

SENYLRC Matters

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Assessment for Strategic Planning

By John Shaloiko

By July 1, 2006, SENYLRC will have a new long range strategic plan to submit to NYS Library Development. Under the auspices of the Planning Committee of the Board (chaired by Jeff Katz, Bard College), the plan will take shape during the late fall through the spring of next year. As part of the process, SENYLRC will be employing several assessment strategies to obtain input from the library community. Included will be a web based survey scheduled for the early fall. In addition there will be a series of focus group sessions (led by Denise Harlow, Director of Nonprofit Services, Council of Community Services of NYS, Inc.) plus a telephone survey by Ms. Harlow to targeted librarians in the region. We invite library staff from all types of libraries in the region to complete the web survey when it is released.

Building Renovation - Update

By John Shaloiko

The lower level of the new SENYLRC office building is being renovated to accommodate a new training / conference room and smaller board/committee room plus two bathrooms. As of this writing, the folks from Seakill Builders have completed the extensive plumbing (including digging through the existing concrete floor), the studding out of the rooms, the installation of the furnace and air exchanger and the new electrical wiring. The pace of the renovation has picked up which may lead to an earlier completion – maybe (hopefully) by mid October!

The Hospital Library Services Program Advisory Committee

By John Shaloiko

The SENYLRC Board of Trustees recently authorized a restructuring of the appointment process and makeup of the Hospital Library Services Program Advisory Committee. Why? SENYLRC's bylaws state that committee members of SENYLRC, including HLSP, are subject to a 3 year term which can be renewed for a 2nd 3-year term. Normally, there are sufficient library staff in

the region who we can “tap” to replace committee members whose terms have expired. However, it has been increasingly difficult with the HLSP Committee because we do not have a sufficient “pool” of hospital staff from which to choose (there are several hospital libraries with minimal staffing for the library). The solution was to try for one year a restructure (if it proves to be workable after one year, the bylaws will be revised to accommodate a permanent change.)

A major component of the restructure is that rather than having an individual as a committee member, the organization - the hospital library - is eligible to have voting representation. Annually (June or July), each hospital library will indicate in writing if that institution prefers to have voting representation on the committee for the upcoming year. In any one year the committee should comprise a minimum of 6 people up to a maximum of the number of hospitals served by the Program (this year 17). Finally, the SENYLRC President of the Board would continue to appoint the chair of the committee for one year; with a possible re-appointment for a second year only.

Academic Directors' 2005 Conference

By John Shaloiko

Want to learn about the issues involved with the implementation of an **Information Commons** in an academic library environment? Several speakers from around the country will highlight the Academic Directors' 2005 Conference in Saratoga Springs on November 10 & 11. For more information and registration, go to:

<http://www.ny3rs.org/al2005.html>

Delivery Subsidy to End

By John Shaloiko

For the past several decades, SENYLRC has contracted with the two public library systems in the region to provide one to two day-per-week delivery service to about 20 Council members – mostly academic libraries – in the region. After considerable discussion by the Board of Trustees during the past couple of years, the Board voted to discontinue the contracts effective January 1, 2006. Given this was a very difficult decision, it was not made lightly. The two primary reasons were cost

and service efficiency. As with other library systems, SENYLRC has not received any increase in State aid for several years which has resulted in a considerable strain on the SENYLRC annual budget. In addition, the academic libraries were not using this delivery method to ship ILL items to each other – but rather to receive returned loaned items from public and some school libraries. The shipping time between the academic libraries was too long due to the infrequency of the delivery. SENYLRC could not afford to pay for increased delivery stops from its general operating budget (regional automation money is not allowed be used to subsidize delivery.) We learned that the participating libraries could not afford to pay for the delivery (in fact several are now contracting with NYLINK for its daily statewide delivery system.) So taking all of this into consideration, the Board voted to eliminate the second half of the annual 05/06 delivery contract. As the Board continues on its strategic planning path this fall, resource sharing and delivery will undoubtedly be further analyzed and discussed.

New Director at Mt. Saint Mary College

By John Shaloiko

Carol Wu assumed the position of Library Director, effective August 29 at Mount Saint Mary College. Carol was previously Head of Library Systems and Technologies at Brock University in Canada and, previous to that appointment, she served as the Information and Electronic Services Librarian at The New York University of Medicine Library. Carol replaces Marie Meyer who has been the library director for several years at the College.

Medical Librarians Going for the Gold at Lake Placid in September

By Patricia Carroll-Mathes

SENYLRC hospital librarians will be well represented at the upcoming three day meeting September 28 – 30, 2005 which is jointly sponsored by the New York-New Jersey & Upstate New York and Ontario Chapters of the Medical Library Association. This unusual joint conference highlights the value of information in healthcare with the keynote speaker, Michael Kienzle, M.D., coming from the University of Iowa to discuss the impact of access to information resources when and where needed and the changing types of information that practitioners are using.

The conference program planners include former UNYOC Chapter Chairs, Sue Ben-Dor (Orange Country Regional Medical Center) and Mary Jo Russell (Vassar Brothers Medical Center) who will actively participate along with Maryallison Farley (Catskill Regional Medical Center) who currently chairs the HLSP Committee. This fall meeting promises to be a winner as Lake Placid Resort rooms are already in short supply.

FirstSearch Base Package with Wilson Full Text

By Tessa Killian

Since 2001, SENYLRC has used a portion of Regional Bibliographic Database (RBDB) funds to subsidize a group subscription to FirstSearch. This package includes twelve databases, the two most popular being WorldCat, the online union catalog and H.W. Wilson Select Plus with Full Text, which contains over 1600 full text titles. Citations in other FirstSearch databases, such as Medline or ERIC link to the full text content in Wilson Select Plus. The cost for the FirstSearch Package is \$400 for public, school, hospital and special libraries; \$550 for academic libraries. The subscription year is July 1st, 2005 to June 30th, 2006 and you can still subscribe. Please contact Tessa (killian@senylrc.org) with questions or to sign-up your library. A complete list of electronic resources is available on the SENYLRC website at: <http://www.senylrc.org/services/electronicresources/index.htm>.

People and Libraries in the News

By Judy Fischetti

The Holocaust Museum and Study Center, Spring Valley is creating an exhibit “The Hiding” to give visitors a unique four minute, audio-only realistic experience of a holocaust event. Two thirds of the projects’ budget was secured by a grant from the Memorial Library and Art Collection of the Second World War, applied for after museum director Rabbi Michael Gisser attended a 2004 SENYLRC sponsored workshop on grant writing.

Duane Watson, curator of collections for the Wilderstein Preservation in Rhinebeck was featured in an August 9, 2005 Poughkeepsie Journal article “Curator helps preserve local history”.

Lower Hudson Conference of Historical Conference of Historical Agencies and Museums, Elmsford will hold its annual meeting on October 7, 2005, at the Samuel Morse Historic Site, Poughkeepsie.