BMCC Library Hosts Hispanic Heritage Exhibition
Professor Kanu A. Nagra, Electronic Resources Librarian

The BMCC Library creates several exhibitions during the year on cultural diversity and different themes related to academics. Recently, the BMCC Library hosted an exhibition about Hispanic Heritage from October 31 through December 1, 2011 in the library display cases. The exhibit was a part of BMCC’s Hispanic Heritage Month program. It included collections of books, flags, currency bills, art, and crafts representing Hispanic and Latino culture. The exhibition was very informative and decorative, featuring items that are unique to different countries. A team of Library faculty, library staff members, and students meticulously planned, designed, and created the display. The exhibit, admired and appreciated by the college community, was a tremendous success. We want to thank everyone who volunteered to work on it, and welcome your feedback and suggestions for future exhibitions.

Welcome, Professor Glisson
Professor Lane Glisson has recently joined our library staff, working afternoons and evenings, and during the day on Fridays and Saturdays. Lane did her training at Queens College, CUNY and worked on the Library Essentials Video Project and the Ask Us! chat program at Columbia University Libraries. She has a background in Film, Television, Theatre, Literature, and Art.

As the Library Liaison to the English and Music & Art Departments, Lane will be collecting books and materials in those subjects. In addition, she is eager to assist all our students and faculty with questions in all subject areas. Lane can be spotted at the reference desk on Wednesday and Thursday evenings and from 10 AM to 6 PM on Saturdays. For a research consultation, she can be reached at lglisson@bmcc.cuny.edu.
It is fairly evident that the library has not changed for many years; what have changed are the means and technical refinements of delivering the library’s collections to the users. It is one of our library’s stated mission goals to leverage technology to deliver information service to support learning. Early adoption of technology sometimes posed risks. Service innovations occasionally suffered from inadequate planning or overshooting their targets. But the motivation for helping students achieve learning outcomes is always the driving force, making the appetite to take risk more acceptable. Over a period of ten years which coincides with the proliferation of web-based service, our library saw various applications like user-friendly web resources, remote proxy service, roving reference, streaming video, e-reserves, 24/7 chat reference, and online tutorials satisfy information seekers and reinvigorate the workplace and the staff. Technology can be used to overcome inaction and structural constraint.

While the library has not changed, the students have. Report upon report, survey upon survey have indicated that we are facing a new user culture. Do we know what the students want? Some suggest that “tablets are in, computer labs are out, and the cloud is the new hard drive” among the digital natives. We can learn much by asking those who are on our campus today. What are the students’ expectations of the library? Are they aware of the service and resources we provide?

Abby Smith, a well known digital library scholar, once remarked, “ask not what wonderful things you can do for others, ask what others want.” No doubt, she was paraphrasing JFK. Aside from being catchy, her message was serious. The library should be focusing on those services that the students want or need. Does the library address what students want or need? I know as a fact that the free scanning service is very popular and the bi-lingual digital dictionaries are less so. The demand for lending textbooks is high, as shown by the long lines every semester, when the support staff is stretched to a tipping point. It is clear to me that we need more support staff. In the coming years, the challenge will be making strategic choices to allocate resources to address various research or service needs, some of which may not always be traditional applications. On what evidence we have to base these decisions? We are planning to conduct a series of student interviews to guide future directions. One thing is unmistakable: we want our students to have memorable and meaningful library experiences.
Congratulations, Professor Niles

Professor Phyllis Niles has recently received tenure. She has also had an article published in the journal *Community & Junior College Libraries*, entitled “Meeting the Needs of the 21st Century Student”. The article was also published in *The Informed Librarian Online*.

Professor Niles joined the BMCC Library faculty in Aug. of 2006. She has over 20 years of experience in academic libraries. Prof. Niles has worked in a variety of libraries including community colleges, four year colleges, and a medical school. Her primary duty at BMCC is managing the periodical department. Prof. Niles also teaches library instruction classes and works at the reference desk. Service to the department includes participating on the following committees: Collection Development, Instruction, Assessment and P&B. In addition to her departmental work, she serves on College committees.

Prof. Niles has also served on many college committees. These include be a member of the General Education Committee, of the Personnel Review Committee, of the Faculty Student Disciplinary Committee, of the Distance Learning Taskforce, of the Distance Learning Implementation Committee, Board Member of the Teaching and Learning Center, Team Leader of CETLS, of the Middle State General Education Committee, of the Strategic Steering Committee for Faculty development and of the Strategic Steering Committee for Global Studies Major. She enjoys the opportunity to participate in the work of these committees.

### The Inside Story from Periodicals

**Much More than Magazines**

Professor Phyllis Niles, Periodicals Librarian

The periodicals department has much more than magazines. There are a variety of electronic devices available for students’ use. These include laptop computers, electronic language dictionaries and scientific calculators. During the summer, the library acquired 10 new laptop computers that replaced the older laptops.

You might be surprised to learn that electronic language dictionaries are available in Chinese/English, French/English, Spanish/English and Russian/English. 20 scientific calculators may be obtained from the periodicals desk. All these devices and materials may be borrowed by students.

In addition to electronic devices, we have magazines and journals. Across from the periodicals desk there are display racks with 44 leisure magazines. If you need articles for research, you may ask at the desk for journals.

The periodicals department is open Monday - Thursday 9 - 9, Friday 9 - 6, Saturday 10 - 6 and Sunday noon - 5.

If you would like a study room, you may reserve a room online or in person. The keys for these rooms may be picked up the desk.

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BMCC Library has a number of excellent English and literature resources for students and faculty on our shelves and also online. Beyond the very good collection of literature and literary criticism that can be found in the stacks, students and faculty can request books from the entire CUNY system of colleges, by clicking the Request link on the books’ All CUNY Libraries - Holdings page. Our reference collection of books includes traditional reference books as well as the *Gale Virtual Reference Library* and the *Encyclopedia Britannica* databases. We also have three excellent collections of e-books, which can be accessed from the CUNY+ catalog.

On the BMCC website, the Articles: Databases link connects you to our online databases of articles and other materials. Search the database list by Subject to find databases recommended for Literature and Poetry. Here are several databases that are useful to students of Literature and English:

The *Literature Resource Center* (Gale) offers the following resources: a dictionary, articles of literary criticism, authors’ biographies, over-views of specific works, reviews, news articles, primary sources, and multimedia.

The *Literary Reference Center* (EBSCO) contains biographies, literary criticism, plot summaries, reviews, interviews, reference book articles, periodicals, poems, and images pertaining to authors and their work.

*Academic Search Complete* (EBSCO) is a good general database for all subjects that is easy to use and has some very nice features, including the option to email an article’s MLA citation along with the full-text article.

The databases *JSTOR* and *Project Muse* are excellent digital archives of academic journals and other scholarly archives, available through our articles: databases page.

*Columbia Granger’s World of Poetry* contains biographical, historical, and critical information on every type of poetry, including a large selection the authors’ poems.

Try looking in *Short Story Criticism* or *Short Story Index* for research on short fiction. Don’t forget that we have access to newspapers from all over the world in *Lexis Nexis* and that you can find articles since the Civil War era in our *New York Times* (Proquest) database.

Our media collection of DVDs can be requested for your classroom use. Television series about authors in our DVD collection include *Great American Authors*, *Great Women Writers*, *The Poetry Lounge: Bringing Poetry to Life*, *Great Writers of the 20th Century*, and individual programs, including many African American and Latin American authors. Our DVDs cover historical topics as well. Students may use our media collection on site, while faculty can fill out an online form to borrow media from the library to use in their classes. The request page online is at: http://lib1.bmcc.cuny.edu/services/mediarequest.html

This introduction is just the tip of the iceberg. Visit our reference desk for more information on resources for the study of English and Literature. I can be reached at lglisson@bmcc.cuny.edu, if you would like to talk about where to start your research.
I am pleased to announce that we have following new additions in our database collection in the fall 2011 semester:

**Applied Science & Technology Full Text**
Full text articles from trade publications, scholarly journals, conference proceedings, and more.

**Applied Science & Technology Index Retrospective**
Indexes articles published in trade publications, scholarly journals, conference proceedings, and more.

**Biography Reference Center**
Comprehensive collection of full-text biographies

**Biography Index Retrospective**
Index to biographical information dating from 1946-1983.

**Computers & Applied Sciences Complete**
Full text articles from journals and professional publications in many engineering disciplines, computer theory & systems, and new technologies.

**Criminal Justice Abstracts with Full Text**
Provides full text articles from journals, as well as full text books and monographs in areas related to criminal justice and criminology.

**Education Index Retrospective**
Index to education literature dating from 1929 to 1983.

**Essay & General Literature Retrospective**
Covering 1900-1984, an index to essays and other articles found in anthologies and collections in the humanities and social sciences, including literary works, drama and film.

**Humanities International Complete**
Full text articles from journals, books and other published sources in the humanities from around the world. **Humanities Index Retrospective**
Indexes articles dating from 1907-1984 from scholarly journals and specialized magazines in the humanities, including art, communications, film, folklore, gender studies, history, journalism, literary criticism, music, the performing arts, philosophy and religion.

**Legal Periodicals Full Text**
Provides legal research information from books and journals, symposia, jurisdictional surveys, court decisions, legislation and more

**Legal Periodicals Retrospective**
Indexes legal literature for the period of 1908-1981 from scholarly articles, symposia, jurisdictional surveys, court decisions, legislation, and books.

**Journal of College Student Retention: Research Theory and Practice**
Provides in-depth research articles on college retention and attrition.

**Library Literature & Information Science Retrospective**
Coverage from 1905-1983 of articles in library and information science.

Please send your database recommendations to E-resources Librarian at knagra@bmcc.cuny.edu

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**HIV/AIDS Awareness Exhibit**

Professor Lane Glisson, Evening and Weekend Librarian

December is HIV/AIDS Awareness Month at BMCC, and BMCC Library is hosting a very popular exhibit on this important topic, in front of the main entrance to the Library. Guerda Baucicaut, who coordinates our eye-catching exhibits, has worked in collaboration with Penelope S. Jordan, R.N., Director of the BMCC Heath Services Office and our talented BMCC students to create this informative and visually engaging display. Ms. Baucicaut has combined articles, brochures, and HIV/AIDS prevention materials to raise awareness at the College, extending the Library’s mission to inform and serve the BMCC Community. The Library would like to thank everyone who worked on this exhibit.
Renovation of the Circulation Area

Professor Joy Dunkley, Access Services Librarian

During the summer of 2011, the library’s Circulation/Reserve area underwent a long overdue renovation, which was not done when the library was renovated a few years ago.

The main purpose of the renovation was to reconfigure and replenish the service area with a new counter, electronic signs, additional shelving and to upgrade the existing security gate. This was done to improve efficiency, visibility and to provide protection of our investment in expensive textbooks.

The actual demolition work of the old counter began on June 26; however some work was done in advance to ensure a continuance of service to our patrons. Preliminary plans started with the need to determine what reserve items would be used for the summer sessions. A list of these items was procured from the bookstore. These items were placed in a convenient area to facilitate easy retrieval from the temporary desk that was installed close to the stacks area. Items for classes not being taught in the summer were packed in boxes which were labeled and stored in classification order.

With little or no disruption of service, staff worked from a temporary counter and provided a high level of service to the college community. By mid July, the work was completed and the textbooks returned to their newly refurbished home. Staff was thrilled with the new work stations and desks with privacy screens. New carpeting and furniture provide a more pleasing atmosphere. The additional book drop proved to be a bonus specifically during the busy period for textbooks drop off. The availability of extra storage in the forms of multiple drawers across the entire width of the new counter is a plus. The resultant motorization of the security gate has led to a significant decline in the loss of reserve materials. In addition a new gate detector system was installed.

In Focus:
Gale Virtual Reference Library

Professor Barbara Linton, Head of Reference

Of all the databases the library receives, none gets more enthusiasm from students than the popular Gale Virtual Reference Library (GVRL). Remarks such as “Sweet”, “Cool”, or “Wow” are often heard when students obtain results from this database. GVRL contains hundreds of encyclopedias in many subject areas and is a great starting point for students’ research. Almost all titles are full text. In addition, it contains a number of regular business books from the publisher Kogan as well as the Twayne’s Authors Online series. Many of the encyclopedias are written at a community college level. However it also includes encyclopedias from such prestigious publishers as SAGE and Springer. GVRL is able to pull up articles that are hidden in encyclopedias that one would never think to consult on a topic. For example, who knew that an article on braids is in the Encyclopaedia of the History of Science, Technology, and Medicine in non-Western Cultures?