

# CLASSIFIED INFORMATION

The Newsletter of the Lloyd Sealy Library  
Fall 2021

**JOHN  
JAY** COLLEGE  
OF CRIMINAL  
JUSTICE  
**CUNY**



## Inside:

Welcome back: Reopening the library space for the fall 2021 semester

Video Collection News

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The online edition of this newsletter is available at [jjay.cc/news](http://jjay.cc/news)

**Library news in brief**

During the pandemic, Chief Librarian Larry E. Sullivan retired from the Lloyd Sealy Library at John Jay College of Criminal Justice. He served as the Chief Librarian for twenty-five years. His retirement caught the faculty and staff by surprise. We wish him well and a long enjoyable retirement. We will be honoring him and all of his accomplishments in the spring edition of *Classified Information*.

**Lloyd Sealy Library welcomes new faculty**

Kate Cauley joined the Lloyd Sealy Library faculty in August 2020, as the Web and Emerging Technologies Librarian. Her academic interests are interdisciplinary and include digital humanities, prison censorship, and digital literacy. Prior to arriving at John Jay, Kate worked at New York University School of Law Library. She holds both a M.A. in Experimental Humanities and Social Thought from New York University and a M.S. in Library & Information Science from Long Island University. This fall semester, Kate is most looking forward to finally meeting in-person with both students and colleagues!

**Faculty Notes**

Maureen Richards, Electronic Resources Librarian, published, “Is ‘just googling it’ good enough for first-year students?” in *College & Undergraduate Libraries* (2021).

Kathleen Collins, Graduate Studies & Reserve Librarian, published, *From rabbit ears to the rabbit hole: A life with television*. University Press of Mississippi, (2021).

Maria Kiriakova, Associate Librarian for Technical Services/Collection Development, published “Pausing in the middle of the storm: Assessing functionality of the library reserve collection for the post-pandemic future,” *Journal of Access Services*, 18(3), 2021.

Patrick J Raftery Jr., Cataloging & Metadata Librarian, published, “Prison librarianship and LIS schools: Is there a career-path?” *Urban Library Journal* 27(1), 2021. He also presented this paper at the LACUNY McCrann Lecture on November 19, 2021.

Ellen Belcher, Special Collections Librarian, published, “Peopling pots and potting people: Anthropomorphic vessels in the Halaf culture and Chalcolithic Anatolia,” chapter 19 in *Neolithic Pottery from the Near East: Production, distribution and use*. Koc University Press (2021). Additionally, Ellen co-presented with Karian Croucher (University of Bradford), their paper, “Daily negotiations with materiality: Re-assembling Halaf ornamentation” at *Style and Society in the Later Prehistory of the Ancient Near East: A Symposium in Honour of Olivier Nieuwenhuys*, in Lieden, Netherlands on November 16, 2021.

Jeffrey Kroessler, Interim Chief Librarian, was promoted to full professor in August. His book, *Sunnyside Gardens: Planning and Preservation in a Historic Garden Suburb*, was published by Fordham University Press in April; a review appeared in the November 18 issue of the *New York Review of Books*. He reviewed *Last Subway: The Long Wait for the Next Train in New York City*, by Philip Mark Plotch (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2020), in *Journal of Urban Affairs*, and *It’s A Helluva Town: Joan K. Davidson, the J.M. Kaplan Fund, and the Fight for a Better New York*, by Roberta Brandes Gratz (New York: Bold Type Books, 2020), in Gotham Center Blog. As the president of the City Club of New York, he had an op-ed published in *The New York Daily News*, “For Governors Island, the Wrong Way Forward,” in February, and in *CityLand*, “City Turns Back on Rational Zoning,” in August, “City Club Opposes LPC Approval of New South Street Seaport Tower,” in May.

# From the desk of the Chief Librarian

By Jeffrey Kroessler

Imagine our surprise in January when Chief Librarian Larry Sullivan suddenly announced that he was retiring, effective that afternoon. We responded with stunned silence.

My colleagues expressed great confidence in me when they agreed that I should serve as interim chair. It had never been my plan to become a chief librarian, but here I am, addressing all of the administrative and bureaucratic matters I had assiduously worked to avoid for much of my career. That the library has maintained a steady course must be credited to my colleagues – the librarians and staff who worked through the pandemic with dedication and professionalism.

When John Jay locked down in March 2020, the library quickly pivoted to an all-remote mode. We extended live chat from a few hours a day to all hours when the library would have been open. We structured new virtual library sessions for classes. With the reserve room inaccessible, Maria Kiriakova, our Collection Development librarian, approached publishers to obtain digital copies of textbooks currently assigned. She was largely successful, though many publishers simply refuse to sell digital copies for libraries. Maria also increased the acquisition of e-books. At the same time, we had cancel (temporarily) all periodicals and journals and stopped buying actual books. We are now gradually catching up.

From January to August the library, like the college, was closed. Librarians continued to offer virtual reference services whenever the physical library would have been open. Still, individual librarians and staff came in from time to time to keep us functioning.

While the university issued tentative pronouncements about reopening for the fall semester, my colleagues and I prepared to open the library. What open would mean, however, remained a question. My colleagues and I planned to open as close to

“normal” as possible. When the semester began, we were the only CUNY library to be open to students and faculty without restrictions. Our circulating collection was available, the computer lab was available, albeit with reduced capacity, and study space was available. I am gratified that our faith has been rewarded, and we have not had to aggressively police our patrons for masking and social distancing.

The pandemic will end – someday. But when that day arrives the Lloyd Sealy Library cannot return to the way it was, doing things the way we have always done them. We will be two libraries – the physical library with study space, circulating and reference collections, and librarians offering reference services, and the virtual library, with e-books, databases, and consultations through chat or email. Serving our patrons in both the physical and digital realms is the challenge for the years ahead.



# LIBRARY NEWS

## Welcome back: Reopening the library space for the fall 2021 semester

By Marta Bladek and Karen Okamoto



*The Lloyd Sealy Library reopened the physical space of the Library on August 25, 2021 after being closed since March 19, 2020. The Library rearranged seating and placed several signs reminding patrons to wear masks and practice social distancing.*

After being closed for more than 500 calendar days, the Lloyd Sealy Library reopened its physical space to patrons on August 25th, 2021, in compliance with [CUNY's](#) and [John Jay College's](#) COVID-19 safety protocols. The library had closed its doors on March 19, 2020 as the world began to grapple with the devastating rise of COVID-19 cases. Even though the physical library remained inaccessible throughout the pandemic, librarians and library resources were available remotely. Librarians assisted patrons in accessing resources for their classes and research projects, continued to acquire electronic titles, taught remotely, updated critical information on our website and research guides, and supplied materials from libraries around the world via interlibrary loan.

Reopening the physical space of the library was a long, challenging and time-consuming task. Our Special Collections Librarian, Professor Ellen Belcher, attended numerous John Jay Fall 2021 Planning Committee meetings. She was also actively involved in drafting and shaping the [College's reopening plan](#). Interlibrary Loan Librarian, Professor Karen Okamoto, served on the CUNY Libraries COVID-19 Task Force

which formed in May 2020. The Task Force prepared a [report and recommendations](#) in June 2020 for resuming on-site library services at CUNY. That [report was updated a year later](#) to include more recent research on COVID-19.

[Libraries, their spaces, services, and resources, play a critical role in CUNY students' educational experience](#), as Mariana Regalado and Maura Smale's research had clearly demonstrated. At the same time, CUNY libraries faced unique challenges in reopening their physical spaces and resuming on-site services. Patrons occupy library spaces for long periods of time to study, read and type research papers, usually in tight spaces that often lack proper ventilation. Maintaining and providing socially distanced spaces for patrons and staff in space-constrained libraries is also a challenge. The uncertain budget situation and shifting mandates around masking and vaccinations made planning around staffing and determining hours of operation for both on-site and remote services difficult. Other challenges included resuming our inter-campus book delivery service across a system with libraries operating at different levels. Devising hybrid

staffing schedules and working with policies both from campus administration and CUNY central has been challenging. The library has also grappled with the question of providing space and equipment for students attending online classes. Presently, at the time of writing this article in October 2021, [12](#) out of [32](#) [CUNY library locations](#) are providing on-site access to current CUNY students, faculty and staff.

The Lloyd Sealy Library has largely resumed the full range of its pre-pandemic operations and services, including walk-in access to library spaces for all current CUNY affiliates in compliance with COVID-19 vaccination mandate. Prior to reopening, we modified our space by installing plexi-glass screens in service areas and marking some seats and workstations as unavailable to avoid overcrowding and density. We also created and posted COVID-19 signage reminding patrons to wear masks. We adjusted our on-site staffing levels, coordinated hybrid schedules and workflows for all library staff and faculty.

Offering a blend of in-person and online services, the Fall 21 library services include:

For students:

- Circulating books and reserves (open stacks).
- Limited number of computer workstations (library computers are not equipped with headphones or microphones).
- Silent study areas.
- Study spaces for students with their own devices.
- Printing and scanning.
- Study rooms limited to 2 people at a time.
- Zoom library workshops and consultations.
- In-person research assistance on the upper level of the library.
- Remote research help through chat, email, and phone.
- Interlibrary loan (ILL). Please refer to our ILL policy for details.

For faculty:

- In-person research assistance on the upper level of the library.
- Remote research help through chat, email, and phone.
- [Virtual library instruction](#).
- [Reserves](#).
- Interlibrary loan (ILL), please refer to [ILL](#) our policy for details.

A reflection of the relatively low number of in-person courses at the College, the number of patrons visiting the library so far has remained well below pre-pandemic levels. Before the campus closed in March 2020, the Library had as many as 489 patrons during the Community Hour. Many students were often found sitting or lying on the floor in our stacks area as seating was limited. Now compare this with 157 patrons, our greatest number of visitors counted during the Community Hour this semester so far. To a greater extent than we observed pre-pandemic, many patrons are now bringing their own laptops instead of using the library's computers. Some are attending online classes while in the Library. Alongside our physical spaces and in-person services our online reference and teaching remain in demand. Mid-October, the number of chats we have received so far this semester alone approaches 70% of all chats received over the entire 2018/19 academic year, the last full on-campus year before the pandemic.

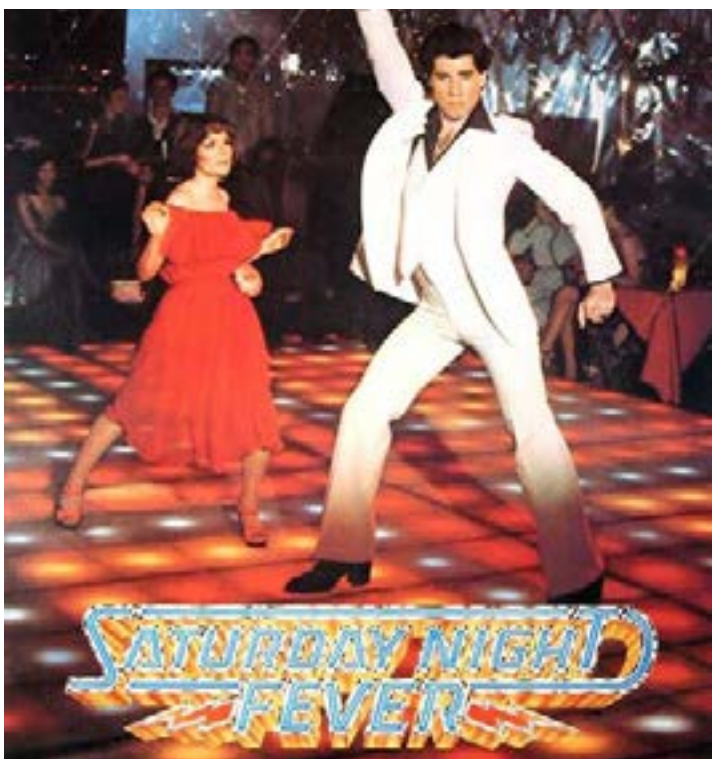
We are pleased to be offering as many on-site services as possible for the CUNY community while following required COVID protocols. We hope to continue to hear from you should you have any questions, suggestions or concerns.

## Video Collection News

By Ellen Sexton

We have a trial of [Quest Music TV](#), a channel dedicated to jazz, soul, funk & world music performances, documentaries, and musicians. Our year-long trial ends in March 2022. Please enjoy exploring this terrific music collection; should we continue subscribing after the trial period ends? Please let us know.

During the pandemic our streaming video collections were called into service to substitute for our unavailable DVD collections. We discovered a gap in our streaming collections: box office hits are rarely available from our regular vendors. Faculty needed feature film content delivered to students online. To fulfill requests from classroom instructors, we started working with [Swank Motion Pictures](#) distributor. Films currently licensed by the Library from Swank include *Saturday Night Fever*, *Do the Right Thing*, *The Shining*, *Blade Runner*, *Children of Men*, *Sorry to Bother You*, *Dirty Pretty Things* and *A Quiet Place*. We are purchasing twelve month licenses for specific films as requested by teaching faculty, and as far as our budget permits. Instructors may request films be acquired either via our Swank platform or by emailing the media librarian. As part of our agreement with Swank, professors must provide Swank with both the course title and the particular teaching goal addressed.



We are exploring using ProQuest's AVON platform to stream content we have acquired with institution wide digital streaming licenses. So far, we are using this service to host and stream to our community *Coded Bias*, *Young Dr. Freud* and *Paradise Discovered: Unbreakable Virgin Islanders*. We are cataloging all titles so they can be found with the library's main discovery tool, OneSearch.

### [Practical Research and Academic Skills](#)

(streaming videos from Sage): We have acquired a collection of short videos covering qualitative, quantitative and general social science research skills from Sage. Many of the tutorials are only a few minutes long, and are grouped into related series, e.g. *Core Skills for New Researchers*, *Essay Writing Kit*. Video metadata includes a hyperlinked methods field; e.g. browse by Student Success, Archival methods, etc. Tutorials explain writing proposals, research reports, essays, preparing bibliographies, carrying out literature reviews, coping with stress, working on dissertations, interviewing research subjects, data management, communicating effectively via formal scholarly works and on social media. All videos have permanent URLs to make sharing easy and can be embedded in Blackboard. We own this collection in perpetuity. It should be especially useful for graduate students and upper level undergraduates.



We have purchased permanent access to 40 more Docuseek2 documentaries, and ceased our subscription to the full collection. Our usage statistics to the full subscription database over the past three years have been disappointing, but we retain ownership of the titles that were watched most often by our community. Our purchases ensure that the films that have been used in classes will continue to be available, and include *Tribal Justice*, *Detropia*, *Denial*, *Alabba*, *Crimes of Honour*, *Affluenza*, *AWAKE*, *Addiction Incorporated*. Among previous purchases were *Adam Smith*, *Life & Times of Sara Baartman*, *Keynes vs Hayek*, *Ghosts of Attica*. We are confident our community will be well served with the 60 streaming documentaries we own in perpetuity, hosted by Docuseek. Requests for additional titles should be made to the media librarian, Ellen Sexton.

With the reopening of the physical library, we are able once again to offer access to our [DVD collection](#). Students may borrow DVDs to watch within the Library. Faculty may borrow DVDs for up to three days.

Faculty intending to show a DVD during class are advised to [reserve the DVD](#) at least one week in advance. We did not add to our DVD collection during the time the campus was closed, preferring instead to use our limited funds to provide access to streaming content.



## CUNY participates in the *Change the Subject* Project

By Patrick J Raftery Jr.

In the spring of 2021, CUNY's Cataloging and Metadata Librarians brought their discussion of ethical cataloging to CUNY's Office of Library Services (OLS). A proposal to participate in the Change the Subject Project was approved. CUNY libraries now join the ranks of many academic libraries (Dartmouth, Yale, Harvard, SUNY, University of Texas, etc.) to defy the Library of Congress and no longer display the controlled subject heading "illegal aliens" and display the local subject heading "undocumented immigrants" instead.

Library of Congress Subject Headings (LCSH) are control vocabulary, a thesaurus of terms, maintained by the U.S. Congress for their use in bibliographic records. LCSH has been in use since 1898 and is one of the most widely used controlled vocabulary lists.<sup>1</sup> Control vocabularies are a tool for classifying and organizing information that assist in the retrieval of both known and unknown item searches. LCSH is the only subject headings list accepted as a worldwide standard and revisions and new editions are added monthly.<sup>2</sup>

The Change the Subject project, originally started by students and librarians at Dartmouth in 2014, seeks to have the Library of Congress (LC) change an authorized subject heading "illegal aliens" to "undocumented immigrants." They petitioned the Library of Congress directly and were rejected. However, the students and librarians regrouped and gained the support and endorsement of the American Library Association (ALA) and petitioned LC again in 2016. This time they won the support of the Library of Congress. However, they faced challenges from Republican members of Congress, specifically from Representative Diane Black from Tennessee who drafted legislation to stop the change. The petition failed again for a second time. In 2019, a documentary film, *Change the Subject*, was released documenting the uphill battle of the unsuccessful attempts to have LC replace the subject heading.

<sup>1</sup> "Library of Congress Subject Headings (LCSH)". Librarianship Studies & Information Technology.

<sup>2</sup> Controlled Vocabularies. Library of Congress.

Although CUNY has made changes to the library catalog in the integrated library system (ILS) Alma to suppress the unwanted subject heading, there are many bibliographic records that are maintained by a third party, or vendor. These records, primarily from electronic journals and e-books, will continue to display the "illegal aliens" heading. However discussions with these vendors are now being held to address ethical cataloging.

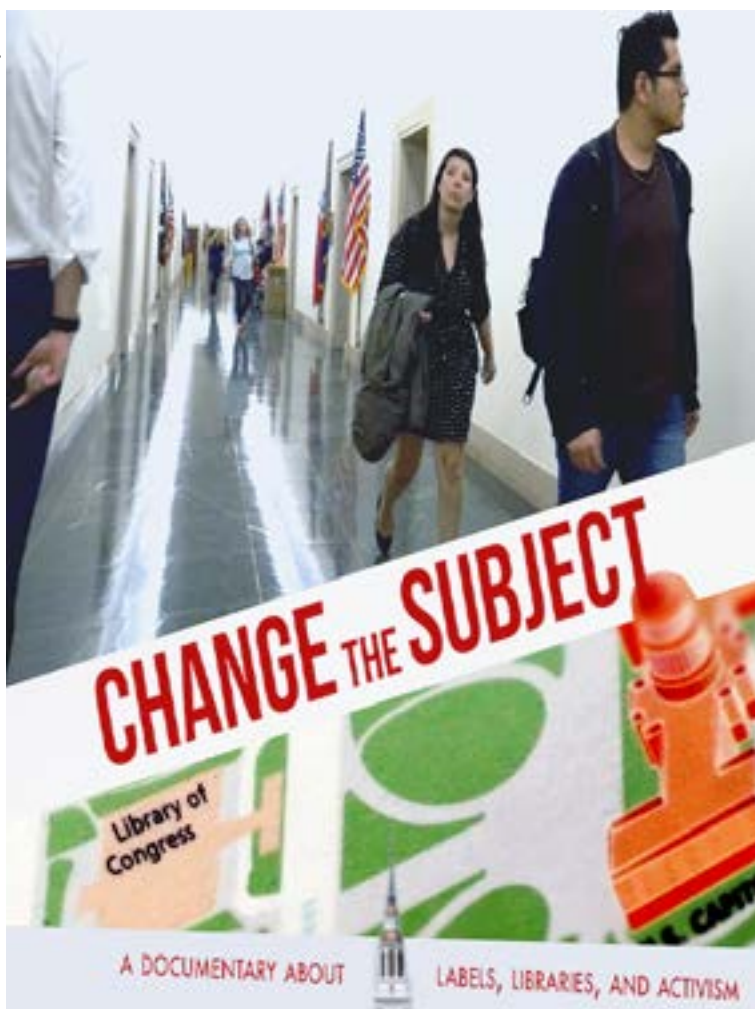
For more information on the *Change the Subject* project please see the following resources:

Visit: [Dartmouth Library](#)

Watch: [Change the Subject on YouTube](#)

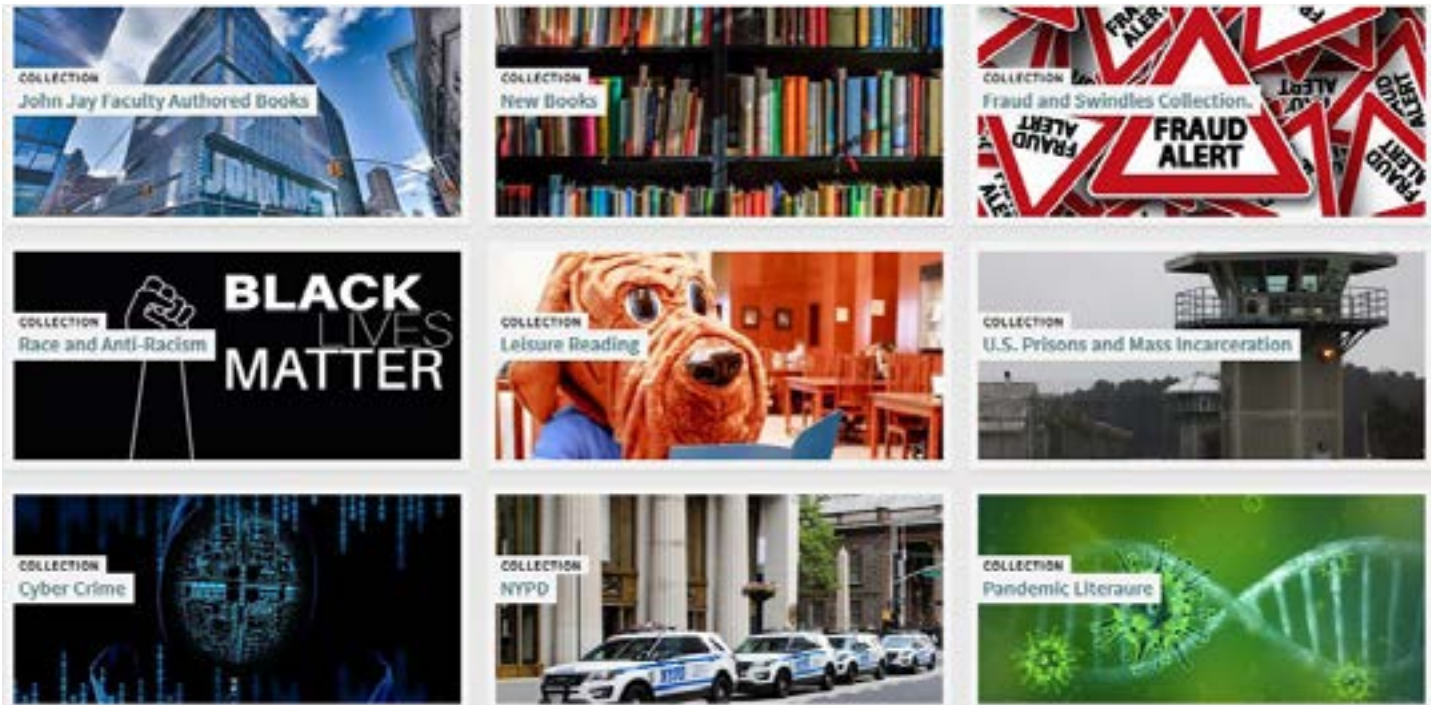
Read: [Library of Congress to Cancel the Subject Heading "Illegal Aliens"](#)

Visit: [Change the Subject Facebook page](#)





LLOYD SEALY LIBRARY  
**New Curated Collections**  
By Partick J Raftery Jr.



During the pandemic and remote academic year, CUNY libraries migrated to a new Integrated Library System (ILS), Alma. Thankfully, this new system doesn't drastically change the way our patrons, students, staff, and faculty use the library webpage or OneSearch. However, Alma is very robust and allows for some great new features, such as creating local collections to highlight.

Thanks to the detailed work of the Sealy library's dedicated cataloging and metadata librarians and technical services department the following collections have been created:

John Jay Faculty Authored Books; Fraud and Swindles Collection; Race and Anti-Racism; Leisure Reading; U.S. Prisons and Mass Incarceration; Cyber Crime; NYPD; Pandemic Literature; Loeb Classical Library; Prison Newspapers; Crime, Punishment, and Popular Culture, 1790-1920; LGBTQ+, and Hispanic and Latin American titles.

The creation of these curated collections relies on high quality cataloging and metadata management of bibliographic records. The library's technical services and cataloging/metadata librarians and staff here at John Jay strive to create, edit and enhance bibliographic records to the highest quality which ensures that all patrons, students, faculty, and staff are able to locate the resources that they need.

To create the majority of these collections, an advanced search in Alma using specific Library of Congress Subject Headings (LCSH) were created to find the relevant materials for each collection, similarly to how a patron would use OneSearch. For example, the Pandemic Literature Collection was created by creating a search for bibliographic records containing the following LCSH: pandemic, infectious diseases, influenza, COVID-19 (Disease), Coronaviruses, AIDS (Disease), SARS (Disease), Plague, and Cholera. This created a set of over 1,700 titles which are now grouped together for your convenience.

However, not all of the collections could be created by using LCSH. For example, the John Jay Faculty Authored Books and the Fraud and Swindles collections both use a wide variety of LCSH. To create these collections Cataloging/Metadata librarians have been adding local notes to the records to pull a specified set, "John Jay Faculty authored" and "Fraud and Swindles Collection." These local notes will continue to be added to bibliographic records as needed to create the most up to date collection.

You can find these collections but clicking on the link from the [Library Homepage](#), or by the "[Featured Resources](#)" tab at the top of the OneSearch Results page.

## Special Collections News

### By Ellen Belcher

While we have not been able to accommodate in-person visitors in our Special Collections Room since February 2020, we have been working on providing remote access for researchers and facilitating publications from them (see list below). We have also been busy acquiring and processing additions to our collections (see list below). This semester we have begun preparing our new Special Collections Room for visitors sometime in 2022.

The most significant event to happen to the Special Collections this year is the retirement of Larry Sullivan, Chief Librarian in January 2021. His practical approach to managing special collections and decades of knowledge in the fields of rare books and criminal justice history (broadly defined) was invaluable to the development of the collections (and me as a Special Collections Librarian). Together we have made significant acquisitions which have doubled the size of our unique collections, many of which have been reported upon in this publication. The new Special Collections suite of rooms was conceptualized before I was hired, almost two decades ago. It took all of the intervening years advocating and planning for it to finally make it a reality, right before the College shut down in March 2020. Larry's understanding of the importance of not only acquisition and state of the art facilities but also archival processing, cataloging, digitization and promotion of our collections to the media have resulted in the them getting noticed and used by a diverse group of researchers and writers. Since retiring, Larry's been quite busy; look for him appearing on an upcoming episode of Antiques Roadshow on NYPD Commissioner (1918-25) Richard E. Enright, and our [Enright Collection](#).

#### Into the Special Collections – New Acquisitions

The following is a selection of books and archival materials that were acquired in 2020-2021

- 1570 *Praxis Rerum Criminalium: Praetoribus, Propraetoribus, Consulibus, Proconsulibus, Magistratibus, Reliquisque id Genus Iustitiaris ac Officialis, Apprime Utilis & Necessaria*. by Josse (Joost) de Damhouder (Antwerp)
- 1797 John Jay, New York Governor Autographed letter in which he discusses Building The State's First Prison, Newgate In New York City: "These Buildings Be Completed As Speedily As Can Conveniently Be Done...May Be Amply Sufficient For All The Various Uses Which Institutions Of This Kind Require And Which Will Naturally Multiply And Enlarge In Proportion As Our Population & Manufactories In crease"
- 1815 *John Jay ESQ: Late Chief Justice of the United States | William Satchwell Leney Engraved from the original portrait painted by Stuart*. (Philadelphia: Joseph Delphine)
- 1841 *Instruction Et Programme Pour La Construction De Maisons D'arret Et De Justice. Atlas De Plans De Prisons Cellulaires*. By Comte Tanneguy Duchâtel
- 1875-80 *Conseil Supérieur des Prisons Sammelband of 19th Century French Documents Related to the Adoption of the Cellular Prison System*. (Paris)
- 1896 Group of approximately 100 mugshots from 1896 New York City, showing men arrested for theft, burglary, swindling, forgery, pick-pocketing, and other crimes. Albumen prints mounted on 2 x 3.5 inch cards.
- 1904-05 Record Book of Chief of Police of Lewiston ME – internal memos relating to policing Lewiston, Maine.
- 1930s *Aerial View of Sing Sing Prison Original Jigsaw Puzzle* by Fairchild Aerial Surveys, Inc.
- 1930s-1970s Grondin Detective Agency Collection – 4 linear feet of archival materials, publications and artifacts, including a fingerprinting board of this NJ based multiple generations family agency.
- 1940s Haaren High School Aeronautics Annex cloth patches circa 1940s
- 1940s-1980s Douglas Valentine Collection, addition –3 linear feet of archival materials on the international drug trade and drug enforcement agencies collected in the course of writing his books on the subject. To be added to our existing [Valentine Collection](#).

1960s-1990s Herman and Leni Schwendinger Papers – approximately 15 linear feet archival materials, including original documents, other papers, 3D models, computer media, microfilm, photographs, video and audio cassettes, newsletters and newspapers and other miscellaneous items.

1970s-2000s Douglas S. Lipton Papers – relating to drug abuse treatment research in NY State and elsewhere. - approximately 7 linear feet of Archival materials and publications.

### Out of the Special Collections – New Publications

The following is a selection of recent publications which are partially or wholly based on research in our special collections

Evens, E. (2020). [Plainclothes Policewomen on the Trail: NYPD Undercover Investigations of Abortionists and-Queer Women, 1913–1926](#). *Modern American History*, 1-18. doi:10.1017/mah.2020.22

Greenberg, M. A. (2020) [Renaissance Lawman: The Education and Deeds of Eliot H. Lumbard](#). Rowman & Littlefield

Levine, A. G. (2020). [Details are unprintable: Wayne Lonergan and the sensational café society murder](#). Globe Pequot Press

Smith, A. (2020) “[Protect Society and Salvage Men](#)”: [Prison Schools and the New Vision for Rehabilitation in New York State in the Progressive Era, 1905-1920](#) PhD Thesis, Columbia University

Springer, M. (2020). *The Politics of Ponzi Schemes: History, Theory and Policy*. Routledge.

<https://doi.org/10.4324/9780429462498>

Congratulations to Professor Springer for winning the 2021 [ACS-DWCCC Outstanding Book Award!](#) (see photo below)

Stewart, Jules (2021) [Policing the Big Apple: The Story of the NYPD](#) Reaktion Press

Woltz, K. (December 14, 2020) *The Role of Prisoner Voice in Criminal Justice Reform* GMU Working Paper in Economics No. 20-50, Available at SSRN: <https://ssrn.com/abstract=3748768> or

<http://dx.doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.3748768>



# In Memoriam

## Saad Abulhab: retired CUNY systems librarian

Early in 2021, we received the sad news that our former colleague, Saad Abulhab, had died in Michigan at age 62. Saad devoted much of his working life to CUNY libraries, most recently as an adjunct library faculty member with us at John Jay. He was tasked with trouble shooting systems issues, advising on proxy server problems, and in his spare moments, populating our institutional repository, CUNY Academic Works, with content created by John Jay authors. Saad was a wonderful colleague and we missed him when he moved away from New York. A colleague at Baruch who knew him for longer than we did shared some lovely reminiscences on our cross-CUNY librarians' listserv, which she has kindly allowed us to reprint here. Thank you, Professor Lisa Ellis.

Like many Baruch and CUNY colleagues, both past and present, I am deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Saad Abulhab. I share this remembrance of a colleague who made a lasting impression on CUNY libraries, as well as the many friends he made throughout CUNY.

While an American citizen by birth, Saad spent his youth in Iraq before fleeing on foot as a young college student when S. Hussein came to power. He settled in NYC and just like many of our immigrant students, Saad enrolled at CUNY studying at City College. He worked at NYPL before a long career in library systems at various CUNY libraries and CUNY's OLS.

As systems librarian at Baruch's Newman Library, Saad worked closely with his small team to accomplish a myriad of projects. He was trained as an electrical engineer and approached many aspects of his work as problems that needed to be solved, giving careful thought and consideration to efficient solutions. Saad accomplished a lot of thinking as he walked to and from Grand Central



Terminal with his feet clad in a pair of New Balance sneakers for comfort. With great facility, he lead with kindness offering words of encouragement as he showed his team step-by-step how to do many tasks such as implementing a system-wide update or using what he referred to as an imaging technique to maintain laptops. Of course, that was an extension of the paternal role Saad assumed as a loving and caring father who, nurtured and fostered independence in his two daughters, Yasmine and Zena.

While many have already noted his innovative creation of Arabic font type for which he received three patents over the years, he wrote extensively on type design and language history and interpretation for which there are seven books to date published by Blautopf, along with numerous articles, presentations and lectures. Often, he stayed up late at night working on his inventions and scholarship simply because he found it difficult to sleep. There seemed to be something always on his mind and the scholarship allowed him to constructively redirect his energies.

There were countless occasions Saad was generous with his time and expertise, no matter your status. He supported worker's rights as much as he valued the rights of citizens in a democracy. He was congenial, and easy to befriend. In fact, Saad was friendly, quick in getting to know people. He freely shared his life and experiences as much as he cared to learn about you and what was happening in your life. It was always a joy to talk with Saad and exchange ideas on any number of subjects from cuneiform tablets on the Epic of Gilgamesh to the latest running shoes on the market. Sometimes I would catch up with him in the library lunchroom during the afternoon as he enjoyed a cup of tea. I greatly appreciated how he would subtly offer helpful advice or guidance to me in the form of a story that would allow me to see things with renewed clarity and conviction. After Saad retired, I missed seeing him but was thankful for the email correspondence we kept up even as he settled into a new life in Michigan with his wife, Sabine.

I extend my deepest condolences to Sabine and his daughters on the loss of this extraordinary man.  
Rest in Peace!

## Rodrigo Hicks, 1958-2020: A Tribute



Since 1998, Rodrigo Hicks shared his joyful personality, generous character and incredible work ethic with the library. He worked part-time in the evening, first in the Circulation Department then later with Interlibrary Loan. Thanks to Rodrigo's meticulous work scanning and processing library materials, we were able to share our extensive collections with patrons around the world. Rodrigo was also responsible for processing books that arrived for our patrons and returned them to their home libraries. While he worked diligently, Rodrigo would take the time to share a word or two with colleagues and students. Our memories below illustrate how he touched many lives and brightened our days. [Here](#), we share our fond memories of Rodrigo and pay tribute to a dear colleague. (Compiled and written by Karen Okamoto)

## Faculty

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**Circulation Desk** Ext. 2226

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