


Fall 2006

# TCL Letter Volume 6 Issue 2

Touro College Libraries

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**SPOTLIGHT  
ON NEW  
ELECTRONIC  
RESOURCES**

- ebrary
- Current Research @ Touro
- Literary Reference Center
- psychiatry online
- Public Documents Masterfile
- Oxford Reference Online
- STAT-USA/Internet

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## From the Director . . . Dr. Jacqueline A. Maxim

A recent inventory has revealed that our collections now total over 551,000 items in support of the College's academic programs and your research needs. Included are 115 electronic resources with 38,460 ebooks and 26,510 full-text periodicals. Nearly all our electronic resources are accessible from home with a login and password that can be obtained by contacting your local Touro Library.

Integrating our vast collections across the College curriculum is the focus of our Information Literacy Program (see page 3). We invite faculty to attend our workshops and bring our resources to the attention of students by posting their required course material in EReserves (see page 7).

Our last newsletter described our Touro Digital Collections initiative. We are pleased to announce that the *Current Research @ Touro* database is now up and running (see page 4). The *Jewish People's University of the Air (JPUA)* database, described in the article below, will be ready for testing by the end of the year.

The Midtown Library has relocated from 33 to 43 West



**The New Midtown Library—  
See page 5.**

23rd Street in Manhattan, and soon the Women's Division and its library will relocate from 160 Lexington Avenue to 227 West 60th Street (see page 7). Library staff at both locations look forward to serving you in their new comfortable settings.

Again, we extend our thanks to all who participated in our online user satisfaction survey, the results of which are graphically represented on page 8. Your input and comments continue to focus our efforts and resources.

This newsletter introduces you to the seminal writings of Dr. David B. Levy, Librarian at the Women's Building (see page 6). We hope you enjoy his first article on censorship.

## JPUA Digitization Project, by Yitzchak Schaffer, Project Manager and Technical & Electronic Services Assistant

Among the treasures of Touro College's historical legacy is the Jewish People's University of the Air (JPUA). Originally created in the 1970s by Jacob Katzman and the Herzliah-Jewish Teachers Seminary, JPUA takes the form of a series of audio courses broadcast on NPR and other radio stations. The courses cover various topics in

Jewish studies.

With the encouragement of the faculty, we have selected JPUA as a pilot project for our Touro Digital Collections. This has entailed scanning the original printed course outlines, as well as converting the original reel-to-reel tapes to digital format. Damaged tapes required attention, and staff also needed to

learn digital audio best practices and metadata schemas.

Tape work has begun successfully, and we look forward to prescreening a developmental version of the collection before the close of the calendar year. When the project is complete, the resultant JPUA database will be posted on the Libraries' Web site.

## OUR MISSION ...

- to foster intellectual discovery by providing information resources and services that support and promote the College's academic programs,

- to advance information literacy, the basis of lifelong learning, by helping members of the College community acquire and refine their information seeking and evaluation skills.

## OFF-CAMPUS ACCESS

*Proprietary resources to the right are restricted to the Touro community. All can be accessed from any Touro PC, and most can be accessed off-campus with a login and password. For security reasons, it is our policy not to email the login and password. To obtain them, contact your library.*

## Personnel Update

### Welcome

- ◆ Starvita D. Patterson as Technical & Electronic Services Assistant at Midtown
- ◆ Abin Thakuri as Library Assistant at Boro Park 45th Street
- ◆ Barbara Swartz as Library Assistant at Miami Beach
- ◆ Dr. David B. Levy as Librarian at the Women's Building

- ◆ Eileen M. DeSimone as Librarian at Bay Shore

Services to Associate Director of Libraries

### Congratulations on Your Promotions

- ◆ Bashe Simon from Associate Director for Public Services to Deputy Director of Libraries
- ◆ Michael Ronn from Assistant Director for Technical & Electronic

### Congratulations on Becoming U.S. Citizens

- ◆ Irene Cherry, Library Assistant at Kew Gardens Hills
- ◆ Jingxian Pi, Library Assistant at Bay Shore
- ◆ Mikhail Smolyanskiy, Library Assistant at Midtown

## New Electronic Resources

**Science Direct Social & Behavioral Sciences College Edition**—articles in 600 journals, reference works, handbooks, and book series

**Ebrary**—30,800 ebooks

**Current Research @ Touro**—600 masters theses by students of the School of Health Sciences and the Graduate School of Jewish Studies

**CINAHL Select**—articles in 170 journals (120 peer-reviewed) back to 1973

**Literary Reference Center**—10,000 plot summaries, synopsis, overviews; 75,000 articles of literary criticism; 130,000 author biographies; 300 literary journals; 500,000 book reviews; 25,000 poems; 11,000 short stories; 7,500 classic novels; 3,000 author interviews; and 1,000 images of literary figures

**Book Review Index with Reviews**—citations (many with reviews) of books and ebooks published by Novelist, EBSCO Publishing, and Baker & Taylor

**psychiatry online**—a DSM library, six journals back to 1998, APA Practice Guidelines, etc.

**Oxford Reference Online (core collection)**—100 reference works in 24 categories (bilingual dictionaries, English language, history, literature, physical sciences and mathematics, politics and social sciences, religion and philosophy, science, etc.)

**SMART Imagebase**—10,000 searchable and downloadable illustrations and animations depicting anatomy, physiology, surgery, diseases, conditions, trauma, embryology, histology, etc.

**Digital Engineering Library**—4,000 chapters from 187 books in 12 disciplines (aerospace, biological, chemical, communications, electrical, math and science, environmental, industrial, etc.)

**Public Documents Maserfile**—citations of federal, state, local and international documents going back over 200 years

**Original Sources**—documents in history, politics and government, philosophy, religion, science, and the social sciences; and works of literary figures

**STAT-USA/Internet**—the State of the Union (SOTN) with economic indicators, Global Business Indicators (GLOBUS) and the National Trade Data Bank (NTDB) with 200,000 documents; and information from non-federal sources

## Information Literacy at Touro, by Theresa A. Zahor, Information Literacy Librarian

A student arrives at a Touro College Library in search of resources for an assignment. The librarian engages the student in conversation to help define the research need. They briefly discuss alternate tools and available outputs. After focusing on initial requirements, the librarian suggests starting by searching the *Library Catalog* and shows the student results applicable to the topic. Some are physical books, others are links to ebooks. The librarian shows the student where the books are located and how to use ebooks. The student starts to preview tables of contents of selected books to evaluate how well they relate to the topic. The student is able to start reviewing alternate resources in print and electronically to formulate an approach for the assignment.

This is an example of a basic information literacy interaction that occurs daily in every Touro College Library. It is in equal parts: active engagement in providing research assistance, examination of appropriate sources, and incorporation of a student centered approach to the research process.

Our information literacy goal is

to help students conceptualize information use while developing the practical skills necessary for academic and future professional success. The initial focus of the information literacy program is to introduce faculty and students to resources available through the Libraries. As we progress, the plan is to strengthen student learning and evolve information competencies towards life long learning.

The information literacy program at Touro offers workshops for faculty throughout the year on: *TurnItIn* (anti-plagiarism), *Noodle-Tools* (bibliography generator), *EReserves* (links to required electronic course material selected by professors), and *Copyright & Fair Use in Academia* (associated guidelines), and *Information Literacy – Your Library and You* (integrating IL into your classroom). Future workshops will include sessions that focus on the major disciplines so faculty can work with resources specific to their areas of expertise.

The Libraries have developed online resources to assist faculty and students in becoming more familiar with research tools available to them. A guide called *Information Literacy - Your Library and*

*You: a Faculty Workshop* is a walk through the major tenants of ACRL's *Information Literacy Competency Standards for Higher Education* while referencing Touro College Virtual Library resources. It also includes suggestions for assignments faculty may want to incorporate into their syllabi. An *Information Literacy Student Tutorial* formulates an approach to research at a standard level of introductory information literacy ability. It demonstrates: searching the *Library Catalog* and *Proprietary Databases*, narrowing your findings, using subject directories and search engines, evaluating Web sites, and completing a bibliography. Practice assignments are included at the end of each section. Faculty may use this as a component of their classes.

Faculty and students are encouraged to attend workshops to increase their awareness of available resources. Virtual Library resources are accessible from any Touro PC and from home via login and password available from any Touro library. If there are questions regarding the Information Literacy Program call me at 212-463-0400, ext. 233, or send me an email to [theresa.zahor@touro.edu](mailto:theresa.zahor@touro.edu).

**“Our information literacy goal is to help students conceptualize information use while developing the practical skills necessary for academic and future professional success.”**

## Association of Jewish Libraries Mentor, by Amram S. Rister, Judaica Librarian

On June 18-21, 2006, I attended the annual conference of the Association of Jewish Libraries (AJL). This year the conference was held in Cambridge, MA overlooking the historic Charles River.

AJL is comprised of many committees. Over the last few years, AJL formed a mentoring committee to provide support to librarians in

need of assistance with library-related tasks. At this conference, I was appointed to the mentoring committee.

The committee compiled two questionnaires. The first was directed at assessing the needs of potential mentees, asking them for contact information and areas in which they need help. The second

was directed at assessing the skills of potential mentors, asking them for contact information and areas in which they could help.

On the last evening of the conference, the committee met to try to pair mentors with mentees. I look forward to serving as an AJL mentor to assist other librarians with their professional needs.

“With digitization, theses are now available free of charge to all members of the Touro community.”

## Touro Master Theses, by Salvatore A. Russo, Project Manager and Distance & Off-Campus Services Librarian

Before the Libraries' Touro Digital Collections project, our masters theses were available only in the libraries at Bay Shore, Midtown, and the Women's Building. Because those libraries received just one copy, they were placed in their reserve collections for in-library use only. Although they could not be charged out, photocopies could be made on self-help copy machines.

With digitization, theses are now available free of charge to all members of the Touro community. All one has to do is visit the Libraries' Web site, click on *Touro Digital Collections* under Find RESOURCES on the right of your screen, then click on *Current Research@Touro*, our gateway page hosted by UMI.

*Current Research@Touro* can be searched by keyword, author, or advisor, and simple instructions must be followed to download the theses. The database is accessible from any Touro College PC. From home, you need a login and

password that can be obtained by contacting your local Touro Library. Individuals not affiliated with Touro have access to our theses through a commercial UMI database called *ProQuest Digital Dissertations*. With this database, they can get the first 24 pages free, but must pay for the entire thesis. A small royalty is paid to the thesis author each time their thesis is purchased, and a royalty check is sent to the author when the amount reaches 10 dollars.

All Touro students who produce masters theses and participate in this digitization project retain the copyright of their work. To participate, the student must fill out an agreement form available from their advisor or local Touro Library. Once the thesis and agreement form are sent to me, it is forwarded to UMI where the theses is digitized, included in ProQuest/UMI's published index *Masters Abstracts International*, and preserved on archival quality microfiche at our Midtown Li-

brary and in the UMI vault, which is considered the official U.S. theses and dissertations repository by the Library of Congress. It is also included in the *ProQuest Digital Dissertations* database and in our spin-off database, *Current Research@Touro*.

Students can refuse to submit their theses to this process. However, digitization enables them to get their research out to scholars worldwide. It also allows Touro to showcase the high quality of graduate-level research our students provide. Most important, it ensures that a student's work is never lost.

Our masters theses are available online in the areas of occupational therapy, physical therapy, Jewish studies, and forensic science.

If you have questions regarding the masters theses digitization project call me at 212.463.0400, ext. 222, or email me at [salvator@touro.edu](mailto:salvator@touro.edu).

## NOVEL Evaluation, by Michael Ronn, Associate Director of Libraries

On July 18, 2006, I participated in the NOVEL Evaluation Focus Group held at the offices of METRO, the Metropolitan New York Library Council. The NOVEL (New York Online Virtual Electronic Library) database initiative is supported by federal Library Services and Technology Act funds, and awarded to the

New York State Library by the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS).

Eight libraries, including large public library systems, small special libraries, and well-endowed academic libraries, were represented. The conclusion was that participants did not like the quality of

NOVEL databases and that NOVEL's "high academic" sources were not of sufficient quality.

Recommendations include NOVEL's purchasing access to fewer databases of higher quality (e.g., *ProQuest's Historical New York Times*) and the improvement of their Web site.

## New Midtown Library, by Dr. Jacqueline A. Maxin, Director of Libraries

A visit to the Midtown Library at its new location at 43 West 23<sup>rd</sup> Street in Manhattan is well worth the trip. Off the fifth floor elevator is a glassed-in vestibule with seating in beige and maroon, designer colors that are carried throughout. Beyond the materials security system towers is the Information Desk where our specialists provide reference, reserve, and circulation services.



To the left of the Information Desk are 12 public access PCs with dedicated access to our Virtual Library. eResources available via the Virtual Library can be accessed from your home with a login and password that can be obtained by contacting your local Touro Library. The area to the left also contains a quiet study area with lounge seating, study carrels, group study tables, a self-service photocopier, and a laser printer.

To the right of the Information Desk are four public access PCs with dedicated access to our Library Catalog, and the reference, circulating, and periodical collections. These collections serve the School of Health Sciences, the Graduate School of Education & Psychology, the Graduate Business Programs, and the New York School of Career & Applied Studies. They also incorporate the Graduate School of Jew-

ish Studies' Judaica collection, formerly located at the Women's Building on Lexington Avenue. Interspersed are additional quiet study areas that also include lounge seating, study carrels, and group study tables.

All study carrels are hard-wired for the Internet and soon the entire space will be wireless. There is a new Library Instruction Room with 14 PCs and overhead projection for

library orientation and training sessions. This room will also host workshops conducted by Theresa A. Zahor, our Information Literacy Librarian, and Salvatore A. Russo,



our Distance & Off-Campus Services Librarian. These workshops are in support of TILI, the Touro Information Literacy Initiative. A new Media Room houses audiovisual collections and viewing equipment, including a state-of-the-art

reader-printer that can transform microform documents into pdf files that can be mailed to requestors.

Ergonomic office space is provided for the highly skilled Midtown Library team—Marina Zilberman, Chief Librarian; Carol Schapiro, Librarian; Amram S. Rister, Judaica Librarian; Dr. Mark H. Balto, Assistant Librarian; Michael F. Donovan, Assistant Librarian; Mikhail Smolianskiy, Library Assistant; and Boris Kocherga, Library Assistant.

Midtown Library personnel would like to thank the following individuals and their staff for designing and outfitting such an attractive space, moving the collections, and installing new PCs—Akiva Kobre, Senior Vice President and Chief Administrative Officer; Wanda Hernandez, Director of Purchasing; Giuseppe Caradonna, Director of Facilities; Mark Shor, Chief Information Officer; and Dr. Issac Herskowitz, Chief Academic Computing Officer and Dean of the School of Technology.

The Midtown Library is open

from 9 AM to 9 PM Monday through Thursday, 9 AM to 2 PM on Friday, and 10 AM to 6 PM on Sunday (except August). Please stop by, enjoy our beautiful new setting, and let our experienced and competent staff fill your information needs.

*“Off the fifth floor elevator is a glassed-in vestibule with seating in beige and maroon, designer colors that are carried throughout.”*

# Censorship: A Library Issue & Beyond,

by Dr. David B. Levy, Women's Building Librarian

"Where they  
burn books, they  
will end in  
burning human  
beings."  
- Heine, 1821

In recent secular literature works such as Shakespeare's *The Merchant of Venice*, Flaubert's *Madame Bovary*, Theodore Dreiser's *Sister Carrie*, and James Joyce's *Ulysses* have been targets of censorship. The novel *Satanic Verses* was burned and Rushdie received threats to his life. Library collection development policies may or may not choose to incorporate acts of censorship. Locke's *A Letter Concerning Toleration* (*Epistola De Tolerantia*) generally characterized the modern Enlightenment's weltanschauung for tolerance in general although this stereotype is challenged by Arthur Hertzberg in his book *The French Enlightenment and the Jews*.

Even the canonization of the *Hebrew Bible* may represent acts of censorship, where disputes were held in Yavne and elsewhere by our sages, whether *Ecclesiastes* was too skeptical, the *Book of Esther* too assimilationist, or *Song of Solomon* too erotic. While the rabbis would include *Song of Solomon* as an allegory of HaShem's love for Klal Yisrael, and Rabbi Akiba proclaims it the "Holy of Holies", the canonization of the *Hebrew Bible* as shown by Sid Leiman is a fascinating process.

Internal Rabbinic censorship in the Middle Ages is represented by examples such as the Maimonidean controversy (see Levy, David. "The Maimonidean Controversy: Censorship of Rambam's *Moreh Nevukhim* and *Sefer HaMadah*", *AJL Proceedings* 35 (2000), p.172-177). In 1233 Rambam's

*Moreh Nevukhim* was burnt at Montpellier and later in 1242 in Paris. Spinoza's works are still considered by many non-liberal rabbis as problematic and sometimes censored (see Leo Strauss' *Spinoza's Critique of Religion*). Certain Rabbis also banned Ramhal's works and excommunicated him. In the controversy in Eastern Europe between Mitnagdim and Khasidim books were banned on both sides. Recently a case exists where a rabbi from Lakewood was condemned for publishing a work thought to be offensive. For more on internal censorship see Leo Strauss' *Persecution and the Art of Writing*.

After the governmental burnings of Hebraica as early as that recounted in the book of *Maccabees* (1:50) by Antiochus IV, external censorship of Rabbinic texts is marked by the periodic burning of the *Talmud* and other Rabbinic works, particularly during the period 1240-1600. For example 24 cartloads of *Talmud* volumes were burned in Paris in 1242 by the Friars, two years after the debate with Rabbi Yehiel. Often theological debate can lead to persecution/censorship as did the debates in 1263 in Barcelona with Ramban, and 1414 in Tortosa with Rabbi Yosef Albo. Rabbi Hillel of Verona expressed that the reason why 24 cartloads of *Talmud* volumes were burned in Paris in 1242 at the same place where Rambam's *Guide for the Perplexed* and *The Book of Knowledge* were ignited, the ashes mingling together, was because

Rambam's works were unfairly censored. Rabbi Yonah Gerondi, author of *Gates of Repentance*, voiced regret that he had been an anti-Maimonist and repented censorship of Rambam's works. In the 1480s Tomas Torquemada promoted the burning of Jewish texts and Arabic texts. (See Moshe Carmilly's *Censorship and Freedom of Expression in Jewish History* and William Popper's *The Censorship of Hebrew Books*).

The Nazis also censored many literary works that they labeled a manifestation of the decadent Jewish spirit such as the works of Freud, Jack London, Thomas Mann, Marx, and H.G. Wells. On May 10, 1933 on the Opernplatz in Berlin, S.A. Nazi youth groups burned over 20,000 books from the Institut fuer Sexualwissenschaft and Humboldt University. The poet Heine famously wrote in 1821, "Where they burn books, they will end in burning human beings." Just over a century later the Nazis did as Heine predicted.

During Mussaf on Yom Kippur we recount the Ten Martyrs. The *Midrash* teaches that Rabbi Chananya ben Tradion was executed by being wrapped in a *Sefer Torah* lit afire with wet wool to prolong his agony as sportmachen. Rabbi Chananya said, "The parchment is consumed, but the letters fly up to heaven." During the Shoah some Jews would sublimate their persecution by singing ani maamin or recite the shema—an act of Kiddush HaShem thereby transcending the most radical act of censorship, mass murder.

## Copyright & EReserves, by Bashe Simon, Deputy Director of Libraries

Traditionally, faculty have requested that libraries put their required course reading material on reserve. Such material is placed in the library's Reserve Collection located behind the Circulation Desk. So that reserve material can be made readily accessible to a large number of people, it is available only for in-library use for short periods of time.

For nearly a year now, the Touro community has had an alternative in *EReserves*, a powerful electronic course reserve system that enables students to access required reading material online around-the-clock. *EReserves* is easy to use and integrates with the Libraries' Web page. All students have to know to retrieve their course material is the course title or their instructor's name. Access to *EReserves* is restricted to members of the Touro community via a login and password that can be obtained by contacting any Touro Library.

To place an item on reserve in a library or through *EReserves*, faculty should contact a Touro College librarian. The online materials are input or linked by library staff after filing with the Copyright

Clearance Center (CCC). The system empowers librarians and faculty to offer course material electronically and provides students with the option to access the materials on campus or off-site. *EReserves* is available via the Touro College Virtual Library in the column entitled Find RESOURCES.

Today, with the ability of anyone with a PC to download material on the Internet at will, copyright issues have become increasingly important. It is incumbent for all colleges to exercise a copyright policy that complies with copyright and fair use laws and doctrines. In the United States, Copyright Law "protects the authors of original work of authorship, including literary, dramatic, musical, artistic and certain other intellectual works."

Like other libraries, the Touro College Libraries must do everything possible to uphold the principles of copyright and fair use. Copyright management is an integral part of *EReserves*. We make use of the integrated package available with *EReserves* to manage copyright issues.

To ensure that Touro College

is meeting U.S. standards for copyright compliance and fair use policy, all copyrighted material included in your *Blackboard* courses must be submitted to me. I can be contacted at the Midwood (Avenue J) Library at 718-252-7800, ext. 226 or via email at [simonb@touro.edu](mailto:simonb@touro.edu).

Library staff will input or link required course material in *EReserves* (by your name and course number), for which there is a link in *Blackboard*, after filing the material with the CCC and paying any associated royalty fees for you. Such material includes: ebooks and ejournal articles; scanned book chapters and journal articles; and Web sites, documents, databases, etc. Your library staff will also provide a link in *EReserves* to Course Reserves pages in the Library Catalog should you have print books and media in your local Touro College Library's Reserve Collection.

*EReserves* is a valuable tool that benefits both faculty and students by making material available 24/7 while protecting the rights of authors. Please contact your local library staff for assistance.

**"We make use of the integrated package available with *EReserves* to manage copyright issues."**

## Women's Building Library to Move, by Dr. Jacqueline A. Maxin, Director of Libraries

This fall, the Women's Division will move from 160 Lexington Avenue to a totally renovated building at 227 West 60th Street. The new Women's Building Library will continue to serve the Lander College for Women and, although most of its Judaica collection has been incorporated into the new Midtown Library at 43 West 23rd Street, funds have been allocated to re-

place material transferred where necessary.

The new library space at 227 West 60th Street will feature a bank of public access PCs. It will also have study carrels hard-wired for the Internet, as well as wireless capabilities throughout.

The new fully functional library will be located on one floor. It will

also have a separate media area for audio-visual material and equipment. Floor to ceiling windows will light expansive shelving ranges, group study tables, and comfortable lounge seating areas.

Library staff look forward to filling your information needs in a new space conducive to quiet study and productive research in a state-of-the-art environment.



**CONTACT US**

Bay Shore	631.665.1600 x 224
Bensonhurst	718.265.6534 x 1006
Boro Park 45th St.	718.437.6631 x 462
Boro Park 53rd St.	718.871.6187 x 17
Brighton Beach	718.449.6160 x 118
Flushing	718.353.6400 x 112
Forest Hills	718.261.4719
Harlem (Taino)	212.722.1575 x 171
Kew Garden Hills	718.820.4894
Kings Highway	718.301.2032
Los Angeles	323.822.9700
Miami Beach	305.535.1066 x 5120
Midtown	212.463.0400 x 321
Midwood (Ave. J)	718.252.7800 x 260
Starrett City	718.642.6562 x 104
Sunset Park	718.748.4776 x 4
Women's Building	212.213.2230 x 119

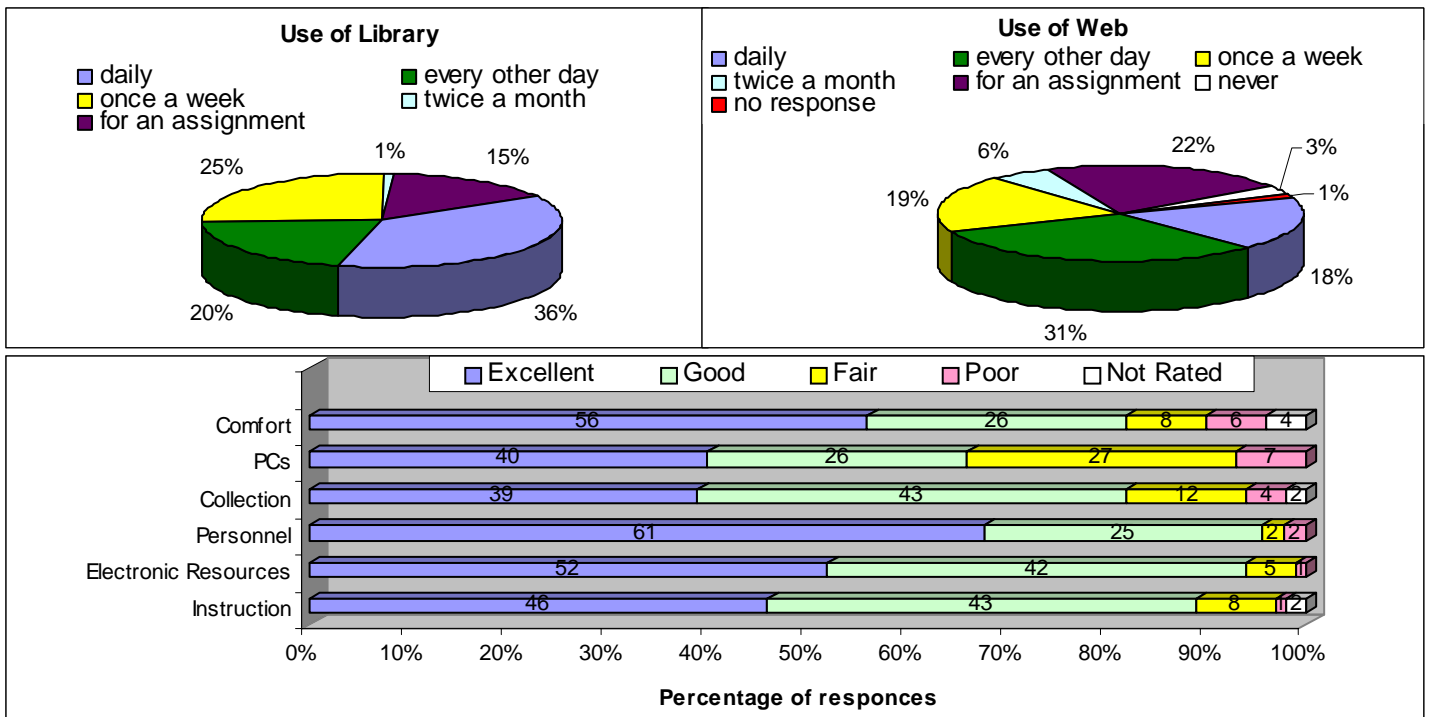
**OUR MOST USED BOOKS**

1. **A Companion to the Philosophy of Education (ebook)**
2. **Basic College Mathematics**
3. **Teach Yourself Oracle 8 in 21 Days (ebook)**
4. **The History of Government From the Earliest Times (ebook)**
5. **40 Short Stories: A Portable Anthology**
6. **Natives and Strangers: Blacks, Indians, and Immigrants in America**
7. **Anatomy and Physiology: An Easy Learner (ebook)**
8. **The Norton Anthology of Short Fiction**
9. **Behavioral, Social, and Emotional Assessment of Children and Adolescents (ebook)**
10. **The Lost Boy: A Foster Child's Search for the Love of a Family (ebook)**

Who would have thought that our Top 10 Books would include **SIX** ebooks?



**June 2006 Library User Satisfaction Survey Results**



Graph by Mikhail Smolyanskiy, Library Assistant at Midtown