Greetings from the Chief Librarian

The fall semester started off with a big bang for the Library and it already feels like a different world. Have you stopped by lately? If not, please visit our website, http://www.library.csi.cuny.edu, or stop by in person. You will observe and maybe feel the many changes and you will perhaps agree that, indeed, it does feel like a different world. We are now open everyday of the week from 8am – 12midnight. Due to continued requests from students, we have expanded library hours in support of student success by 15.5 hours.

As of the first day of classes the Library has been full of students (with just about every seat taken) during the daytime hours through 7pm.

Since the beginning of October, we have seen a steady increase in number of students during the later hours between 10pm and 12midnight. Textbooks, calculators, and laptop loans continue to be in high demand and during the mid-afternoon hours, hardly any are available. Circulation usage statistics for August, September, and October 2010 already show that the numbers have exceeded previous years. The same goes for the group study room reservations, which are now only vacant for a limited time during weekends. The staff members at the various service-counters have shoved away their comfy chairs at the counters to make room for their trips from and to the counter with items requested. Some days, I am told, roller-skates would have been much appreciated. Nevertheless, I am proud to say that these staff members have handled the shift in operations quite well, many have insisted on ad-hoc meetings to review and revise policies that were being challenged or needed to be updated. The buzz of voices among students and staff is gratifying and the feel, in my opinion, is electrifying!

I have just completed the Library’s 2009/2010 Annual Report and it includes many amazing accomplishments. In accordance, we increased access to research resources with the addition of 43 PCs and 30 laptops; we offered a forum for the achievements of the faculty, staff, and students through various programs held in the Library; we reached 51.8% of students enrolled through Information Literacy classes; and we increased the number of seats in the library by 15% to accommodate the increasing enrollment. All of these endeavors, and others not mentioned here, are in tandem with the College’s new mission and vision toward a premier institution.

Chat Reference, Facebook Fan Page, and the Information Bulletin Board are our newest tools for promoting our services and resources and they appear to be getting a lot of attention from various constituents.
Thirteen (13) new databases were acquired during last academic year and we have plans to ensure that they are heavily promoted through the many avenues at our fingertips, starting here with the following selections: 

- **CQ Press Political** (a database that includes full-text to reference books on American politics); 
- **Duke University Press journals** (a collection of 30+ journals); 
- **Early American Imprints** (digital collection of books and pamphlets, 1639–1800); 
- **eHRAF World Culture** (the electronic version of Human Relations Area Files, a goldmine for anthropologists, sociologists, and historians); and 
- **LWW Nursing Book Collection** (contains 300+ nursing ebooks by published Lippincott Williams & Wilkins).

This academic year I have embarked on a mission to visit every academic department to bring news of current and new resources and services specific to their disciplines. My primary goal is to close the gap revealed in the library survey where it appeared that faculty were unaware of many of the resources to which the Library subscribes. No doubt, we need to do a better job of informing the college community about the resources and services we provide. To date, I am pleased to report that I have visited 8 departments and have come away enlightened, but even more determined to continue to promote our resources and services, *ad nauseam*.

Meanwhile, as you prepare for the beginning of another semester, we have lined up some one-on-one faculty workshops in January 2011 that may be helpful. Some workshops include RefWorks, TurnItIn, Research Alerts, and Locating Statistical Data. You will receive further detailed information about the workshops soon.

All the best for a productive and successful semester.

Wilma L. Jones, Ph.D.
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**Meet Rachel Jirka, Assistant to the Archivist**

Rachel Jirka is the newest faculty member at the CSI Library. She is the Assistant to the Archivist, and she can be found in the CSI Archives & Special Collections. She is working with Professor James Kaser, Coordinator of the Archives & Special Collections, on restructuring the Archives’ web site. The CSI Archives & Special Collections is located on the second floor of the Library. It holds the college archives and special collections of personal papers of notable Staten Island residents and politicians.

Rachel works on many aspects of the Archives’ primary activities; she will be processing archival collections, integrating new material into the college archives, providing archival reference to students, faculty, and staff, and she will assist in the supervision of interns and work-study students. She recently put together an exhibit for November, featuring postcards from the Norman L. Jeffers Historical Postcard Collection.

Rachel is originally from Boston, Massachusetts. She received her Bachelor’s degree in French and Music from the University of Virginia and her Master’s in Library Science from Simmons College in Boston, where she specialized in Archives Management. Rachel also has a Master’s degree in French from Middlebury College. As part of her graduate work, Rachel wrote on the history of archives in Soviet Russia and the rise and fall of Communism in 20th century France, two topics of great interest to her. Rachel has worked in many museums and has always had a great love for history, so the archives profession was a natural fit for her.
Before arriving at CSI, Rachel worked in Reference, Interlibrary Loan, and the Archives at the Boston Athenaeum and at the Peabody Essex Museum. As an intern at the Boston Athenaeum, Rachel processed institutional records, including 3,000 letters from the 19th century, making them available to researchers. As the part-time Archivist Assistant at the Peabody Essex Museum, Rachel was responsible for processing collections of family papers and institutional records. Among the more interesting materials Rachel worked with was a large collection documenting the history of railroads in New England, and a collection of shipping records dating from the 17th century. She also worked on a cataloging project in preparation for a grant proposal, resulting in online catalog records for the museum’s manuscript collections. Rachel is excited to be a part of the Archives at CSI because of the chance to work on many different projects while at the same time providing reference assistance to the CSI community. When she’s not in the Archives, Rachel enjoys hiking, watching movies, and playing the violin.

Rachel can be reached at her office 1L-216, or by the following contact information below.

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The Library Joins Facebook and Twitter

Get Ready for a New & Improved RefWorks!

RefWorks is a web-based tool that helps you format and manage your citations when working on a research paper.

The company has announced the launch of a new version of their software that is still undergoing testing called, “RefWorks 2.0.” The new site hopes to streamline all of its research support products and services. To learn more about these changes, including a preview of the new site, please see: http://www.refworks-cos.com/

You can access RefWorks directly from the Library’s homepage under the Research Toolbox and view a tutorial of how to use it our Research Guides, also on the homepage under Library Resources.

For any additional questions, please feel free to contact me.

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In addition to Facebook, the CSI Library now has a Twitter page. Twitter is a free micro-blogging service where you can search for friends and family (and even celebrities) and receive the latest news on them. Twitter posts, known as "Tweets" can be updated several times per day. When you join Twitter, you can update your own status or search for people and then "follow" them. If you would like to follow the CSI Library on Twitter, please register for a free account at http://www.twitter.com and then search for theCSI Library. The CSI Library’s Twitter page can be found at http://www.twitter.com/csilibrary

For more information please contact:

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Library Faculty Publications

Scholarly activities of library faculty

The success of an academic department is reflected by the success of its faculty and staff. Over the last year, several library faculty have published articles in academic journals and presented at various conferences. Below are some highlights of their accomplishments.


**Ewa Dzurak** co-authored with Agnieszka Kasprzyk, “Metamorphosis of academic libraries in post-communist Poland: focusing on access” published in the *Journal of Academic Librarianship* (July 2010). She also served as a member of the ALA IRRT Visitor Center Committee at the ALA midwinter and annual conferences.

**James Kaser** presented a paper, ”The History of the Ohio Swiss Festival,” at the Midwest American Culture Association Conference, held in Minneapolis (Minnesota) on October 1-3, 2010.

**Mark Aaron Polger** wrote the article, “Information Takeout and Delivery: A Case Study Exploring Different Library Service Delivery Models” published in *Journal of Hospital Librarianship* (January 2010). He also co-authored, with Karen Okamoto (John Jay College/CUNY), “Can’t Anyone Be a Teacher Anyway?: Student Perceptions of Academic Librarians as Teachers” published in *Library Philosophy and Practice* (March 2010).


**Amy F. Stempler** presented two papers, “The role of university presses in the publishing of Jewish Studies scholarship,” held at the Midwest Jewish Studies Association Conference, in Cleveland, Ohio on October 10, 2010. As well, she presented, “Unfolding History: An Overview of the Environmental Collections at the College of Staten Island Archives.” held at the New York Archives Conference, at Marist College, Poughkeepsie (NY) on June 4, 2010.

**Judy Xiao** wrote an article, “Integrating Information Literacy into Blackboard: Librarian-Faculty Collaboration for Successful Student Learning”, which was published in *Library Management*, volume 31, issue 8/9 (2010).


**Judy presented two papers**, one entitled “Teaching Cultural Competence in Nursing Care to Ensure Quality Health Care for All” at the REFORMA 2010 Joint Mini Conference: Cultural Competencies and Equity of Access: What Today’s Librarian Will Look Like Tomorrow, held on May 14th, 2010 at the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture in New York. In addition, she presented, “Integrating Information Literacy into Blackboard: Librarian-Faculty Collaboration for Successful Student Learning.” at the ALSR2010: Academic Librarian 2: Singing in the Rain, held at Hong Kong Polytechnic University, March 11-12, 2010.

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Katrina: Five Years Later, a Greener Library Event

On October 14th, the Greener Library Committee hosted an event in the Archives & Special Collections entitled “Katrina: Five Years Later.” The program examined the city of New Orleans as it recovers from Hurricane Katrina and the opportunities to contribute to the recovery effort. Three speakers were featured: Jay Arena, Assistant Professor of Sociology; Jonathan Cope, Reference/Instruction Librarian, and Katrina Hannan, a student at the College. Professor Arena detailed the sociological context of post-Katrina New Orleans, speaking to the emphasis local government has placed on using the recovery effort to rethink the nature of the city while marginalizing certain communities.

Jonathan Cope and Katrina Hannan shared their experiences volunteering; Cope participated in the volunteer effort coordinated by the American Library Association during their annual meeting in June 2006 and Hannan volunteered with a Hillel Alternative Spring Break trip in 2009. As Professor Arena is a native of New Orleans, his distinction between local and outside perspectives was compelling.

The mission of the Greener Library Committee is to act as an information provider about environmental issues, to raise awareness of environmental issues among library users and staff, and to advocate for implementation of sound environmental policy beyond the library. The program was the Greener Library Committee’s first event; in the spring, the committee will host an event addressing sustainable food practices in the New York City area.

For more information on the Greener Library Committee, please contact:

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Turnitin: A Useful Tool for Preventing Plagiarism

Turnitin is a web-based plagiarism prevention tool that is designed to help students become aware of how to properly cite sources used in their research papers. It works by comparing student paper to a massive database of content from newspapers, magazines, journals and books as well as a database of current and archived pages of web content, and previously-submitted student papers.

Every paper submitted to this service is returned with an Originality Report, which shows side-by-side comparison with color-coded matches. This not only provides instructors with the opportunity to teach students proper citation methods, but also allows students to check their own work for improperly used content, or potential plagiarism.

Since CSI’s adoption of Turnitin in 2004, librarians have been helping instructors set up Turnitin accounts to be used in their classes. Librarians insist on encouraging students to first submit their papers to Turnitin prior to submitting their final drafts to their professors. There have also been very successful collaborations between classroom faculty and librarians in integrating plagiarism prevention instruction into CSI courses, including nursing, M.A. in Liberal Studies, English, and Education. In a library survey completed by 86 Nursing 110 students who attended library instruction and submitted their research paper to Turnitin, 77% per cent of the students agreed that they paid more attention to citing sources and avoiding plagiarism, knowing that they had to submit their paper to Turnitin. “I like how Turnitin was used in my class to help us identify potential plagiarism and learn how to work with sources”, wrote a student from the LBS 760 course, referring to how course-specific library resources and Turnitin were used via Blackboard.

(continued on next page, left column)
The following are some helpful Turnitin resources for instructors and students:

- Turnitin and plagiarism prevention resource page on CSI library website: http://www.library.csi.cuny.edu/turnitin

- Turnitin support page with quickstart guides, video tutorials, and user manuals: http://www.turnitin.com/static/support.html

To create an instructor Turnitin account, please contact:

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718-982-4140.

Introducing the K-12 Texts Collection

The CSI Library is happy to announce the inauguration of a new K-12 texts collection, in support of the Department of Education’s teacher education programs.

The collection is located in the west wing of the second floor of the library, near Room 1L-219.

Beginning last semester, the collection, rich in high quality curriculum materials, includes books, kits, DVDs, and other media products pertinent to the instructional experiences of both faculty and students involved in programs preparing educators for elementary, middle, and secondary schools.

The collection is not simply a replica of a more or less typical school library. Rather, it constitutes an important teaching tool for relevant Education Department courses, inasmuch as it includes cutting edge titles that explore innovative ideas in children’s and adolescent literature. For many years, CSI had relied on other institutions and the public libraries for furnishing these resources. Now easy immediate access on campus is available to works of early childhood, children’s, and adolescent content across the curriculum.

Seen as an evolving collection still in developmental stages, K-12 Texts contains classic and contemporary award-winning children’s and young adult titles, postmodern picture books, graphic novels, level-guided reading materials, discipline-specific and interdisciplinary non-fiction titles, as well as select textbooks used in the New York City school system. As a special collection within the library, the texts are age-appropriate materials used for teaching, while materials about teaching and education are integrated into the appropriate shelves within the library’s regular collection housed on the third floor.

Items in the collection may be borrowed for a fourteen day period with a renewal possible.

Plans are underway to renovate the area in which the collection is located. Faculty and students will then be provided with comfortable seating and a glass-enclosed technology-enhanced group study room allowing for collaborative activities.

The K-12 Texts special collection owes its creation to a close collaboration among members of the Library and of two academic departments, among them Chief Librarian Dr. Wilma Jones and Professor Rebecca Adler Schiff of the Library; Professors Ken Gold (former Chair), Elisabeth Johnson, and Greg Seals of the Education Department; and Professor Mary Moran of the Department of English, Speech, and World Literature.

For more information contact:

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More Electronic Book Collections Acquired This Year

As you may have read in our last newsletter, the CSI Library recently subscribed to an e-book collection entitled "ebrary". Below is a brief description of three new e-book collections recently acquired by the CSI Library.

**Early American Imprints, Series I: Evans 1639-1800**

From hard-to-access Readex files (like microform, but on paper), we now have access to the online version of this resource. This is a purchase, and as funds become available, we may be able to acquire the next series for 19th century materials.

"Digital collection of books, pamphlets and broadsides published in the United States between 1639-1800. Early American Imprints is the definitive resource for primary source research in early American history. Topics covered include agriculture, commerce, education, labor, medicine, military & foreign affairs, politics, religion, slavery, and much more."

**Advances in Polymer Science**

“This series presents critical reviews of the present and future trends in polymer and biopolymer science including chemistry, physical chemistry, physics and materials science. It is addressed to all scientists at universities and in industry who wish to keep abreast of advances in the topics covered. Impact Factor Ranking: Always number one in Polymer Science.” Available from Springer publications, CSI Library holds over 200 volumes in print from 1969 through 2010, with the latest title, “Enzymatic Polymerisation” in 2010 (Call number QD281.P6F6 v.237).

**Gale For Students Online**

Full text literary reference collection offering coverage of major works of literature, poetry, and drama including plot summaries, character analysis, major themes and motifs, and literary criticism. Titles include Novels for Students, Poetry for Students, Short Stories for Students, Drama for Students, Shakespeare for Students, and Nonfiction Classics for Students. A search for "Hamlet" brings up entries in several different volumes for example. Major themes can also be explored.

For more information on upcoming electronic book collection purchases, please contact:

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About Library Newswire

Library Newswire is the College of Staten Island Library’s online newsletter, available both in HTML and PDF formats.

Library Newswire informs students, faculty, and staff of library services, resources, and other college-wide activities that may be of interest to the College community. Library Newswire is produced by the CSI Library.

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