Spring 2007

TCL Letter Volume 7 Issue 1

Touro College Libraries

Follow this and additional works at: https://touroscholar.touro.edu/archives_books

Part of the Higher Education Commons, and the Library and Information Science Commons

Recommended Citation

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by Touro Scholar. It has been accepted for inclusion in Yearbooks and Newsletters by an authorized administrator of Touro Scholar. For more information, please contact carrie.levinson2@touro.edu.
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 JPUM Audiotapes, now online at jpua.touro.edu.

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

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.

From the Director...

Dr. Jacqueline A. Maxin

Dr. David Levy and Tova Friedman

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.
**Personnel Update**

**Welcome Aboard**
- Taitiana Vaisman, Assistant Librarian, Midwood (Ave. J)
- Edlira Agalli, 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 (Yitzchak) 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 Claudia McGivney attended the Suffolk County Library Association Annual Meeting in Riverhead

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

**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, pediatrics, 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

**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." With this mention of The Book of Yashar appears in King Solomon’s prayer at the dedication of the Holy Temple in Jerusalem (I 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 Gôd. 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 Gôd.

A further scroll kept in the First Temple archive was found by King Josiah’s priest Hilkiah (I Chr. 3:9-30; 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 archeologists speculate that this scroll (possibly of Deuteronomy) was found in a Temple inventory. Rashi comments that this “scroll of the law” was hidden 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 (689-642 B.C.E.) cut out the holy names of Gôd, 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” (midrash), 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 (Megillat 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 Tiberius (Jos. Life, 38) as a place of a genealogical archive, and rabbinic texts specify Sephoris (Kiddushin 4:5) and Gadera (Esther Rabbâ 1:3) as locations for Jewish archives.

JPUA Audiotapes Now Online—jpua.touro.edu,
by Yitzchak Schaeffer, 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.
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 oriented. Women are obtaining 50% of the MD degrees from medical schools, almost 75% of the VMDs from veterinary schools, and 44% of the PhD’s in biology and life sciences. This is their choice.

In fine, Lawrence Summers was both right and wrong.

Bibliography: