

**Touro
College**

The TCL Letter

A Newsletter of the Touro College Libraries

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From the Acting Director . . . Bashe Simon

On Monday, October 22, a farewell collation was held at the Midtown Library for Dr. Jackie Maxin, Director of Libraries. The event was organized by Dean Boylan and Marina Zilberman, Chief Midtown Librarian, and was attended by Dr. Bernard Lander, the College Senate members, faculty and most of the Library Staff. We at the Touro College Library will miss Dr. Maxin's inspiration and leadership.

We are pleased to announce the appointment of Sara Tabaei, the new Information Literacy Librarian. Sara has contacted the Deans and Chairs and is looking forward to meeting with the staff and faculty, who are invited to

attend our workshops. Sara can be contacted at 212.463.9400 ext. 233 or by email: sara.tabaei@touro.edu. Annette Carr joins our staff as the Librarian of the Graduate School of Business at 65 Broadway, which is scheduled to open in March. Sarah K. Laleman is the new Assistant Librarian on Sundays at the Women's Building. We welcome our new staff members.

New databases have been added to the Proprietary Databases. Counseling and Psychotherapy Transcripts, Client Narratives, and Reference Works contains 12,500 searchable transcripts of actual therapy and counseling sessions.

Biography Resource Center allows one to browse current and historic biographies. BooksInPrint.com Professional is a searchable tool for information on books, audio books or videos. It is an essential resource for librarians, professors and students.

At this point we would like to simultaneously wish a warm farewell to Dr. Maxin and welcome our new staff members. As Acting Director of the Libraries I hope to follow in the illustrious footsteps of Dr. Maxin. Together with the entire library staff I look forward to continuing the vision and mission of excellence that have become the hallmark of the Touro College Libraries.

Spotlight on New Electronic Resources

- Bar Ilan University Responsa
- Biography Resource Center
- Computer Database
- Westlaw Campus Research
- More on page 2!



Dr. Maxin's Farewell Party!

In addition to library staff from many Touro locations, administrators who attended included (with Dr. Maxin at left) Dr. Lander and Dean Boylan.

Personnel Update

Welcome Aboard!

- Marjorie Charlot, Assistant Librarian, Kings Highway
- Stanley Noel, Library Assistant, Harlem (Taino)
- Leiba Rimler, Technical & Electronic Services Assistant, Midtown
- Rose J. Weill, Technical & Electronic Services Assistant, Midtown
- Jamie Luise, Library Assistant, Bay Shore
- Sara Tabaei, Information Literacy Librarian
- Sarah K. Laleman, Assistant Librarian, Women's Building

Recipients of Touro College's

Quarterly Incentive Award

- Aretha E. Fairweather, Library Assistant, Harlem
- Miriam Magill, Library Assistant, Bensonhurst
- Rose J. Weill, Technical & Electronic Services Assistant, Midtown

Congratulations on

Advanced Degrees

- Starvita D. Patterson, Library Assistant, Kings Highway, graduated with an AS from Touro College
- Amram S. Rister, Judaica Librarian, received his MSED from Baruch College, and was ordained a Rabbi

Meetings, Conferences and

Workshops

- April 30, 2007—Women's Building Librarian Dr. David Levy and Judaica Librarian Amram S. Rister attended the Reference Workshop of the Association of Jewish Libraries at the main New York Public Library building.
- May 8, 2007—Midwood Librarian Eldira Agalliu attended METRO's Reference Issues Forum at the Metropolitan Museum of Art's Thomas J. Watson Library.
- May 17, 2007—Women's Building Librarian Dr. David Levy attended the Reference Technologies

Workshop of the Association of Jewish Libraries, New York Metropolitan Area Chapter, at the Jewish Children's Museum in Brooklyn.

- June 14-15, 2007—Associate Director of Libraries Michael Ronn attended METRO's Digitization 101 Workshop at the Metropolitan New York Library Council.
- June 17-20, 2007—Women's Building Librarian Dr. David Levy and Judaica Librarian Rabbi Amram S. Rister attended The Association of Jewish Libraries' 42nd Conference in Scottsdale, AZ.
- June 21, 2007—Systems Librarian Yitzchak Schaffer attended a PREMIS Tutorial at the Library of Congress' Whittier Pavilion.
- June 24, 2007—Judaica Librarian Rabbi Amram S. Rister attended the Business Meeting & Dinner of the Jewish Information Committee of the Ethnic & Multicultural Information Exchange Round Table of the ALA's Annual Conference in Washington, DC.

New Electronic Resources

Bar Ilan University Responsa—online version of Global Jewish database features Biblical and Talmudic material, works on Jewish law and more from the Responsa Literature. To access the Encyclopedia Talmudit, use the **Bar Ilan Responsa 14** networked CD-ROM

Biography Resource Center—includes over 435,000 biographies on over 340,000 figures from all subjects and disciplines around the world

Computer Database—provides access to leading periodicals on computer, telecommunications and electronics industries

xreferplus has been renamed **Credo Reference**

Educator's Reference Complete—full-text results for nearly half of all journal titles found in ERIC, it covers educational levels from preschool to college

Proprietary databases listed here are restricted to the Touro community. All can be accessed from any Touro PC, and most can be accessed off-campus with a login and password. For security reasons, it is our policy not to email the login and password. To obtain them, contact any of our libraries.

and specialties including technology, bilingual education, health education and test administration

MD Consult (Core Service Clinics)—allows users to search 35 clinic titles, including geriatric, sleep, sports medicine, neurologic, orthopedic and psychiatric

Political Science: A SAGE Full-Text Collection—includes full-text access to 25 journals with over 10,000 articles and weekly updates, covering international relations, peace/conflict studies, American government and more

Counseling and Psychotherapy Transcripts, Client Narratives, and Reference Works—updated biweekly, this landmark collection includes diaries, letters, oral histories and full-text transcripts of therapy and counseling sessions

Psychology: A SAGE Full-Text Collection—weekly updates of 35 journals with over 21,600 articles on developmental psychology, language acquisition, group studies, learning disabilities and other subjects

Westlaw Campus Research—provides tabs for News and Business or Law research, with access to periodicals, trade journals, newswires, U.S. company profiles and information, broadcast transcripts, American Jurisprudence 2d, American Law Reports and over 700 law reviews and journals

Libraries and Archives in the Ancient Middle East

by Dr. David B. Levy, Women's Building Librarian

With the continued unrest in Iraq, it may be interesting to consider the ancient libraries and archives that once served as the jewels of the Middle East, beginning with the earliest known and working forward in time.

Archeologists have found in the ruins of Ur (now in Iraq), the birthplace of Abraham, cuneiform (wedge shaped writing) tablets (ca. 2100-1948 B.C.E.) classified by topic and stored in clay boxes called *saduppu*.

Ramses II (ca. 1300 B.C.E.) of Egypt, thought by some archeologists to be the Pharaoh who enslaved the Hebrews, built a library that contained 20,000 rolls. Ramses' grandson Merneptah's mummy exists, and the Merneptah Stele (1230 BCE) inscription mentions the "sons of Israel" against whom Merneptah battled, possibly during the period of the Jews' leaving Egypt or during the lifetime of Moses' successor, Joshua.

The Mari archive in Syria hosted documents that may describe some parallel situations to those in *Genesis* such as: (1) the suzerain-vassal relationship which some have compared to the stipulation structure of the Ten Commandments; (2) the eldest son receiving a "double portion"; and (3) the custom of offering one's female handmaid as a surrogate mother if the main wife of a patriarch was barren, relating to Sarah offering Hagar to Abraham, although Sarah saw that Isaac merited rightful inheritance over Ishmael.

Archeologists have uncovered at Ashur (the ancient capital of Assyria whose remains are also in Iraq) twenty-five thousand tablets from over fifty archives. One of the archives may have been founded by Tiglath Pileser I (from around the period of King David) and contained a legal collection known as the Middle Assyrian Laws. An ordering principal included the arrangement of a series of tablets that share a common

theme. Tiglath Pileser III of Nimrud built further archives and is mentioned in *2 Kings* 15:29, dating from the period of the prophet Isaiah. Other kings of ancient Israel in the Bible such as Omri and Ahab (the time of Elijah and Elisha) are also cited in archived inscriptions. The Cyrus Cylinder, commissioned by the King of Persia, dates to the period of Ezra and Nehemiah, and gives the Jews permission to return to Israel and build the second Temple.

The library of Ashurbanipal (668-627 B.C.E.) at Ninevah (now Mosul, Iraq), the city to which Jonah flees, and whose destruction in 612 B.C.E. is celebrated by the prophet Nahum was excavated in 1849. In the archives that were uncovered, tablets were grouped together by series (*iskaru*) and subseries (*pirsu*), arranged by numbers, and indexed at the rims with finding lists inscribed on the walls near the doors.

Literary texts that may have existed in these collections include *The Epic of Gilgamesh* which has a flood story paralleling the Noah flood account, *The Egyptian Story of Two Brothers* paralleling the Joseph/Potiphar wife temptation episode, or the *Enuma Elish* which is a polytheistic creation tale (see Pritchard, James B., *Ancient Near Eastern Texts Relating to the Old Testament*). *The Legal Code of Hammurabi* (1792-1749 B.C.E.), dating from the period of Abraham, has laws paralleling those in the Five Books of Moses including the phrase "an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth," although rabbinic tradition interpreted it as monetary compensation.

The library in Alexandria, Egypt, the glory of the Hellenic world, organized scrolls based on Callimachus' (305-240 BCE) 120-volume catalog called the *Pinakes*. The library halls were lined with *Armara*, or lockers in which scrolls were deposited. A copy of Aristotle's lost study of *Comedy*, that complemented his *Poetics on Tragedy*, was



The Great Library of Alexandria,
by O. Von Corven

housed in this library, as well as a copy of the *Septuagint* (the Hebrew Bible in Greek) which Longinus in his work *On the Sublime* (*Peri hupsos*) calls the most sublime work ever written.

2 Maccabees 2:13-15 mentions that "Nehemiah founded a library [in Jerusalem] and collected books about the kings and prophets, the writings of King David, and letters of votive offerings." During the period of the Macabees this library may have been censored of Greek influences such as the text of *Ben Sira*, as reflected in the censoring spirit of that era, such as when Rabbi Yochanan ben Zakkai notes that the Pharisees (rabbinic Jews), unlike the Sadducees (wealthy Hellenized Jews), do not regard the works of Homer as holy.

King Solomon, "the wisest of men" (*1 Kings* 3:9-12), remarked that "of the making of many books there is no end." The builder of the First Temple, however, did not directly comment upon the problems in librarianship of storage, classification, cataloging, preservation, reference, organization, and retrieval of texts. As we come full circle from scrolls to scrolling online, we are still faced with the task of organizing the texts of our days, like the ancient librarians of the Middle East.

The Touro
College
Libraries'
Mission

The Touro College Libraries aspire to be the primary resource for intellectual content College-wide. To fulfill the mission of the College, the Libraries foster intellectual discovery and advance information literacy.

Touro College Archives: Fully Activated!

by Philip Papas, Touro College Archivist

Since my arrival in March 2007 I have been busy with the first archival collections of Touro College. Archives are often described as the byproduct of human activity. Judging by the sheer volume and breadth of the materials I am processing, there has been a whole lot of activity at Touro, even before its doors first opened in 1971!

Thus far I have examined nearly half of our first collection, mainly consisting of the papers of Touro founder Dr. Bernard Lander. Dr. Lander's activities have been prolific and productive; nothing in my archival background prepared me for the dynamic force of Touro's development under his tireless direction. So many more key players also took part, and still others, whose roles were not always the most prestigious or glamorous. Yet their activities all contributed to the growth and success of the many different schools and programs.

Many of the dusty cartons I am poring over contain standard archival fare such as letters and memos, but there are also pleasant surprises, including old yearbooks, photographs, architectural blueprints and colorful promotional materials. Occasionally I happen upon video and sound recordings, obsolete computer disks (does



anyone out there have a 5 1/4" floppy drive?) steno pads with shorthand dictation notes and assorted ephemera such as medals, plaques and posters. Following this first collection of over 60 large cartons, new collections have been submitted by additional administration and faculty, including Dean Boylan. As more key players add the byproducts of their activities, Touro will truly boast an awesome archive unique in the academic world.

Archives do not contain only old and inactive files. Like every institution of higher education, Touro College generates countless documents and records during its basic operations every day. A records management program is being implemented, with regularly scheduled transfers of documents to build an archive of the activities happen-

ning all around us, for future generations to see.

Of course, not every human activity is worth recording or preserving. My primary role as archivist is to appraise which items will hold some type of value for future uses. Those records of activities which have little or no potential value may be discarded. However, records often have a useful lifespan, even if this is for a limited time. Careful consideration must be given before discarding any records.

The archives are stored in a small area nestled within the Technical & Electronic Services Department on the second floor of 33 West 23rd Street. This room is being modified for optimal preservation conditions, with archival shelving and environmental controls including UV filtration of natural light and humidity monitoring. Researchers have begun accessing the archives; one of my first and frequent visitors has been Mordechai Rosenblum, who is hard at work on a biography of Dr. Lander. It has been a pleasure assisting him with his task, and I know the finished book will make good use of the byproducts preserved in our archives. Truly, they are the eternal records of a life's work.

Success in the 21st Century with Information Literacy

by Sara Tabaei, Information Literacy Librarian

What is Information Literacy ?

Information Literacy (IL) involves more than just a few library skills that students acquire throughout their college years. Instead, IL teaches students key learning elements such as the ability to navigate through the information maze, and critically evaluating and making sense of the various information resources, all of which go far beyond mastering the local library.

Why is IL important?

Academic success:

Information literate students will benefit more fully from their class assignments, if they know how to conduct research. After realizing the contradictory nature of the information available on the Internet, students are able to determine the credibility and accuracy of the resources located. They also can see if the information is presented from an objective point of

"IL teaches students to navigate through the information maze..."

view, by critically analyzing the websites. This is especially true in fields such as health science, where unreliable and biased information has become easily accessible with the emergence of wikis and blogs. And finally, students learn how to organize, synthesize, present and communicate their research points intellectually.

Life-long Learning:

Since information competency skills are transferable, once students have gained them, they can apply their skills effectively to new situations.

This means that in addition to their academic success, students will be more efficient at their future jobs and will be able to make more informative decisions for the rest of their lives. In short, geared with their knowledge of obtaining essential information coupled with their expertise in their field, our graduates will have the ability to successfully navigate through information in a rapidly evolving 21st century.

Toward this end, the Touro Information Literacy Initiative (TILI) sponsored by the Libraries promotes information literacy as an integrated component of the College experience. It is the responsibility of faculty, librarians and administrators to collaborate on this important issue, assisting our students in acquiring knowledge and helping them become life-long learners and responsible citizens.

15th Annual Innovative Users Group Conference by Salvatore Russo, Distance & Off-Campus Services Librarian

During the week of May 14 -17 2007, Edlira Agalliu and I attended the 15th Annual Innovative Users Group Conference [IUG] in San Jose, California. The IUG Conference was held at the San Jose Convention Center and the adjacent Marriott Hotel downtown. More than 1,400 librarians from across America and around the world attended the conference, including librarians from Estonia, Great Britain, and China.

The focal point of the conference was Millennium, an integrated library system. Millennium is constantly used by Touro; whenever holdings are looked up in our catalog or books are checked out from our libraries, users are tapping into this powerful system.

Upon arriving in San Jose, we immediately attended a three-hour pre-conference seminar on collection development using Millennium. The seminar focused on using the searchable fields in the electronic catalog records to generate different reports, analyze a library's collection (for usage patterns, inventory reports, etc.), create a weeding schedule and many other manipulations of data.

On May 15th, the IUG Conference officially opened at the Civic Auditorium, across the street from the San Jose Convention Center. We were welcomed to the conference



Sal and Edlira enjoy the exhibits

by Jerry Kline, Chairman and CEO of Innovative Interfaces, Inc. The keynote speaker was Robert X. Cringely, one of the pioneers of the PC industry. He was the 12th employee hired at Apple, Inc. back in 1977. Mr. Cringely said his claim to fame was that he thought up the familiar "trash can" icon.

For the rest of the week we attended workshops from 9 am to 5:30 pm. The sessions were one hour each, separated by a half hour, which gave us a short break and time to find to the next workshop.

One workshop was dedicated to how specific libraries could be selected for paging requests, based on geographic proximity or other factors. This ensures that materials reach patrons as quickly as possible. Touro hopes to implement this feature in the near future.

Another workshop featured the new release of Millennium, due out at the end of 2007. There were several sessions dedicated to products Innovative was featuring, such as Encore and ArticleReach. Encore is an attempt to "Googlize" the library catalog by combining or linking the library catalog and databases along with the Internet.

We did manage to walk around downtown San Jose and do some sightseeing, including a walk to the nearby campus of San Jose State University. We also took a fun ride on the San Jose Light Rail Transit System.

In addition to the conference workshops we met with several familiar vendors, including representatives of EBSCO Information Services and Baker & Taylor, Inc. Needless to say, there was quite a lot of technical information discussed during the week-long 15th Annual IUG Conference.

Encoded Archival Description by Philip Papas, Touro College Archivist

On October 9th, 2007 I attended a workshop at the Metropolitan New York Library Council to learn more about Encoded Archival Description (EAD). EAD is used by many repositories to create electronic finding aids for researchers accessing its collections. Attending the workshop were archivists from New York University and the University of Notre Dame as well as other organizations such as Channel Thirteen.

Because archives do not strictly follow the same item level cataloging format as public and academic libraries, various attempts have been made to create a universal standard for archival description. Originally developed at the University of California, Berkeley, Library

in 1993, EAD was conceived as a Document Type Definition (DTD). The current version was released in December 2002. SGML (later superseded by XML) was chosen over HTML because its structure more closely mirrors the information hierarchy typical in archival description. It also allows for richer content encoding with more refined attributes, enables more sophisticated searching and facilitates data migration.

EAD allows for up to 12 levels of description; subordinate attributes are nested within higher layers. Description may briefly cover an entire collection, provide a container list or feature detailed item level metadata. MARC21 fields, AACR2 cataloging rules and Library of

Congress authority controls are utilized to keep data input consistent. A scope and content note and hypertext links to related web pages are usually included. EAD documents may be created as a TXT. file or with the help of a template. We used an XMetaL application which utilized the Darwin Information Typing Architecture (DITA) standards. At our workshop a Saxon style sheet utilizing JavaScript was provided to convert the final EAD document into an HTML format which is seen by the end user.

I hope to create electronic finding aids for all of Touro's archival collections using EAD in the near future. To learn more about EAD, visit the official website: <http://www.loc.gov/ead/index.html>



TOURO COLLEGE

Forest Hills—718.520.5107
 Bay Shore—631.665.1600, ext. 224
 Kings Highway—718.301.2032
 For other library locations, consult the Directory
 on our Web site—

www.touro.edu/library/

Midtown—212.463.0400, ext. 321
 Midwood (Ave. J)—718.252.7800, ext. 260
 Lander College for Men—718.820.4894
 Lander College for Women—212.287.3531
 Harlem (Taino)—212.722.1575

Spring 2007 Library User Survey Results

