

## Library Happenings

Kristen Nyitray

WEDNESDAY, April 11 at 7 p.m.

*A Feeling of Belonging: Asian American Women's Popular Culture, 1930-1960*

Program featuring faculty author Shirley Lim, Department of History

Location: Javits Room, Melville Library, second floor.

**Program:** In *A Feeling of Belonging*, Shirley Lim highlights the cultural activities of young, predominantly unmarried Asian American women from 1930 to 1960. This period marks a crucial generation—the first in which American-born Asians formed a critical mass and began to make their presence felt in the

United States. Dr. Lim traces the diverse ways in which these young women sought cultural citizenship, exploring such topics as the nation's first Asian American sorority, Chi Alpha Delta; the cultural work of Chinese American actress Anna May Wong; Asian American youth culture and beauty pageants; and the achievement of fame of three foreign-born Asian women in the late 1950s.



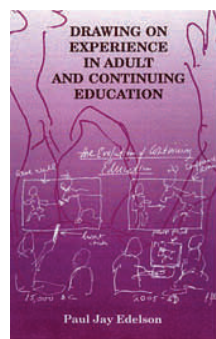
TUESDAY, April 17 at 4:30 p.m.

*Drawing on Experience in Adult and Continuing Education*

Program featuring faculty author Paul Edelson, Dean, School of Professional Development

Location: Javits Room, Melville Library, second floor.

**Program:** Based upon his experiences and scholarship, Dr. Paul Edelson will present an overview of present-day continuing higher education from the perspective of a senior level administrator who is also a prolific author, lecturer, critic, and observer of this dynamic field. His book examines continuing education as it is practiced in an urban community college, at a major national museum, and at a premier research university. Topics to be discussed include program development and administration, leadership, creativity and innovation, e-learning, staffing, budgeting, and the culture of higher education.



## Internet Movie Database

William Glenn

For both casual movie fans and serious cinephiles, Internet Movie Database (IMDB) [www.imdb.com](http://www.imdb.com), is an excellent website that contains entries for practically every film ever made, as well as entries for actors, actresses, directors, screenwriters and everyone else who has ever worked on a film. Whether you want to know who did those amazing Art Deco sets for the 1935 Fred Astaire-Ginger Rogers' classic, *Top Hat* (it was Brooklyn-born Van Nest Polglase), or get tickets and showtimes for the new George Clooney film, IMDB can provide the answer.

In addition to being a great film reference tool, IMDB also serves as an online community for movie lovers. With a simple, free account, you can rate films you've seen, write reviews, read reviews by other users (as well as by Roger Ebert and other professional reviewers), participate in discussions on a wide variety of Message Boards (Classic Films, Asian Films, Harry Potter, etc.), and even add information about your favorite movies, including trivia or memorable quotes. Once in a while, you may even discover a film that hasn't been added to the database yet, as I did with a 1979 French documentary on singer Jacques Brel.

IMDB is one of the great success stories of the Internet, showing what can happen when people around the world who share a common love can coordinate online and develop a useful and enjoyable web site. In the late 1980s, film buffs on the rec.arts.movies Usenet newsgroup started creating lists of their favorite films and actresses. As the lists grew bigger and more numerous, the members created a database to keep track of everything, and in 1993 they moved to the World Wide Web as the *Cardiff Internet Movie Database*, so named because the database was hosted on servers at Cardiff University in Wales. In 1996, they incorporated themselves in the UK as Internet Movie Database, Ltd., and in 1998 they were bought by Amazon.com. Original members are still involved in the company.

So, if you want to know how many films Cary Grant made (73), who won the Oscar for Best Actress in 1970 (Maggie Smith!), or the most popular movies of all time among men (*The Godfather*) and women (*The Shawshank Redemption*), take a look at IMDB.



Read *Library Connections* online: <http://www.sunysb.edu/library/newsletter/>



Winter 2007

## LIBRARY CONNECTIONS

### LIBRARY INSTRUCTION WORKSHOPS

Melville Library's Instruction Team provides many opportunities throughout the semester for students and faculty to learn about our resources and how to use them better. For the list of workshops, or to schedule a customized session for your class or group of 5 or more, please see our webpage:

[www.sunysb.edu/library/services/instruction/](http://www.sunysb.edu/library/services/instruction/)

You may also call 632-1217 or e-mail: [Janet.Clarke@stonybrook.edu](mailto:Janet.Clarke@stonybrook.edu)

### CONTACT THE LIBRARY

Library Hours 632-7160

Circulation 632-7115

Reference 632-7110  
on-campus only 2-0530

Administration 632-7100

For complete information:  
[www.sunysb.edu/library](http://www.sunysb.edu/library)

Read *The Screen Porch* online for current library news and events: [melvillelibrary.blogspot.com](http://melvillelibrary.blogspot.com)



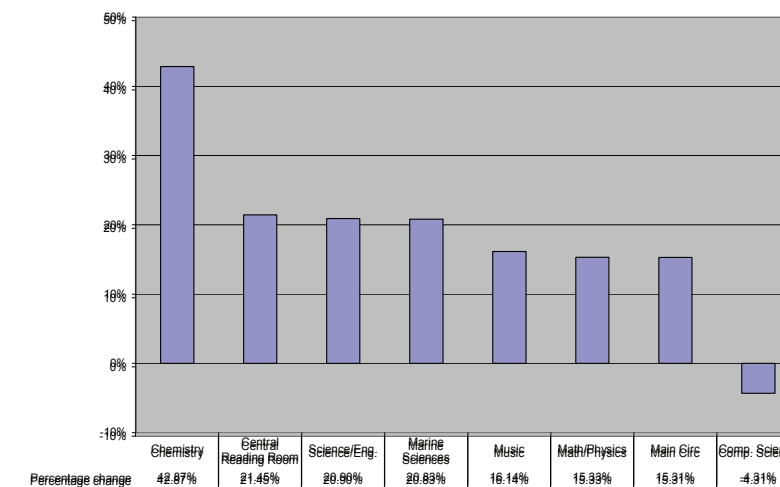
STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

### Library as Place

Susan Lieberthal

The Libraries at Stony Brook University have had a substantial increase in visits from our constituents. When comparing October 2005 gate counts to October 2006 gate counts it is encouraging to see that "Library as Place" is very much part of the Stony Brook student's life on campus. The average increase in library visits was 19%.

Percentage Change in Library Visits, October 2005-October 2006



Some of the changes have specific explanations. For example, the Chemistry library had a large increase because there is a new Chemistry Learning Center across the hall. The Computer Sciences library has seen a decrease in physical visits because the library recently obtained a subscription to Safari Tech Books Online, an online database of full text computer science e-books. Students no longer have to come into the library to check out some of the reserve materials that they can now obtain online.

Why did use of the libraries increase 19% in a twelve month period in which the student body grew 2%? We think the reason is that students know that our libraries provide a warm and friendly environment, paper and online resources, and librarians in all the reading rooms who are committed to serving the university community. We also teach classes in our library classrooms and in other parts of campus like Harriman, Javits, Humanities or wherever else our services are needed. Our instruction and information literacy classes highlight the extent to which the library and all of its services are a key component of studying, researching and working at Stony Brook. From these numbers it is clear to us that "Library as Place" is very much a part of the Stony Brook student experience on campus. We look forward to increasing our successes from month to month and year to year.

NOTE: Special thanks to Trina Kokalis who keeps our statistics for us.

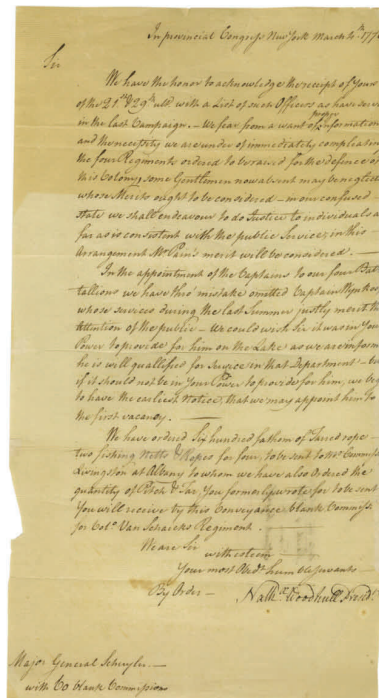
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## Washington's Secrets: Stony Brook University Acquires President's Letter to Spymaster

Kristen Nyitray

Stony Brook University has acquired a secret wartime letter from General George Washington to his chief spymaster for \$96,000 at auction at Christie's in Manhattan. The purchase was made possible through private and public funding. Written from "Head Quarters Westpoint" on September 24, 1779, the missive to Major Benjamin Tallmadge, the Revolutionary Army's spymaster, focuses on the activities of Robert Townsend, another secret agent, from Oyster Bay, Long Island. The letter, signed as Commander in Chief by Washington, refers to Townsend by his code name, Culper Jr., and refers to techniques used in the spying, including invisible ink.

The Special Collections Department of the University Libraries is the custodian of the letter. The document was transferred in December to the Center for Conservation for Art and Historic Artifacts in Philadelphia for preservation treatment. A committee comprised of university faculty and community members is planning a conference (to be held in October 2007) and programs for primary and secondary school students to highlight Long Island's contributions to the Revolutionary War.



## The Library Teams Up With Undergraduate Academic Affairs to Combat Plagiarism and Academic Dishonesty

Karen Kostner

Student plagiarism is an issue being discussed around most campuses. There are many ways students plagiarize, among them using the web for research. Students often cut and paste chunks of text from another's work and either intentionally or unintentionally hand it in as their own without attribution. Of course this is still plagiarism, and when found the consequences can be serious.

At Stony Brook, when students have been found guilty of plagiarism or other academically dishonest behavior, a "Q" is attached to their transcript. In order for this "Q" to be removed a non-credit bearing **Seminar on Academic Dishonesty** has to be taken and passed, the "Q" Course. This seminar is taken over the course of a semester and students develop an awareness of dishonest behavior, explore personal values, and develop academic skills. It is within the area of "develop academic skills" that the library has been collaborating with Wanda Moore, the Academic Integrity Officer, to deliver workshops designed specifically for these students.

One workshop developed by the Instruction Librarians specifically for this purpose was **Library Research: the Basics**. Taught by Karen Kostner, Susan Lieberthal and Susan Kaufman; the discussion included the types of information available for academic research, how to use keywords vs. subject headings and where students will likely find these materials. The workshop was delivered to 90 students in a lecture hall in Javits.

The second workshop, **Plagiarism and Citations**, taught by Karen Kostner, Susan Kaufman and William Glenn, addressed what plagiarism is, why we cite other's work in our own writing, strategies useful in avoiding plagiarism, parts of a citation and some common citation styles.

Feedback from students and their instructors was positive. The library has been asked to continue to schedule workshops for the upcoming semester for all the students taking this course.

## Recent Additions to Electronic Resources

Aimee deChambeau & Nathan Baum

The four most recent additions to our e-Resource collection illustrate the wide variety in the types of information the library makes available in a digital format.

### *HSUS: Historical Statistics of the United States: Millennial Edition*

HSUS is a source for quantitative facts of United States history. This is the recently updated and expanded 4<sup>th</sup> edition; the previous 3 editions were released by the Census Bureau in 1940, 1969, and 1975. This database contains tables of historical statistical data, documentation, and essays on a wide range of topics.



### *IEEE Computer Society Digital Library*

The IEEE Computer Society Digital Library (CSDL) contains full-text content from 13 technical magazines, 10 research journals, and over 2000 conference publications. Current online publication in the CSDL is often well in advance of the print copies, while archival coverage can extend as far back as the first issue, depending upon the individual publication.

### *The Literary Encyclopedia*

This encyclopedia provides global coverage of literary work written or translated into English. It contains over 5,900 biographical entries, 1,600 events, and 19,000 literary works. In 2007 the editors expect to add at least 10 new profiles each week.

### *International Bibliography of Theatre and Dance with Full-text*

The IBTD is the latest addition to our list of databases available on the easy-to-use EBSCOHost platform. IBTD indexes over 60,000 journal articles, books, book articles and dissertation abstracts on all aspects of theatre and performance in 126 countries, while providing full-text coverage for about 100 journals and an equal number of books.

For up-to-date information about e-resources be sure to monitor Screenings, available at <http://melville.rials.blogspot.com/>

## From the Desk of the Director

Chris Filstrup, Dean and Director of Libraries

As we all know, information comes in many forms, or as librarians put it, formats. Content is somewhat independent of format. A printed version of a handwritten letter such as George Washington's to Benjamin Tallmadge (p. 2) preserves the content. Or the Literary Encyclopedia now online has similar content to its old printed version (p. 3). But as Marshall McLuhan argued way back in the 60s, the medium profoundly affects the message/massage. The printed version of Washington's letter accommodates many copies and wide dissemination. The online version of the Literary Encyclopedia is easy to update, easy to access over the Internet, and searchable in ways a print version could not accommodate. We are now about 20 years into the distribution of information over the World Wide Web, a vast and wacky and wonderful publishing arena. This change in format and distribution is every bit as liberating and disrupting as the change to moveable type printing in the 1450s. As evidence, I note that in addition to preserving the Washington letter we also made a high resolution digital copy.