



Sticks & Stones Thrown in Westchester/Lower Hudson Valley

On June 19, 2000, Paula E. Peinovich, Vice President for Academic Affairs of Regents College (Albany), spoke to the ACRL/NY membership on the invitation of the Westchester/Lower Hudson Valley Geographic Section. A seasoned educator and expert in providing higher education at a distance, Peinovich addressed recent developments in distance education and how those changes affect the accreditation process, academic integrity and the role of the library.

Peinovich's presentation, *Sticks & Stones: The REAL*

Impact of Distance Education on Accreditation, Academic Integrity, and the Library, began with a brief history of "distance learning" in order to expand the meaning of a term so often batted around in the context of a profession now dominated by technology. She reminded us that distance education is not about the method of delivery so much as it is about the substance being delivered. She encouraged us to "recognize learning wherever it occurs."

Stressing the importance of the role of higher education in

"distance" learning as opposed to a strictly commercial model, Peinovich asserted that higher education can offer academic credentials, but she warns us not to rest on those. In order to effectively provide education at a distance, we need to look at outcomes as much as, if not more than, inputs. We need to depend on a combination of credentials and other inputs, such as size of the collection, research funding, as well as those matters of most interest to accreditation teams,

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Symposium Newsflash: Location Changed to Donnell Library Center

Due to the sudden unavailability of our traditional symposium venue, the location of November 17th's symposium, *Information Literacy and the Academic Library: Choices and Challenges*, has been changed to The New York Public Library, Donnell Library Center, 20 West 53rd Street.

Because food services are not available, lunch will be on your own. Attendees will want to

explore the neighborhood from a list of restaurants that the Committee will supply. Morning coffee will be served, however. The registration price will be reduced to accommodate the change.

This year, we are fortunate to have two keynote speakers: Betsy Wilson, ACRL National President and Associate Director of Libraries

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President's Message by Tian Zhang

Membership

At the ACRL Chapter Council meeting on July 9, 2000 in Chicago, the presidents and representatives of ACRL chapters expressed their concerns about membership recruitment. Losing members seems to be no longer just a particular chapter's problem, since the rapidly developing technology creates broader ways for individuals to form all kinds of groups.

Our chapter faces the same problem – this year we have only about 130 members. Please renew your membership and talk to your colleagues about joining our organization. A great way to introduce them to us is to invite them to our annual Symposium.

In addition to retaining members, annual membership fees were discussed at June's Executive Board meeting. The Board proposed that dues be raised by \$5.00 per year. This will help cover new expenses, such as legal and accounting fees caused by incorporation and increases in ongoing costs, such as printing this newsletter. It has been many years since dues were raised.

A change in dues requires a vote of the membership. You will receive a ballot in the mail this fall that will ask for your input on this issue.

Symposium 2000

We will have wonderful speakers at this year's annual symposium, bringing us their creative ideas on the topic, *Information Literacy and the Academic Library: Choices and Challenges*,

Please read the detailed report from the Symposium Chair, Marilyn Rosenthal, in this issue.

The Symposium Committee and the Executive Board are trying to get company sponsors for souvenirs for our 20th Anniversary celebration. Our former President, Lois Cherepon, (who was recently appointed as our archivist), is collecting pictures and materials. She is going to assemble poster boards to let us have a historical review of the chapter by highlighting various past symposia and other events the chapter has held. Anybody who has any historical materials and is willing to let them be presented at the meeting, please contact Lois Cherepon at 718-390-4521 or by e-mail at cherepol@stjohns.edu.

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

Incorporation Update

After further discussions with our lawyer, Mr. Frank DeCaro, to clarify our questions concerning the incorporation of our chapter, the President, the Vice President and the Treasurer signed the Certificate of Incorporation in July. Our chapter is expected to finish the process of incorporation very soon.

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Have a Special Interest? Join or Form a Discussion Group

One of the many advantages of membership in ACRL/NY is the opportunity to participate in discussion groups. These special interest groups allow members to share ideas, organize and attend programs, and network with fellow librarians from the three geographic areas, New York City, Westchester/Lower Hudson Valley, and Long Island.

Joining a discussion group is a simple task. On the new membership form, which will be mailed out with the Annual Symposium brochure, choose from Access Services, Collection Development, Cultural Diversity, Education/Curriculum Materials Center Librarians, Electronic Resources, Information Literacy/Instruction, and Symposium Planning.

If your professional interest is not represented

among the current groups, consider forming a new one. And, while some of the discussion groups have active memberships, others are in need of leadership. If you would like to lead a group, please indicate your desire to do so in the space provided on the membership form.

Continuing changes in library services and information delivery affect us greatly. Come together with colleagues by joining a discussion group and explore the many ways we are meeting the challenges of the new information age.

Marsha Spiegelman
Membership Secretary

First Access Services Meeting Draws Crowd

Let a marvelous new tradition continue! The first ACRL/NY Access Services Discussion Group was held on June 15th at NYU's Bobst Library.

There was great attendance, a wonderful spread of nosh and libations, and a genuinely stimulating meeting of minds and ideas. Colleagues talked about services provided by their units and significant undertakings for new or changing services intended for the fall. Discussions including proxy server access to resources, buildings and coffee bars and other drinking vessel matters, policies for Internet use, privacy screens for computer terminals which disallow angular viewing, ILL Direct through OCLC, in-house staff development as an extension of bibliographic instruction, and the all intriguing topic of electronic reserve.

The Fall meeting will focus on the topic of electronic reserve.

An electronic discussion list has been established and Access Services colleagues are encouraged subscribe. The idea is to keep it local

so that we can make use of neighbor resources and so that our geographic commonalities might inform our discussion(s). Many of us are on national lists which may be great but sometimes fall short of meeting our local needs. To become a list participant, simply send an e-mail message to majordomo@qc.edu with a single line of text, saying: subscribe access

When you send this subscription request, before actually becoming subscribed to the list, Majordomo sends back a confirmation request with an "authorization code". You must return the authorization code received before the subscription is completed, and Majordomo prompts you on how to do this straightforward reply. This is a security feature designed to prevent unauthorized/unsolicited subscriptions by a third party. After that, it's cake.

I hope you will subscribe. If I can be of help to you, please feel free to contact me: Amy Beth, Queens College Library, Coordinator of Access Services, 718-997-3761, abeth@qc1.qc.edu.

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at the University of Washington and Michael Eisenberg, Director and Professor of the School of Library and Information Science also at the University of Washington.

The afternoon will feature an award-winning panel. Patricia Carroll-Mathes, Professor Emeritus and past Coordinator of Information Literacy at Ulster Community College, was a past winner of the ACRL Innovation in Instruction Award for the Collaborative Information Literacy Program. Kimberly Donnelly is Assistant Professor and Reference Librarian at York College. Clara Fowler, Electronic Instruction Librarian at the University of Texas at Austin, is one of this year's

winner of the Innovation in Instruction Award for the Texas Information Literacy Tutorial (TILT). Finally, Carol Kuhlthau, Professor and Chair of the Library and Information Service Department at Rutgers University School of Communication and Library Studies, is the 2000 recipient of the Miriam Dudley Instruction Librarian Award.

We look forward to an exciting day. A more detailed report of the Symposium will appear in the next newsletter.

Marilyn Rosenthal, Chair
Symposium Planning Committee

State Learning Standards Discussed

The Education/Curriculum Materials Center Interest Group met on June 2 at Hofstra University. The theme of the meeting was the New York State Learning Standards and how these standards impact on Curriculum Materials Center Collections.

In conjunction with this topic, Harriet Hagenbruch, Committee Chair, arranged as guest speaker Irene Rivera Hurst, a professor in Hofstra's School of Education and Allied Human Services. Professor Hurst has had extensive experience as both a classroom teacher and administrator in the public schools and is extremely knowledgeable about this topic.

Professor Hurst indicated that CMC Librarians have a vital role to play in assisting students as they try to implement the Learning Standards by providing access to the various standards on the state, as well as the national, level. Moreover, the New York Learning Standards stress the importance of primary source materials such as photographs, historical maps, diaries, and

speeches. Therefore, while most CMCs include such items as part of their collections, these materials will be even more essential in the future. In addition, this emphasis on primary source materials may increase the need to seek out web sites that provide access to documents as well as to related lesson plans. Also, Professor Hurst pointed out the importance of children's literature in supporting the Learning Standards and, that as a result, it is important to provide education students with access to quality children's trade books. Beyond speaking to the group, Professor Hurst passed out some excellent handouts that were related to her presentation.

Afterward, a lively discussion took place related to the impact of the Standards. Everyone agreed that this was a worthwhile and informative session.

Harriet Hagenbruch, Chair
Education/Curriculum Materials Center SIG

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such as learning outcomes or competencies, curriculum design and efficacy. Peinovich suggests that we follow the outcomes model and posed crucial questions such as:

1. What are the learning outcomes being achieved?
2. Is the curriculum designed to achieve those outcomes?
3. Are the learning resources adequate to achieve the outcomes?
4. Do the learners achieve the outcomes?

With an outcomes based model, the tension between the “feel good” effect and the adding of real value, between being market-oriented and learner-centered, is finally balanced. Ultimately, that brings us closer to our role in creating critical thinkers because only then is the student responsible for the learning and learning is “achieved in many environments—both formal and informal” in which faculty facilitate rather than transmit learning.

According to Peinovich, assessment assures quality and protects the public interest by focusing institutions of higher education on “continuous improvement.” It is not, as some fear, a measure that “stifle[s] innovation, [enforces] homogeneity, protect[s] faculty or retard[s]

progress.” That guarantee of continuous improvement, and of accreditation, inevitably forces us to change the way we view our libraries and that is why we suddenly have a constant buzz concerning the efficacy of distance education. Peinovich asserts that the role of the library is dynamic while its place in education is stable. Our outcomes will focus on our role as a learner support service and our new questions will be:

1. Is the library being used?
2. Do users have access to the materials they need?
3. Do users know how to get to those materials?
4. Can users get those materials easily?
5. Do users know how to evaluate those materials appropriately?
6. Are users using those materials legally?

In the end, the library is a new entity of sorts—explicitly seeking to fulfill a traditional role in student services in addition to supporting the general curriculum—to help students become independent users and thinkers, to be information literate.

Peinovich’s speech ended with lively debate and was clearly a success. The program broke local attendance records and has sparked a great deal of resource sharing amongst attendees on the distribution list.

Peinovich’s presentation was videotaped and anyone interested in borrowing the video can contact Rebecca Albrecht at ralbrecht@pace.edu or 914-773-3505. Copies of Peinovich’s PowerPoint presentation are also available.

[Rebecca Albrecht](#)
[Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect](#)
[Westchester/Lower Hudson](#)
[Valley Geographic Section](#)

Did you Renew?

Membership runs with the calendar year. Your membership will expire on December 31. A renewal form will be mailed with symposium registration materials. Membership in ACRL/NY is one of the best bargains in professional associations. Depending on your other affiliations, it is only \$5 or \$10 a year. So, when that form appears, be sure to renew. You'll be glad you did.

ACRL/NY Connections

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Newsletter Editor Needed

Your chapter wants you! That is, if you like to write, edit and publish on your desktop. Mary Habstritt has announced her resignation effective with the completion of the fall issue of *ACRL/NY Connections*. The winter issue will summarize activities at our annual symposium celebrating 20 years of ACRL/NY. It's a great opportunity to put your skills to work! For more information, contact Mary Habstritt at 212-769-4946 or by e-mail at mhabstritt@aol.com.