staff has instituted a number of enhancements to CUNY+ records. They improved the retrieval from specific record field indexes in the CUNY+LIBPAC database by linking item records to bibliographic records. Also, they added URLs to the CUNY+

Use of Library Materials
Book circulation decreased last year. Although decreased book circulation is a trend in academic libraries, we have no facts as to why it is occurring at Queens College. We assume that increased student use of full-text electronic resources is a contributing factor and we plan to survey students and other library users over the course of this year. We also plan to analyze system-supplied statistics on circulation patterns by classification number and user category.

Reserve circulation has also decreased. Reserve use is course specific and is affected by decreased numbers of courses, student enrollment in courses, increase in use of course packs by faculty, or other faculty changes in instructional materials. I welcome feedback comments on whether you have changed the nature of your assignments and what your observations are of the nature of your students’ cited sources for papers and other assignments.

In other circulation news, the Library initiated a system of two-way radios; now circulation and reference desk staff can call student shelves and ask them to assist students in finding books or orient them to stack layout.

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WEBPAC IS HERE!

The long-awaited web version of the CUNY+ catalog is available via the Internet at http://libraries.cuny.edu/webpac and through the Library's home page, http://www.qcc.edu/l1ibrary. While the content and search engine are the same, the user interface is more like that of many web-based search engines and the record and holdings displays are different. WEBPAC is a work in progress. It initially adds these features: improved help screens; browsing capability; hot links to web resources from the catalog record; and integrated access to the CUNY-wide licensed web resources/subscriptions. However, it has the following problems: no location-specific catalog—so you must add QC to a key word search to limit it to just Queens College holdings; no reserve holdings information; and the serial holdings record display still needs reprogramming changes. Future releases of software will add basic and advanced searchings, call number searching, and reserve holdings information.

The Library continues to offer both the web and "traditional" CUNY+ user interfaces. On level three, the group of terminals dedicated to traditional CUNY+ remain, but if they become obsolete or need repair, they will be replaced with Internet capable workstations (this transition is expected to take place in the near future). All Internet capable workstations will use WEBPAC.

The Card Catalog is Gone, Long Live CUNY+

After four generations of library cataloging systems at Queens College, the traditional card catalog has been officially retired. First produced manually with typewriters, catalog cards began to be produced by computer from a national central database in 1973. During 1988/89, Queens College Library had an online catalog from the Carlyle System independent of CUNY. In 1990, Queens joined other CUNY libraries in the creation of CUNY+, running on a succession of IBM mainframe computers. After this, the traditional card catalog, although kept on hand, was no longer updated. Over the past decade, the CUNY+ system's reliability has increased tremendously, lessening the need of the "safety net" provided by the out-of-date card catalog. So where has it gone, all 3 million cards and 1,600 drawers? Most of the cards have gone to be recycled. "Queens" entries and several representative sections, have been retained in the archives. The "Libraries and Librarianship" entries were retained by Professor Roberta Brody of the Graduate Library Information Studies Department. Some cabinets were recycled internally, but most are on their way to college and university libraries in the Philippines through the Philippines Library Materials Project Foundation.
Two Scholarship Winners
"Marshall" Praise for Rosenthal

Dying for his youth, Cambridge University Library in England has amassed one of the greatest and richest collections anywhere in the world. The sixty-year-old Queens College Library is in its infancy by comparison. Yet, when the two 1999 winners of Marshall Scholarships, one of whom is studying at Cambridge, spoke at the reception for Library friends and donors in April, they had nothing but praise for the Rosenthal Library.

Tara Heffernan, now working on a PhD in history at Cambridge, spent many hours curled up in the Library in a cozy reading area with books on history and law. Heffernan said she found the building inviting, filled with air and sunlight, and assured the audience that she would take with her fond feelings and deep gratitude to the Library.

To aid students in their research efforts, the Library is supplying a new guide to its resources and will continue to open four hours on Saturdays during the semester.

Art Library and Art Center

The Art Library is now using the Internet to supplement its resources. Two websites were developed last year for use with Introduction to Art and History of Western Art I and II and more websites are planned (see article p.5).

With eight exhibitions, the Art Center had a high point last year with the work of Slovene artist Ljote Logar, whose opening reception drew the Slovenian Ambassador to the United States and several other diplomats. There are ten exhibitions scheduled for this academic year, including Architekten, sculpture by John Crawford, creator of the steel plinth Queen College Marker located between Rosenthal and Powdermilk Hall.

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Reference Librarian at the American Museum of Natural History. She has also worked as a Reference Librarian at the Bronx Reference Center of the New York Public Library. Ms. Yeates has a BA in Anthropology and an MLS from the University of Illinois.

Spencer Clarke has recently joined the Interlibrary Loan/Access Services. He works directly with users in material lending and user registration transactions. Coming from the private industry, where he worked in financial services, he brings a variety of talents to the Library, including customer service, data entry, and administrative skills. He will work full-time during our evening hours.

New Fee for Laser Printing

The Library will now charge a fee for the use of laser printers networked from its public-access workstations. Laser-printer users will now use a vendor card—the same as photocopying and microform printing—to obtain printed materials.

We have instituted this system for two reasons: 1) It is unfair for printing to be free for those using electronic resources while those using hard-copy and microform materials must pay; 2) The rising use and subsequent printing of text/electronic resources and websites is increasing supply costs.

Users will collect laser printing by inserting their vendor card in the print station and identifying their password print job. There are three print stations in Rosenthal: Media Services (Level One); Reference (Level Three); and Art Library (Level Six). The Music Library workstations will be connected at a later date.

Queens College Library is not alone in instituting fees for printing. City, Hunter, Brooklyn, CUNY, and John Jay are other senior CUNY libraries that have printing fees. Other CUNY colleges are planning or testing similar systems. Although it is a sign of the times, cost containment will allow us to realign these funds to collection resources.
Electronic Musings

The Queens College Libraries have added several new electronic resources, which are part of the growing CUNY Digital Library Collection. These developments are the result of an investigation and collaboration by the Council of Chief Librarians and the Electronic Resources Advisory Committee of CUNY’s Office of Library Services.

The new databases include Education Abstracts with Full Text (1966-date); Ethnic NewsWatch (databases of full-text ethnic serials and newsletters, c. 1985-date); PsycINFO (1887-date); Sociological Abstracts (1963-date); CINAHL (Cumulative Index to Nursing and Allied Health); and OCLC’s WorldCat (worldwide database). In addition, Queens is part of a smaller CUNY consortium that has arranged for Academic Press/IDEAL (featuring about 100 full-text journals, mainly in the sciences) and HRAF (Human Relations Area Files), an anthropological treasure.

While we have offered some of these products in Rosenthal or CD-ROM and our Local Area Network (LAN) for several years, these databases will now be available throughout the campus. Faculty will be able to access all of these resources at home through the CUNY proxy server (see article). Additional electronic resources will be added in January.

Please use our redesigned homepage (http://www.qc.edu/library) and click on QC Internet Resources and drill freely of our ever-expanding electronic reservoir. All resources—including IDEAL and HRAF—may also be accessed through the CUNY Libraries’ home page. See the link on our home page under Other Library Catalogs or use http://libaries.cuny.edu.

If you would like to arrange library sessions for any of our electronic resources, including Current Contents Connect, please call 3675 or your library bibliographer. We can also brief you on your home turf, either during a department meeting or a special session.

Rolf Swensen
Electronic Resources Coordinator

Off-Campus Access to More Electronic Resources Available to QC Faculty

Using the CUNY Office of Library Services Proxy Server Account, QC instructional staff will have access to more databases and full-text materials from their homes. This academic year these resources have been added: Education Abstracts (with selected full-text articles); ERIC; Sociological Abstracts; PsycINFO; Ethnic NewsWatch (full text of ethnic and minority newspapers); CINAHL (Cumulative Index to Nursing and Allied Health); and OCLC’s WorldCat. The following will continue to be available through this arrangement: LEXIS-NEXIS (full-text articles from journals and newspapers); Inforac Search Bank (academic and business with selected full text); Encylopedia Botanica; American Chemical Society journals; and Math SciNet.

Faculty using Netscape or Microsoft Internet Explorer browsers may register for a proxy account through the Office of Library Services by sending an e-mail to webbib@university.cuny.edu with the following information: name, campus address, social security number, and library bar code number. New software at the Office of Library Services will be installed and tested during the course of the year with the intention of being able to add and manage student proxy accounts as well.

These resources plus others are available on campus in the Library, student labs, and faculty offices via the Library home page: http://www.qc.edu/Library.
Much More Than a Dictionary...

The spring 1997 issue of Page Down introduced you to The Dictionary of Art, an essential encyclopedic reference tool for art research. In 34 volumes, it is indispensable for its wealth of information on artists, architects, and art periods, as well as for its definitions of art terms.

However, what has been discovered upon use of the Dictionary of Art is that it is much more than a tool for art research but also in a range of non-art topics. Since art has always been shaped by the political, religious, social, economic, and cultural context in which it was created, The Dictionary of Art is a useful tool for background research on all of these subjects. Offering histories of the world's civilizations, including non-Western dynasties and peoples, the dictionary has articles on every modern country identified by the United Nations, as well as extensive coverage of urban developments and archaeological and architectural sites.

It follows, then, that the dictionary can provide reference assistance for a variety of non-art related courses, including:

- **African Civilization** offered by the African Studies program. The entry under Africa details this continent's geography, history, language, ethnic groups, regional influences, art forms, imagery, and iconography.

- **Romanticism** in the Comparative Literature Department. The dictionary offers subdivisions defining the movement, aesthetics, and manifestations in art. Many areas associated with the movement—such as William Blake—were inspired by the Romantic concept of artist as prophet and visionary.

- The History Department's course on the Indian Subcontinent. Students can check under the vast chapter also entitled "Indian Subcontinent," which includes subdivisions by historical period, basic teachings, and religious practices.

- The Religious Studies' course on Western Religions. The entry under "Christianity" has sections on the Early, Eastern, and Western churches, patronage and iconography, and an article on the Church. It's influence was so universal that its history almost parallels the social history of art.

- The Urban Studies' courses, Cultural History and Development of the City and History of American Urban Planning. A wealth of material is available in the dictionary under most city names, as well as under the heading "Urban Planning." A long bibliography of useful and current books on the subject follows.

These are just a few examples that, through the use of the dictionary's indexes, readers can locate both general and specific information quickly and easily when conducting research. And while the Library would undoubtedly contain other books and articles on these subjects, The Dictionary of Art is one of the few resources that pulls together diverse subject matter in a concise manner.

To experience the enormous breadth of information of the dictionary, one must sample it personally. With its scholarly approach, cross-references, signed entries, and up-to-date bibliographies, it is a worth a detour.

The Dictionary of Art is located on the sixth floor, in the Art Library's reference section, call number Art Rel. N31 DS 1996.

The Art Library plans to get the Grove Dictionary of Art Online in the near future.

Alexandra de Luis
Art Library

WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND?

Your suggestions, comments, and ideas about Library collections and services are important to us. We'd love to hear from you via one of our suggestion boxes—located on the circulation counter and throughout the Library—or via e-mail at our website: (http://www.qc.edu/llibrary/art). If you include your name and address, we will be happy to respond.

Susanna Simor
Art Library & Art Center
MEDIA COLLECTION UPDATE

The Media Center has a growing collection of videocassettes that cover a wide range of disciplines, including many well-known PBS titles and series. Of particular interest are the multicultural titles recently acquired that can be used in a variety of courses, including History, Afro-American Studies, Women's Studies, Art, Education, English, Dance, Urban Studies, and Sociology, among others.

We encourage you to consider these selected acquisitions for classroom use or individual research and we welcome your suggestions for purchase.

Aftermath in America: America's Journey Through Slavery (four cassettes, 1998). PBS series recounting the rise and fall of slavery in our nation, drawn from original source material and the latest scholarship.

American Mosaic (eight cassettes, 1997). Presents a glimpse of American history through its painting, sculpture, architecture, and monuments. Written and hosted by critic Robert Hughes.

America's War on Poverty (five cassettes). Examines the extent of poverty in the United States in the prosperous 1960s and the federal anti-poverty programs created during the Johnson administration.

Art of Kabuki (1993). Provides an introduction to the 400-year-old tradition of Kabuki, explaining its origins, literary sources, and symbolism.

Beany Andrews, the Visible Man (1996). Growing up in a sharecropper's family in the 1930s, the artist portrays a sensitive point of view on these migrant workers through his drawings, paintings, and collages.

Bill T. Jones: Danc- ing to the Promised Land (1994). Guides the viewer through rehearsals and performances of choreographer Bill T. Jones's most highly regarded work.

Elizabeth [sic] Catlett: Sculpting the Truth (1999). Presents the work of sculptor Catlett, who draws inspiration from women because, as she says, "women have to try a little harder."


I'll Make Me a World (six cassettes, 1999). PBS series covering a century of Afro-American creativity, including music, art, dance, drama, and literature. Features prominent artists, scholars, and writers, such as Gwendolyn Brooks, Spike Lee, W.E.B. DuBois, and Alice Walker.


Ruth Orkin: Frames of Life (1998). Traces the life of photographer and filmmaker Ruth Orkin, who began her career photographing celebrities in the 1930s and continued through the 1980s, when she photographed people from her window.


Videocassettes can be borrowed for one week and may be renewed for an additional week. Please visit the Media Center on Level One to check out materials. If you have any question about our media collection or Media Services, Unit, please call 367 or e-mail Lisa Plaznick at LPlaznick@Queens.edu.

Lisa F��ench Reference/Media Services

LIBRARY SEEKS FACULTY WORKS FOR DISPLAY

Following a successful inaugural exhibit in Spring 1998, Rosenthal Library plans to continue the display of new publications and other works by members of the Queens College faculty. We would appreciate your help in monitoring the publication of new books, journal articles, and other works by you or your colleagues.

To suggest a submission, contact Richard Wall, Chair of the Library's Publications and Exhibits Committee, with the title and type of item and the date it was or will be published (a limit to previous or current calendar year may be necessary). He can be reached at 3672 or via email: SWall@csunym.cuny.edu, or mail (Rosenthal 306). If it is a book, please indicate whether the copy you are providing for display should be returned to you or may be kept by the Library and added to our collection. All gifts will be gratefully acknowledged.

Works will be exhibited in the Library rotunda in a free-standing display case purchased in 1997 with funds from the Friends of the Queens College Library.

Richard Wall Chair, Library Publications and Exhibits Committee