



The Quarterly Newsletter of ACRL/NY

Spring 2000, Volume 19, Number 1

## New Jersey Neighbor Still Recovering in Wake of Floyd

The Felician College Library in Lodi, New Jersey, just 8 miles from Manhattan's Lincoln Center, suffered significant losses in flooding caused by Hurricane Floyd's torrential rains in mid-September, 1999.

According to a report in Passaic County's *Herald News*, nearly 30,000 volumes were destroyed by the rising waters. 20,000 of these were books and represent a complete loss of the history collection and of the children's book collection used by education majors. The remaining 10,000 volumes were bound periodicals. To put this in

perspective, Felician held 120,000 books before the flood, and subscribes to 815 periodicals. The college enrolls 1,400 students.

Once the Saddle River receded, volunteers spent days hauling water-soaked books out of the basement stacks and tossing them into Dumpsters. Immediate removal was critical to prevent mildew from spreading and to prevent health hazards. Resources were not available to save anything. At the time Library Director, Stephen Karetzky, was quoted as saying, "I haven't allowed

myself to think about what was lost. To think about it is too upsetting." It would have made dealing with the immediate problem impossible. Even now, however, after many requests for his reaction to the damage, he says he tries not to think of it.

Planning to prevent a similar catastrophe was accomplished quickly. Karetzky has re-designed the library floor plan to place all printed material and microforms on the dry first floor with study areas and computer workstations going to the basement level. Computers are

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### For Better or Worse: A Correction

In our last newsletter we failed to recognize Lois Cherepon's contribution to our Annual Symposium, Libraries and Technology: For Better or For Worse. Lois once again acted as moderator for our panel discussion at the symposium. She kept everyone on schedule, facilitated questions and answers, and offered up pithy quotes, all with her usual good humor. Thank you, Lois!

## *President's Message* by Tian Zhang

Since 1998, ACRL/NY has been working on incorporation of our chapter. We hired Mr. Frank DeCaro as our attorney. Recently, Mr. DeCaro sent us the "Certificate of Incorporation" for the Executive Board members to sign. Several Board members are reviewing the document. Some issues which will be discussed further with the lawyer are the proper name of the organization as an incorporated entity (should "Inc." or "Co." be added as the lawyer contends?), filing taxes with the IRS as a non-profit organization, and buying insurance. We will continue to communicate with the neighboring chapters, especially those who have already incorporated, for more detailed information.

November 17, 2000 will be the 20th Anniversary of ACRL/NY. The Executive Board has been discussing

activities for the celebration. The Symposium Planning Committee will seek company sponsors for gifts and a reception. We are beginning to collect materials and pictures of all the past symposia for the exhibits. We would appreciate it very much if our former ACRL/NY officers can help provide materials and pictures of past ACRL/NY activities.

Since January 27, 2000, the new Executive Board and the Symposium Planning Committee have held meetings at the Fashion Institute of Technology to plan events for this year. Our Vice President/President-Elect, Marilyn Rosenthal, has already set a date for the 2000 Symposium: November 17, 2000. Please mark your calendars accordingly. The topic for the Symposium will be information literacy. The Symposium Committee is contacting

speakers and programming the day's events. Please read Marilyn Rosenthal's detailed report on the Symposium in this issue.

It is the time of the year for ACRL/NY to call for candidates for new officers, especially for the Vice-President/President-Elect and the Vice Chairs of the three divisions. I strongly encourage our members to join the ACRL/NY Executive Board and Symposium Planning Committee, which consist of responsible and amiable library professionals from different institutions. From my own experience as an ACRL/NY officer for the past two years, I know that the members of the Board and Symposium Committee are always ready to take on various responsibilities and to work together in achieving success.

Volume 19, Number 1

Spring 2000

*ACRL/NY Connections* is published quarterly by the Greater New York Metropolitan Chapter of The Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL/NY) for its members. Membership is \$10.00 per year; \$5.00 for current members of national ACRL. **ACRL/NY, P.O. Box 8331, New York NY 10116-4652.**

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Archival issues of *ACRL/NY Connections* may be found on the chapter's website:

<http://www.nyu.edu/library/bobst/acrlny/acrlny.html>

## New SIG Takes Wing

The first meeting of the Access Services Special Interest Group will be held at NYU's Bobst Library (South side of Washington Square Park) on Thursday, June 15th at 10:00 a.m. Professionals throughout the New York City area who have an interest or responsibilities

## Networking at NYTSL

ACRL/NY co-sponsored with the New York Technical Service Librarians (NYTSL) a reception in the Trustees Room of the New York Public Library on March 15. The two-hour gathering offered the opportunity to network with other librarians and to find out about the many professional associations in the metropolitan New York area. The annual event is free and open to all. Among the many other co-sponsoring associations were the Music Library Association, LACUNY, Society for American Archivists, and the Black Librarians Caucus. About 50 people attended, including several students from local library science programs. Wine and appetizers and beautiful wood-paneled surroundings created a pleasant atmosphere for meeting and greeting.

NYTSL also sponsors regular dinner lectures. Individuals can join by sending \$10 to Alice Pidgeon, NYTSL Treasurer, Pace University Law Library, 78 N. Broadway White Plains, NY 10603.

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Mary Habstritt

in Access Services are welcome.

For more information please contact Amy Beth, Coordinator of Access Services for Queens College (CUNY), by phone at 718/997-3761 or by e-mail: Amy\_Beth@qc1.qc.edu.

## Westchester Section Program

On April 7th at Manhattanville College Library, Annmarie B. Singh of Long Island University-Brooklyn, an ACRL/NY member, presented an excellent thought-provoking speech, *Information Technology Fluency: Laying the Technical Foundation for Information Literacy*. She discussed what students need to adapt to and to conceptualize in regard to electronic information environments; offered some essential technological skills, concepts, and intellectual capabilities students will require to become technologically literate; and tied these needs and competencies into what is currently being done with information literacy education.

Members of ACRL/NY from the tri-state area attended this event sponsored by Westchester's WALDO Information Services Committee. Those attending found this to be a thoroughly researched and enlightening presentation.

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Susan Rubin, Chair  
Westchester Lower Hudson Valley Section

## 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Symposium Slated for November 17, 2000

The Symposium Planning Committee of the ACRL New York Metropolitan Chapter has been meeting monthly since January 27<sup>th</sup>, and Committee members are hard at work on next year's annual

symposium. The Committee has compiled the data from the survey and questionnaire previously distributed. Results indicate that the majority wishes to have lunch included as part of the day.

Additionally, based on this feedback, the Committee is considering the agenda and various formats, hoping to ensure that the day will be interesting and relevant with vital speakers. With this in mind, the event is scheduled for Friday, November 17<sup>th</sup> at the Katie Murphy amphitheater at the Fashion Institute of Technology (27<sup>th</sup> Street and 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Manhattan). A special occasion, it will represent the Chapter's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary in the year 2000. More details will be forthcoming as time goes by.

Because of the many responsibilities involved in executing an event of this magnitude, typically attended by up to 150 librarians, the organization is grateful for the dedication of its Committee

members. There will be an abundance of work to be accomplished. If you are interested in becoming a member of the Symposium Planning Committee, please contact Marilyn Rosenthal at 516-572-7845 or at rosentm@sunynassau.edu. The Committee meets once a month in New York City at the Fashion Institute of Technology Library in the Conference Room of the Director's Office, fifth floor, from 2 to 4 p.m.; the next meeting will be on Thursday, May 18, 2000.

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Marilyn Rosenthal  
Vice President/President-Elect

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easy to insure and replace while books depreciate quickly and go out of print even faster. Karetzky says that many local libraries have provided critical assistance in the aftermath. Seton Hall University opened its

doors to all Felician scholars and allowed Felician's history students to borrow books from its collections; Fairleigh Dickinson University donated 500 history books; Drew University offered a large number of books and periodicals; and the Rutherford

Public Library made its collections available to students living in nearby dormitories. The donations will help replace books while online databases and microforms will replace most of the lost journals.

### CMC to Meet on New York State Standards

On June 2, the Education/Curriculum Materials Center Librarians' Interest Group will meet at Hofstra University to discuss the New York State Learning Standards and how they impact on curriculum collections. A faculty member from Hofstra's School of Education and Allied Human Services will speak. For more information, contact Harriet Hagenbruch, Chair, at 516/463-5956 or LIBCMHAH@Mail1.Hofstra.edu.