During this past agreeable and moderate summer, the first and second floors of the Library received a face lift with new wall-to-wall carpet. "Prairie Grass," the name of the carpet, won by a landslide choice by library faculty staff and work-study students. "Prairie Grass" has dramatically changed and brightened up the library environment in particular the reading room. I am pleased to report that everyone who has seen it has expressed a delight at the new landscape. So please drop in and be dazzled by the carpet.

This issue includes some new and exciting features to enhance your research as well as information about past and upcoming programs. Among the articles includes the introduction to CUNY’s OneSearch, the Google-like gateway to searching CUNY libraries’ materials in one fell swoop. Indeed, for the amateur searcher, this is the ideal where books, DVDs, and articles all turn up in the results of a search. For the intermediate and expert searcher, forget this and please go directly to your specific database, e.g. PsycINFO, ACS, Science Direct, or Lexis-Nexis. Kudos to our Prof. Mark Aaron Polger, whose title for this new search engine was selected out of the hat of five finalists.

The CUNY Financial Initiative bestowed upon us yet again with additional funding for textbooks to support the undergraduate curriculum. I am happy to say that most titles (updated editions and/or new) were acquired and all in by the first week of classes. We have already observed a marked increase in the use of textbooks on reserve this semester. Upon analyzing book costs, the Circulation/Reserves unit reported that the average cost of the top 25 titles used was $199, according to the 2013/14 annual report.
As always, I invite you to stop by one or two of our programs this semester. We have a wealth of interesting programs scheduled, including a round table discussion on the impact of the Verrazano Bridge as it celebrates its 50th anniversary. We also have some should-not-be-missed workshops scheduled for both students and faculty lined up for this semester and next semester. At the most recent program, "Publishing Your First Book," we had a packed room full of students and faculty at which Professors Jessica Burke, Jean Halley, Michael Paris, and Mark White shared many lesson learned and useful insights into the world of publishing. You can read what I took away from the event in the article "Highlights from "Publishing Your First Book."

I hasten to mention that as I write, the Ebola virus outbreak is first and foremost on most everyone's mind. In my lifetime, this is the first ever disease to spread globally and I truly hope that with the collaborative efforts of governments and medical institutions, something can be done to reduce the spread and hopefully eradicate the disease. In the tradition of our providing information to sources, here is a list of some reputable organizations who are providing assistance to healthcare workers and victims, here and abroad, as they go through this new and difficult experience:

Africare – http://www.africare.org
AmeriCares – http://www.americare.org
Childfund – http://www.childfund.org
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention - http://www.cdc.gov/
Doctors Without Borders – http://www.doctorswithoutborders.org
Episcopal Relief – http://www.episcopalrelief.org
Global Giving – http://www.globalgiving.org
International Medical Corps – http://www.internationalmedicalcorps.org
International Rescue Committee – http://www.rescue.org
Lutheran World Relief – http://www.lwr.org
Oxfam America – http://www.oxfamamerica.org

I will end by sharing a photo with you of an unexpected surprise visitor to the Library’s Archives and Special Collections. We were honored with the visit from the charismatic journalist Geraldo Rivera, who was the keynote speaker at the graduation ceremony of the newly formed Department of Social Work in May 2014. Mr. Rivera was extremely pleased to see and learn of the breadth and depth of our collection with regards to the Willowbrook State School. He was also pleasantly delighted to see the current exhibit in the gallery that featured the history of the Willowbrook state School. This exhibit had been installed on the heels of the annual Willowbrook Symposium of which the Library co-sponsored. While this was not a planned visit, it was a gratifying feeling to see Mr Rivera and his entourage admire and acknowledge the educational role the Library has played and continues to do so in preserving the history of Willowbrook. Standing next to Mr. Rivera is myself and Dr. Michael Kress, Vice President for Information Technology and Economic Development, and the Executive Director of the CUNY High Performance Computing Center.

Here’s wishing you a productive and successful fall semester.

Cheers!

Wilma P.L. Jones, Ph.D.
Associate Dean & Chief Librarian
Meet Anne Hays, Evening & Weekend Instruction Librarian

Anne Hays is our newest full time librarian, and so it makes perfect sense that you may want to know a little more about her. Anne was born in Miami, Florida, but “grew up” in many cities: Fairfields, Connecticut; Palm Beach, Florida; Milwaukee, Wisconsin; Swarthmore, Pennsylvania; Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania; Northampton, Massachusetts; London, UK; Boston, Massachusetts; and Seattle, Washington. However, she has now lived in Brooklyn, New York, for 11 years and has no plans to leave.

Anne also has many academic interests and hobbies. After studying English Literature and Studio Art at Smith College, Anne decided to go off the beaten path by accepting a job as a portrait photographer in Seattle.

When tickling babies with a feather duster and corralling families into group poses proved taxing, she decided to shift gears by moving to NYC to get a Master’s degree in Creative Writing at Sarah Lawrence. While there, she got a job as Assistant Literary Agent at the Melanie Jackson Agency, where she worked with prominent writers whose names she can’t reveal. Around that time she founded a literary journal, Storyscape Journal, whose mission statement is to collect stories in all forms and formats, but also to interrogate the concept of literary genres. The journal categorizes stories by Truth, Untruth, or We Don’t Know and They Won’t Tell Us. Anne has long been fascinated by the human desire to categorize everything we come into contact with, and how does it change our reading of any new item we encounter when the categories overlap, or change, or simply don’t work? When David Shields published Reality Hunger: a Manifesto (2011), Anne felt like the writer had transcribed the contents of her brain in print.

And so while publishing was a fun career, librarianship is clearly the perfect job for someone obsessed with categories and organization models. She received her MLIS degree at Queens College (CUNY) and started working in libraries: Queens College Library, Cooper Union Library, and Teachers College Library. While completing her Masters in Library Science, Anne deepened her other obsession, which is print culture and book history. She’s fascinated by print models and formats: digital or print publishing; blogs, and their influence over news media and journalism; the rise of print on demand and self-publishing; open access publishing models; and intentionally Lo-Fi handmade print publications like art books, chapbooks, and zines. It is this aspect of librarianship Anne finds most fascinating: why do students read E-Books and how do they interact with them? What would truly multi-media digital books look like, and how could they be used for education?

What role could counter-cultural print publications have in the academic sphere? Anne has been a panelist and moderator on the topic of print media and zine culture at a few conferences: the 2013 CUNY Chapbook Festival, the 2014 Brooklyn Zine Fest, the 2014 Teachers College Education Program series, and was a featured speaker in the Quinnipiac University’s Creative Writing Series.

While Anne enjoys public speaking at events, she also enjoys teaching classes, and has taught information literacy workshops at Queens College, Teachers College, and now here at College of Staten Island. She also formerly taught critical reading and writing classes at Parsons School of Design. Because she enjoys working directly with students on their research interests and academic pursuits, she is thrilled to be joining the faculty here at the CSI Library as an Evening and Weekend Instruction Librarian. If you are a student or professor here who wishes they knew more about finding the best resources, don’t worry, there’s a Science to it.

-Contact Anne at Anne.Hays@csi.cuny.edu
Introducing CUNY OneSearch: A Single Gateway to Academic Resources

CUNY libraries have purchased a new library tool that will change how you perform searches across library collections at the College of Staten Island and other CUNY libraries. We have named it OneSearch and as the name suggests, it searches across the entire CUNY catalog, most databases, e-books, e-journals, and other digital collections. OneSearch provides a “one stop” search that saves you time and provides relevant results from different print and online resources.

So, what can you expect from this new search tool? First, CUNY loaded over 6 million catalog records this past summer so library patrons can find the most information, powered by a centralized and comprehensive index.

In OneSearch, you will be searching a wide range of information resources at the same time, exposing the full scope of our library and other CUNY collections hence discovering library resources that you might not be aware of. There are also other features, such as requesting an item via Interlibrary Loan or checking your library account right from the interface.

Through the OneSearch account, you can also save queries to the e-shelf to be rerun later. When performing a search, a relevancy-ranked results list is produced that will show current catalog status, location, and call number right in the search results. When available, it will also indicate availability in multiple formats and link directly to full-text in a preview window that shows within the results list.

The library added the feature ScholarRank, which will prompt scholar to log their background information into their account to retrieve these more relevant research results. In particular, search results will start reflecting the scholar’s interest in specific materials and highlight items that are of greater value to a researcher through a ranked score.
OneSearch generates quick results that can be further limited such as resource type, subject, collections, creator, journal type, and by Library of Congress classification. When performing a search across all CUNY libraries, there is a library facet that will further break down the results by what is held by each CUNY library.
OneSearch generates quick results that can be further limited by resource type, subject, collections, creator, journal type, and by Library of Congress classification.

When performing a search across all CUNY libraries, there are limits that will further break down the results by what is held by each CUNY library.

The library where the item is located will be included in the results list. The benefits of this search tool are evident as a great starting point for any research.

We truly look forward to you discovering more of our library’s collections with CSI’s OneSearch!

-Kerry A. Falloon, Assistant Professor & Acquisitions Librarian
Kerry.Falloon@csi.cuny.edu
Archives and Special Collections Acquires Rare Map

One of only four cataloged copies of Henry Francis Walling’s 1859 wall map of Staten Island is now available to researchers in Special Collections. (Other copies of the map are in the collections of Cornell University, the Boston Public Library, and the Boston Atheneum).

Measuring approximately four and one half feet square, the map provides details, such as the names of property owners. In addition, insets enlarge the most populated areas of the island at the time: Long Neck, Mariner’s Harbor, New Sprinville, Port Richmond and Castleton, Richmondstown, and Tottenville. Elliottville receives bird’s-eye treatment.

One of the interesting aspect of the maps for researchers is what was chosen for special emphasis. Map maker Henry Francis Walling (1825-1899) was born in Providence, Rhode Island and was employed at the Providence Athenaeum, a private membership library, before discovering his skill for mathematics and surveying. He worked with Samuel Barrett Cushing on a revised atlas of Rhode Island, acquiring the skills that he began employing around 1850 in creating town plans for Bristol County, Rhode Island. Before long, he was making town plans for Massachusetts, establishing a business model of contracting with town officials to supply a set number of maps, after which he had the right to produce and sell copies. His business expanded rapidly and he relocated to Franklin Square, off Pearl Street in New York City in 1856 to take advantage of the city’s wealth of skilled lithographers.

Assuming the Richmond County officials with whom he contracted chose the towns to be highlighted, as well as the prominent residences that are featured insets, can be one starting point for investigations of the map. Some of the places—New Springville, Richmondstown, and Rossville—were among the oldest communities on Staten Island. However, Long Neck, now known as Travis (and Linoleumville in between) had only become important after 1816 when the Richmond Turnpike Company created an improved toll road (most of the route is today’s Victory Boulevard) as the most direct route across Staten Island. The turnpike company established a new ferry at Long Neck to get travelers to New Jersey and improve travel times to Philadelphia.

Elliottville was an even more recent development. The man identified with the area, Dr. Samuel MacKenzie Elliott, M.D., a Scotsman, had arrived on Staten Island as a twenty-four year old in 1836. By 1846 he had constructed a number of stone houses, developing a neighborhood around the intersection of Bard Avenue and Richmond Terrace. His reputation as an oculist had advanced to the point that patients with various eye conditions sought him for treatment from around the country and sometimes from abroad. He was known for successfully performing eye operations before the advent of anesthesiology by kneeling above his floor-prone subjects, holding their heads immobile between his knees. One of his patients was Mrs Francis George Shaw. She and her husband, a philanthropist and abolitionist, settled on Staten Island and other New Englanders who wrote and lectured about the evils slavery, like Sydney Howard Gay and George William Curtis, followed, and the neighborhood came to be called Elliottville in the decades prior to the Civil War. The prominence granted the settlement on the map may well reveal the political sympathies of the men who commissioned the work.

It is also interesting to note that Tottenville appears on the map. This southernmost neighborhood of Staten Island had originally been named Bentley Manor by early landowner Christopher Billopp, after one of his ships. However, in the nineteenth century the Totten family had become prominent in that part of the island. Even though the area was not officially renamed until 1869, the political appointees and/or elected officials paying for the map anticipated the honor they would later pay the family.
Honoring the politically powerful may also have determined the choice of the three houses featured in large renderings on the maps. Their owners—the lawyers George Bowman and Michael O’Connor and physician William G. Eadie—did not remain important enough for inclusion in today’s history books.

The other aspect of the map of some note is the business directory. First of all the arrangement is not alphabetical. Perhaps, some sense of the regard in which some are held is revealed by the fact that clergy, teachers, and postmasters head the list. Saloons come immediately after physicians and before groceries. Butchers and tailors end the list. Many of the businesses and professions are still important today, but in this time period, livery stables, tinsmiths, and candle manufacturers provided necessary products and services.

The map is available for further study in the Archives and Special Collections during normal reading room hours, Tuesday through Friday from 9:00am to 5:00pm.

-Dr. James A. Kaser, Professor & Archivist

**Highlights from “Publishing Your First Book”**

On October 21, 2014, the CSI Library hosted a panel of CSI faculty authors to present at the highly requested “Publishing Your First Book” program.

We were delighted to have a packed room of students and faculty in attendance to hear various perspectives of one’s first journey into the book publishing world.

On the panel were Lecturer Jessica Burke (English), Associate Professor Jean Halley (Sociology), Associate Professor Michael Paris (Political Science), and Professor Mark White (Philosophy).

They all gave useful insights and lessons learned along the way, and some of these included:

- How to repackage one’s dissertation into a marketable book for publication – condensing your proposal and thesis statement into the first two paragraphs of your book;
- Reading the book contract thoroughly—what you want to see in it and what you don’t want to see in a contract;
- Preparing oneself for a string of rejections – sulk for one day, pick yourself off the floor, dust yourself, and get back on the hunt for a new publisher;
- Creating a “poor man’s contract” to protect the ideas in your manuscript.
- Insights to independent publishers, vanity publishers, and how to sniff out the predatory publishers.
- Working closely with and developing a good relationship with your editor;
- Working with an agent who will market your work to bring in revenues.

The Q&A session was quite engaging and were it not for the schedule class after club hours and other commitments, the conversation would have gone on and on. It was rewarding to hear a student share with a friend that this was the best CLUE program!

-Wilma P. L. Jones, PhD.
Associate Dean and Chief Librarian
Selected New Books by CSI Faculty – now available at the CSI Library


For other book titles, please check out the CSI Faculty Book Collection from the CUNY library catalog. Compiled by Mark Aaron Polger, Assistant Professor & First Year Experience Librarian
Coming Soon to the CSI Library! Selected Book Titles by CSI Faculty


Compiled by Wilma P.L. Jones, Ph.D.
Associate Dean and Chief Librarian
Scholarly Activities at the CSI Library – 2013-2014

Publications:


Presentations:


Forrestal, V. (2014) "Beyond the Citation: Introducing students to scholarly research and writing through strategic collaboration" New Directions in Information Fluency, Rock Island, Illinois. April 5, 2014.


Compiled by: Mark Aaron Polger, Assistant Professor & First Year Experience Librarian
The Elements of Style by William Strunk
Reviewed by: Professor Anne Hays, Evening/Weekend Instruction Librarian

I can recall buying the Elements of Style twice: once in college (I kept it in my top desk drawer and consulted it frequently while writing English papers) and once again after moving to New York City. I was not in school when I bought it the second time—I felt increasingly concerned that I was misplacing commas in my sentences, and I wanted to finally have a handle on them. At that time I had a list of things I wanted to master: flipping an omelet perfectly, hemming a pair of pants non-crookedly, and gaining perfect command of my commas. And so I was delighted to discover that this slim and unassuming volume had been updated to include the marvelous work of illustrator Maira Kalman, enhanced with a bold red hardcover. If there’s anything I love more than a perfectly flipped omelet, it’s a craftily designed hardcover book. I was going to master the comma in style.

The Elements of Style is a famously trim set of rules guiding both correct grammar and writerly best practices.

The book advocates clear and precise sentences over long, languid, overwrought, or florid writing that seems to ramble on in an unconcerned fashion, unaware of whether its reader has long ago wandered off (have you?) As E.B. White states in his introduction to the 1979 text, “In its original form, it was a forty-three page summation of the case for cleanliness, accuracy, and brevity in the use of English. Today, fifty-two years later, its vigor is unimpaired, and for sheer pith I think it probably sets a record that is not likely to be broken.” The book has gained a cult-like following of practitioners, including Roger Angell, who wrote the introduction to the newest 2005 edition. “How often I have turned to [these rules], in the book or in my mind, while trying to start or unblock or revise some piece of my own writing! They help—they really do. They work. They are the way.”

While the rules themselves provide a clear and straightforward set of practices, Maira Kalman’s illustrations make them fun. Consider her illustration that accompanies the sentence, “His first thought on getting out of bed—if he had any thought at all—was to get back in again.”

One can immediately empathize with his plight, which brings to life this handy rule: “Use a dash to set off an abrupt break or interruption and to announce a long appositive or summary. A dash is a mark of separation stronger than a comma, less formal than a colon, and more relaxed than a parenthesis.” Suddenly I find it fun to break up my sentences—if I care to make a casual aside—into sections separated by dashes! As for my commas, I learned that I was using them correctly.

We have the Elements of Style behind the reference desk, as well as in the stacks on the 3rd Floor. Here is the call number: PE1408 S772 2009

-Anne Hays, Assistant Professor and Evening/Weekend Instruction Librarian

“Well, Susan, this is a fine mess you’re in.”
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About Library Newswire

Library Newswire is the College of Staten Island Library’s biannual online newsletter, available 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 and published by the CSI Library.

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Design & Layout

Library Newswire was created using Microsoft Word 2007 using many layers of transparent text boxes. Text was written in size 10 and 14 for headings. The font face is Century Gothic, a classy and modern sans-serif typeface.

URL

http://www.library.csi.cuny.edu/blogs/newsletter

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