DEAR COLLEAGUES, STUDENTS AND FRIENDS OF THE NJIT LIBRARIES

On July 15, 2010, the beginning of AY 2011, I began my 16th year as NJIT University Librarian and am still enjoying the challenge and the opportunity to serve you. The enormous changes in information technology, Millennial student and faculty changing expectations and needs, and huge budgetary issues made my position as exciting as ever. The Telecommunications and Network Division upgraded the Van Houten Library wireless network in April so that the system now responds much more quickly.

In addition, the library non-personnel budget was kept level in AY 2010, the same as the prior year but because of increased prices, the library was able to buy fewer books and journals. Faculty and students can now use interlibrary loan and RapidILL to quickly obtain articles in the 67 journals that the library cancelled in AY 2010 as well as from State Library funded databases no longer freely accessible.

A library innovation is planned for AY 2011 with the installation of TeamSpot collaboration software by TideBreak. The TeamSpot software will enable a group of students, each with their own laptops, to easily be able to see each others work, share files, and collaborate. Starting in AY 2011 (October, 2010) TeamSpot software will be installed on a laptop and will be able to be used by students and faculty in one of the Van Houten library group study rooms which will have a 55 inch LCD screen to display shared work. Each student will have to download the software to their own laptop. Then all students with laptops will be able to display their work to other students as well as edit other students work directly from their own laptop.

Another innovation being planned for AY 2011 is LibGuides software created by SpringShare. LibGuides will enable NJIT librarians to quickly compile web based course and subject guides, research assistance and useful resources for our faculty and students.

I welcome your comments at sweeney@njit.edu.

Richard Sweeney
University Librarian

Two key databases, Business Source Premier and Academic Search Premier, were again saved (renewed) at the 11th hour by State Library of New Jersey for AY 2011. Business Source Premier will no longer be funded by the State Library of New Jersey for AY 2012 and will have to be funded by NJIT if it is to be made freely accessible to our students and faculty.

In AY 2010 the library continued the development of the innovative new RapidILL service. RapidILL is a behind-the-scenes ILL (interlibrary loan) service that delivers requested articles directly to the student or faculty computer desktop usually within 24 business hours. This innovation has increased both the speed from article request to delivery as well as the percentage of requests that can be filled. Traditional ILL (Interlibrary Loan) is still necessary and provides hard copy books, and some articles that can’t be delivered electronically from the loaning institutions.

Unfortunately in AY 2010, library hours were reduced because the library budget was reduced for part time staff positions and overtime. One of our professional reference librarians resigned in February 2010 but the university was fiscally unable to fill the position, bringing the number of full time library positions to 24.
Rapid ILL: 24 Hour Article Delivery to Your Desktop

Interlibrary Loan is used to request items not owned by the NJIT Libraries. With the current budget crisis causing a decrease in available journal titles, the interlibrary loan program has become even more vital to students and faculty to fulfill information needs. In February 2009 the NJIT library joined the RapidILL.org program, an innovative article delivery system that has enabled us to move the interlibrary loan process into the 21st century with rapid electronic desktop delivery. After weeks of training, the library staff went full speed into this system with impressive results. Now we have data from a full fiscal year and we can better analyze the impact of this program. It has continued to be a hugely successful program that has positively impacted the Interlibrary Loan article delivery process.

This program allows resource sharing with a distinguished group of worldwide academic libraries. RapidILL streamlines interlibrary loan article ordering, resulting in greater efficiency and increased volume. In fy2009-2010, the NJIT Library supplied 1,708 requested articles to the NJIT community. 1,166 of these were ordered through the RapidILL system and were delivered electronically in an average of 23 hours from request to delivery. By contrast, articles ordered via traditional interlibrary loan had an average turnaround time of 5.6 days (134 hours).

Faculty feedback has been very positive. For example, Dr. Maurie J. Cohen from the Dept. of Chemistry & Environmental Science has said: “The new rapid fulfillment service works great as far as I can tell. It would be a horror to go back to the old system of paper copies, so I hope that the current arrangement can remain in place. From a very happy and satisfied user.”

For more information see the library interlibrary loan page at http://library1.njit.edu/ill/ill-web/ill-login.cfm

Traditional Interlibrary Loan continues as the method of obtaining books and some hard to find articles from other universities. Books and other borrowed items take anywhere from 5 business days to 2 or more weeks, depending on the lender. Books borrowed from within New Jersey may arrive within one week. Books borrowed out-of-state take longer to reach us. For fy2009-2010 the interlibrary loan office borrowed 651 books, (not available in the NJIT collection) to NJIT students and faculty.

Reference and Liaison Services / Information Literacy

Information Literacy has been identified as an important skill for 21st century learners and workers. Teaching faculty and librarians in institutions of higher education are seeking ways to assess student competencies in information literacy. Administrators are being asked by accreditation and state education agencies to provide evidence of effective programs for ensuring that graduating students have these competencies. The Van Houten Reference Department now consisting of four full-time
reference librarians has been developing an integrated model for instruction and assessment of information literacy. The framework we have developed for investigating predictors of student success and effective programs is becoming a model for other disciplines across the curriculum and is of interest in the upcoming Middle States visit.

Our success is the result of the steadily increasing focus on information literacy by the reference librarians over the last several years. In the fall of 2009, NJIT librarians and faculty worked together to articulate program goals and objectives in support of the overall information literacy outcomes articulated in the NJIT Institute Information Literacy Plan (http://library.njit.edu/docs/niit-info-lit-plan-caa-approved-05-20-2009.pdf) approved in May 2009 by the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee (UCRC) and the Committee on Academic Affairs (CAA). The individual program plans (http://library1.njit.edu.libdb.njit.edu:8888/infolit-dept-plans/index2.cfm) were accepted by the UCRC in Fall 2009 and list the required courses within each program where desired information literacy outcomes will be operationalized in course objectives and assignments. The plans include faculty contacts, sample syllabi, assignments and assessment strategies, designed to fulfill the overall information literacy goals for undergraduates. Throughout the Spring Semester faculty and librarians worked to implement these plans across the curriculum. We refined and developed the curriculum and online modules using Moodle for Research Roadmaps required by all incoming students taking Freshman composition. Two modules are entirely online and are available to all instructors via Moodle.—Academic Integrity, and Evaluate Your Sources. We increased the number of sessions taught and our librarians collaborated intensively with faculty in every department to create opportunities for information literacy learning wherever possible. We also established the information literacy blog to enable quick access to learning objects and sharing of materials among librarians and faculty.

This was a year of major progress in our information literacy efforts in policy, implementation and assessment. Our clear vision of the role of information literacy in lifelong learning and the role of information literacy at NJIT continues to help guide NJIT toward successful Information Literacy objectives and provide leadership in this area to other educational institutions in New Jersey.

LITTMAN ARCHITECTURE LIBRARY

Over the last several years the university library experienced substantial decrease in its materials budget. At the same time with the addition of new programs the demand for library resources has increased dramatically. This coupled with the spiraling cost of scholarly journals, databases and books made it impossible to maintain the acquisition activities at the same level as in the past. In the fields of art, design and architecture the necessity to keep a balance between analog and digital worlds is especially critical. They still rely on print books and journals but also need to have access to databases, digital images, and sophisticated software.

In the climate of serious financial constraints the Littman Library is striving to support research and education and to keep up with the demands of a new age. They collect resources in a variety of formats, but are not able to acquire materials for new programs because of the tight budget. They also had no choice but to cancel a few journals and were extremely selective with books purchases. However, despite the complexity of the situation, they managed to secure all currently subscribed databases and acquired the most essential publications for all classes in session. They were fortunate to receive generous donations of books and video recordings from the college faculty, students, and alumni.

The library’s digital resources continues to grow. In 2009-2010 they added 2,464 digital images to the Image Database - a 14% increase in production.
since the previous year. They formed partnerships with a few local institutions to be able to expand the Digital Archive of Newark Architecture (DANA). Originally conceived to support the School of Architecture curriculum, the DANA is now getting wider recognition. They regularly respond to research requests from scholars in the US and abroad and are being followed on Twitter by various organizations and individuals including Newark mayor Cory Booker.

The Littman Library continues to prepare both traditional and electronic reserves for the majority of classes in session, so the students can access them via the library website remotely and at any time.

A recently published Harvard Magazine article titled “Guttenberg 2.0” presents a valuable analysis of current changes in academic librarianship and states that the greatness of any university rests on the greatness of the library. Although with the development of new media the format of our collections is changing, the library functions remain the same: to collect, preserve and provide access to information resources and knowledge. The Littman Library strives to be able to accommodate various types of learning and is looking forward to creating a positive and enriching experience for our students in 2010-2011.

**Wireless Network and Computer Workstation Upgrade**

Throughout the year, students had regularly commented that the Robert W. Van Houten Library’s wireless network bandwidth was “slow and impractical”, especially during peak study hours when many students use their laptops in the library. Students have also commented that the computers in the library computer lab CAB-1050 were slow and often not responsive. The members of the library staff noted this and ensured that upgrades were completed for better student satisfaction!

In April 2010, The Telecommunications & Networks, a division of NJIT’s Information Services & Technology (IST) upgraded the wireless network for the Central Avenue Building. The upgrade improved the wireless coverage for all floors of the Van Houten
Library, from the basement to the third floor levels. The upgrade resulted in increasing both the speed and quality of access points within the library. The network was upgraded to the 802.11 "N" standard with both "A" and "G" frequencies to enable maximum access.

In October 2009, Academic Computing Services, a division of NJIT’s Information Services & Technology, upgraded the 16 computers in CAB-1050 with a slightly newer model with extra RAM. The upgrade improved access at all 16 computer workstations. The library is grateful to IST for responding to student needs.

**Open Library System Investigation 2010 Update**

For the past several years NJIT has been actively investigating the feasibility of implementing a less expensive open source library system (OLS) to replace our current proprietary integrated library system (ILS) Voyager (Ex Libris, Inc).

The Executive Committee of the VALE (Virtual Academic Library Environment of New Jersey) Consortium decided to pursue a next generation, open source suite of library applications, known as the Kuali-OLE project, to replace the current integrated library systems. The Kuali-OLE project would fulfill VALE’s 2006 strategic planning goals to 1) implement universal borrowing among member institutions and 2) develop a statewide academic catalog with a common ILS. The NJIT library administration has actively been monitoring all open library systems development and believes that the Kuali-OLE project (http://oleproject.org/final-report-on-ole-project/) visions are closely aligned with the NJIT library vision and therefore is the best choice to replace our current ILS system.

The VALE Executive Committee developed “guiding principle documentation” for members interested in being the alpha and beta implementers on this project. The NJIT library has signed on as an alpha implementer with Ann Hoang as the representative to both the Kuali-OLE project Steering Committee and the Implementation Task Force. The first task is to evaluate and implement a common discovery tool (OPAC search interface) once these two committees are formed.

**Circulation: Print and Electronic Books**

In this electronic age library statistics show that books, both print and e-books, still count for a significant portion of library activity. The chart below compares general circulation totals (a combination of books and software) for the past two years. The total of items circulated has increased for the first time since 2006. This growth is in part due to adding cataloged reserve books to the total electronic count for the first time. Nevertheless, even with this added data the circulation count is showing a definite upturn in numbers. This upward trend may be due to the general economic downturn as students become more frugal and make greater use of material already available in the libraries.

**E-Book Usage**

E-book usage for fy2009-2010 totals 2,388 transactions. The E-book total transactions include 159 books read online, 280 down-loads, and 1,949 browses.
"Faculty Reserve count"
In addition, not included in the electronic book count is a separate count of transactions for faculty owned items. Instructors have placed these items on “faculty reserve” in the library for use by students. These totaled 3,885 “faculty reserve” transactions.

Budget Cut Impact
In response to the reduced library budget, Library administration reassessed library hours and decided on an adjusted schedule that would have the least negative impact on students. The adjusted schedule resulted in a midnight closing for most of the semester. Traditional extended library hours for exam preparation were cut to the final three weeks of each semester, with a closing time of 2:45am for only three days of the week instead of five days. In addition Sunday hours stayed at 1-9pm throughout the semester, with no extended hours. Additionally, the library budget for part-time staff was eliminated. This cut left the library without additional staff to provide weekend reference coverage; the library also lost part-time interlibrary loan staff and shelving staff.

The NJIT library staff has proved remarkably resilient and everyone has stepped up to absorb schedule changes and new duties in order to make up for lost personnel. Comments concerning the library staff from our Snapshot day survey and from the recent library focus group have reflected the positive view of the library throughout the university community. Comments from students such as “great support from staff members” and the library is a “study center for group and individual study” are great morale boosters in these difficult financial times.

User Analysis

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<tr>
<td>User visits to Van Houten library</td>
<td>403,725</td>
<td>428,274</td>
<td>425,209</td>
<td>405,231</td>
<td>402,375</td>
<td>384,985</td>
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<td>User visits to the Littman Architecture Library</td>
<td>71,084</td>
<td>72,135* est.</td>
<td>77,450</td>
<td>75,147</td>
<td>80,082</td>
<td>90,265</td>
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<td>General circulation (both libraries)</td>
<td>40,920</td>
<td>42,412</td>
<td>40,553</td>
<td>37,777</td>
<td>33,440</td>
<td>41,665</td>
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<tr>
<td>Items borrowed from other libraries</td>
<td>2,200</td>
<td>2,241</td>
<td>1,691</td>
<td>1,688</td>
<td>1,832</td>
<td>2,096</td>
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<tr>
<td>Items lent to other libraries</td>
<td>683</td>
<td>998</td>
<td>981</td>
<td>918</td>
<td>1463</td>
<td>2,459</td>
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Budget cuts caused a reduction in 2009-2010 library hours

Electronic Theses and Dissertations (ETD)
Traditionally the research conducted by NJIT Masters and Doctoral students was only available to a small group of researchers who lived locally or had the means to travel to Newark and examine the bound copies held in the library. The NJIT ETD project has truly made the theses and dissertations authored by our students available to researchers throughout the world. The beauty of ETDs is that they enable 24/7 access to researchers wherever they are, making travel unnecessary to access this service.

In Academic Year 2010 NJIT ETDs were viewed by people from 90 Domains/Countries with India, USA and Germany making up the top three. Researchers from nations as widespread as Trinidad and Tobago, Fiji, Albania, Ghana, and Papua New Guinea have accessed our ETDs. Not only does this spread the research of our faculty and students but it serves as
a marketing tool for prospective students who may find that they have similar research interests as our faculty.

**BOOK PURCHASES**

A picture is worth a thousand words. The book expenditures chart below compares the number of books purchased from FY2002 to FY2010. In FY2004, the year immediately after the Middle States visit, the library received extra funding to supplement our book collection. The blue “trend line” tracks the downward direction of book purchases. While the level of funding has remained relatively stable for the last three years, book prices continue to increase. While the library’s limited resources are stretched thin, the library continues to make every effort to find creative ways to support the research and teaching needs of our faculty and students.

**JOURNALS**

Access to scientific, engineering and other journals continues to be a key resource that the library provides to the NJIT academic community. The budget crisis has resulted in a decrease in the number of individual journal subscriptions—from 402 purchased fy2008 to 375 purchased 2009-2010. The increased availability of freely accessible journals has helped to off-set the cut in NJIT owned journals.

**ARCHIVES/ YEARBOOKS**


This year the Yearbook project was temporarily placed on hold due to a technical problem. Going forward, Digital Projects Librarian Matt Brown plans to rework the yearbook database and resume scanning pages for additional year books.
**Library and Materials Expenditures**

This graph represents the ten-year history of the NJIT library materials expenditures (and encumbrances). The average subscription prices continue to increase about 8.45% per year. See Library Journal’s annual periodical price survey. The result is that the NJIT library is able to purchase far fewer titles.

![Library Materials Expenditures Chart]

**Staff Professional and Personal Activities**

**Richard Sweeney, University Librarian**

In June 2010 Rich presented at the American Library Association on the subject to Top Library Building Trends and also presented and conducted a Millenial focus group in Broomfield, Colorado for the Annual National ADEA Allied Dental Program Directors’ Conference. Rich also presented his research on Millennial students to the Parsippany Public Library Staff in November, 2009. Rich was quoted on page 2 of The Star Ledger Wednesday, April 28, 2010 article entitled “How a Facebook page turned into a statewide revolt.”

Rich continued to be an active member of the VALE (Virtual Academic Library Environment of NJ) Executive Committee and co-chair of the VALE-Kuali-OLE Project Committee. Rich also conducted focus groups of both NJIT undergraduate and graduate students in order to determine their satisfaction with the library services in an effort to create continuous improvement.

On a personal note, Rich spent three weeks on safaris in Botswana, Zambia and South Africa.

**Ann Hoang, Assistant University Librarian**

Co-presented with Min Song: "Integral: Link-based Integration of Library Digital Collections"
and Resources” at the VALE / NJ ACRL/ NJLACUS Eleventh Annual Users’ Conference at Rutgers University on January 8, 2010. The presentation was nominated for the NJLA College and Universities Section and ACRL NJ Chapter 2010 Technology Innovation among four finalists at the NJLA Annual Conference: Technology Innovation Forum on April 27, 2010. IntegraL is open source software developed at NJIT, allows library users to efficiently search related results among different information resources in their native search mode through linking data elements (e.g. library catalogs, article databases, websites, search engines, etc.) where a federated search engine is not an available or practical solution.

During the 2009-2010 year Ann was a member of the NJIT Middle States Accreditation Subcommittee Group #6. The Subcommittee #6 is responsible for Standard 10, Faculty: A tradition of Instruction, Research and Service.

Ann continued to be an active member of the VALE Website Committee. Ann continues to have the primary role of managing and updating the Drupal-powered VALE Website with was launched in May 2010.

During the 2009-2010 year Ann attended several Professional Development Workshops including “Introduction to Computing in the Cloud with South Jersey Regional Library Cooperative; Ethics Training and Sexual Harassment Training sponsored by NJIT Human Resources Department.”

Ann attended The Handheld Librarian Online Conference 2010 in February 2010. More people than ever are using mobile devices for a wide variety of purposes including communication, internet access, text messaging, and entertainment. It is important that libraries provide mobile services as handheld use increases. Ann also attended the NJLA Annual Conference in April 2010.

also: Completed all coursework towards a Ph.D at Rutgers School of Communication and Information.

Bruce Slutsky, Technical Reference Librarian
Bruce became a member of MyMETRO and attended several events, such as the METRO Annual Meeting, Meeting on ICT Literacy and a Webinar on keeping up with tech trends. He was the convener of the Science Librarians SIG for the 10th year. Bruce was very active in the ACS Division of Chemical Information with such duties as Assistant Editor of Chemical Information Bulletin, editorship of CINF E-News and Career Consultant. He served on the VALE Reference Services Committee and added several of his information literacy to MERLOT and Slideshare.net.

Heather Huey, Information Literacy Librarian
Heather serves as a member of the VALE Shared Information Literacy Committee. Heather is over 1/2 way through her coursework at the University of Massachusetts Boston pursuing a Master of Education in Instructional Design and is expecting to complete the degree in August 2011.

David Scharf, Director of Reference
Heather wrote a review of the Blended Librarian website published in Public Services Quarterly in November. In May, Heather and Davida Scharf presented "Direct Assessment of Information Literacy Using Rubrics" at the VALE Assessment Fair at Rutgers University.

In June, Heather presented "Web 2.0 for Information Literacy" with Lynee Richel from County College of Morris at an event titled “Everything You Wanted to Know About Teaching Information Literacy but Were Too Afraid to Ask” sponsored by the ACRL/NJ User Education Committee and the VALE Shared Information Literacy Committee.

Doreen Mettle, Director of Circulation and ILL
Doreen is an active member of the VALE Resource Sharing Committee. This committee identifies, recommends, and implements policies and practices that enhance resource sharing among academic libraries in New Jersey using VALE and NJ statewide technical infrastructures. She coordinated the NJIT libraries’ participation in “Snapshot: One Day in the Life of New Jersey Libraries”, and the Van Houten’s library’s participation in student appreciation day 2010.

Matthew Brown, Digital Projects Librarian
Matt continued to serve as a member of the NJLA CUS/ACRL-NJ Technology Committee. Matt consulted with staff of the Vector to implement a physical archiving strategy and to provide technical oversight for their digital archives. Matt also rebuilt ILL login pages so that users can login using either library barcode or NJIT ID#.

Maya Gervits, Director Architecture Library
In January 2010 Maya and Jessica O’Donnell made a presentation about the Digital Archive of Newark Architecture at the VALE Annual Conference. In March 2010 Maya participated in the AASL conference in New Orleans, Louisiana and delivered a talk on Digital Archive of Newark Architecture. A proposal for an article which is to be co-authored with Jessica for the Spring 2011 issue of the “Art Documentation” has been accepted (The date of submission is August 2010).

Jessica O’Donnell, Architecture Library Specialist

Lisa Weissbard, Cataloging Librarian
Lisa is a member of the VALE Bibliographic Control and Metadata Committee and NJLA Technical services section. Lisa attended the ELUNA (Ex Libris Users of North America) conference in Ft. Worth in May.
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