Modern sensibilities find the idea of torture repugnant. In today’s world of terror and war, however, we frequently read of both the definition and use of torture on a daily basis. When Americans are accused of torturing real and purported enemies in the war on terrorism, we are indignant and urge Congressional hearings, court cases, indictments, and punishment. But many countries use torture as a matter of course in criminal interrogations and punishments.

What many of us don’t realize is that torture was a customary and widely accepted method of determining guilt in medieval and early modern Europe. Roman law, adopted widely in Continental Europe, did not allow circumstantial evidence in the finding of criminal responsibility. Thus, two witnesses or a voluntary confession were needed for a conviction. If the latter proofs were not in evidence, then the alleged offender was subjected to torture in order to elicit a confession. One of the major codifications of criminal procedure and criminal law was the *Constitutio Criminalis Carolina* of 1532, which covered the German Empire. The so-called *Carolina* was promulgated under its namesake, the Holy Roman Emperor, Charles V. This legislation covered inquisitorial procedures in criminal cases that were standard in trials on the European Continent. Contrary to modern public opinion, the methods of the Inquisition were accepted practice and were drawn from the highly sophisticated criminal trial procedures that the Roman Church and the Northern Italian City-States developed in the thirteenth century.

All this goes by way of preface to the fact that most early modern Continental European criminal justice textbooks, especially those detailing the punishment of homicide and violent crimes, described trial practices based on the *Carolina*. The Sealy Library was fortunate in procuring one of the rarest of criminal justice textbook editions, printed in Venice in 1556, of Ludovicus Carerius’s criminal law treatise *Practica nova causarum criminalium ... Tractatus de Indiciis et Tortura, Tractatus de Homicidio*.... Carerius goes into great detail on the methods used to extract confessions as well as describing the multiple conditions that constitute the application of torture to those charged with crimes of violence. We have only been able to find one other copy of this edition, that in the Bavarian State Library. An earlier edition is found at Harvard and the Library of Congress, but the 1556 Venetian edition is unique to the United States. Once again, we must emphasize the importance of these early classics in criminology and jurisprudence in the making of a great research library in criminal justice.

On a happy -- instead of torturous -- note, I am pleased to welcome new members to the Library staff: Assistant Professor Kathleen Collins, and Substitute Assistant Professor Austin Duffy, adjunct librarians Mark Zubarev, Jessica McGivney, our new webmaster Javeria Sharif and our new Assistant to the Chief, Elizabeth Clark-Wilson, a graduate student in Forensic Psychology.

- Larry Sullivan
Faculty Publications & News

Scholarly activities of library faculty


Professor Jeffrey Kroessler was selected a member of the inaugural class of Fellows of the New York Academy of History, based in the Lehman Center for American History at Columbia University in June 2007. In October 2007 he presented a paper on historic preservation at the Queens History Conference at Queens College.

Professor Ellen Belcher gave papers at two conferences: Fifth Millennium B.C.E. Figurines from Central and South-Eastern Anatolia was presented at the 29th International Symposium of Excavations, Surveys and Archaeometry, held at Kocaeli University, Kocaeli, Turkey in May 2007.


Faculty Favorites

Wherein faculty share a favorite book or film with the rest of us

Simon Baatz, History Department.
Dead Souls by Nikolai Gogol. (1842). What a wonderful story Gogol tells! The parvenu Chichikov seeks to make his fortune and establish his reputation. His method is quick and easy and guaranteed of success. In Russia, before the emancipation of the serfs by Alexander II in 1861, the wealth of a landowner was estimated by the number of serfs that he possessed. Chichikov would purchase those serfs who had died since the previous census thus simultaneously enriching himself (at least on paper) and relieving the landowners in his district of an onerous tax burden. Thus Chichikov’s odyssey is to persuade the nobles to give up their dead serfs (dead souls). He imagines it as an easy task but finds that everywhere he is met with suspicion. Dead Souls is a hilarious novel, brilliantly written, a satire on acquisition and greed, and an intensely witty and humorous masterpiece.

Marcia Esparza, Puerto Rican/Latin American Studies Department.
Eichmann in Jerusalem: a report on the banality of evil by Hannah Arendt. (1964). Books considered to be the classics are my favorite these days. One of them is Hannah Arendt's Eichmann in Jerusalem, a controversial account of Nazi perpetrators written by, in my eyes, the most important philosopher (woman) of the twentieth century. Arendt's analysis of Eichmann's shallow understanding of his crimes is a chilling reminder of how, given the right circumstances, people will blindly follow orders and commit mass killings.

Josh Wilson, Government Department.
Das Leben der Anderen (The Lives of Others). Directed by Florian Henckel von Donnesmarck. (2006). I am never able to say what my favorite book or movie is, but the first thing that came to mind was The Lives of Others. Set in the waning years of East Germany and the Stasi, the film gives a dynamic and deeply human depiction of life in a police state. You come to understand the effects that such a system has on human lives, as well as its pervasiveness, paranoia, and banal evil, through the nuanced portrayal of Stasi subjects, true believers, careerists, and everyday party workers. Simultaneously disturbing and hopeful, it is one of the rare movies that has a lasting impact.
What’s Wrong with Lexis-Nexis?

Some of us returned from summer vacation to find that our familiar Lexis-Nexis Academic had a whole new interface -- not because we asked for it, but because Lexis’ parent company tried to design something “more like Google.” The new Lexis-Nexis attempts to bring you much more information at one time on any one subject. That’s fine if your search is for “sleepwalking defense,” on which not much is written, but it’s ghastly if your search is “death penalty,” or “Guantanamo and enemy combatants.” Unless you specify otherwise, searches will retrieve cases, statistics, law reviews & journals, newspapers, news transcripts, newswires, SEC filings, etc., in bewildering numbers. The new interface requires us to understand a lot more about how the database is set up in order to search it effectively.

Tutorials

The Sealy librarians are offering hour-long tutorials on various aspects of the new Lexis-Nexis. On November 15th in the library classroom we presented Searching by Citation, Finding Articles in Law Reviews, and Searching for a Specific Source. We have library handouts to accompany these three topics as well as Finding a New York Times Article. This is just the beginning. We will continue to offer events for faculty and handouts on various aspects of Lexis-Nexis. Any student can attend one of the nine weekly drop-in sessions and have his specific questions answered. Anyone can find Lexis-Nexis tutorials from the right toolbar in the database, “View Tutorials.”

Major Changes

When we previously asked faculty about the failings of Lexis-Nexis, we heard: no Shepard’s for every jurisdiction, no ALL STATES searching, no ALL FEDS searching, no ALL CASES searching, and no treatises. All of these omissions have been remedied in the new Lexis-Nexis. Additionally one can search ALL state codes and the federal code by given topic, e.g., labor, health (but not crime or criminal justice). The standard search box now allows either Boolean Terms and Connectors (and, or or not, truncation and wildcards) or natural language searching. There are hotlinks in cases and law review footnotes. Web pages and blogs are part of the searching unless you exclude them.

For Best Results

Remind students that Lexis-Nexis is not good for general interest materials; Academic Search Premier by Ebsco is the database for general academic journals. From the initial page of Lexis-Nexis, choose the part of the database you need: General, News, Legal, etc. If you want a specific source, use the Sources tab at the top of the screen, then type in the Find A Source box on the far right side of the next screen and click Go. On the next screen, check off the source(s) and (upper right) OK- Continue. Always remember that Lexis-Nexis searches the full text of documents for the words you specify in the search box. For the equivalent of a keyword search or a subject search, specify document sections. To do this, click on [+] Show at mid-screen, then use the drop-down box to choose locations within documents to perform the search. You’ll get especially good results by adding SUMMARY.

The Future of Lexis-Nexis...

The major advantages of Lexis-Nexis Academic remain: it provides unlimited searches for any current CUNY-affiliated person from any place at any time, with unlimited printing. It’s affordable because the university subsidizes it. It brings together legal and non-legal sources, including Web sources, for a complete picture of any inquiry. We continue to learn about this new interface. Please let us know what is most urgent to have covered in future library presentations.

- Janice Dunham

Hispanic Heritage Exhibit

The Lloyd George Sealy Library, John Jay College, celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month with exhibits in the foyer on the first floor of the library. The large glass exhibit case in the wall and the standing circular kiosk exhibit case feature books, in English and Spanish, artesaña (handicrafts) from the Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic, and Mexico.

The large glass window exhibit case features a Chicano prisoners’ art tradition in the form of pañuelos (handkerchiefs); these examples were created by Texas prisoners using pencils or colored pens. Most of these handkerchiefs depict scenes of prison life as well as remembered neighborhood life, lovers, or family and are thought to be based on prison tattoo designs. The exhibit also contains copies of Open Gate/Porton Abierto, a bi-lingual newspaper written and edited by inmates in the Green Haven Correctional Facility, Stormville, New York. These newspapers are from The Gary McGivern Papers in the Library’s Special Collections.

The Library thanks Professor Jose Morin and the Puerto Rican Studies Department, Professor Virgina Diaz (SEEK), Professor Kim Helmer (English), and Professors Janice Dunham and Larry Sullivan (Library) for lending the books and art objects. Please pickup a free bibliography of selected Hispanic library materials, compiled by Professor Marvie Brooks, Reference Librarian. The bibliographies are available in the literature display case next to the kiosk exhibit case.

- Marvie Brooks
These days when millions of international, US and New York records of trials are at one’s fingertips on Lexis-Nexis it’s easy to forget that the many historical court proceedings were never officially recorded. In nineteenth century New York and the surrounding area, a bewildering and ever-changing array of courts prevailed in our early criminal justice system. Those interested in early NYC courts, are directed to the entry “Courts” in the Encyclopedia of New York City.

Of course our largest collection of trial accounts is the 3,226 verbatim Trial Transcripts of the County of New York 1883-1927 available on 425 reels microfilm in the library and by interlibrary loan. More information on this resource, access to the online index and selected full-text trials are available at www.lib.jjay.cuny.edu/crimeiny/trials. A little-known fact is that cases in this collection that subsequently went through the appeal process may also available on Lexis-Nexis.

Trial transcripts are not usually public record and remained the possession of the court and stenographer. Some court proceedings were recorded only as popular accounts when they were particularly newsworthy, gruesome or entertaining. To supplement their meager incomes stenographers would have accounts of the trial printed in pamphlet form. Others who observed or had opinions on these trials would also quickly print their own accounts. Often bearing lengthy titles, the pamphlets were sold in abundance on the street or at booksellers for just a few cents, but now many are quite rare. The Lloyd Sealy Library has recently collected a few early examples. As with all our rare books, these are available for consultation by appointment with Special Collections Librarian Ellen Belcher at extension 8237 or at ebelcher@jjay.cuny.edu.

(1794) The narrative of Whiting Sweeting who was executed at Albany, the 26th of August, 1792. Containing an account of his trial before the Supreme Court of Judicature of the state of New-York, at the July term, 1791, for the murder of Darius Quimby; the substance of the charge of His Honor the chief justice of the jury, with the sentence of death on the prisoner; an address to the public, on the fatal consequences of a life spent in sin, instanced in his own conduct ...

(1805) The gospel to be preached to all men illustrated, in a sermon, delivered in Windham, at the execution of Samuel Freeman, a Mulatto, November 6, A.D. 1805, for the murder of Hannah Simons: together with an appendix, containing memoirs of his life ... Windham, CT: John Byrne

(1808) The commissioners of the Alms-House, vs. Alexander Whistelo: : a black man; being a remarkable case of bastardy, tried and adjudged by the Mayor, recorder, and several aldermen, of the city of New-York, under the act passed 6th March, 1801, for the relief of cities and towns from the maintenance of bastard children ... New York: Longworth

(1819-1922) New York City Hall Recorder: Containing reports, of the most interesting trials and decisions which have arisen in the various courts of judicature, for the trial of jury causes in the hall ... particularly in the Court of Sessions. With notes and remarks, critical and explanatory, by Daniel Rogers

(1820). Trial of Robert M. Goodwin, on an indictment of man-slaughter for killing James Stoughton, esq. in Broadway, in the city of New-York, on the 21st day of December, 1819: tried at the Court of General Sessions of the Peace held in and for the body of the city and county of New-York ...

(1822). Arden, the unfortunate stranger who was tried for the murder of Miss Harriet Finch, but was acquitted through the interposition of a young lady whom he afterwards married: a true story to which is added Glenwar, the Scottish bandit ...: interspersed with original poetry.

- Ellen Belcher

Hints & Tricks

Yes, librarians use Google too! Google is the most widely used, user friendly search engine on the World Wide Web. Type stuff in and millions of hits come back … but there are ways to search more effectively. It’s not the absolute number of hits that’s important; it’s whether or not we find what we want, quickly. Precision declines as recall increases – the more sites we recall, the less likely that any one of them will contain what we want. Google Advanced Search link provides options that help control searches, but even without going there, the basic user friendly Google search is extraordinarily powerful. It’s worth remembering a few simple tricks to harness that power.

Use Google as a dictionary!
E.g. Type define:polysemy

Get local weather
E.g. Type weather Brooklyn

Use Google as a citation checker!
If you have an incomplete or inaccurate citation to an article or book chapter, type what you know into Google. You probably won’t get the full text of the item, but you will find citations that are often more accurate and complete than the one you started with. Then you can then use the library resources (catalog, journal lists) to retrieve the full text.

Use Google as a calculator!
E.g. type 300 euros in USD And of course there’s Google Images, Google Maps, Google Earth, Google Scholar, and all the other amazing things being dreamt up in the Google lab… And for your own computer, you might want to check out the free Customize Google browser extension from Firefox.

Use Google to locate government and NGO documents.
Many organizations now release their reports directly onto their website, as well as / instead of publishing them in print format. To retrieve a specific document, search for the name of the document, as accurately as you know it: October 30 2007 Quarterly Report to Congress
If you are certain of the precise title, use quotes: “October 30 2007 Quarterly Report to Congress”
If you don’t know the report title, but you do know the issuing organization, Google the organization (or an approximation!) e.g. Iraq Inspector General. Then use the website search engine, or the sitemap, to find your document.

Use Google to find movie listings!
Type movie followed by a colon, then a location or zip code, e.g. movie:Brooklyn or movie:10019
Acquisitions for New Majors

Last academic year, the library was allocated Investment Plan money ($125,000.00) to support new liberal arts majors in the College. Despite the fact that the library was thriled with additional resources to be spent on books and online databases, the realization of a fast-approaching end of the fiscal year kept everyone in the Technical Services Department on their toes. The money was not received until April and the wish lists from the departments developing new majors were also submitted late in the Spring semester. In two months --May and June 2007-- the library staff processed requests for a quantity of books equal to three normal years of our total library material acquisitions! While racing through these requests, everyone kept in mind that if we did not spend the money before the end of the fiscal year, we would lose it.

The library has now developed a plan for how the money would be spent if we receive confirmed surpluses over the next five years. It was decided that each year the bulk of the acquisition would be made for two new majors and the following year the gears would be shifted to two additional majors and with the earlier majors getting less support. The justification is that when a retrospective acquisition for a major is fulfilled the money can be relocated for newer majors while the already established major would need only recent materials.

In Spring 2007, the library concentrated on buying books for two majors – English and Economics. In addition, requests from Gender Studies and some from Government and History were fulfilled. The biggest list(s) came from the English department faculty. In total, the library ordered more than 2000 new titles and as of this month, we have received requests from Gender Studies and some from Government.

Most of the books were acquired in print format but some e-books were purchased. As a result the library now has a critical space on our shelves! Online format also helps to replace titles that definitely would be missing after the first circulation and those that were already lost and cannot be replaced in any other way.

All the records of books ordered, received and available for use can be found in the library’s online catalog CUNY+. If the book was ordered but not received yet the status of the title will be “On Order.” As long as the book is received it gets the status “In process” or “Cataloging” and can be requested from Technical Services for expedited processing. Faculty who submitted requests for the new acquisitions can check the status of those requests in the catalog.

The library managed to spend all the money. Seventy-five percent went towards materials for new majors and Twenty-five percent for support of the established majors. Here are some interesting statistics: the most expensive item acquired so far is The York Plays by Richard Beadle ($333.90, and we keep it on Reserve); the least expensive is Robinson Crusoe by Daniel Defoe ($1.98).

All requests for new library materials should be send to the attention of Professor Maria Kiriakova, Collection Development Librarian, at mkiriakova@jjay.cuny.edu or at the extension x8260.

- Maria Kiriakova
RefWorks Makes Life Easier

RefWorks, an online bibliographic management program, can make your academic life much easier. You might hear grad students and faculty proclaiming, “It does your bibliography for you!” The bibliography gets all the glory because it looks wonderful, usually comes at the end of a long, hard climb, and is a generally reviled task. RefWorks does greatly reduce the amount of time you would normally spend dotting every “i” and properly placing the comma according to your chosen citation style. But the bibliography is just the icing on the cake. Think of RefWorks as your fully searchable personal research and references database that is accessible to you wherever you have an internet connection.

‘RefWorks is like having a dutiful, hardworking, efficient assistant’

With RefWorks you can import citations from external databases and online library catalogs complete with abstracts, database URLs and detailed bibliographic information. References can also be entered manually, if for example, you have a journal article that is only in print form. You can edit any part of each record and can store up to 1GB of text by cutting and pasting into any field of your choosing. You can keep copious notes and/or, in effect, create your own tagging system. There are hundreds of citation output styles supported. Even without using the advanced Write-n-Cite feature, RefWorks makes it simple to insert in-text citations, too.

RefWorks is like having a dutiful, hardworking, efficient assistant who at times can be a bit flaky. While the program inarguably saves time, it does require monitoring. Sometimes an imported citation may have a style error or missing information. It’s not perfect, but it invariably reduces stress and time expenditure and increases organization.

RefWorks is similar to other bibliographic management programs, but unlike EndNote, for example, it is web-based (no software to install) and free to you as a John Jay community member. To get started using it, visit the RefWorks link on the right hand side of the library home page (http://www.lib.jjay.cuny.edu/). If you are interested in a group workshop session for faculty or research assistants in your department, contact Kathleen Collins at kcollins@jjay.cuny.edu or ext. 8242.

- Kathleen Collins


News from the Media Collection - Nancy Egan

Most of the media collection has been fully cataloged into the CUNY+ system. All commercially made films can now be searched for using basic CUNY+ functions. The next phase in the project is to catalog John Jay event videos! Soon, you will be able to find lectures, seminars, and workshops offered by your colleagues, guest speakers, and graduate students on a wealth of subjects. You may want to use these to add valuable content to your classes or simply to watch an important event that took place at the college which you missed. This is an ongoing project and will take some time.

Remember, reservation and purchase requests can be made through the library’s homepage (on the right hand side, under Lloyd Sealy Library information). If you’re having any trouble with the system please contact the Media Librarian, Nancy Egan at negan@jjay.cuny.edu or ext. 8269. Below is a selected list of new videos and DVDs purchased for the collection. Some but not all were purchased at faculty request:


Bryer, L., Calderwood, A. & Steel, C. (Producers) and Macdonald, K. (Director). (2007). The last king of Scotland. Beverly Hills: 20th Century Fox Home Entertainment: This major motion picture chronicles the life of Idi Amin through the eyes of Nicholas Garrigan, a Scottish doctor who served as Amin’s personal physician. DVD-441

Campbell, D., Kronick, W. & Fuchs, T. (Producers). (2003). Russia: Land of the tsars. New York: New Video: This program covers over 1,000 years of Russian history, from the first settlement of Russian Vikings to the murder of Tsar Nicholas II and his family. DVD-6049 (two discs)


Green, S., Lozano, C., Siegal, B. & Smolowitz, M. (Producers) and Green, S. (Director). (2004). The Weather Underground. New York: New Video: Documents the group’s plan to blow up an empty building and how instead they blew up a house in New York’s Greenwich Village, killing three of their members and turning the others into outlaws on the run. DVD-411


Kheyfets, N. & Rummel, D. (Producers) and Rummel, D. (Director). (2004). Frontline: Secret history of the credit card. Alexandria, VA.: PBS Video: This film investigates how the credit card industry became so pervasive, lucrative and politically powerful. DVD-399

O’Rourke, S. (Producer & Director). (2002). In the name of love. Harriman, NY: New Day Films: The film follows five Russian women, mail-order brides, who struggle for dignity as they endure chauvinism, poverty, and culture shock. DVD-449

When is the Library benefit book sale?

We get this question all the time: When is the next book sale? The answer is – now! As a matter of fact, we have a sale going on every day off a book truck in front of the circulation desk. There are no set prices, we accept any donations – just put any amount of coins in the box placed by the truck. The books are replenished practically every day and we have heard from some people that they make it their habit to check the truck every week.

The library used to have a huge book sale every spring but experience has shown that the majority of the materials would remain unsold and stay on the shelves collecting dust awaiting the next year’s event. By selling off the truck, the library saves a lot of staff time. In addition, we are able to clear space in the Technical Services Department for more donations. As for the profit, believe it or not the students and faculty are generous enough to offer whatever they can for the books and the library makes as much money as it would at the regular book sale.

The library’s gift policy is posted on the Internet at http://www.lib.jjay.cuny.edu/info/giftbooks.html. All inquiries should be referred to Professor Maria Kiriakova at mkiriakova@jjay.cuny.edu

“Advice for new faculty members: nihil nimus”

This is the title of the book by Robert Boice that the library just received this month (LB 1778.2.B63 1999). Every junior faculty member who dreams of having a mentor should read this book. It really has great simple ideas for achieving success in teaching, writing, and socializing without burning yourself out by the time you get tenure.
While use of the physical library has remained about the same over the past five years (as measured by traditional means), use of the electronic library (as measured by full text journal article downloads) has increased 44% in the last 3 years.
To understand what is happening—how the use of the physical library can remain about the same (with the same demand for space, books, and the help of reference librarians), while actual use of library resources keeps increasing, it helps to look at the numbers from our proxy server logs. These logs show initial connections to library databases and where the users are physically when they are connecting:

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As you can see, use of the databases has increased consistently over the last 5 years—in the Library, elsewhere in the College, and from off-campus (external)—but while in-library use of the databases has increased 30% over that time, total use of the databases has increased 169%, to the point where in-Library use (what you see when you walk into the Library) now makes up only about 21% of the total use of the electronic resources.

The full Library Information Technology report is available on the TAC website at http://johnjay.jjay.cuny.edu/tac/reports/docs/libsys_annrep.pdf

- Bonnie Nelson

Resources on Terrorism Studies

With the threat of another terrorist attack always present, terrorism studies remain relevant. The Lloyd Sealy Library collects extensively on the subject. A serial and a reference work are highlighted below.

*Terrorism: Documents of international and local control.*
(1979-present) New York: Oxford University. Now 81 volumes. Ref. HV 6431.T464 (note that these are shelved just north of the Reference Desk)

The bulk of this series has been published since the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. Most of the documents are U.S. government reports, laws and Congressional hearing statements, as well as United Nations resolutions, pertaining to terrorism, its control, and the consequences of both. It also includes non-governmental material like the *Al Queda Training Manual*, found in a London police raid. While most of these documents are unclassified and available elsewhere, this compilation provides a valuable single point of access to these resources. Volume 1 gives a thorough historical overview of international terrorism. From Volume 38 on, documents are arranged by subject instead of by authoring agency. Recently the series has focused on the impact of counter-terrorism measures on Americans’ civil liberties. This series is recommended in support of research papers and more advanced terrorism research.


This three-volume set starts with the premise that “the public must be equipped with the knowledge of how, why, and where an individual becomes a terrorist” to better serve “as the necessary eyes and ears of the global antiterrorism coalition.” It covers a variety of terrorist groups including Islamic *jihadists*, guerilla fighters, and political extremists around the world. Each volume has 18 chapters written by various experts in terrorism. Volume I focuses on the recruitment of terrorists, and includes, for example, an article about women who join the FARC guerillas in Colombia. Volume 2 addresses the training of terrorists, including the method of “selective moral disengagement” the trainees undergo to commit atrocities. Volume 3 discusses the “root causes” of terrorism, not only commonly cited ones—such as U.S. foreign policy and religious fanaticism—but also alternative influences such as environment and geography. Recommended for researchers looking for resources on the inner workings of terrorist groups and individuals.

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