

The TCL Letter

A Newsletter of the Touro College Libraries

Volume 5, Issue 2

Summer 2005

The Library Catalog

- * has migrated to Millennium, a Java-based program enabling enhanced input and maintenance capabilities
- * now defaults to College, not Law Center, holdings
- * has new advanced search features (ability to mark and export records throughout, limit and sort via word searching, etc.)

Multicultural Event

By Salvator Russo, Distance & Off-Campus Services Librarian

Faina G. Katsnelson, Library Assistant, hosted Touro College's 3rd Annual Multicultural Event at the Sunset Park Library from May 10 to 24. The festival opened with Faozia Aljibawi introducing Deans Perkal and Taylor, and site director Ms. Colon, all of whom spoke on multiculturalism and Touro College's role in educating its diverse student population.

The real stars of the festival, however, were the artists, painters, poets, singers, and dancers who performed at the event. They represented such cultural heritages as Cuban, Palestinian, Columbian, Puerto Rican, Ecuadorian, African American, Chinese, and Nepalese. Artists displayed their works throughout the Library, and "Edwin" performed two folk songs.

Attendees were treated to a fashion show featuring traditional dress, and various cultural dances. Students participated in reading poetry and dances, and dishes representing various ethnic groups were offered to all guests.

From the Director...

Dr. Jacqueline A. Maxin

The library staff extends a hearty thank you to all respondents of our first online user satisfaction survey. The results, displayed on p. 4, indicate areas where we will focus our commitment to increasing performance. Look forward to our follow-up survey in November and let us know the level of our success.

Accomplishments since our February newsletter are included within. One of our latest is approval to digitize **Touro College ETs (Electronic Theses)**. Digitization of our master's theses by ProQuest/UMI will result in their entry into the printed *Masters Abstracts International*, archival microfiche copies housed in the UMI vault (recognized by the Library of Congress as an official repository) and at our Midtown Library, inclusion in the ProQuest/UMI Dissertations & Theses database, and a full-text spin-off database (expected in early 2006) to be freely accessible to the Touro community via our Web site. For more details, contact Sal Russo (212.463.0400, ext. 222).

We request faculty to schedule general or subject-specific instruction sessions from their site library staff, and to assist us in collection development and maintenance by recommending acquisitions and suggesting withdrawals. Note that Dr. Mark Balto (718.252.7800, ext. 338) is on-hand to help you integrate information literacy concepts into your syllabi. We also encourage students to tap the expertise of our highly qualified staff by requesting reference assistance and research advice.

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Spotlight on New Electronic Resources

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- Index to Jewish Periodicals
- The John Hopkins Guide to Literary Theory & Criticism
- PsycBOOKS
- PsycEXTRA
- Turnitin

New Electronic Resources

Education: A SAGE Full-Text Collection

This database contains articles from 25 journals on methodology; higher, secondary, and vocational education; measurement and testing; and educational psychology. Coverage is back to 1968.

Gale Virtual Reference Library

This resource is provided by NOVEL, NY State Library's free public statewide virtual library pilot project funded via a Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) grant to the NY State Library by the Federal Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). It contains 17 reference works in the areas of business, history, and medicine.

Index to Jewish Periodicals

The *Index to Jewish Periodicals* contains citations of English-language articles, book reviews, and feature stories in 160 journals on Jewish history, activity, thought, and contemporary Jewish and Middle East affairs. Coverage is back to 1988.

The Johns Hopkins Guide to Literary Theory & Criticism

The Johns Hopkins Guide to Literary Theory & Criticism is an inventory of key critics and dominant groups, schools, and movements (largely contemporary), with some historical accounts of major national or ethnic bodies of criticism.

PsycBOOKS

This database includes over 500 American Psychological Association books back to 1950. It includes 100 out-of-print books, 75 archival resources, and over 1,500 entries from the *Encyclopedia of Psychology*.

PsycEXTRA

This is a database of books and book chapters, magazines, newspapers, gray literature (dissertations, technical and annual reports, consumer reports, etc.). It contains 45,000 records, with 30,000 added annually. Coverage is back to 1872.

Our Mission

We provide information resources and services that support and promote the College's academic programs. We also help members of the College community acquire and refine their information seeking and evaluation skills.

Turnitin

To ensure that papers are original works, students submit their papers to this program that checks for incidences of plagiarism and generates reports for professors.

Off-Campus Access

The above proprietary resources are restricted to the Touro community. All can be accessed from any Touro College PC, and off-campus via login and password. For security reasons, it is our policy not to email the login and password. To obtain them, contact your library.

Are Libraries Becoming Obsolete?

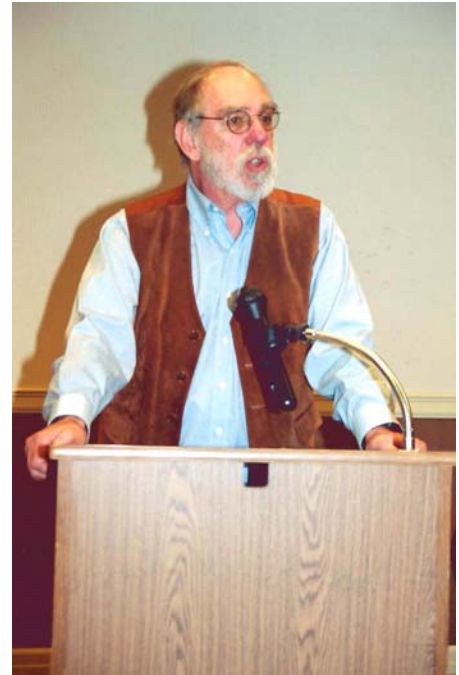
By Dr. Mark Balto, Information Literacy Librarian

Dr. Thomas Surprenant, plenary speaker at Faculty Development Day on April 14, discussed the sweeping changes surrounding libraries, librarians and information technologies. He discussed how information is no longer centered on the printed word found in books, journals, etc. Instead, it is much more based on images, sounds and facts stored in electronic media. And, it is not just libraries, but all of society, that are going through profound and lasting changes in this age of the information revolution.

In the professional circles of librarians, computer scientists and other academics, there is now an argument concerning the relevance of libraries and librarians as found in their traditional roles. Many are predicting that libraries and librarians are becoming obsolete. While such predictions are quite obvious to some individuals, they are heretical to others—for how could anyone say that we will no longer use books, that print-on-paper is in its last gasping throes of breath, or that the trend among the public is that reading is spiraling into a decline. Even if these predictions are somewhat true, what happens next? What we need to do is look beyond these predictions, and consider the implications. As Dr. Surprenant briefly asked: “When we get the libraries we want, will we want the libraries we get?”

Librarians in all types of libraries have worked hard to improve them—something we have experienced first hand at Touro College. New information technologies make possible what a few years ago seemed science fiction. However, with changes envisioned for the future, come other changes perhaps less desirable. Many libraries are replacing books with electronic media. There has been a decline in the control and expertise that librarians have over libraries. The consequences have been a loss of professional values, of integrity of the information provided, and of the ability to provide anonymous access to print and electronic material.

However, during the advance of the information revolution, the role of the librarian has changed dramatically. Instead of librarians who eagerly and unthinkingly get books for their patrons, we increasingly find them in the role of educator. And since there is a plethora of information out there, we increasingly find that librarians’ skills in locating, using and evaluating information is becoming ever more necessary for those individuals who would otherwise have no one else to turn to for such advice. We at the Touro College Libraries are up to the challenge of this emerging role.



Dr. Thomas Surprenant, Professor, Queens College/CUNY's Graduate School of Library & Information Studies

Changing Places

The NYSCAS program at Boro Park 53rd Street has relocated to Bensonhurst's Stillwell Avenue facility and is being served by the library there. The SLE program and library at Boro Park 45th Street have relocated to 53rd Street, and the former 53rd Street NYSCAS library has moved to 45th Street to serve the Machon L'Parnassa Institute for Professional Studies. The 45th Street library will also serve NYSCAS' nursing program when it starts in January 2006. Library materials have been restamped and records in the Library Catalog have been changed to reflect their new locations.

Contact Us...

Bay Shore	631.665.1600 x224
Bensonhurst	718.265.6534 x1006
Boro Park 45th St.	718.437.6631 x462
Boro Park 53rd St.	718.871.6187 x17
Brighton Beach	718.449.6160 x118
Flushing	718.353.6400 x112
Forest Hills	718.261.4719
Harlem (Taino)	212.722.1575 x171
Kew Garden Hills	718.820.4894
Kings Highway	718.301.2032
Midtown	212.463.9499 x321
Midwood (Ave. J)	718.252.7800 x260
Starrett City	718.642.6562 x104
Sunset Park	718.748.4776 x4
Women's Building	212.213.2230 x119

<http://www.touro.edu/library/>

Questions, Comments, Concerns?
Please contact your library.

Welcome

- ◆ **Yevgen (Menachem) Yevsa**, Library Assistant, Boro Park 45th Street
- ◆ **Ana J. Felipe**, Library Assistant, Harlem (Taino)
- ◆ **Michael F. Donovan**, Assistant Librarian, Midtown
- ◆ **Benjamin (Yitschak) Shaeffer**, Judaica Specialist, Women's Building
- ◆ **Sarah Nakar**, Interlibrary Loan Coordinator and still Library Assistant, Midwood (Ave. J)

Congratulations

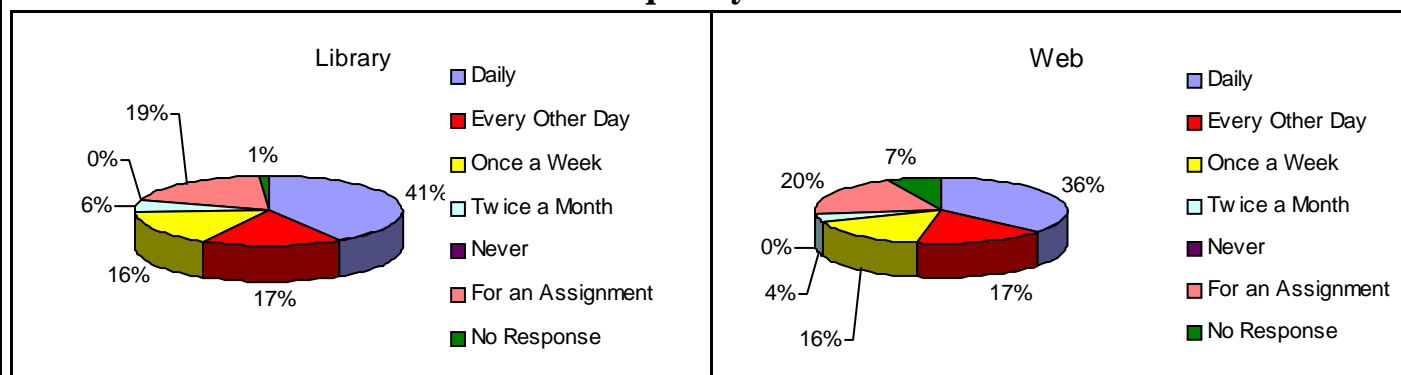
- ◆ **Christopher Bahl**, Library Assistant at Bay Shore, and **Faina Katsnelson**, Library Assistant at Sunset Park, received quarterly College Incentive Award for outstanding performance.
- ◆ **Rita Hilu**, Library Assistant at Starrett City, received a standing ovation at the June NYSCAS graduation in Brooklyn when mentioned in Marion Fludd's salutetorian address.
- ◆ **Boris Kocherga** was again published in the Ukraine when 12 of his poems appeared in *Poeticheskaya Karta Krime: V.II -- TO "Autograph"* (Simferopol, 2004, p. 580-1).

News

- ◆ **Michael Ronn**, Assistant Director for Technical & Electronic Services, attended the IUG (Innovative Users Group) Conference in May.
- ◆ **Bashe Simon**, Associate Director for Public Services, as Chair, hosted the Faculty Senate Committee on Library Resources in June.

Results of the June 2005 Library User Satisfaction Survey

Frequency of Use



Facilities, Resources, Services

