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Spring 2007

## TCL Letter Volume 7 Issue 1

Touro College Libraries

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**Touro  
College**

# The TCL Letter

A Newsletter of the Touro College Libraries

Volume 7, Issue 1

Spring 2007

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## Spotlight on New Electronic Resources:

- ProQuest Psychology Journals
- ProQuest Biology Journals
- Social Work Abstracts
- Education Research Complete
- Computers & Applied Sciences Complete
- Accounting & Tax with Standards
- More on page 2

## From the Director ...

**Dr. Jacqueline A. Maxin**

A link to our fourth *Library User Satisfaction Survey* was posted on the main page of our Web site (<http://www.touro.edu/library/>) on March 12 and will remain there until April 13. The survey can be accessed on- and off-campus. Please take a few moments to complete the survey, tell us how we are performing, and recommend ways we can improve our facilities, resources, and services. Results will be published in our Fall newsletter.

Our *Vision, Mission, and Strategic Plan*, described briefly on page 4, has also been linked on our Web site. The goals and objectives in this document and your responses to our online user satisfaction surveys will drive our efforts and actions for the next five years.

We are pleased to announce that Philip R. Papas has been appointed to the position of College Archivist. Mr. Papas will apply his expertise to collecting and organizing material of historical significance to the College. Mr. Papas and the College Archives are located with Technical & Electronic Services on the second floor of 33 West 23rd Street.

### Forthcoming—

**Alumni Access to Selected Proprietary Databases**

Our past newsletters have tracked the progress of

our JPUA Digitization Project. We encourage you to take a look at the resultant database, described on page 3, and email us your comments.

This summer, we will provide Touro College NY alumni with access to a select group of our proprietary databases. These databases will include *ebrary* with 30,815 ebooks in all areas of academic study; *netLibrary* with 13,360 ebooks on a broad range of learned subjects; *ABI/INFORM Complete* which has articles from over 4,000 business periodicals; *ProQuest Health Management* which has articles from 550 periodicals; and *Research Library* which has articles from 2,000 scholarly periodicals. When available, alumni access will be widely publicized throughout the College media, as well as on our Web site.

## The New Women's Building Library, by Bashe Simon, Deputy Director of Libraries

The new Women's Building Library opened with a flourish in February 2007. The airy, well-lit atmosphere is enhanced by a terrace skylight that provides natural lighting. Faculty and students are encouraged to use the multimedia area which houses a VHS-DVD monitor and a copy machine. Faculty and students will soon have access to wireless computer use.

The librarian, Dr. David Levy, who now has a glass enclosed office, is available until 11 PM to answer reference questions, provide library instruction, and help you get the information you need. Tova Friedman, the library assistant, manages the new, luxurious circulation desk.

We welcome you to come tour and use the facility at 227 West 60th Street.



**Dr. David Levy and Tova Friedman**

## Personnel Update

### Welcome Aboard

- Taitiana Vaisman, Assistant Librarian, Midwood (Ave. J)
- Edlira Agalliu, Librarian, Midwood (Ave. J)
- Steven Davidson, Librarian, Miami Beach
- Daniel R. Lichter, Library Assistant, Kew Gardens Hills
- Philip R. Papas, College Archivist, Midtown

### Recipients of the College's Quarterly Incentive Award

- Wendy Rosa, Library Assistant, Midwood (Ave. J)
- Boris Kocherga, Library Assistant, Midtown

### Recipients of Advanced Degrees

- Aretha E. Fairweather, Library Assistant, Harlem, with a BS from Touro College
- Benjamin (Yitzhak) Shaffer, former Assistant and now Technical & Electronic Services Librarian, Midtown, with an MLS from Queens College/CUNY

### Meetings

- September 27, 2006—Bay Shore Librarian Eileen Desimone, and Library Assistant Jing Pi attended the Suffolk County 20th Legislative Breakfast at the Connetquot Public Library
- November 10, 2006—Bay Shore Chief Librarian Myra Reisman, Librarian Eileen Desimone, and Library Assistants Jing Pi and Clau-

dia McGivney attended the Suffolk County Library Association Annual Meeting in Riverhead



Patricia Acompora, State Legislator (left), with Jing Pi and Eileen Desimone (right)

- January 21, 2007—Judaica Librarian Amram S. Rister attended a meeting of the Jewish Information Committee of The Ethnic and Multicultural Information Exchange Round Table of the American Library Association

## New Electronic Resources

**ProQuest Social Science Journals**—includes articles from 280 journals on addiction, urban, and family studies, and on international relations

**ProQuest Science Journals**—has articles from 380 journals back to 1986 on physics, engineering, astronomy, biology, earth science, chemistry, etc.

**ProQuest Psychology Journals**—has articles from 485 journals on clinical and social psychology, genetics, the psychology of business and economics, communication, criminology, addiction, neurology, social welfare, etc.

**ProQuest Nursing & Allied Health Source**—includes articles from 470 journals on complementary and alternative medicine, consumer health, cytology, nursing, nutrition, oncology, pediatric care, pharmacology, public health, and radiology

**ProQuest Computing**—has articles from 300 journals on artificial intelligence; computer games, graphics, networks, programming, security, and systems; database management; e-commerce; electronic data processing; hardware and software; information

science and theory; intranets and extranets; technology management; and Web site development

**ProQuest Biology Journals**—contains articles from 250 journals on biological chemistry, biophysics, botany, cytology and histology, environmental studies, microbiology, microscopy, and zoology

Proprietary databases listed here 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 any of our libraries.

**ProQuest Health Management**—includes articles from 550 journals on all aspects of health administration (public health and safety, hospitals, finance, personnel management, insurance, population studies, labor relations, and law)

**Social Work Abstracts**—has citations of journal articles back to 1977 on

social work, homelessness, AIDS, child and family welfare, aging, substance abuse, legislation, community organization, etc.

**Education Research Complete**—contains 100 books and monographs, and articles from over 750 journals on all levels of education, education specialties, and curriculum studies

**Computers & Applied Sciences Complete**—has articles from 500 journals on the engineering disciplines, computer theory and systems, and the business and social implications and professional context of new technologies

**Infection Control: A Training Program for Healthcare Professionals**—a 46-minute flash streaming video

**HIPAA: A Guide for Healthcare Workers**—a 23-minute flash streaming video

**Accounting & Tax with Standards**—includes articles from 620 journals on accounting, tax, and financial management, plus national and international policies and standards, etc.

## Non-Biblical Texts & Records in Jewish Antiquity, by Dr. David B. Levy, Women's Building Librarian

Besides the *Five Books of Moses*, which Hebrew texts and records were available in antiquity? We will offer an overview of these early-mentioned texts and records from the period of the Tabernacle, which the Levites carried for 40 years in the desert, until the first and second Temples in Jerusalem.

In the section in *Joshua* (10:13), where it is mentioned that the sun and moon miraculously stood still, *The Book of Yashar* (i.e., *The Book of the Upright*) is mentioned. *The Book of Yashar* is also referred to in *II Samuel* 1:17 where we read, "David intoned this dirge over Saul and Jonathan [who were killed in battle against the Philistines on Mt. Gilboa]. It is recorded in *The Book of Yashar*." A third mention of *The Book of Yashar* appears in King Solomon's prayer at the dedication of the Holy Temple in Jerusalem (1 Kings 8:12-13), which is found in an expanded form in the *Septuagint*, the ancient Greek translation of the Bible. Rashi, however, is of the commonly-held traditional view that *The Book of Yashar* was not a separate text, but refers to the *Book of Genesis* and that its title is referring to the Biblical patriarchs, who are known in Hebrew as "yesharim," i.e., "the upright ones."

In *Numbers* 21:14, there is mention of a scroll titled, *The Book of the Wars of G-d*. According to the medieval rabbinic commentator ibn Ezra, this was a separate book which, together with *The Book of Yashar*, were anthologies of early songs. They described Israel's battles at the beginning of national existence during the period of Moses and Joshua. Both medieval rabbis, Rashi and Nachmanides, refer to "the miraculous wondrous victories," including the parting of the Reed Sea,

recounted in *The Book of the Wars of G-d*.

A further scroll kept in the First Temple archive was found by King Josiah's priest Hilkiah (1 Chr. 5:39-40; Ezra 7:1-2). Though at first this seems to be another non-Biblical work existent then, this is thought by most rabbinical commentators to have been a copy of *Deuteronomy*. Many Ancient Near Eastern Studies scholars and archaeologists speculate that this scroll (possibly of *Deuteronomy*) was found in a Temple inventory. Rashi comments that this "scroll of the law" was hidden

"Both medieval rabbis Rashi and Nachmanides refer to 'the miraculous wondrous victories,' including the parting of the Reed Sea, recounted in *The Book of the Wars of G-d*."

under a layer of stones where it had been concealed when Ahaz burned the *Torah*. Wicked kings such as Ahaz (743-727 B.C.E.) banned the *Torah*, Manasseh (698-642 B.C.E.) cut out the holy names of G-d, and Amon (641-640 B.C.E.) burned the *Torah*. King Josiah (639-609 B.C.E.), however, like King Hezekiah (727-698 B.C.E.), did away with idolatry and returned the *Torah* to its former glory.

In *I Kings* 14:19, which discusses the wicked King Jeroboam who established the worship of golden calves in Dan and Bethel, mention is made of a book entitled *The Chronicles of the Kings of Israel*. Further works possibly found in the Holy Temple in Jerusalem included the *Midrash of [the prophet] Iddo*

(2 Chr. 12:22) and the *Midrash of the Book of the Kings* (2 Chr. 24:27), where midrash means either "to explain" or "to inquire." Rabbi David Kimhi comments that the *Midrash of Iddo* is called midrash because it was always "sought" (nidrosh), i.e., used to foresee and explain future events, of each King's reign.

The prophet Jeremiah speaks of the "books of the records of the Fathers" in the Temple, and Ezra speaks of "rolls" being kept in the scribe's chamber. Debate exists whether the library was burned when Antiochus captured Jerusalem (ca. 2nd c. B.C.E.) and which was reestablished by Judah Maccabeus.

The Jewish historian Josephus (38-100 C.E.) notes that the Jerusalem archive housed genealogies. For a priest to serve in the Temple, the Sanhedrin (rabbinical court of 71) first examined the family trees of priestly descent by consulting scrolls of genealogy (*Megilat Yuhasin* or *Sefer Yuhasin*) preserved in the Temple (*Jos. Ag. Apion* 1:31). The *Talmudic* tractate *Kiddushin* (4:4) attests that in marrying the daughter of priest one should examine four or eight generations. Some hold that King Herod burned the genealogical registers to conceal his own Edomite origin (*Jos. Wars* 2:247), and he murdered one of his wives and had her brother drowned to destroy their priestly genealogical lineage. The Temple archive was finally destroyed in 70 C.E. by the Romans (*Jos. Wars* 6:354). Josephus mentions Tiberia (*Jos. Life*, 38) as a place of a genealogical archive, and rabbinic texts specify Sephoris (*Kiddushin* 4:5) and Gadera (*Esther Rabba* 1:3) as locations for Jewish archives.

## JPUA Audiotapes Now Online—[jpua.touro.edu](http://jpua.touro.edu), by Yitzchak Schaffer, Project Manager and Technical & Electronic Services Librarian

The Jewish People's University of the Air (JPUA) is a series of radio courses created between 1979 and 1991 to introduce the public to a variety of topics in Jewish Studies. We are pleased to announce its debut online as the first in Touro's Digital Collections program. To access JPUA, point your browser to <http://jpua.touro.edu>.

Included among the courses are a survey of Sefardi history; five units on

Yiddish, Hebrew, and English literature; and several units dealing with matters of Jewish religion. The Jewish experience is also detailed in a range of settings around the world, including two programs on the Holocaust.

Click on the "Browse the collection" button at the bottom of the



"Welcome to JPUA" screen to access indexes of course context, and use other buttons to obtain discussion guides and background information on the history and use of JPUA. Please share your impressions

with us by sending an email to [jpua@touro.edu](mailto:jpua@touro.edu).



## Libraries

Our vision is to be the primary resource for intellectual content College-wide.  
To fulfill the mission of the College, we foster intellectual discovery and advance information literacy.

Midtown—212.463.0400, ext. 321  
Midwood (Ave. J)—718.252.7800, ext. 260  
Lander College for Men—718.820.4894  
Lander College for Women—212.287.3531

## TOURO COLLEGE

Bay Shore—631.665.1600, ext. 224  
Kings Highway—718.301.2032  
For other library locations, consult the Directory on our Web site—

[www.touro.edu/library/](http://www.touro.edu/library/)

## Vision, Mission, & Strategic Plan

In September 2006, the Libraries' five-year Vision, Mission, and Strategic Plan was finalized and linked in the Policies section of our Web site. The "Strategic Plan" is divided into five sections that highlight our goals, objectives, and measures in the areas of collections, services, facilities, staff and organizational development, and visibility.

The Libraries' Vision, Mission, and Strategic Plan were made possible through the efforts of the following faculty members: Philip Charach, Director of Instructional Technology; Dr. Yuriy Karpov, Associate Dean of the Graduate School of Education & Psychology; Dr. James Musumeci, Director of the Graduate School of Business; and Dr. Kevin Wong, Director of the School of Health Sciences' Physical Therapy Programs. Library staff who contributed to these efforts include: Dr. Jacqueline A. Maxin, Director of Libraries; Michael Ronn, Associate Director of Libraries; Salvatore A. Russo, Distant & Off-Campus Services Librarian; Bashe Simon, Deputy Director of Libraries; and Theresa A. Zahor, Information Literacy Librarian.

## The Male/Female Brain Debate, by Chaya Drillman, Librarian, Midwood (Ave. J)

Last year, Lawrence Summers, now former president of Harvard, suggested that the reason women do not occupy the top ranks of science and engineering has something to do with their "brain" or cognitive deficits. This statement gave rise to a furor; it was deemed "politically incorrect" and Summers was forced out of the presidency of Harvard.

It is undeniable that long-term studies involving hundreds of thousands of students do show that there are more mathematically gifted males than females. It is also true that to-date *all* of the recipients of the Fields medal, a prestigious award in mathematics, have been men.

What is unclear is whether the superiority of males in the so-called STEM pursuits (science, technology, engineering, mathematics) is innate and hard-wired. Or are there other factors, social factors, which can explain this superiority? Another question that must be explored is whether training can overcome deficits in scientific talent.

Social factors affecting the male superiority in the sciences are the fact that women are the principal caregivers in our society in their roles as parents, and therefore, cannot devote as much time to their career pursuits. Typically, world-class male

scientists work 60 to 80 hours per week. This is a difficulty for female scientists with families.

Unmarried female scientists may face prejudice in an environment that is predominantly male. This may affect their performance as scientists.

All high-level cognitive activities are affected by experience. Spatial and mathematical abilities are no exception. Spatial visualization and spatial perception can be improved with training. An important recommendation is to establish a spatial curriculum in the schools, beginning with elementary grades. The most recent development is multimedia software that provides training in three-dimensional spatial visualization skills. It has been used successfully with first year engineering students. Improvements in the retention of women engineering students has been noted. Without the course, the retention rate for women was 47% whereas with the course it was 77%.

An interesting phenomenon that has been observed is that women have deliberately opted not to enter scientific fields that are object rather than people ori-

ented. Women are obtaining 50% of the MD degrees from medical schools, almost 75% of the VMDs from veterinary schools, and 44% of the PhD' in biology and life sciences. This is their choice.

In fine, Lawrence Summers was both right and wrong.

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