

PARA TEXT

THE NEWS OF BMCC LIBRARY

Fall 2010

Welcome to the new incarnation of BMCC Library newsletter, your source for faculty news and resource updates. We will publish once a semester, in paper and on our web site. Getting this first issue together was no small task and I thank my colleagues Susan Thomas and Robin Brown for their help.

I look forward to your comments and patience as we grow and develop.

-Linda Wadas, Collection Management Librarian



LIBRARY FACULTY PUBLICATIONS, GRANTS & ELECTIONS

Congratulations to our faculty who have published and written successful grant proposals.

Professor **Susan Thomas** has published an article about art and design zines, defining them vis-à-vis artists' books, artists' magazines, and other artists' publications and book objects.- Thomas, S. (2009). Value and Validity of Art Zines as an Art Form. *Art Documentation: Bulletin of the Art Libraries Society of North America*, 28(2), 27-38.

Robin Brown has received a PSC-CUNY grant to spend a week at the archives of the American Library Association, to complete her study of the career of Roger H. McDonough who was State Librarian in New Jersey from 1947-1975, and President of ALA in 1969. Professor Brown is also the co-investigator with Michelle Martin (Developmental Reading) on an e-book grant entitled "A Proposal of a Study of the Effectiveness and Pedagogy using Bundled Electronic Textbooks in Mathematics Classes."

Dr. **Kanu Nagra** received a PSC-CUNY grant to write an annotated bibliography and literature guide about e-metrics in libraries, which will be a great boon to the profession. Dr. Nagra, in conjunction with Professors **Sidney Eng** and Margaret Karrass (Mathematics), received an e-book grant from CUNY to study the "effectiveness and pedagogy using

bundled electronic textbooks in mathematics classes.” Dr. Nagra also published an article about e-metrics for e-resources. - Nagra, K. (2009). The Evaluation of Use of Electronic Resources and Services in Academic Libraries: A Study of E-metrics and Related Methods for Measurement and Assessment. Journal of the Library Administration & Management Section, 5(3), 28-41

Professor **Vicente Revilla** will be on sabbatical for Spring 2011 working on a book. He also published an article in the New York Photo Review about Marina Abramovic’s “The artist is present” performance.

Professor **Phyllis Niles** was elected to the Student Disciplinary Committee and is the new Treasurer of LACUNY. Professor **Dorothea Coiffie** was elected to the Personnel Review Committee. **Susan Thomas** was elected co-chair of the Professional Development Committee of LACUNY.

Welcome to **Dave Williams**, the new Library Website Manager. He brings web development experience from the private sector and Queens College. Dave’s main task is to help the library apply technology to enhance the learning process and increase information accessibility. He is eager to hear your suggestions and discuss ideas.

Working with e-books

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Finding a specific piece of information within a book can be challenging. How can you tell which book to look in? Sometimes the library catalog can help, but unless you happen to run into somebody who has read widely enough to point you to a particular book, it is very difficult. What if you could search the full text of books? This is the idea behind Google Books. The Google Books database contains scanned books from some of the largest research libraries in the country. Because Google scanned books that are still under copyright, searching within books it is a two step process. Search your titles on the BMCC library website and check to see if one of the CUNY libraries has them.

However, the two step process can be avoided. The BMCC Library has licensed a growing collection of e-book packages that function very much like Google Books, but they contain the full text of the books. The complete list can be found on our e-book page (<http://lib1.bmcc.cuny.edu/finding/databases/ebooks.html>). Ebrary results also chapter rankings in results, based on your search terms.

LETTER READING PARTY IN THE HUDSON ROOM

Professor Susan Thomas, Evening/Weekend Librarian, stthomas@bmcc.cuny.edu

A small delightful group of faculty and administrators turned out for a Letter Reading party, sponsored by the BMCC Library, on May 11, 2010, in the Hudson Room.

Many participants brought letters to read, and others read from published letters on hand. There were letters to and from Bertrand Russell, who was offered a job at City College only to have the offer retracted; from professional baseball player Jackie Robinson to President Eisenhower, regarding segregation; and by Albert Einstein, letting it be known that he did NOT believe in astrology! Linda Wadas read a found poem made from an email she received about the play "Hate Mail." There was agreement that there will be another Letter Reading Party in the near future!

What's new in E-Resources

If you have trouble accessing any database on BMCC website or you want to recommend any e-journals, e-books or databases for inclusion in Library's e-collection then please contact Dr. Kanu A. Nagra, Electronic Resources Librarian knagra@bmcc.cuny.edu

- **Short Story Criticism** - A digital version of Gale's Short Story Criticism series which contains critical response to a wide variety of short stories.
- **Springer E-books** - Contains over 34,000 full text books in the fields of art, architecture, business, computing and web design, engineering, humanities, law, mathematics, social sciences, natural sciences and technology .
- **Ovid Nursing Collection** - Contains full text for 340 titles of essential, authoritative nursing content, including Spring House and Nursing Made Incredibly Easy collections.
- **Ebrary Academic Complete** - An interactive e-books database that allows searching within books, highlighting, annotating and printing. It contains approximately 50,000 titles covering all academic subjects.
- **Gale Nursing Resource Center** - A comprehensive resource for beginning LPN, LVN, ADN, RN and BSN students it is designed to prepare students for clinical

exams. It provides overviews of workflow for diagnosing, treating and caring for patients, and it includes encyclopedias, sample care plans, drug monographs, and disease overviews.

- **American History in Video** - has 4,163 titles of newsreels, archival footage, public affairs footage, and important documentaries. Longer documentaries can be saved in smaller clips to view and share. It is also possible to generate transcripts for linking or printing.
- **Films on Demand** - contains more than 5,500 educational, academic, vocational, and life-skills titles.

Information Literacy

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Information literacy is a cross-disciplinary educational reform movement that comes out of a deep concern that we now live in a society that is information rich and our students struggling to understand it all. Just because they know how to use Facebook, does not mean that they know how to answer a question that requires new information. Often they don't even know where to begin.

Although librarians are passionate about information literacy, it is also part of the mandate and the charge of the entire faculty. We all teach information literacy skills, whether we know what they are called or not. Selecting topics, defining thesis statements, posing questions that require new information are the most common instructional strategies that contribute to students becoming information literate.

What can classroom faculty do to help our students sail the information ocean? Ask questions that require research. Require a bibliography or a list of sources and set high standards for the quality of information that you accept. Teach information ethics by teaching them to cite sources. When you pass information out in class that has been previously published, include a copyright statement that shows where it was originally published. Model the ethical use of information. My door is open to any faculty member who would like to learn more about information survival skills.