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Marta Bladek published “Student well-being matters: Academic library support for the whole student” in The Journal of Academic Librarianship (47.3) and “Students and parents: How academic libraries serve a growing population” in Library Trends (70.2).

Kathleen Collins was a writer-in-residence for two weeks at the Monastery of St. Gertrude in Cottonwood, Idaho during her Fall 2021 sabbatical and shares her experience in “Big Monastery on the Prairie” at katcoindustries.com/scholastica. Her short story, “Footprint Zero,” was published in the Spring issue of A Plate of Pandemic (plateofpandemic.com/footprint-zero). She continues to produce Indoor Voices podcast (indoorVoicesPodcast.com), which she co-founded in 2017, and published the 71st episode in March 2022.

A startling bit of news came out of Bard College recently. The library newsletter announced, proudly, one assumes: “In keeping with campus-wide initiatives to ensure that Bard is a place of inclusion, equity, and diversity, the Stevenson Library is conducting a diversity audit of the entire print collection in an effort to begin the process of decanonizing the stacks. Three students, who are funded through the Office of Inclusive Excellence, have begun the process which we expect will take at least a year to complete. The students will be evaluating each book for representations of race/ethnicity, gender, religion, and ability.”

Bard quickly stepped back in the face of sharp public criticism. The chief librarian assured all that no books would actually be removed. But, she explained, the exercise “will help us understand and answer questions about representation in our collections and build a more inclusive collection going forward.” How odd, that a librarian would consider her collection as less than inclusive. Had she been intentionally building a collection based on exclusion? She is certainly suggesting that in the future Bard will not be putting on the shelves books whose ideas or authors they find objectionable.

We should ponder what Justice Louis Brandeis wrote in Whitney v. California (1927): “If there be time to expose the falsehood and fallacies, to avert the evil by the process of education, the remedy to be applied is more speech, not enforced silence.” Removing books from the stacks or not buying books expressing difficult ideas is “enforced silence.”

The Lloyd Sealy Library will not be “decanonizing” our collection. Indeed, that concept is antithetical to our core mission. It also violates the American Library Association’s Library Bill of Rights, a document adopted in 1939 as the rise of totalitarianism threatened liberal society. The first two articles are germane here.

- Article I: Books and other library resources should be provided for the interest, information, and enlightenment of all people of the community the library serves. Materials should not be excluded because of the origin, background, or views of those contributing to their creation.

- Article II: Libraries should provide materials and information presenting all points of view on current and historical issues. Materials should not be proscribed or removed because of partisan or doctrinal disapproval.

Those principles guide our collection development policies and practices. Yes, we are constantly weeding our collection to make way for new volumes, but we do not remove any books because we find the ideas or the author objectionable. Really, it is my hope that everyone finds something in our collection they find objectionable. At the same time, we do our best to respond to requests that we acquire a particular volume, for that, too, is part of our core mission – supporting the educational and research needs of faculty and students.

Delivering a commencement address at Dartmouth College in June 1953, President Dwight D. Eisenhower implored his audience, “Don’t join the book burners. Don’t think you’re going to conceal faults by concealing evidence that they ever existed. Don’t be afraid to go in your library and read every book.”

Amen to that.

Jeffrey Kroessler, Interim Chief Librarian
Focus on Ukraine
by Maria Kiriakova

Since February 24, 2022, Ukraine, a country in the middle of Europe, suddenly became a major focus of the news all over the world. Although Ukraine was part of the former Soviet Union it became a sovereign and independent country in August of 1991. It was unexpectedly attacked by its neighbor, Russia, and so started the biggest war of the 21st century. One of the main reasons Russia instigated the conflict was the worry that Ukraine might join NATO, The North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

To educate yourself about the conflict and to read reliable news and interpretation please consult the following sites:

- The Russian Invasion of Ukraine: Special Focus (bit.ly/NATOGuidesEssentials) – a collection of articles, news analysis and comments organized by the NATO library.
- Ukrinform (ukrinform.net) – Ukrainian platform for broadcasting in English.
- Meduza (meduza.io/en) – independent (not government sponsored) digest of Russia’s investigative reports and news analysis in English.
- BBC News (bbc.com/news/live/world-europe-60517447)
- Euronews (euronews.com)
- The New York Times (lib.jjay.cuny.edu/nyt) and the Wall Street Journal (lib.jjay.cuny.edu/wsj), both publications available for free for the John Jay College community.

Here is a very good article on reading suggestions for understanding the soul of Ukraine (bbc.in/38q6O70).

The New York Public Library compiled a list of books available in their collections in print and electronic format on Ukrainian history, if you do not already have a NYPL membership card there is a way to obtain one online. The NYPL made a list of suggestions for organizations through which one can help Ukraine and its citizens in these hard times.

Our library has many materials on Ukraine as well. Explore the search results found in OneSearch by typing UKRAINE and then using filters to get to materials by specific format (Articles or Media, for example) or subject.

There is a neighborhood in East Village that is known as Little Ukraine where you can taste Ukrainian food, visit a museum and a couple of churches.
Out with the old: We are going to delete your interlibrary loan request history
by Karen Okamoto

At the end of this July, a record of your completed or cancelled interlibrary loan (ILL) request history dating from June 2021 and earlier will be deleted. We are following the Graduate Center Library’s (bit.ly/GradCenterILL) lead in deleting patron records to preserve your privacy. The Guardian (January 13, 2016, “You are not what you read”, bit.ly/GradCenterPrivacy) covered the Graduate Center’s work and the work of libraries in general in maintaining patron privacy.

Unlike our book circulation system which interfaces with “OneSearch”, our ILL system maintains patron records indefinitely without our intervention. Starting this year, we will be deleting past ILL request histories and maintain the most recent year’s requests. If you would like to save your request history before we delete it, please log into your ILL account at https://jjay-cuny.illiad.oclc.org/illiad/logon.html using your John Jay email login credentials. Click on the request history tab, select all text, then copy and paste your history into an application of your choice. You can also email libill@jjay.cuny.edu before July 21, 2022 for a spreadsheet of your requests.

A friendly reminder: Upload your publications to CUNY Academic Works

It’s been seven years since our open access institutional repository known as CUNY Academic Works (CAW) was launched by the CUNY Office of Library Services (OLS). John Jay faculty members can upload their research publications such as journal articles and book chapters to CUNY Academic Works (academicworks.cuny.edu). By uploading your publications to CAW, you make them available for researchers around the world to find and read for free. The following map illustrates the number of readers of John Jay research publications since CAW was launched in March 2015. As you can see from the map, publications by John Jay faculty are being read across the world. We would like to thank Professor Ellen Sexton who has served as the John Jay campus administrator for CAW since its inception. She has helped develop CAW into what it is today.

For questions about CAW please email me, the new campus administrator, at kokamoto[at]jjay.cuny.edu or OLS’s Scholarly Communications Librarian, Meg Wacha (megan.wacha[at]cuny.edu).

For more information about CAW please see:
CUNY Academic Works LibGuide (guides.lib.jjay.cuny.edu/AcademicWorks) by Ellen Sexton
CUNY Academic Works: Open access and the new institutional repository (bit.ly/IJCUNYAcademicWorks) by Ellen Sexton, Spring 2015
Open access and CUNY Academic Works (bit.ly/OpenAccessCAW) by Ellen Sexton, Fall 2015
CUNY Academic Works: Get your work out there! (bit.ly/CAWPublishYourWork) by Jeffrey Kroessler, Fall 2015
Faculty recommended reading


Historian Arthur Schlesinger wrote this short book at the dawn of the culture wars, and he would undoubtedly be alarmed at how the fault lines he identified then have only deepened. He stresses that it is the idea of America, and the ideals embodied therein, that hold the nation together, as opposed to any specific racial, ethnic, or religious identity. He does not dismiss diversity, however. All who have come to this country have contributed to the national story, he insists, as proclaimed in the motto *E Pluribus Unum*. “In a world savagely rent by ethnic and racial antagonisms,” wrote Schlesinger, “it is all the more essential that the United States continue as an example of how a highly differentiated society holds itself together.” - Jeffrey Kroessler

*Index, A History of the: A Bookish Adventure from Medieval Manuscripts to the Digital Age* by Dennis Duncan (W.W. Norton, 2021). The author packs an 800-year history into an entertaining, often surprising narrative including the once novel concept of alphabetical order; heresies, rivalries and controversies, sometimes brutal and career-ending; the indexing of fiction and fictional indexes; and the accusation that indexes make readers lazy and stupid. Appropriately, the index to *Index, A History of the* is 31 pages long (relatively long in proportion to the book’s page count) and is given a preamble and a named human (not machine) creator. – Kathleen Collins

*Small Pleasures* by Clare Chambers (Custom House, 2021) and *Zorrie* by Laird Hunt (Blomsbury, 2021).

Although they portray two very different worlds now long gone—1950s’ London suburbs and rural Indiana across several decades of the 20th century, respectively—these novels beautifully and poignantly capture the dignity of an ordinary life. *While Small Pleasures* is a page-turner, *Zorrie* charms with its unhurried pace. As the two remarkable protagonists struggle to build lives that they can fully inhabit, they content with hardship, self-denial, loneliness and heartache. The fleeting “small pleasures” Jean and Zorrie encounter offer temporary respite, as does the occasional kindness they allow themselves to receive, softening the hardness of the everyday. - Marta Bladek
"My Friends" by Emmanuel Bove; translated by Janet Louth (NYRB Classics; Reprint edition May 7, 2019)

If it were not for the Beyond the Bookends 2022 12 books in 12 months reading challenge, I may not have come across this book. For the month of March, the challenge suggested a historical fiction book. I found *My Friends* on the historical fiction table at the Strand bookstore. Bove writes short, well-crafted intentional lines. It is a story about a wounded World War I veteran trying to live in a prewar lifestyle in the streets of Paris. This story vacillates from sad, bleak moments of a lonely man’s mundane existence to the beautiful and hysterical within a short line. It’s a quick read and hits hard. - Patrick J Raftery Jr.

Elizabeth Peters’ *Amelia Peabody Series*.

In the weeks and months after March 2020, we were all at home looking for ways to reduce stress and stay entertained. I decided to reread all of a series of 19 mystery novels written by Elizabeth Peters, which is the pen name of mystery writer Dr. Barbara Mertz, who received her PhD in Egyptology from the University of Chicago.

The Amelia Peabody Mystery Series follows the archaeological and criminological adventures of the fictional Amelia, her husband, Radcliff and two children in Egypt, Palestine, Sudan and the UK from 1884 to 1923. Both modern and ancient history is the context for each of the stories. Each book features difficult and amazing archaeological discoveries intertwined with solving crimes, and sometimes political intrigue. In addition to a diversity of reoccurring fictional characters, several real historical Egyptologists, politicians and cultural icons make appearances, such as Howard Carter, the discoverer of the tomb of Tutankhamun or “King Tut” and a succession of British and Cairo Museum curators.

Like many others in 2020, I switched my reading to digital versions of books. I read all 19 of the Amelia Peabody series by borrowing e-books with my free account on the Open Library. I read them in order by following the chronological list available on Wikipedia. Transporting oneself to Egyptological excavations more than a century ago is recommended by me as a perfect escape and de-stressor. - Ellen Belcher
Since 2008, Guillermo Meneses has been an indispensable colleague in the library. He has helped to maintain and troubleshoot issues with all the computers, printers, scanners, networks and other hardware and software in the library. He was reliable and reliably funny, humoring us with anecdotes and witty comments while fixing every technical issue imaginable. He was not only a great colleague to work with, but also a great friend to be around. Guillermo is leaving us this semester to pursue another career opportunity. As much as we will miss him, we wish him all the best in his new position and thank him for everything that he has done for the library.

We’re going to miss Guillermo tremendously around these parts. Besides the fact that he was extremely dependable and competent at his job, he was a complete joy as a colleague. Guillermo never failed to put me in a good mood. He has a wonderful sense of humor, but he’s also a philosopher. We’ve had lots of interesting and enlightening conversations over the years, and he always helped me to look at the bright side of things. He also made it clear to me early on that he would be willing to try any of my home baking. I’ll think of Guillermo every time I make cookies and will make a few extra in his honor. Thank you for everything, Guillermo! Your new colleagues are very fortunate. – Kathleen Collins

Guillermo has a rare ability to face a problem and then solve it without expressing any complaints. I will miss his friendly greetings and healthy smoothie drinks, chats about human nature and Mexican cuisine. His new colleagues will definitely appreciate his sense of humor and dependability. – Maria Kiriakova

Hands down Guillermo is the friendliest member of the library. First to smile, first to inquire about how you are doing and first to lend a helping hand. Even with things you should know how to fix on your own by now, he cheerfully steps in and finds and resolves the problem. Things will not be the same without him but we wish him continued success in his new position. - Maureen Richards

Saying goodbye to Guillermo is bittersweet: I’m sorry he won’t be my coworker anymore, but I’m pleased his professional expertise was recognized and awarded with a new career opportunity. While Guillermo’s tech gifts can’t be praised enough, his patience, good humor and open heart deserve to be mentioned as well. And, it is not just the library faculty and staff who will miss Guillermo: he has always been a student-centered professional who has worked with countless JJAY students as they navigated tech difficulties in the course of their academic endeavors. - Marta Bladek
Congratulations, Guillermo! You have been nothing but a pleasure to work with. I was always able to sleep at night knowing that you are there to make sure things were working. You are a great colleague and a great friend. And now that you are leaving, I’ll be sleep deprived. With all that said, I can’t express how much I’ve appreciated your help during my time at the Library. I don’t know if I will ever find someone as loyal and reliable as you have been for the last 10 years. Nonetheless, you deserve this new opportunity and I know you’ll do great at your new job. You will have always have a spot in my heart. Please take care. - Geng Lin

I am happy that Guillermo found another opportunity that advances his skills and expertise, but I am simultaneously sad to lose a great colleague. Guillermo would reliably, quickly and calmly fix all sorts of technical issues in the Library while making us laugh with an amusing insight or story. Thank you for sharing your good sense of humor with us, Guillermo, and for solving our many technical glitches. We are going to miss you! - Karen Okamoto

First, I want to congratulate Guillermo on this new opportunity. I have no doubt you will excel and be a vibrant part of the CUNY School of Labor Studies. However, I will greatly miss your humor, conversations about life and the state of the world today, and all of the technical help you have provided. I wish you all the best and am sad to see you go. - Patrick J Raftery Jr

Guillermo is a hard worker who enjoys working in the library and understands the vital use of computers for library work, patron usage, and librarian vitality. He appreciates working with the library staff and patrons. Guillermo will be missed! - Marvie Brooks

It's been really great working with Guillermo all these years. I’m sorry to see him go but I wish him luck and all the best in his new position. -Mark Zubarev

Guillermo was always helpful to me when technical problems presented themselves in the library. He did it with a smile and a willing spirit. I greatly appreciated his assistance. Apart from that, Guillermo was fun to talk with. We talked about all sort of things, everything from the complicated relationship between Latin America and the U.S. to ways to promote personal good health and fitness. He will be missed at John Jay College Library. - Tania Colmant-Donabedian

Dear Guillermo, We’ve worked together many years. It's always been a pleasure. Thank you for your warmth, your smile, your willingness to help everyone. Speaking as a reference librarian, I am grateful for the many ways you kept our library computer systems running so smoothly. Even though I’ll miss you and am sorry to see you go, I know you will do well in your new position, accepting the challenges and making the most of the opportunities. Congratulations and good luck in your new position! Warm regards - Lory Gallo
Larry Sullivan retired as Chief Librarian in January 2021. He had held that position for a quarter century, and under his leadership the Lloyd Sealy Library became one of the most respected and forward-thinking in the CUNY system. More than anyone else, he is responsible for building our collection into one of the finest and most extensive in the field of criminal justice in the country. Scholars from around the world visit to use our unique resources. He also fostered the development of Special Collections, finding funds for the acquisition of rare books and encouraging the expansion of our manuscript collections. For over a decade he worked to open new spaces for Special Collections, and that effort has finally come to pass.

Dr. Sullivan earned a doctorate in medieval history from Johns Hopkins and then a library degree (MLIS) from Catholic University. His first position as a librarian was in the Maryland State Penitentiary. That experience spurred him to a lifetime interest in the writing of prisoners, and he has built an extensive personal collection. Prior to coming to John Jay, he was the head of Rare Books and Special Collections at the Library of Congress.

Above all, Larry Sullivan is a scholar, and throughout his career he evidenced a creative and insightful set of interests. He was the editor of The Encyclopedia of Law Enforcement (2005) and The SAGE Glossary of the Social and Behavioral Sciences (2009), enticing many John Jay faculty to contribute. He also edited two editions of Criminal Justice and Law Enforcement Annual (2014 and 2017), again including contributions from faculty, including the librarians. He was also a co-editor of Pioneers, Passionate Ladies, and Private Eyes: Dime Novels, Series Books, and Paperbacks (1996), revealing another dimension of his interests.

Larry was the author of The Prison Reform Movement: Forlorn Hope (1990), Bandits & Bibles: Convict Literature in Nineteenth-century America (2003), and The New-York Historical Society: A Bicentennial History, 1804-2004 (2004) – for a time he had been head librarian there as well. Two other publications must be mentioned. With illustrator D. R. Wakefield he created The Brownsville Boys: Jewish Gangsters of Murder, Inc. (2013), a set of original prints of notorious and forgotten mobsters. It is a beautiful book about remorseless killers. In 2017 he curated an exhibit of courtroom art here, highlighting works in our collection. He “invited” me to contribute the text, and then we turned the exhibit into a book, Rogues Gallery: Forty Year Retrospective of Courtroom Art, from Son of Sam to El Chapo (2017).

Larry always encouraged the scholarly work of us librarians. Where some chief librarians insist that only publications in the field of Library Science would be acceptable, Larry encouraged the librarians here to publish in subject disciplines. Addressing a gathering of CUNY librarians in 2004, he said that publishing is what makes librarians “whole in the eyes of the rest of the college’s faculty and gives them equal stature as faculty.” He believed that a research agenda in a subject was integral to the role of academic librarians, and essential for tenure and promotion. After I published a book in 2010, he repeatedly reminded to me, “Your next book will get you promotion.” That took time, but I accepted the challenge. The best thing he could do as chief librarian, he insisted, was to “create an atmosphere that is conducive to research.” During his tenure at John Jay, Larry Sullivan more than accomplished that goal.
On the morning of January 6, 2021 Larry Sullivan announced his retirement, effective immediately at a regular Library faculty meeting. We all thought it would be the most shocking thing that would happen that day. We were wrong about that, but at least we will always remember the anniversary of his retirement.

I will miss Larry’s deep understanding of academic library administration and management; he always knew when, how and to whom to advocate for the Library when a problem loomed. But the most important lessons I learned from working with Larry was how to practically manage our Special Collections. Under his direction we made significant acquisitions of rare book and archival collections, which have more than doubled in size over these past two decades. As a result, we regularly have been able to report in this publication an average of four to five publications a year resulting from researchers working with our unique primary resources on criminal justice history (broadly defined).

As work continues finally finishing and opening our new Special Collections reading room and exhibit space, I am also reflecting on how this suite of room was conceptualized as part of “the John Jay Construction Phase II” planning of the New Building three decades ago, well before I arrived in 2004. It took all of the intervening years of Larry advocating for this space to finally make it a reality. While famously technology-adverse, Larry’s support for our robust digitization program from our Special Collections have made content from thousands of items freely available supporting not only those unable to travel to NYC but most importantly student learning directly from primary materials. We have Larry to thank for making the Library’s unique collections accessible, known and used, not only at the College but worldwide. I wish him well on his well-deserved retirement.

-- Ellen Belcher

In addition to being a celebrated scholar and mentor, as a chief librarian who oversees the work of library faculty and staff, Larry has also been a compassionate manager who had promoted work-life balance well before it became a management cliche. I am grateful for working with Larry when I was a new mother and my son was a very small child. Among sleepless nights, endless colds, unpredictable child afflictions, snow day school closures, and other crises, I had always known that Larry would tell me to calm down, take as much time as needed, and pick up the work when I was able to. Thanks to Larry, the library department has embraced a care-work culture where people’s private lives and family obligations were seen as a part of who we are and how we work. Time and time again, Larry supported those of us who had to attend to children, elderly parents, our own health crises, or to others who needed our care by ensuring we knew that he understood and encountered these challenges himself. I wholeheartedly hope that this particular legacy of Larry’s tenure in the Library will continue to shape our work lives.

-- Marta Bladek

I am appreciative for his expertise as an administrator who was an able representative among the CUNY and John Jay College administrators and fellow faculty members. He was special in his ability to draw out the best in the library faculty and staff (including custodians) and helped all of us to make a good presentation professionally at the College and elsewhere.

-- Marvie Brooks

Larry was and is a scholar, first and foremost, and as chief librarian for over two decades he made a point to hire intellectually curious library faculty in whom he saw the same potential. I couldn’t have asked for a better place to land than John Jay, and I am grateful to Larry for his unflagging support and encouragement of my scholarship en route to tenure and promotion. Working for Larry meant never having a moment’s doubt that he would support his faculty and staff in every way possible. He instilled confidence in me and my colleagues and gave us the freedom to carry on and do our jobs well. In large part due to Larry, my position at John Jay has been the most satisfying work experience of my career.

-- Kathleen Collins

For many decades, the John Jay College Library and Larry, or Dr. Sullivan, were synonymous terms when faculty were talking about my place of work. Everybody in the college, be it a seasoned professor, a janitor, a 6th floor administrator, a graduate student, a visiting scholar knew Larry and were able to make their way into his office to chat or get advice. His attitude towards library faculty, clerical staff and student workers is...
always of respect, equality and interest in other person’s life and experience. Larry is always impeccably dressed, has a calming and attentive demeanor and is carrying the most erudite conversations on a vast variety of topics: world travel, literature, theater, history of punishment, crime, educational theories, just to name a few. Larry’s favorite phrase is “to be continued” which I interpret as “problems will be solved, people will move on, reason will prevail.” -- Maria Kiriakova

I am going to miss Larry’s calm and compassionate leadership. He guided so many of us through the stress–inducing tenure process. I appreciated Larry’s trust in our ability to lead and manage our work responsibilities and units. I never doubted that he would support us and the library even through the most difficult times like the pandemic lockdown period. Thank you, Larry, for being there for us! -- Karen Okamoto

As Assistant to the Chief Librarian, I feel fortunate to have had the opportunity to learn from the exceptional librarians in the John Jay College Library, in particular Bonnie Nelson for excellent computer training, and Janice Dunham and Chief Librarian Larry Sullivan for excellent library training.
-- Carolyn Paden

I first met Larry at about the beginning of the fall 2019 semester when I arrived at John Jay for my interview for the cataloging and metadata librarian position. I had just recently finished my dual MS LIS and MA History degrees and Larry’s scholarship on prisons and prison librarianship filled the bibliography of my theses. I would soon learn that we share even more interests such as rare book cataloging, American traditional tattoos, and a deep admiration for Samuel Steward a.k.a Phil Sparrow. I did not have the pleasure of working with Larry for long. However, Larry has provided me with great support within my research areas, professional development opportunities, and has continually reminded me that I can always reach out to him for support. I am grateful to have worked with him for he is a true scholar, mentor, librarian, and leader. I wish him all the best in his well-deserved retirement.
-- Patrick J. Raftery Jr.

It is hard to adequately pay tribute to the work of the Chief Librarian who led and shaped the Library for over a quarter of a century. Larry was barely ensconced in the Chief’s Chair when I started my career at the library in the mid-nineties. His was a genial and discreet presence, striding the hallways with a single thin braid running over the collar of his dark suit. He arrived as web browser Netscape’s Navigator took over from Mosaic, and the CD ROMS stacked in towers beside workstations were our most exciting new technology visible to users. Telephones sat firmly on top of desks. He enlivened the dullest meetings with philosophical asides and anecdotes of the Chicago boys, dive bar tending and prison librarianship. He wrote and taught and talked about punishment and prisons and prisoners and prisoners’ writing. His office was a curio box of vintage dime store novels, religious kitsch, postcards and art, with the resident devils and angels mesmerizing and menacing guests. He steered the Library successfully from card catalog days through three management systems (NOTIS, Aleph, Alma), yet was helpless in front of a beeping photocopier. By the year he retired, most of our users were accessing most library content remotely, many using light handheld devices many times more powerful than our old workstations.

Larry was generous with distributing writing assignments to the willing, sharing opportunities to publish in the encyclopedias and handbooks he edited. Generous too with tickets to the magnificent annual Armory show on Park Avenue; wandering through the stalls in search of bargain-basement criminal justice treasures was an education; not least chatting with Larry’s tattooed and kilted friends amid their eclectic collections.

He was a steadfast and unfailing advocate for the library within the college and beyond. He led us enthusiastically through times of unimaginable technological change while maintaining a deep reverence for the physical manifestations of books and manuscripts. We miss his stewardship, and wish him all the best and happy travels.
-- Ellen Sexton

To Larry, you have touched all hearts in Lloyd Sealy Library. I greatly appreciate your leadership and support system for your employees throughout the years. P.S. don’t forget about us. Thank you so much. -- Debbie Spivey
On paper and in life, Larry’s breadth and depth of knowledge might intimidate the less traveled, both figuratively and literally given his penchant for world travel. And then one gets to know him. Although the library is only one of Larry’s many interests, he always has had the library’s back, knowing when to lead, when to intervene, and when to let the experts do their job. For me, his kindness and efforts to support the people in the library are what I will always remember first when thinking about Larry. -- Maureen Richards

I was honestly surprised when I heard that Larry Sullivan decided to retire. A part of me thought that he'd be here forever. He has been a fixture of the library for the whole of my career and it’s difficult to imagine the place without him. Larry’s time as Chief Librarian has been transformative. It is a period where the way we do business changed completely, moving from card catalogs to computers. I’m deeply appreciative to have had the opportunity to work here while he has been in charge. He helped to make the library an open and friendly place, both for students to study in and for faculty and staff to work in. His retirement is the end of an era but I know that after so many years of hard work, it is also well deserved. Larry, congratulations and best wishes! -- Mark Zubarev

A warm welcome to Bruce Shenitz, our new Open Educational Resources (OER) Librarian

by Kate Cauley

The Lloyd Sealy Library would like to extend a warm welcome to our new Adjunct Open Educational Resources (OER) Librarian, Bruce Shenitz! Before joining John Jay, Bruce served as an Adjunct Reference Librarian at both Lehman College and Medgar Evers College (where he continues in that role). Bruce holds a Master’s of Science in Information and Library Science from Pratt University, and in his previous career was as a reporter-researcher at Newsweek magazine and executive editor of Out magazine.

Over the pandemic, Bruce became increasingly involved in OER librarianship and is now bringing his expertise to John Jay. The sudden urgency to find and share freely-accessible research materials was felt across all CUNY campuses. At John Jay, that emphasis continues through Bruce’s collaboration with the Teaching and Learning Center (TLC). Together, the team is offering a faculty seminar that addresses the need for an OER curriculum across campus.

As described by TLC, this summer’s Open Pedagogy Seminar will “introduce components of OER projects completed by John Jay faculty members in the social sciences, humanities, and STEM fields. Participants will engage in a collaborative learning environment to identify OER available for use in John Jay courses, explore principles of open pedagogy and practice developing assignments and activities for use in fall 2022 courses.” Please keep a lookout for a registration e-mail from TLC in the coming weeks.

Utilizing free and openly accessible instructional materials is not only cost-efficient but also helps to enhance access to resources for online or hybrid students. However, one barrier to OER is a lack of faculty awareness. At John Jay, our team of librarians is facing that challenge head-on. Want to learn more about OER? Check out the library’s Guide to OER (guides.lib.jjay.cuny.edu/zerocost) or contact Bruce Shenitz at bshenitz@jjay.cuny.edu.
During COVID-19 the John Jay College library pivoted quickly by amending lending policies, adding electronic content—particularly to provide electronic access to print-only collections, and by shifting to 100% delivery of instruction and reference services. Not surprisingly, this resulted in an increase in the online use of collections and services. However, when looking closer at the downloads of the full text of materials, the library’s tool for measuring user engagement, there was a dramatic decrease.

We learned that during the pandemic many students struggled, often feeling unsupported and unable to navigate simple research queries. While mirroring decreases in academic engagement experienced across higher education during the pandemic, it also confirmed what we already knew, namely the importance of the physical library to the success of our students.

A panel of librarians, teaching faculty and students gathered virtually on Faculty Development Day in January to discuss ways to re-engage, or engage some students for the first time, with library resources. Suggestions varied by discipline, level of research and target audience. However, it was clear that just getting started was essential. The easiest way to do this was to make users, both faculty and students, aware of the many resources that already exist beyond the search box.

Peppered throughout the library website are countless numbers of resources, if you know where to find them. They include video tutorials on how to use the library, research guides and lists of databases organized by subject, tools supporting research such as citations style guides and curated collections of featured resources. Many links to these resources are featured on the library’s homepage but to find many more, you need to persist.

We created this short list of things you can do in ten minutes or less to help students reconnect with the library.

We hope you find this list useful. If you are looking for more, please ask a librarian!

1. Encourage students to watch one or more of these videos (www.lib.jjay.cuny.edu/resources-for/students/tutorials):
   - From question to keywords: Beginning academic research (1 ½ minutes)
   - OneSearch tips and tricks (3 minutes)
   - How to find articles using OneSearch (1 ½ minutes)
   - What is a scholarly source (5 ½ minutes)?
   - How to use library databases (3 minutes)
   - How to find journals by title (2 minutes)
   - How to find a book at John Jay library (1 minute)
   - Virtual tour of the library (circa 2009) (5 ½ minutes).

2. Encourage students to use reference materials as pathways to scholarly journals.
4. Use and encourage students to use the Library Module in Blackboard.
5. Visit, chat/ZOOM, or Schedule a class, with a librarian (www.lib.jjay.cuny.edu/ask-us).
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