

SENYLRC Matters

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Featured SENYLRC Staff Member: Jennifer Palmentiero



Jennifer Palmentiero is the Digital Services Specialist, responsible for documentation and training for the Hudson River Valley Heritage service. Jennifer trains staff from member institutions on what they need to know to participate in HRVH. Many HRVH participants know her as the patient, skilled person who helps them learn how

to scan objects or input metadata into CONTENTdm, but she started out in a very different role at SENYLRC.

She began in 1999 as a temporary staff member and then joined SENYLRC as an Office Assistant. Jennifer was then promoted to Program Assistant with responsibility for web design, publications and assisting with committee activities.

During the initial series of SENYLRC sponsored digitization workshops, she helped with registration, but soon found herself intrigued by the speakers and topics that they were discussing such as scanning, metadata and digital project management. Always interested in history, she became fascinated by the prospect of a centralized digitization project. After these workshops, Jennifer was eager to pursue an MLS.

Thanks to the sponsorship of Executive Director, John Shaloiko, Jennifer became the first student selected for the federally funded program, "Making It REAL! Recruitment, Education, and Learning: Creating a New Generation of Librarians to Serve All New Yorkers." Through this grant, Jennifer received paid time off from work to attend school, travel expenses and a computer. Jennifer started at Saint John's University, in Queens, NY, in 2004 and graduated with a Master of Library Science, concentrating in the organization of information, in May 2007. It was during this time that Jennifer was promoted to Digital Services Specialist.

Jennifer said that her favorite professor at Saint John's was Dr. Bella Hass Weinberg, who, "changed how I think about the world – how information is organized everywhere – phone books, directories, indexes. She taught me how information is classified everywhere." Other than

Dr. Weinberg's assignments and classes, her favorite activity was answering real reference questions from the Internet Public Library in her Advanced Reference class. Jennifer had the opportunity through the "Making it Real" grant to intern at three "Teaching Libraries," which she said, "enriched my educational experience. I was able to apply what I learned in school by having hands-on experience with experts in the field. I had great mentors at each of the libraries where I worked." Her Teaching Libraries were the Archives and Special Collections Library at the Vassar College Libraries; the library at the United States Military Academy; and Wilderstein Preservation.

With an MLS degree to her credit, she continues her research on metadata (her personal library passion!) and ensures that HRVH is up-to-date with the latest standards. Now that course work is behind her and she has more personal free time, she plans to attend some concerts, travel to a family reunion, and enjoy time with family and friends.

Jennifer feels her biggest accomplishment as Digital Services Specialist was the preparation and teaching of a full day workshop on CONTENTdm and metadata. Jennifer also assisted with the three initial collections in HRVH. She took on the difficult task of revising and expanding the Metadata Style Guide. She said that the most thrilling part of her job is "watching people learn, become enthralled with digitization and feel empowered."

"The growth of the Hudson River Valley Heritage service paralleled the professional growth of Jennifer as she pursued her MLS degree," noted John Shaloiko. "As Jennifer acquired more and more knowledge about digitization issues, metadata creation, and the functionality of CONTENTdm, so did her confidence in helping people with HRVH. We are so happy that Jennifer will continue her growth in the profession as she works with other Southeastern staff on the continued enhancement of the HRVH service as well as provides assistance to staff from contributing organizations through one-on-one mentoring and group training."

As of July 1, 2007, Jennifer's new job title at SENYLRC is Digital Services Librarian. She will continue her work with HRVH with expanded responsibilities. Jennifer brings an element of quality, service, and personal contact to HRVH. She is an incredible asset to this digital service and to the council.

-Tessa Killian

Electronic Resources 2007-2008

All of the electronic resources that are available from SENYLRC are listed on the website. The listing on the home page (<http://www.senylrc.org>) is: Electronic Resources 2007, click on Information and Order Forms to find out what is available.

The following electronic resources are subsidized with Regional Automation (RBDB) funds, which were selected by the Technology Review and Advisory Committee:

FirstSearch Base Package with Wilson Full Text.

The subscription year is July 1, 2007 - June 30, 2008. The cost to academic libraries is \$600. The cost to all other library types is \$450.

Gale Virtual Reference Library (*Encyclopedia of World Biography, UXL Encyclopedia of Science, Worldmark Encyclopedia of the Nations*).

The subscription year is September 1, 2007 - August 31, 2008. SENYLRC is subsidizing the entire cost of the GVRL e-books for all non-profit libraries in the SENYLRC region again this year. These e-books are listed with the other GVRL titles that are part of the state-funded NOVELNY collection.

American Council of Learned Societies: Humanities E-Book Project (School and Academic Libraries only). The subscription year is August 1, 2007 - July 31, 2008. The cost per library is \$65.

Please contact Tessa Killian by email killian@senylrc.org or call her (845) 883-9065 with questions.

National Training Center Trainers Offering Two Days of Workshops for Librarians and Health Professionals at SENYLRC July 11 & 12

This is a wonderful opportunity for anyone wishing to learn to use PubMed and the NLM Gateway effectively. SENYLRC is fortunate to host these two workshops included in the National Library of Medicine NTCC program calendar for 2007-08. Maureen K. Czujak, Assistant Director, National Training Center and Clearinghouse (NTCC), National Network of Libraries of Medicine at The New York Academy of Medicine, will be leading the 3 person-team. Maureen has had a long and varied

career, working in hospital libraries, special libraries, and academic libraries. She has held her current position since 1988 and knows these resources inside and out. She travels the United States teaching and informing librarians about the web-based databases available from the National Library of Medicine.

The 7.5 hour PubMed class on July 11 also carries MLA CE credits. By the end of this course, you should be able to: understand PubMed's scope and content; develop search strategies; display, save, print, sort, e-mail and order search results. You will also know how to use Limits, Preview/Index, History, Clipboard and Details features as well as link to full-text articles and other resources. You will also know how to use the MeSH Database, Journal Database, Single Citation Matcher, Clinical Queries, and My NCBI.

Anyone working with healthcare professionals and/or students might benefit from this day-long, free class.

The July 12 3.5 hour class NLM Gateway / *ClinicalTrials.gov* would be useful for all librarians as the Gateway includes consumer oriented material as well as genetics, environmental, toxicology, and hazardous substances resources for researchers and scientists. *ClinicalTrials.gov* provides regularly updated information about federally and privately supported clinical research in human volunteers.

Sign up for these workshops through the NTCC directly: <http://nmlm.gov/ntcc/classes/register.html>.

Please share this information with colleagues, faculty, health professionals, students and friends.

People in the News

Welcome to Elaine Goldman who has been appointed Director of Library and CME Services at Nyack Hospital. Elaine comes to the region with over 12 years experience as a Medical Librarian at Pascack Valley Hospital, Westwood, NJ. She has been professionally active in New Jersey serving as a member of the Health Sciences Library Association of NJ Electronic Document Delivery Task Force. She also received an NNLM Library Technology Improvement award in 2004. Her MLS is from SUNY Albany.

Welcome also to Linda Zoppa, the new library director at The Hastings Center library.

New York State Library Presentation Highlights

More than sixty people attended two presentations by New York State Library staff on May 8 at SENYLRC. Sally Legendre, Sheldon Wein and Cindy Stark described reference and interlibrary loan services available from the state library. If you were unable to attend, here are some of the highlights you missed:

- Libraries can request materials via interlibrary loan directly from the NY State Library or place requests through their system headquarters.
- A library interested in requesting directly must first obtain login access from the NY State Library's ILL department.
- To contact the ILL department or for further information and instructions, go to <http://www.nysl.nysed.gov/nysill.htm>.
- When in doubt about the availability of any material, request it or give them a call.
- Not everything available via interlibrary loan is listed in the catalog. For example: NTIS and ERIC documents as well as Industry Standards may be requested.
- Newspapers on microfilm (except the New York Times) may be borrowed.
- The New York State Library has the "best collection of New York State Documents in the world".
- The New York State Library offers reference services to anyone by phone (518) 474-5355 and by email to refserv@mail.nysed.gov.



Corinne Nyquist recently had the opportunity to travel to Novosibirsk. We invited her to share her experience.

Going to Siberia

By Corinne Nyquist, MLS, PhD, Interlibrary Loan Librarian, Sojourner Truth Library, SUNY New Paltz

My husband and I presented information on our family foundation at the 9th Global Leadership Forum held May 2-6 at the Siberian Academy of Public Administration (SAPA) in Novosibirsk, the largest city in Siberia. The conference theme, Leadership and Public Service, drew over 90 participants from throughout Siberia and 12 invited presenters from Brazil, Canada, China, Egypt, The Netherlands, Singapore, Lebanon, Turkey, and the United States.

Russians in transition to democracy are looking to their indigenous traditions as well as to the new technologies of our interconnected world as guides to self-managing their lives and the future of their communities. A youth parliament member spoke, as did a nurse involved in leadership training, and a number of NGO leaders told of projects. We heard a frank assessment of Russia today by an economist. Break out session discussion was vigorous. We struggled to use our college Russian in conversation. Some papers had English translations, but primarily we relied on interpreters.

Novosibirsk, the third largest city in Russia with one and one half million residents, is almost 2000 miles east of Moscow. A chapel was built there in 1913 for the 300th anniversary of the Russian federation on what was then Russia's geographical center. The tallest building is called the "blue tooth."



The time difference with New York is 11 hours. The city was founded in 1893 when railroad-building materials were floated down the Ob River to this point and the Trans-Siberian railroad was constructed in both directions. It grew during World War II when much of Russia's industry was

transferred there in advance of the German invasion. Notable is the grand opera and ballet theater built by German prisoners between 1941 and 1945. We attended an opera, Carmen, the Nutcracker ballet, and a modern dance and rock ballet based on an expedition sent by Prince Alexander to California in the early 1800s. A large number of young people attend these performances. Some say the reason Russians have been so devoted to classical works was the lack of an alternative. That does not seem to be true.

We arrived four days after the death of Boris Yeltsin, Russia's first elected president, 1991-1999. We attended May Day celebrations and saw a people's parade come at Lenin Square from three directions with flags, balloons, and signs representing various viewpoints.



Unarmed police kept order. We left before the even bigger commemoration of May 9, 1945, the official end of WW II in Europe. We visited a large park dedicated to this victory in which almost every Russian family lost members. Most young people do not remember the Communist era and it receives little attention in school but the sacrifices of World War II must not be forgotten.

The first library visited was in SAPA, where the conference was held. The morning we arrived by Aeroflot, the Russian airline, after two nights in the air and many hours in airports, our hosts left us at our suite in the adjacent hostel expecting us to rest. With confused internal clocks, we explored instead. I saw Bibliotheca, which I could read in the Cyrillic alphabet and knew from my long ago classes meant library and we entered. I must look like a librarian because after only minutes at a terminal checking my e-mail, a librarian appeared to lead me to a private office with a faster Internet connection. I was grateful as I had 249 messages. It was the office of Irina Medyankina, who is working on an advanced degree in Information Technology through the Open University in the United Kingdom. This involves distance learning and a tutor based in Novosibirsk.

Before long we were asked to join Larissa Lyapoonova, the head librarian, for coffee. The very

strong coffee was sweetened with raw honey from a gallon jar by her desk and served in beautiful blue and gold Russian cups. Unlike Irina, Larissa had traveled abroad, to Lund, Sweden, (where I told her my brother had studied) in the 1990's as translator for a group of Russian librarians. While online catalogs are accessible through Russian networks (they are members of NEIKOP, the National Electronic Information Consortium of Russia) there is little sharing due to the cost of delivery. Students can access the online catalog and other databases only in the library. Students rely on textbooks and the Internet for much of their work. This library has an unusual problem. SAPA has many international faculty who expect to have materials purchased not just in Russian or English but also in their native languages.

I did not see every library in Novosibirsk. I was sorry to miss the Tolstoy Library only two blocks away as its hours were limited. While Dimitri Ilyasov, a SAPA major in finance, was our assigned guide several other students hung out with us when not in class.



Karina Kyzlasova, a student from eastern Siberia, was particularly helpful when she heard that I wanted to visit public libraries. We visited the Regional Youth Library, housed in the brick mansion of an early twentieth century merchant located next to an older traditional house.

It serves primarily ages 14 to 25 though younger and older were present. Elena Vasilieva, a young special projects librarian, was my guide. The library primarily buys classics and books needed for school assignments. Journals are mostly for general reading, but some are also for study. Geography is very popular. They have an online catalog for books added since 1991 and their Siberia collection is a point of pride.

Books do not circulate. However, they have a large Internet access room, 30 rubles (\$1) an hour and

another for tape, video, CD, and DVD listening, viewing, or copying. Books and articles can be scanned or photocopied at 2 rubles (4 cents) a page. I asked about copyright when I learned that students scanned or copied entire books, but it was not a concern. During the Communist era all publication was work for hire compensated by the government, or published abroad, making copyright irrelevant.

I was shown a copy of the library newsletter and saw another staff member at work on the library web page. Elena's current exhibit focuses on May 9th with books and pictures about World War II. She organizes quizzes for younger patrons for which they earn prizes like free Internet, mugs, photocopy coupons, and grand prize, a watch.

Karina also took me to the Novosibirsk State Regional Library. She does not have access to this library because, as a student, living in the hostel, she does not have a rent receipt. This collection would help her as its 1 million volumes, including media, do circulate for 30 days. My visit on a Friday afternoon overlapped with the weekly English language discussion in the American Corner. The staff person at the main entrance gate gave us passes to go there. The head librarian, Larisa Sviridova, was present and introduced me to the group of about 20 people, most of them young. When she learned that I was originally from Minneapolis, their sister city, I was asked to arrange a library exhibit exchange.

The group varied from those fascinated by America to those who expressed more interest in England and the rest of Europe. Of course, I was asked about the Virginia Tech shooting as well as my opinion of President Bush. The recent vote in Estonia to remove a statue of a liberating Russian soldier angered them and was assumed either urged by the US or an effort to please our government. We discussed favorite books and movies with the usual boy versus girl tastes emerging. My appreciation for the film, *The Lake House*, brought groans from some of the young men who preferred movies of Bruce Willis, my very least favorite actor.

In 1957 Novosibirsk was selected as the site of a Siberian division of the USSR Academy of Sciences. Akademgorodok (academic city), built in the middle of a Birch forest about 15 miles outside the city limits, has a population of over 100,000. Located there are the third major Russian university and 35 research institutes of science, medicine, and agriculture (out of 62 in all of Russia) along with housing, stores, cultural, and sports facilities.

Students take a 3-year general course and then work closely the next two years with a research institute scientist. Academics in Russia either teach or do research, but usually not both. Here almost 80 percent of the institute staff are NSU graduates and function as part time university faculty. The only majors outside the traditional sciences are economics and sociology. A grant of 2 billion rubles will allow the Novosibirsk State University (NSU) to double its present enrollment to 13,000 students. Elena Belousova, an engineer who offered us a tour when we met at a reception, said that her husband, a former faculty member, who is now working as a prison guard, would benefit from this.

While touring the library, we were shown a number of what were called "reading holes" where fiction, subject collections, or books in a particular language were located. We also saw the room where students request and receive the textbooks at no charge. I was delighted to meet with head librarian, Ludmilla Lyagushina. Through Ian Reznitchenko, the guide provided by the International Office, we spoke of the future of librarians and libraries, their online catalog which has not yet replaced the card catalog, their access to journal databases including JSTOR, student over dependence on the Internet, plagiarism, and LIBNET, the online link for university libraries throughout Russia. With 100,000 non-circulating volumes on site, students and faculty must turn for research to the institute libraries, where staff can check out books for students, or to the 14 million-book collection at the State Public Scientific and Technical Library in Novosibirsk.



This massive building with five stories above ground and four below, houses a deposit copy of every book published in Russia as well as receiving books from abroad by exchange or purchase. My note of introduction brought me to Svetlana Zhivaeva, of the Collections Development Department. A former teacher of English, she received her library training on site. In fact we passed a room where a half dozen staff were taking an online library course. I was shown the large general reference room and its collection and then several reading rooms with reference collections in specialized subject areas. In each, books not in the room are searched in the online or card catalog and then written requests sent to the closed stacks. Each reading room has five years of the relevant journals. Though journals are being digitized, the library has decided never to discard the print copies. The reading rooms have wall-mounted electronic boards where the number of your request lights up when delivered.

As a fellow librarian I was given access to an underground level of the closed stacks where a stack assistant takes the book request from the pneumatic tube capsule, retrieves the book, and places it in a conveyance that transports the book to a pickup location on each floor. It brought visions of similar arrangements at the New York Public Library. We discussed UNIMARC and the library classifications scheme developed in Russia. I noted the NYPL resort to arrangement by size to save space. Svetlana then commented on the difficulties that interdisciplinary subjects like nanotechnology cause catalogers when choosing reading room locations. To use the collection one must be a university student or a researcher and merely present one's university or institute ID. Books do not circulate to patrons but are shared via interlibrary loan with other libraries. Patrons can keep books in a carrel for an extended period of time.

In the lobby was a bust of Ivan Fedorev, the first Russian printer. At the end of my tour I was taken to their Museum of the Book. In this fabulous collection is their oldest book, *Apostle*, printed by Fedorev in 1564. This and other old books were found buried in an "old believers" collection in Eastern Siberia in the 1990s. The group was exiled during the reign of Catherine the Great for opposing changes in the Russian Orthodox Church. Our fascination with Siberia continued as we learned of the Altai Mountains some six hours to the south where shamanism may have originated

and which contains a burial mound thought to be that of Zoroaster. We would love to go there.



Old house in Novosibirsk

Employment Opportunities

The SENYLRC website contains postings of library related jobs in the region. Organizations in the SENYLRC service area who wish to list library jobs here should e-mail a copy of the job posting to Jennifer Palmentiero Jennifer@senylrc.org. To view these listings, please go to the following URL:

<http://www.senylrc.org/members/employment.htm>

