Spring 2008

TCL Letter Volume 8 Issue 1

Touro College Libraries

Introducing—CHAT Online with a Librarian

The Touro College Libraries are pleased to introduce a powerful new tool to access information from our vast resources. Patrons can now use the *CHAT* Online interface to ask reference questions, to get search strategy assistance, to receive tips on using databases, and to request explanations of Touro College Library policies.

CHAT will be displayed on the Touro College library home page, allowing patrons to engage in real-time text based discussions with Touro College librarians LIVE on a first-come, first-served basis from 9:30 AM-10:30 PM, Monday thru Thursday and 9:30 AM to 1:30 PM on Friday [Eastern Standard Time].

Here are a few guidelines that can help optimize your online chat:

Type brief messages. If your question is lengthy, send a series of short messages, end-

**Got Questions?
Librarians Have Answers!**

CHAT ONLINE
WITH A TOURO LIBRARIAN

• Real time answers to real tough questions
• 2 hlp u w/ ur research faq
• Go to the Touro Library Homepage &
  click on LIVE CHAT =))

• Reference Help
• Research Tips
• Search Suggestions

http://www.touro.edu/library

TOURO COLLEGE LIBRARIES

ing each one with an ellipsis (…). This will signal the librarian that there is more to come.

Make your question as specific as possible. For example: "I need information on library instruction and student retention…" (click Send button) "I have already checked out ERIC, but was not successful…"(click Send button) "What other database would you suggest?" (click Send button)

CHAT Online is best used for:

-advice about how to begin researching a topic
-suggestions on which database to use
-tips on how to search a database, the library catalog or the Internet

-instruction in determining whether a book or a journal is available
-clarifications of library services and policies

Patrons can also use the *Ask a Librarian* email service when *CHAT* is unavailable; *Ask a Librarian* questions will be answered within 24 hours.

Inside this issue:

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.

New Electronic Resources

SAGE Premier Collection - This powerful new addition includes all of SAGE's 485 unique journals, covering business, health science, humanities, social sciences, science, and technology.

Theatre in Video with BBC Shakespeare Content - Imagine creating playlists from over 250 of the world's most important plays, together with more than 100 video documentaries, all available online in streaming video. This exciting resource makes it possible!

JSTOR Arts & Sciences Collection II — The latest of four JSTOR collections at Touro. Popular because JSTOR articles often appear in Google Scholar search results.

AccessScience - Including over 8,500 online articles from the *McGraw-Hill Encyclopedia of Science & Technology*, this popular resource also features multimedia such as animations, news videos and more.

History Reference Online Elite - Featuring 286 journal titles, with custom research session profiles.

From the Acting Director . . .
Bashe Simon

We'd like to thank the participants of our *Library User Satisfaction Survey*, the results of which were posted on our website in December. According to these results, 84% of users found the libraries to be comfortable, and 81% were satisfied with the library computers. Most survey participants indicated that they use the library daily, primarily for its resources and for reference purposes, and that they access the databases via on-campus computers. The most frequently-used resources are the Proprietary Databases. Our Spring *Library User Satisfaction Survey* will be posted on our website in May. As we welcome all suggestions, please take the time to submit yours and complete the survey.

We are excited to introduce online *CHAT* this spring. You can use this new feature on our website to ask reference questions and conference with a librarian. The website's *Ask a Librarian* feature will continue to be available. More detailed information can be found in the article on page one. We look forward to chatting with you!

We are pleased to announce the addition of the following staff members: Amarilis Soler is the new library assistant at the Harlem library. Lori Kelly is now the librarian at Touro College South, and Bayla Pasikov fills the same position at Touro College Israel (TCI). Liping Ren is the new assistant to Systems Librarian Yitzchak Schaffer at Technical & Electronic Services.

Personnel Update

Welcome Aboard!

- **Annette Carr** - Business Librarian, Midtown
- **Christopher Carroll** - Library Assistant, Bay Shore
- **Lori Kelly** - Librarian, Touro College South (Miami Beach)
- **Bayla Pasikov -** Librarian, Touro College Israel
- **Liping Ren** - Systems Assistant, Technical & Electronic Services
- **Amarilis Soler** - Library Assistant, Harlem (Taino)

Recipients of Touro College's Quarterly Incentive Award

- **Bobbi Schwartz** - Library Assistant, Touro College South (Miami Beach)

Congratulations!!

- Women's Building Librarian **Dr. David B. Levy** has had two papers accepted for the upcoming Association of Jewish Libraries Annual Convention, meeting in Cleveland on June 22-25, 2008: "The Library/Scriptorium of the Dead Sea Scroll Qumran Sect" and "Some Skills of the Ideal Reference Librarian."

Meetings, Conferences and Workshops

- Nov. 1, 2007 - Midwood Librarian **Edlira Agalliu** attended the WALDO Literature Fall Showcase at Fordham University's Walsh Library.
- Nov. 8, 2007 - Women's Building Librarian **Dr. David B. Levy**, and Judaica Librarian **Rabbi Amram S. Rister** attended AJL-NYMA's autumn conference "Are You Relevant? Lobbying For Librarians and Libraries."
- Nov. 30, 2007 - Information Literacy Librarian **Sara Tabaei** attended the ACRL/NY annual symposium entitled "Library 2.0: A New Social Model."
- Feb. 12, 2008 - Information Literacy Librarian **Sara Tabaei** and Distance & Off-Campus Services Librarian **Sal Russo** attended METRO's "Evaluating Library Programs: Skillful Surveys" workshop.
- Feb. 14, 2008 - Judaica Librarian **Rabbi Amram S. Rister** attended the AJL-NYMA Reference Workshop.
- Feb. 25 & 26, 2008—Systems Assistant **Liping Ren** attended NYPHP's Training Class, "Programmer Track" at Pilosoft in downtown Manhattan.
- Feb. 25-28, 2008 - Systems Librarian **Yitzchak Schaffer** attended the "code4lib 2008" conference in Portland, Oregon.
- Mar. 5, 2008— Bay Shore Librarian **Eileen DeSimone** attended "Web 2.0 Principles and Best Practices: Discovering the participatory Web Education Webcast" at the Farmingdale State College.
- Mar. 6, 2008 - Bay Shore Library Assistant **Jingxian Pi** attended "PubMed for Experts" at Farmingdale University.
- Mar. 9, 2008 - Judaica Librarian **Rabbi Amram S. Rister** attended "Rabbis And Rebbes: Artists And Intellectuals" held at the YIVO Institute, co-sponsored by YIVO and Touro's Graduate School of Jewish Studies.
- Mar. 10, 2008 — Midwood Librarian **Edlira Agalliu** attended the International "Google and Libraries" Conference at Columbia University.
- Mar. 21, 2008 - Information Literacy Librarian **Sara Tabaei** attended the Second Annual Library Association of the CUNY Bibliographic Instruction Committee's Spring program entitled "Rethinking Relevance: Technology and Pedagogical Points of View".
- Apr. 1, 2008—Information Literacy Librarian **Sara Tabaei** attended "Assessment of Instruction", a workshop of the Bibliographic Instruction Special Interest Group.

The Dead Sea Scrolls – An Essene Sect Library in Ancient Israel

By David B. Levy, MLS, PhD, Librarian, Lander College for Women

The discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls in the 1940s and 1950s constitutes one of the most significant finds in the history of Biblical textual analysis. This extensive scroll library dates to late in the period of the Second Temple, which was destroyed in the year 68 CE. Before the discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls, the oldest known extant biblical manuscript was the Aleppo Codex, written almost a millennium later in the 10th century. Maimonides (1135-1204) writes that the Codex, now located in the Israel Museum in Jerusalem, was the most authoritative text of the Hebrew Bible in his time.

It is widely held that the scrolls were written by Essenes, members of a Jewish sect which flourished from the 2nd century BCE to the 1st century CE. According to Josephus, the Essenes had settled "not in one city" but "in large numbers in every town" in Ancient Israel. The nearly 900 scrolls, mostly of parchment, were found in various states of completion in 11 caves surrounding the archaeological site of Qumran. This plateau is seated among the rugged cliffs of Israel's salty Dead Sea near Ein Gedi. Indeed, the ancient Roman historian Pliny puts one of the Essenes' settlements "on the west side of the Dead Sea, away from the coast ... [above] the town of Ein Gedi."

Qumran's ancient name was Secacah, one of six desert towns mentioned in the book of *Joshua*. Among the ruins of Qumran was a dining or assembly room. In the room was debris – including three inkwells and a writing table – from an upper story alleged by some to have been a *scriptorium* (writing room).

The accounts by Josephus and Philo show that the Essenes led a strictly celibate but communal life, although Josephus speaks also of another "rank of Essenes" that did marry. According to Josephus, their customs and observances included collective ownership of all possessions, being forbidden from oaths and animal sacrifice, controlling the temper and serving as channels of peace, carrying weapons only as protection, owning no slaves but serving each other, and, as a result of communal ownership, the absence of trade. Both Josephus and Philo have lengthy accounts of the Essenes' communal meetings, meals, and religious celebrations.

Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek were the languages of the Qumran library. Some scholars maintain that Hebrew was the language of the synagogue, Aramaic of the market, Greek of the educated, and Latin of the government. A Latin inscription of government official Pontius Pilate was discovered in 1961 on a limestone block in the ruins of an amphitheater in Caesarea, Israel.

Four genres of Hebrew-language scrolls are found in the Qumran library. First are the Biblical texts which the Qumran scribes would copy. The oldest extant copy of the book of Isaiah is from Qumran. All Biblical books are represented except *Esther*.

Apocryphal works are also found in the library. Included among these are Hebrew fragments of *Ecclesiasticus*, which extols ethical wisdom in the spirit of Hellenistic philosophy and the mode of *Proverbs*. Though this work was only known in its Greek version after the 10th century, Solomon Schechter discovered a complete Hebrew version in the Cairo *Genizah* in the 19th century.

A third genre found in the Qumran library consists of texts dealing with the Essene sect: ordinances, biblical commentaries, apocalyptic visions, and liturgical works. Some of these include: *The Community Rule, Calendrical Documents, Torah Precepts, Hosea Commentary, Damascus Document, The War Rule, Thanksgiving Hyms, Genesis Apocryphon, Aramaic Testament of Levi, Aramaic Apocalypse, Flood Apocryphon*, and *Joseph Apocryphon*.

In a fourth category of scrolls is the mystical text of the *Songs of the Sabbath Sacrifice,* an angelic liturgy that taps into the visions of "G-d's chariot" as glimpsed by prophets Elijah, Isaiah, and Ezekiel, and later represented in the Kabalistic traditions and mainstream normative rabbinic texts. Its 13 sections correspond to the first 13 Sabbaths of the Jewish year, when Levitical priests went to the Jerusalem Temple to serve in rotations. These texts evoke angelic praise, priesthood, and the heavenly Temple. Of the eight existing manuscripts of *Songs of the Sabbath Sacrifice,* seven were found in Qumran, dating from the Hasmonean and Herodian periods, and one at *Masada,* a fortress where Jewish refugees committed suicide rather than become Roman slaves.

The Qumran library was open day and night to the scribes who studied, copied, and created a marvelous array of scrolls – perhaps not dissimilar to the round-the-clock access that Touro now provides its students to its impressive array of electronic resources using web technology.

The Touro College Libraries' Mission

The Touro College Libraries aspire to be the primary resource for intellectual content College-wide.

To fulfill the mission of the College, the Libraries foster intellectual discovery and advance information literacy.

www.touro.edu/library/

Web 2.0 and Library 2.0

By Sara Tabaei, MLIS, Information Literacy Librarian

I recently had the opportunity to attend the annual ACRL/NY symposium at Baruch College. The conference theme "Library 2.0: A New Social Model" offered a chance to see what the buzz about social software is all about. The very first thing that stood out in the conference was the age of the presenters; all seemed to be under the age of 35. The audience, on the contrary, was much older; an interesting concept since usually it is the younger people who are the listeners and the more experienced ones are the speakers. Not at this conference, however!

So what is Web 2.0 and what has made it so popular these days? According to Wikipedia, it "can refer to a perceived second generation of web-based communities and hosted services — such as social-networking sites, wikis, and folksonomies— which aim to facilitate creativity, collaboration, and sharing between users." In other words, Web 2.0 is attractive to many individuals because it has given the passive audience of Web 1.0, who were simply surfing the Net and retrieving information, a chance to become active and participatory users, creators, voters, innovators and distributors of content.

Some of the Web 2.0 tools that have emerged within the last five years are wikis, blogs, podcasts, slideshare, Second Life, Flickr, Facebook, Myspace, RSS feeds, mashups, Youtube, furl, redit, twitter, Instant Messaging (IM) and del.icio.us. If you check any of these tools out, you will see that all of them work based on the philosophy of collaboration, sharing, participating and the power over text, without which none of them would have been possible.

Now, where does the library come in and what does Library 2.0 stand for? In general, Library 2.0 means that the Library as an institution applies Web 2.0 technologies to offer better services to its users, and to provide them with the power to actively contribute and participate in their library community. In Sarah Houghton's words, "Library 2.0 simply means making your library's space (virtual and physical) more interactive, collaborative, and driven by community needs." Essentially, Houghton states that libraries can draw patrons back again by providing the materials, services, and user experiences they desire on a day-to-day basis. This, she claims, will "make the library a destination and not an afterthought."

Library 2.0, therefore, will give library users increased ownership in their library interactions. For example, many libraries now have blogs on their websites and library users are encouraged to share their thoughts and comment on popular library resources they have recently used. This in turn promotes a constant dialogue between the users and their library. One of the most famous libraries in embracing Web 2.0 technologies is the Ann Arbor District Library (www.aadl.org). Although it is a public library, I invite you to check its homepage out and see how different it looks and feels from a traditional library web site.

A great example of an academic library that has evolved into a Library 2.0 is the library of the University of Texas at Austin (http://www.lib.utexas.edu/tools/). This library is using Web 2.0 tools, or in their words, "Library Widgets" for pedagogical purposes, applying those tools to ease the research process and to bring the library's services to their users. But whether for educational purposes or recreational ones, the main goal of the two libraries mentioned above and many other modern libraries of today is "to make the library relevant," to use Houghton's words again. Communities are changing just as the library users' expectations are changing. Libraries must also adapt to those changes to remain relevant in their communities.

A Library 2.0 is everywhere; it is flexible, invites participation, has federated search, offers RSS pushing content to its users and provides tagging capability. As Jack Maness puts it, "Library 2.0 is not about searching, but finding; not about access, but sharing."

Maness provides examples of changes indicating the shift from Library 1.0 to Library 2.0. Chat reference pages are replacing email reference or Question and Answer pages. Text-base tutorials have given way to streaming and interactive tutorials and databases. Blogs, wikis and RSS feeds fulfill the functions previously served by electronic mailing lists and webmasters. Online Public Access Catalogs (OPACs) are losing ground to more personalized social network interfaces. And existing catalogs containing mostly reliable print and electronic holdings are adding more suspect holdings, such as web-pages, blogs, and wikis.

Here at Touro Libraries, our Systems Team is working with the team from Online Services to create a totally new web experience for the Libraries. We are giving new life to the technology behind Central Search, adding online chat services, and completely overhauling what we now call the catalog. We expect to roll out our new site in several phases throughout the calendar year. Looking at future developments for our site, we are experimenting with 2.0 tools such as podcasts, social bookmarking, and the wiki.

Yet as both the young presenters and the older audience in this conference agreed, we sometimes need to stop amid all the Web 2.0 fuss and ponder upon the specifics of this new trend and implement only those social tools that enhance and further the mission of the libraries that use them.

Spring: A Poem

Winds and storms, trees forlorn
Desolate in the face of destruction.

Budding trees bring hope, you see
Tomorrow is a consolation.

By: Liba Geltzer, MLS
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Lander College for Men