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Touro College Libraries

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The TCL Letter

A Newsletter of the Touro College Libraries

Volume 5, Issue 1

Winter 2005

From the Director...

Dr. Jacqueline A. Maxin

Forms Now Online

Four forms have been put online to better serve your research needs.

- ♦ Intra-library loan form—Use this for material to be transferred from one of our libraries to the one you use frequently.
- ♦ Non-NYC/Long Island—Use this if you are outside of metropolitan New York and Long Island and need our material mailed to you.
- ♦ Inter-library loan form—Use this to obtain material we do not have from other libraries.
- ♦ Recommendation form—Use this to request new acquisitions.

Electronic Reserves

The libraries now have *EReserves*, electronic course material selected by professors and input by library staff after filing with the Copyright Clearance Center. This required material may include ebooks and ejournal articles, scanned book chapters and journal, and Web sites, documents, databases, etc. There are links to *EReserves* in all *Blackboard* courses that require online course materials. To use *EReserves*, you need a login and password which can be obtained by contacting any of our libraries.

Professors, please contact your site library to add electronic reserve material for your courses.

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Our 15 libraries offer vast collections of resources. Last year, we purchased nearly 8,000 books and audio-visual items. We also acquired many electronic products, four of which are described on page 2. Our collections total 373,300 items and include 80 electronic products with 13,000 ebooks and 13,600 ejournals. The gateway to the libraries' collections and services is our Web site (www.touro.edu/library). With it, you can access our proprietary electronic resources and link to thousands of quality free sources. Proprietary resources can be accessed from any Touro PC and remotely via login and password obtainable by contacting any of our libraries.

One of our goals this year is to more actively involve faculty members in collection building by distributing *Choice* review cards to faculty library liaisons. We look forward to their selections. Our other priorities, information literacy and distance and off-campus services, are discussed in articles by Mark Balto and Salvatore Russo on page 3. Dr. Balto (718.252.7800, ext. 338) and Mr. Russo (212.463.0400, ext. 222) welcome your ideas and support.

As always, we encourage faculty to contact their site library to arrange for their classes general and subject-specific sessions on library resources and Internet search skills. We also invite everyone to ask for reference and research assistance in the libraries and by email via our *Ask a Librarian* feature.

Spotlight on New Electronic Resources

- Otzar Ha-Hochma
- xreferplus
- MD Consult
- LexisNexis Academic

Spotlight on New Resources

Otzar Ha-Hochma Electronic Library

Otzar Ha-Hochma, "the world's largest Judaic archive," has been installed in the following Touro College libraries: Boro Park 45th Street, Kew Garden Hills, Midtown, Midwood (Avenue J) and the Women's Building. *Otzar Ha-Hochma* allows you to access over 15,000 volumes, including rare and out-of-print seforim. The seforim, in Hebrew text, are viewed in their original format and can be printed by page, chapter, or full book. The search options include word, word combinations, equidistant word spacing, roots, etc.

A partial listing of features include:

- 3100 books on Tanach
- 740 books on the Mishnah
- 3700 books on the Babylonian Talmud
- 270 books on the Jerusalem Talmud
- 670 books on Midrashim, Jewish law and Aggadah

MD Consult (Core Collection)

MD Consult integrates peer-reviewed resources from over 50 publishers, medical societies, and government agencies. It is designed to assist health care professionals answer clinical questions and stay up-to-date with the latest medical practices. It even lets you download MY PDA/POCKET Consult.

A partial listing of features includes:

- 50 reference books on clinical medicine
- articles in over 100 journals, clinics, yearbooks
- current practice topics, insights, guidelines
- patient handbooks on diseases and conditions
- 900 drug monographs

xreferplus

xreferplus is the world's largest online reference service. It includes over 160 sources (biographies, conversions, dictionaries, encyclopedias, quotations) in 16 academic disciplines (art, business, history, literature, medicine, music, philosophy, psychology, science, the social sciences, technology, etc.).

MISSION

The libraries provide information resources and services which support and promote the college's academic programs. The libraries also help members of the college community acquire and refine their information seeking and evaluation skills.

LexisNexis Academic

This service provides full-text documents from over 5,900 news, business, legal, medical, and reference publications and has a variety of flexible search options.

A partial listing of features includes:

- national and regional newspapers, wire services, broadcast transcripts, international news, and non-English language sources
- U.S. Federal and state case law, codes, regulations, legal news, law reviews, and international legal information
- business news journals, company financial information, SEC filings and reports, and industry and market news

Information Literacy: Why do I need it?

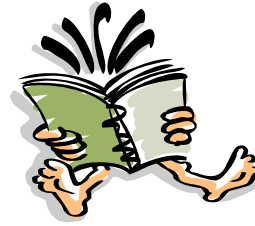
By Dr. Mark Balto, Information Literacy Librarian

“Literacy” has become a common term. We hear about different types of literacy: computer literacy, reading literacy, even financial literacy. In academia, the catchphrase is “information literacy.”

One of the most concise definitions of information literacy, provided by the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL), is that “information literacy is a set of abilities requiring individuals to recognize when information is needed and have the ability to locate, evaluate, and use effectively the needed information.” It is the ability to understand, use and communicate effectively through the compendium of resources available in this modern age. Such resources might include computers, article databases, book catalogs, the World Wide Web, an index, a glossary, a bibliography, or even a plain book. In an “information age,” knowing the assets of these multiple resources may be challenging, but using them with simplicity and ease is no different than speaking fluently in a new or native language.

Information literacy forms the basis for lifelong learning. It is common to all disciplines, all learning environments, and all levels of education. It enables learners to master content and extend their investigations, become more self-directed, and assume greater control over their own learning, and for that matter, over the destiny of their lives.

Developing lifelong learners is central to the mission of all higher educational institutions. By ensuring that individuals have the intellectual abilities of reasoning and critical and creative thinking skills, and by helping them construct a framework for learning how to learn, the Touro Information Literacy Initiative (TILI) provides the foundation for the continued growth of individuals throughout their careers, as well as in their roles as informed citizens and contributing members of their communities and the American society at large.



Automated Circulation

With the barcoding of library materials and student ID cards, we are now a comprehensively automated library system. We have long since shed our reliance on the card catalog and switched from the Dewey Decimal System to the Library of Congress and National Library of Medicine classification systems. With this state of automation, you can check the status of material in the *Library Catalog* and “View Your Patron Record.” Viewing your patron record, a main menu option, allows you to find out what material you have checked out and when it is due.

Distance & Off-Campus Services

By Salvatore Russo, Distance & Off-Campus Services Librarian

The libraries recognize the challenge of providing resources and services to members of the college community in remote and off-campus locations. To ensure that all extended access faculty and students have opportunities for library support equivalent to those of individuals at locations with libraries, several new services have been recently introduced. We have added a “Find Your Touro Library” feature to our *Directory* so faculty and students worldwide can identify their Touro affiliation and locate the library that best serves their needs. We have also introduced online *Forms* and supplemented course reserve notations in the *Library Catalog* with *EReserves*. *Forms* and *EReserves* are described in articles on page 1.

Contact Us...

Bay Shore	(631) 665-1600 x224
Bensonhurst	(718) 265-6534 x1006
Boro Park 45th St.	(718) 437-6631 x462
Boro Park 53rd St.	(718) 871-3779
Brighton Beach	(718) 449-6160 x118
Flushing	(718) 353-6400 x112
Forest Hills	(718) 261-4719
Harlem (Taino)	(212) 722-1575 x171
Kew Garden Hills	(718) 820-4894
Kings Highway	(718) 301-2032
Midtown	(212) 463-9499 x321
Midwood (Ave. J)	(718) 252-7800 x260
Starrett City	(718) 642-6562 x104
Sunset Park	(718) 748-4776 x4
Women's Building	(212) 213-2230 x119

<http://www.touro.edu/library/>

Questions, Comments and Concerns...

Please contact your library or our newsletter editor Marlana Droz, drozm@touro.edu

Personnel Accomplishments !

- ♦ **Boris Kocherga**, Library Assistant at Midtown, authored a second book of poetry published in his native town - *Pereletnie Ostrova. Tavrida*. Simpheropol, Ukraine: 2004.
- ♦ **Alex Caamano**, Technical & Electronic Services Librarian at Midtown, wrote the short story - "1:07 pm, e.s.t." published in *3rd bed*, no. 9, Fall 2003/Winter 2004.
- ♦ **Demian Vaisman**, Assistant Librarian at Midwood, co-edited *Political Organization in Central Asia and Azerbaijan: Sources and Documents*, Taylor & Francis, 2004.
- ♦ **Mark Balto**, former Assistant Librarian at Midtown, completed his PhD in Philosophy from the New School for Social Research with a dissertation on Frederick Nietzsche and was appointed Information Literacy Librarian.
- ♦ **Salvatore Russo**, former Librarian at Harlem, was appointed Distance & Off Campus Services Librarian.



Tova Friedman, Marlana Droz, and Randall Belinfante at the Association of Jewish Libraries (AJL) Annual Convention, June 2004 in Brooklyn.

Library Statistics 2003-04

Entrance (walk-in) count	156,147
Reference questions	28,721
Ask a Librarian (online reference)	379
Instructional sessions	260
Students in instructional sessions	2,697
Book/Reserve circulation	25,205
Electronic product use	115,697
Intra-library loans supplied	521
Intra-library loans borrowed	751
Inter-library loans supplied	301
Inter-library loans borrowed	1,577
Books & media purchased	7,939
Electronic books	15,500
Electronic journals	13,600
Print journal subscriptions	400
Total collections	373,300

Library Highlights

- ♦ **Midtown:** Marina Zilberman, Carol Schapiro, and Michael Smolyanskiy prepared posters (search strategies, research strategies) in support of TILI, the Touro Information Literacy Initiative.
- ♦ **Boro Park 45th Street:** Leib Klein obtained *Jaws*, a voice-activation computer program, to assist visually-challenged students access the library's electronic resources.
- ♦ **Harlem:** Salvatore Russo purchased a new reference/circulation desk and four new study carrels.
- ♦ **Bay Shore:** Staff sent a care package to soldiers in Afghanistan to support their dedicated commitment to serving our country.