

Chapter Newsletter

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Inaugural Issue

Special points of interest:

- Learn about Chapter Goals and how to get involved
- Discover new services and programs at other Universities
- Read about the Fall Chapter Meeting

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Welcome to the inaugural issue of the WPWV ACRL Chapter Newsletter! We intend the newsletter to be a vehicle for communicating the issues, projects, and

programs that member libraries are undertaking, and for keeping members up to date on chapter news and events.

Since this is the first

edition of the newsletter, we welcome your input. Send your comments to Dana Mastroianni, at dmastroianni@chatham.edu. Enjoy the newsletter!

Join WPWVC-ACRL!

Interested in becoming more active in the academic library community outside of your institution? Then join the Western Pennsylvania West Virginia Chapter of ACRL!

To join, simply visit the chapter website located at: <http://www.wpvvcacrl.org> and click on "Join the Chapter or Renew Your Membership"

on the left side of the screen. Membership fees are payable via Paypal or check.

Membership runs from January 1 through December 31. Fees are:

- \$15 for Professionals
- \$10 for Students or Retirees
- \$100 for Institutions

We look forward to working with you.



Chapter Officers and Committee Chairs

Officers

President—Diana Sasso, Duquesne University
Vice President/ President Elect—Hilary Fredette, West Virginia University
Treasurer—Ruth Walter, Pittsburgh Technical Institute
Secretary— Dana Mastroianni, Chatham University
Members at Large—
 -Carroll Wilkinson, Martha

Yancey; West Virginia University
 -Joann Janosko, Indiana University of Pennsylvania

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Membership

Chair: Kelly Mummert
Nominations
 Chair: Liz Evans
Program
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Co-chairs: Rob Behary & Michael Bolam
Chapter Legislative Coordinator: PA
 Laverne Collins
Chapter Legislative Coordinator: WV Vacant

WPWV ACRL Fall Meeting Report

The fall membership chapter meeting was held on September 24 at Edinboro University. After a chapter business meeting, a Speed Updating session was held with librarians from Mercyhurst College, Edinboro University, Allegheny College, and Duquesne University reporting on new projects and services in their respective libraries.

Keynote speakers Barbara Mann and Robert Miller from the University of Maryland University College presented on their efforts in instruction in an online environment. University College mainly engages in distance education, serving hundreds of thousands of students worldwide. With only 7 full time Reference & Instruction Librari-

ans, most averaged between 40-46 online instruction sessions in a year.

The level of preparation and dedication in teaching an online course is extraordinary. Library sessions average a week in length and with students literally all over the world, finding a convenient time for class can be a challenge. Also noteworthy is the extensive feedback each student receives on the various exercises assigned by the librarians. Ms. Mann and Mr. Miller report that demand for library sessions has increased and despite the relatively small staff of librarians, no one has ever been refused a request for a session. Extremely proud of the accomplishments of the librarians engaging

students in the distance education setting, Mann and Miller find their work consuming but extremely rewarding.



Keynote Speakers Barbara Mann and Robert Miller

Rare finds at the Jennie King Mellon Library



In recent months, increasing attention has been paid to the extraordinary materials housed in the Special Collections department of Chatham University's Jennie King Mellon Library. While the entire collection has been inventoried, the appropriate description that will make these materials searchable in the library catalog is just beginning. During

the course of this work, several noteworthy volumes have come to light, two of which will be highlighted here.

One of the most exciting books we are learning more about comes from our Snowdon Mesoamerican collection. Published in 1844 as a limited 300 copy, folio edition, Frederick Catherwood's *Views of Ancient Monuments in Central America, Chiapas and Yucatan* contains 25 color lithographs based on the author's watercolors of Mayan ruins. Catherwood's illustrations are still praised today for their beauty and accuracy, and copies of *Views of Ancient Monuments* are exceedingly scarce on the open market. Chatham's copy of Catherwood's book is particularly remarkable in that it contains doubles of

seven of the lithographs, and these additional images are all hand colored. Only a small number of the 300 copies were hand colored; some scholars suggest by Catherwood himself.

Another Special Collections title recently brought to light was donated from the personal library of William S. Pelletreau, a possible relation of our college's third president, Helen E. Pelletreau. A copy of Ovid's *Metamorphoses* printed in Antwerp in 1618, the text was edited by the Jesuit scholar and educational theorist Jacobus Pontanus (1542-1626). We have only been able to locate nine copies of this edition in libraries throughout the world, with only one other copy in the United States.

Robert Morris University Goes to China

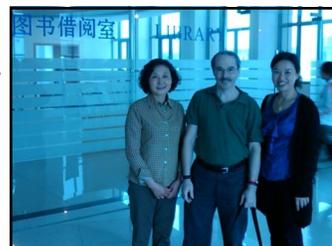
Bruce Johnston, Health Sciences Librarian at RMU traveled to China with students in May. Following is an excerpt from his blog:

"After an enjoyable and quite sociable lunch, one of the nursing faculty members from Suzhou Medical College was gracious enough to give me a personal tour of the College's library. The library is housed in a brand new multi-story glass building with a beautiful water plaza in the front. The library collection exceeds 420,000 books,

280,000 in print and 140,000 in electronic format. 15,000 periodical titles are received. The library director (formally known as the "library leader") was available to accompany us on our tour. My Nursing faculty escort was bilingual and able to interpret my questions and the "leader's" answer which resulted in a very productive, impromptu meeting. Unlike American academic librar-

ies, computers for database access and other applications are NOT located in the library. These hardware and software resources are available, but separate from the library. The definition of

a "library" appears to be more traditional than in the United States. I found it great that the library "leader" wore a white lab coat while at work!!"



ULS Launches Jewish Oral History Site

The University of Pittsburgh Library System (ULS) and the Pittsburgh section of the National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW) has given a beautiful gift to the local community, an online oral history project, "Pittsburgh and Beyond: The Experience of the Jewish Community" (<http://digital.library.pitt.edu/nl/ncjw/>).

The ULS Archives Service Center, curator of the oral history collection, digitized more than 500 audio interviews of members of the local Jewish community that cover a 32-year period. Trained volunteers interviewed Jewish men and women

who came to America from Eastern Europe between 1890 and 1924 in the first phase of the project in 1968. The second phase preserved the oral histories of Pittsburgh Jewish men and women who made contributions locally, nationally and internationally.

All together, 516 individuals were interviewed between 1968 and 2001, including former Pittsburgh mayor Sophie Masloff, the late great musician Lorin Maazel, the late *Post-Gazette* publisher William Block, and pioneering breast cancer researcher Bernard Fisher. As one of the largest oral history projects of its kind, it

has produced 1,200 hours of recordings on 1,187 audiocassettes.

The interviews provide windows into the Jewish community's impact on academic, business, civic, cultural, medical, political, religious, and social evolution and development in Pittsburgh, as well as national and international events.

Visitors to the site can search for the name of an interviewee or retrieve an abstract of the interview by using keywords. The collection can also be browsed by personal name, geographic region, or subject.

Read Aloud Program at Bailey Library

Renee Tkacik, Education Librarian at Slippery Rock University has initiated a new program involving the Library, SRU Daycare Center, and Education students.

This initiative consists of an hour-long segment in which two Education students present a mini-lesson to two separate groups of 10 daycare children simultaneously. Each lesson will include a story, a poem, a song or finger rhyme, a game and vocabulary development. Each child will receive a note that briefly describes his/her activity at the library

with suggested family involvement activities included.

This initiative serves Education students by engaging them in an activity in which they plan and present a detailed lesson in a safe but authentic learning environment. The students can practice learned classroom techniques while incorporating fresh ideas into the lesson. Each student is presented with a certificate and digital photo upon completion of the lesson.

Also, reaching out to the campus community provides a service to the

day care by inviting the children to the library.

This opportunity teaches information literacy to young readers and imparts a love of learning, thus creating lifelong learners at a very young age .



WPWV ACRL Needs You!



Are you interested in becoming a chapter officer? The positions of Vice President/President Elect, Secretary, and Member at Large will be up for election in Spring 2010.

Pennsylvania members will be eligible for the Vice President/President Elect position, while both Pennsylvania and West Virginia members are eligible for the Secretary and Member at Large offices.

Specific details on the nominating process and elections will be forthcoming, however take a look at the Chapter Bylaws on the website at <http://www.wpvvacrl.org> for information on the responsibilities of each position.

VISIT THE NEW CHAPTER
WEBSITE!

WWW.WPWVCACRL.ORG



Chapter Mission

This Chapter is to be a forum for and an advocate of academic and research librarians and library personnel and all other information professionals that serve academic and research libraries who live or work in the region of western Pennsylvania and all of West Virginia. The purpose of the Chapter is to:

- 1) provide opportunities for the professional growth of its members by conducting workshops, conferences, programs, etc.
- 2) encourage the exchange of ideas and information relating to library development and issues.
- 3) disseminate educational information oriented to academic and research librarians.
- 4) support and participate in, where appropriate, other regional and local organizations in the region.

The chapter has also set annual goals in support of its mission and ACRL's strategic plan, viewable at

<http://sites.google.com/site/wpwvcacrlorg/home/about>

A Partnership for Preserving Mining Heritage

Since June of 2007, the University of Pittsburgh, along with CONSOL Energy, Inc., the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PA-DEP), and the U.S. Department of the Interior Office of Surface Mining (OSM), has been engaged in a partnership to protect and preserve the mining heritage of Western Pennsylvania. The goal of this project is to conserve and digitize over 700 mining maps donated to the University by CONSOL Energy, Inc.

So far, 197 maps have undergone conservation treatment in the Preservation Department of the University of Pittsburgh's University Library System. The process involves humidifying, flattening, cleaning and mending the maps in preparation for

scanning. Once repaired, the maps are transported to the National Mine Map Repository (NMMR) in Greentree, PA. Each map is digitized on a Cruse Table Scanner CS 285/1100 ST/FA in 24-bit color at 240-300 DPI. The resulting digital images are then used by developers, homeowners and the mining industry.

The maps proved influential to developers breaking ground on the Botanic Garden of Western Pennsylvania near Settler's Cabin Park and have also been instrumental in assisting homeowners who live over abandoned mining operations.

The ultimate goal of the project is to improve the safety of coal miners in our region by preserving the most accurate schematics of aban-



Cleaning a map in preparation for scanning.

doned mines. The project was spurred by the 2002 Quecreek Mine rescue, where one of the main issues in the disaster was the failure to preserve the most up-to-date map of the abandoned mine.

Project website: <http://www.pitt.edu/~aeb59/maps.html>