

Library Notes

Library Media Resources Center

LaGuardia Community College

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Spring 2006

LaGuardia Receives \$55 Million Allocation for New Library Building

By Steven Ovadia, Web Services Librarian

Senator Serphin R. Maltese presented the College with \$55 million in appropriated state Senate funds to purchase a new building which will house a new, expanded Library for LaGuardia.

The proposed Library will serve both the College and the surrounding community, President Gail Mellow told a packed Library during an April 7 press conference. In addition to housing the Library, the building will also house two high schools; computer labs; classrooms; an entrepreneurial activity hub, and feature conference and seminar rooms as well as faculty office space.

The college is negotiating to buy a building in the area for the new space.

President Mellow praised Sen. Maltese for his hard work in getting the College the allocation: "Senator Maltese is providing the college with an extraordinary opportunity to expand services to our community...We are honored to help the Senator achieve his dream of providing increased education to our community."

Library Chair Jane Devine said she was excited about the allocation: "The Library's future is now filled with the many possibilities of new spaces, improved and expanded services and new programs. I want to thank Senator Maltese for making that future possible."

Sen. Maltese was joined at the presentation by Assemblywoman Catherine Nolan and Councilman Eric Gioia. Sen. Maltese also thanked Senate Majority Leader Joseph L. Bruno and Senate Finance Committee Secretary Mary Louise Mallick for their work in the allocation. ■



(from left to right) President Mellow, Assemblywoman Catherine Nolan, Senator Maltese, and Councilman Eric Gioia announce the \$55 million allocation.

Photo by Randy Fader-Smith



Students celebrate news of the allocation.

Photo by Randy Fader-Smith

Learn to Make the Most of ARTstor!
See page 3 to get the full story!

Want to know what's really inside Library exhibits? Get the behind-the-scenes story on page



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Library Notes
Spring 2006
Volume 16, Issue 2
Editors
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Steven Ovadia

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Comments may be sent by email to:
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Library Information Literacy Advisory Council By Marie Cimino Spina, Institutional Archivist

The term LILAC probably evokes the unmistakable, but short-lived perfume of the beautiful flowers. However this LILAC is actually the CUNY-wide Library Information Literacy Advisory Council. We blossomed last Spring under the direction of University Librarian Curtis Kendrick and Dr. Lucinda Zoe of Hostos Community College. Our membership is Library faculty from all CUNY colleges and graduate schools.

The committee is charged with advising the University Librarian and the Council of Chief Librarians on ways to integrate information literacy across the curriculum. It also develops support materials, assessment tools and will seek ways to sponsor information literacy professional development activities.

We have conducted surveys, created a website (<http://libraries.cuny.edu/infolit/Index.htm>), a tutorial, and are forging relationships with the Gen Ed and Coordinated Undergraduate Education departments to infuse all course content with overt understanding of the concepts of Information Literacy. Even the streets and classroom can be infused with LILAC — not the lovely, varied-shaded flower, but the work of the committee. ■

Did You Know?

For more information on LILAC, including information on standards, assignments, and assessment, visit them at: <http://libraries.cuny.edu/infolit/Index.htm>

A Belated Celebration



Although Professor Jane Devine has been the Library chair for a while, we didn't get around to celebrating the great news until January! Here we see Profs. Francine Egger-Sider (l) and Devine (r) discussing the finer points of Information Literacy.

Photo by Charles Keyes

Notes from Library Units

Institutional Archives:

An International Summer Internship

By Marie Cimino Spina, Institutional Archivist

The Library's Institutional Archives has guided interns from Cooperative Education and graduate schools including CUNY's own Queen College Graduate School of Library and Information Studies, Long Island University's Palmer School and Pratt. Several of the interns specialized in the Archives programs and were taking course work and internships in Archives required for certification by their graduate programs.

Taking on an intern is a privilege and responsibility. To be meaningful, the internship must involve some aspect of essential work for the sponsor/instructor, some areas for exploration for the student and opportunity for the mentor to learn from the intern as well as having the mentor guide the growing skills of the intern.

In August 2005, the Institutional Archives hosted a staff member from the University of Guyana and a fellow CUNY Librarian from Medgar Evers College.

Debra Lowe Thorn had just completed her MS thesis in social sciences from the University of Guyana, Georgetown and was granted leave from her University to study and intern in the US. She and I connected through her former associate from Guyana, Professor Daly of Medgar Evers College. After some discussion and planning, we welcomed Ms. Thorn and Prof. Daly. They worked on basic archival description, putting together a finding aid and eventually scanning materials for inclusion into a developing digital project. Our colleague, College Laboratory Technician Eric Moy, provided invaluable service by assisting in training them to scan documents.

Ms. Thorn and Prof. Daly shared many experiences about working in Guyana's National University library, including the workload, experiences dealing with students from other countries. We also discussed the struggles we all face in establishing a viable institutional repository.

I often reflect on how much I learned about our profession during our lunchtime chats. Apparently, Ms. Lowe and her administration also gained valuable insights; we plan to host another intern from Guyana. ■

Did You Know?

For more information on the Library's Institutional Archives, visit its Web site:

<http://www.lagcc.cuny.edu/library/archives/>.



Electronic Resources:

Using ARTstor at LaGuardia

By Edward Keane, Electronic Resources Librarian

To anyone who's tried it once, ARTstor, a LaGuardia College online resource available from the Library's Web site (www.lagcc.cuny.edu/library), might seem a bit daunting to use. With a little help from your friends, however, the challenges of using ARTstor can be sorted out in short order.

ARTstor is a collection of approximately 500,000 digital images from seven distinct collections: The Image Gallery; The Illustrated Bartsch; The Carnegie Arts of the United States Collection; The Huntington Archive of Asian Art; The Mellon International Dunhuang Archive; The Museum of Modern Art and Architecture and Design Collection. More information on each online gallery is available on the ARTstor site. It is worth noting the Image Gallery is representative of collegiate undergraduate art history collections and will serve the needs of most general audiences. The other collections will be of interest to an array of users from across the campus curricula. ARTstor covers European, American, and Asian cultures, and includes images from a wide range of cultures and time periods.

The site notes that no software is required to access ARTstor online as all the necessary tools have been developed by the folks at ARTstor and are included with the database. The software used to access images online is browser-based, but the off-line viewer requires downloading and is available through ARTstor. Downloading is not especially time-consuming, and the viewer enables end-users to view images in slide show mode. Users must disable pop-up blockers and enable cookies for the artstor.org domain. There are also specific requirements for browsers, Java, and Flash. Details about these requirements are available on the ARTstor site.

ARTstor for students and faculty

Despite its robustness, ARTstor is relatively simple to use. Basic instructions are available for each collection and search interface. Typically useful features are the

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LACUNY Dialogues: A Town Hall Meeting

By Kenneth Schlesinger, Director of Media Services

On a rainy morning in January, 35 CUNY library faculty gathered in E-500 for an informal discussion about changes in the information environment and how it is affecting academic library services. Sponsored by the Library Association of the City University of New York, the second annual LACUNY Dialogues gives the 250 members an opportunity to debate and respectfully disagree over anticipated developmental issues in our hallowed but ever changing profession.

This year's theme, Virtual Libraries – Face-to-Face Instruction: Outreach, Marketing, and Faculty Partnerships offered the following abstract:

As digital libraries “democratize” access to information, how do we redesign our services for maximum effect in a diminishing gatekeeper role? In this transformed environment, strategies for onsite reference and instruction gain increasing importance. In a larger context, how do we more successfully integrate the library as a campuswide resource? Are we getting the message out? What is our message?

LaGuardia Chief Librarian Jane Devine welcomed the group, commenting on the particular challenges and opportunities of virtual libraries. She said the new virtual library proposed for the C Building in the campus' Master Plan presents exciting potential for bringing this concept to life.

LACUNY Dialogues is facilitated by the best and brightest of CUNY library faculty, who provide innovative or visionary approaches to library services. Monica Berger of New York City College of Technology gave the opening presentation, laden with ideas and descriptions of cutting-edge technologies. She discussed the concept of the democratization of information, how digital documents and the World Wide Web enable unprecedented access to an extraordinary amount of rich information resources. Search engines promote unmediated user information retrieval and – for better or worse – the diminishment of the traditional librarian role as information gatekeeper.

As a cataloger, however, Professor Berger voiced concerns of maintaining organizational standards (authority control) in what is decidedly an uphill battle to try to regulate the chaotic, amorphous and ultimately untamable Web. While nascent resources like Blogs, the Wikipedia, and Flickr have ushered in a tremendous boom in Web publishing and knowledge creation, are we examining the challenges that lie

Did You Know?

Complete texts of LACUNY Dialogues presentations are posted at

<http://lacuny.cuny.edu/members/#programs> .

ahead in organizing, categorizing and preserving these vulnerable digital files?

Clay Williams of Hunter College posited the paradigm of the embedded librarian. Putting aside for the moment the pejorative connotation of Iraq War reporters losing objectivity by being too close to the front, Professor Williams instead advocates for librarians to insinuate themselves into the curriculum: the receptive department, individual course, Blackboard site, down to the actual assignment. By successfully partnering with discipline faculty, the librarian can strengthen the assignment and research value to the student by connecting with appropriate resources and user guides.

In this regard, students are supported in grasping information literacy concepts, which will serve them well in future research work. Whether in a one-shot bibliographic instruction session – or, ideally, signed on as an administrative user in a course Blackboard site – the faculty librarian can educate both instructors and students about new resources, sophisticated search techniques, as well as evaluation of these sources. On a Blackboard site, Clay posts a headshot of Harrison Ford next to his contact information, which increases his number of queries!

While both American Library Association and Oprah Winfrey attest to the power of celebrity endorsement in promoting literacy, LACUNY is not necessarily in the financial position to invite Paris Hilton to keynote our next conference. Marketing library services is something we talk about a lot – but don't necessarily get around to doing. In these days of decreased budgets for book purchases, staffing and operations, it has to be more than, If you build the website (or open your doors), they will come.

The final speaker, Madeline Ford of Lehman College, proposed cost-effective and straightforward (not time-consuming) means of marketing the breadth of information resources to our unique, diverse communities. First of all, libraries exist as physical spaces for study, with onsite information services (reference, interlibrary loan), as well as an increasing virtual presence (online databases, electronic reserves, chat reference).

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Knit a Square in a Circle



The Library's Arlene Carpio demonstrates how wool becomes a square.
Photo by Steven Ovadia



A birds-eye view of the knitting.
Photo by Steven Ovadia



(top to bottom): The LaGuardia "Knit a Square in a Circle" committee; a reminder of where wool comes from.

Photos by Steven Ovadia

By Francine Egger-Sider, Coordinator, Technical Services

The LaGuardia Knitting Circle has had a busy two-months since the initial College-wide knitting event took place in the E-Atrium on February 1, 2006. Over 275 people attended that kick-off event: 157 students, 61 faculty and staff, and 57 Middle College High School students. As of April 10, 2006, we have collected over 554 knitted squares which translates into 11 afghans, each afghan consisting of 49 squares. A core group of dedicated faculty, staff, and students, has continued to meet every Wednesday to move this project along.

We are in the process of sewing all these squares into finished blankets. The next step will be to identify a charity to whom we will donate the afghans. This initiative has proven beneficial in more ways than one, the most obvious one being the creation of afghans or blankets that will be donated to a community-based organization in Queens.

A second, less tangible, benefit, has been the cross-community connections that have been established among all the participants. Students, faculty, and staff have developed relationships with faculty and staff outside the confines of the classroom.

The working committee of the LaGuardia Knitting Circle is looking into ways to tie mathematics, art, and literature with knitting through a series of workshops to be offered during the Spring semester. Stay tuned! ■

Ideas On Display: The Library Exhibit Committee

by **Terry Parker**, Chief College Laboratory Technician

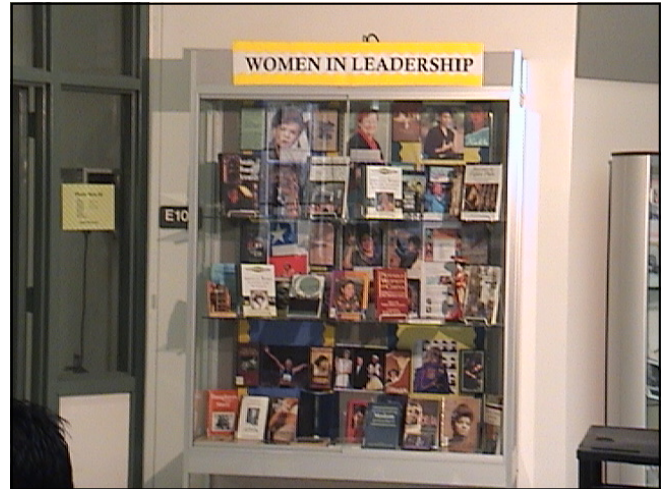
Have you ever entered the library here at LaGuardia and noticed the many colorful and informative displays in the large exhibit cases? Ever wondered who creates these nice looking exhibits, and just where do they get the ideas? Well the answer is quite simple. The majority of these displays are produced by a small group of dedicated and talented library staff members, with an occasional exhibit being sponsored by one of our on-campus programs or departments. In addition, we collaborate with other colleagues or departments who also sponsor exhibits to be displayed in the library.

The Library Exhibit Committee has a long and illustrious history dating back to the early 1980s, when our library was quite a different place than it is today. The previous library, a third of the size that it is now, was located in the Main Building. The very first exhibit display was created not by a committee, but by one dedicated staff person, with only one borrowed display case.

As time moved on, and as the library grew with the college, so did the committee and the number of exhibits it produced. It wasn't long before the library had purchased several display cases, recruited additional members and was well on its way to creating a steady stream of visually pleasing and intellectually stimulating projects. Jane Devine, Chief Librarian, remembers fondly her days as a card-carrying member of the Exhibit Committee, "the work of the committee has always enhanced the library environment in terms of cultural matters and informational matters...and makes the library a more attractive place, provides a comfortable and welcoming space for students."

During these early years, the committee followed the mission of promoting the collection and various resources of the library. It has continued to maintain that mission to this day. Textbooks, journals, graphics, photos, maps, non-print materials such as videos, audiocassettes, and microfilms, all found their way in the many theme oriented exhibits. Linda Sofia, Office Manager, Circulation Department, and a committee member since 1988, explained: "I had always wanted to show my creativity, while at the same time, show what the library had to offer." Linda further reminisced about one of her very first exhibits that dealt with the issue of Veterinary Technology and Animal Rights. She also proudly remembers an exhibit on Mystery Books where she used footprints going up

(Continued on page 7)



(From top) Recent Library exhibits: Women in Leadership, Nutrition, Irish History and Culture.

Photos by Terry Parker



Global warming exhibit.
Photo by Terry Parker.

(Continued from page 6)

along the back and sides of the case to add dramatic effects.

As times have changed, so has the look of the exhibits. Technology has found its way into some of the designs, with video monitors, digital files on CDs, and DVDs placed in unison with books, government documents, and periodicals. What makes these exhibits attractive to faculty and students alike are not just the library materials, but also the design and artistic expressions of the individual exhibit creator. In many instances, the exhibitor may spend hours over a number of weeks gathering just the right items to complement the theme, searching databases for relevant articles, browsing several sections of the book stacks looking for that special cover that will catch someone's eye as they walk past.

Before long, it becomes a labor of love and a genuine work of art. Ida Bazan, Library Assistant, and recent addition to the committee, explains why she decided to join and her philosophy behind her first project: Women in Leadership. "Joining the Committee provided me with an opportunity to serve the library in a different way other than my normal responsibilities....the Women's Leadership display was very challenging because I wanted it to reflect a global perspective.... gathering the images and materials from so many different cultures, and researching the vast number of women who had made major contributions to their professions, was both educational and a lot of fun." Choosing the right color of background paper to match display items, or sorting through several dozen Internet photos can be quite a task. A number of exhibits are coordinated projects with other scheduled programs on campus, such as our recent Knitting Circle Exhibit, headed by committee member, Francine Egger-Sider.

At present, the library has eleven display cases stationed throughout, with some of these designated specifically for use by the LaGuardia Institutional Archives. The cases are varied in size and type, from 8 ft. tall floor units; to 4 ft. high table-top cases, and smaller 3 ft. squared wall units. Since the Exhibit Committee subscribes to the American Library Association's interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights as it relates to censorship of exhibits, projects over the years have included a very wide selection of topics such as: Ramadan, Architectural Design, Military History, Human Sexuality, Baseball, History of Ireland, Labor and Society, Occupational Therapy, American Presidents, Food Service, Religions of the World, and many others.

Upcoming themes for exhibits already scheduled are Gardening, Philosophy, Global Warming, The World of Art, Travel and Tourism, Faculty Publications, and Cinema In America. Over time, numerous departments such as Nursing, Occupational Therapy, Dietetic Technician Program, and students clubs such as the Muslim Student Association and the Straight and Gay Alliance have reserved display cases for their own exhibits.

The Exhibit Committee views its traditional mission as one that allows a channel for cultural, scientific, social, artistic and historical expressions, while at the same time providing a vehicle for creative work that addresses the academic and scholarly needs of our faculty, staff and students. ■

Your Turn!

If you would like to reserve one of display cases for a project of your own choosing, feel free to contact Terry Parker at 718-482-5433.

BUILDING YOUR INFOSPHERE: Computer Skills and Research Workshops

The Library is sponsoring *Computer Skills and Research Workshops* for all members of the college community on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays starting April 25th. The workshops will be held from 3:30 to 5:00 p.m. in the Library's Electronic Classroom (E-101B).

For additional information, please visit the Library or the website at www.lagcc.cuny.edu/library.

A raffle will take place at the end of each workshop. The names of all participants will be entered into the raffle for the SanDisk USB Flash Drive!



(Continued from page 3)

basic search bar's presence in the top right corner and the Advanced Search button placement in the toolbar. The seven collections are always visible and can be searched together or individually.

Users can either browse or search the collections. One can browse within collections via expandable or collapsible categories; this option is intuitive and will appeal to new and casual users. While browsing, search functions remain available to users through search boxes on the page and the toolbar. Searching can be done within or across collections, and the search bar is available on every page including results pages. The default search function is AND, though all Boolean operators are available within the Advanced Search function. The Advanced Search also allows users to search specific data fields, including personal notes.

ARTstor for faculty

Downloading images or creating a folder to be shared among a class, is more complicated and requires practice, but the Help section explains these features clearly. Here are the basics:

All functions in ARTstor can be performed without registering, but to make full use of the features users must register. Registering enables users to add personal notes to images, save groups of images for future use, create a shared folder, and download the offline viewer program. The registration process is simple, requiring only an e-mail address and password. ARTstor's privacy policy states that cookies are used to store user preferences and authentication information and general usage data in aggregated form is shared. Furthermore, except in compliance with law or legal proceedings, ARTstor will not share individual information. Note: Once you have registered for Instructor Privileges, ARTstor will remember your registration and associate this higher level of access with your account. Instructors only need to register for Instructor-Level Privileges once. If you have *already* registered for Instructor Privileges and you choose this option again, a different dialog box will appear, notifying you that you have already upgraded your account. This means that you have already registered for Instructor Privileges and do not need to do so again.

If you would like to share Image Groups with others, you will need to create a different kind of folder, a Shared Folder, to store them. The ability to create Shared Folders is limited to those registered users who have upgraded their accounts with Instructor-Level Privileges. Once you have created this Shared Folder, any Image Groups that you save into it will be viewable by those users who register to your Shared Folder. You may also choose to make your Shared Folder publicly available to everybody at the College.

Instructor's Comments are annotations that can only be attached to an image by users with Instructor-Level Privileges. If you have registered for Instructor Privileges, you can add and/or edit comments at any time by simply

clicking once in the large comment field, typing your comments, and clicking the "Save" button. You can type text directly into this field or copy and paste text from other sources.

Regardless of what you want to use ARTstor for — casual browsing, in-class viewing, assignments, shared folders — the vast amount of diverse and impressive imagery in ARTstor makes it a highly recommended electronic library resource. ■

For More on ARTstor...

Contact:
Professor Edward Keane
Electronic Resources Librarian
Room E101H2 (718-482-6019)

Wikis in the Library

By Alexandra Rojas, Reference Librarian

The Reference Roundtable of LACUNY sponsored a workshop March 3rd on "Wikis as a Reference Tool." The presenters were Stephen Francoeur, Information Services Librarian at Baruch and Steven Ovidia, Web Services Librarian, from LaGuardia.

They both presented innovative ways to enhance reference work using wikis. For those not familiar with wikis, they are a type of web application that allows free-wheeling site-editing access to everyone.

The attendees looked at the different types of wikis being used at Baruch and LaGuardia. By the end of the workshop all the participants had built a personal wiki. Discussions centered on the many different ways wikis can be used. ■



The Library's Steven Ovidia shows CUNY Librarians the ins-and outs of wikis.
Photo by Charles Keyes

(Continued from page 4)

Although remote access and interactive online forms have certainly extended the reach of the library, we must still be mindful of service costs to patrons (including intangible but precious commodities of time, travel, childcare, etc.). While seemingly obvious yet often untried, Professor Ford recommends reaching today's students using their own technological tools: Podcasting, PDAs, timely electronic communications. Of course, old fashioned methods of colorful posters or branded bookmarks should not be underestimated. Lastly, she advocated that sometimes it is necessary to, yes, leave the library to market it by participating in student orientations or setting up laptop shop in the Student Center.

A lively discussion ensued on this wealth of issues and dilemmas. As New Yorkers, CUNY library faculty are an opinionated group and will probably – and thankfully – never reach consensus. But there was a productive interchange of battlefield strategies, evolving best practices, and an appeal to assert leadership in our area of expertise. People left the meeting, still drenched, but with a renewed understanding that the information revolution simply didn't happen – librarians are the information revolution! ■

(OLIVIA from page 10)

along the way. Since no good single-girl-adventure story is complete without romance, Olivia also finds time for a handsome American CIA agent named Scott Rich (among other aliases). Scott and Olivia join forces with an elderly English M16 agent and Arabist, Absolom Widgett, who inducts Olivia into the world of international espionage and outfits her with the latest high-tech spy gadgetry.

As the reader will quickly guess, Olivia's imagination is not so overactive after all. We admire her nerve at the same time that we laugh at her silliness, and cheer when she finally brings the villains down. Even as the plot grows increasingly outrageous, Olivia pulls the whole thing off in style, even while wearing a bikini in which she has hidden a hatpin for use as an emergency weapon.

Setting a novel (even partially) in Los Angeles is risky, because it is all too easy and even cliché to make fun of bubble-headed blonde wanna-be actresses selling their souls to make it in Hollywood, and no one could ever mock Los Angeles as well as Steve Martin did in *LA Story*. But Fielding's experience in Hollywood on the sets of the Bridget Jones movies seems to have served her well. The LA scenes are funny without being ludicrous, although the American characters sometimes sound oddly English.

As Helen Fielding has asserted in interviews, she is not Bridget Jones, and Olivia Joules isn't Bridget Jones either, but of course she isn't meant to be. Whatever Fielding comes up with next, her readers are ready and willing to get started reading. ■

(KANDAHAR from page 10)

dress of fundamentalist Muslim women). She encounters a series of events that give the film a sense of narrative suspense. We see a Taliban school where the boy students (girls not allowed) rock back and forth reciting the Koran and where the head master drills them on the parts of a rifle. When Nafas becomes ill, she is taken to a doctor who can only examine her through a hole in a blanket. The doctor (Hasan Tantai) befriends Nafas and, in the course of assisting her on her journey, reveals his participation in the twenty year war against the Soviet Union which left millions of unexploded land mines in its bloody wake. One of the most macabre and surrealistic moments in the film occurs when a group of one-legged amputees begin racing on their crutches toward a load of prosthetic limbs being parachuted from Red Cross helicopters. (See *Turtles Can Fly* for a harrowing look at the land mine nightmare). Although the ending of the film is anticlimactic, the viewer is left not only with a sense of having experienced the tragic dimensions of a war-torn society, but also with the hope that there is the possibility of rebuilding and healing.

Kandahar dramatizes the plight of Afghan women and exposes the hunger and poverty of the society. It also brings to light the dire consequences of the Afghani-Soviet war which led to the brutal rule of the Taliban. Five years after this film was made, Afghanistan, once again, has fallen victim to the outrages of a senseless war. The Taliban has reemerged and the country has been returned to a state of siege. American imperialism has hypocritically raised its ugly head for the world to see. When will this madness end? ■

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Do your students struggle with research?

Tell them about LRC102 and LRC103, the Library's transferable Liberal Arts electives!

- **LRC102** is a three-credit course that focuses on the research process and the use of library and Web resources.
- **LRC103** is a one-credit course designed to help students with Internet-based research.

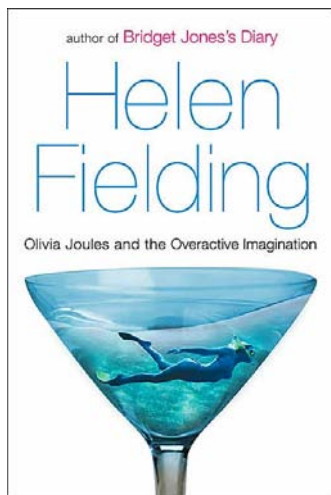
For more information on how these classes can help your students succeed, contact:

• Charles Keyes, Instructional Services Librarian
• 718-482-6018 or ckeyes@lagcc.cuny.edu.

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Reviews

Review by Dawn Amsberry, Collection Development



Olivia Joules and the Overactive Imagination by Helen Fielding. Viking, 2003.

While fans of Helen Fielding's "Bridget Jones" books eagerly await the next installment in the series, they can enjoy the adventures of Fielding's new heroine, Olivia Joules. Although lacking the superb biting wit of the Bridget Jones books, Olivia's debut novel is nevertheless a fun, wacky romp starring another plucky Englishwoman, this time with

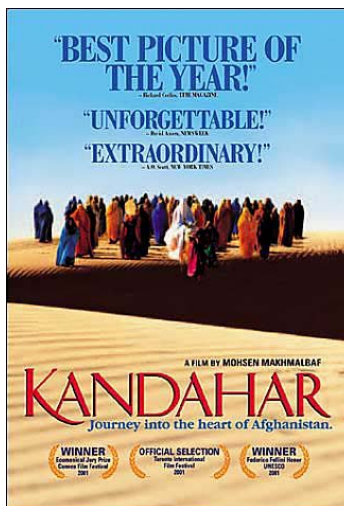
James Bond-style spy tools in her designer handbag.

A London-based journalist assigned to puff pieces about new beauty products by her editor, Olivia longs to get her hands on a real news story. In Miami to cover the launch of a famous model's new line of face cream, Olivia meets the mysterious movie producer Pierre Ferramo, who claims to be French but speaks Arabic and looks disturbingly like Osama bin Laden. When a luxury liner docked near Miami is blown to bits by a bomb, Olivia, unlike her editors, is convinced she is on the brink of uncovering a major terrorist operation.

Olivia travels to Los Angeles in pursuit of her story, determined to show her editors and her friends that the terrorist plot is not a figment of her overactive imagination. She follows Ferramo to the Honduras, the Bay Islands, and Eastern Sudan, squeezing in some scuba diving and fine dining

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Review by Ken Peeples, Head of Reference



Kandahar (2001)
Director: Moshen Makhmalbaf

Released prior to the devastating attack on Afghanistan by the murderous Bush regime and its installation of a puppet government, *Kandahar* is a docudrama that takes the heroine on a perilous journey to the city of Kandahar, the spiritual center of the Taliban. Nafas (Niloufar Pazira), an Afghan refugee living in Canada

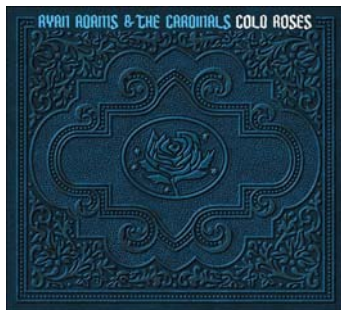
receives a letter from her sister in Afghanistan who has lost both legs in a land mine explosion and is threatening to commit suicide during the final solar eclipse of the 20th century. In a desperate attempt to save her, Nafas, a journalist, embarks on a journey from the Iran-Afghan border across the desolate terrain of Afghanistan.

Much of the film is narrated in English by Nafas; other parts are in Farsi with English subtitles giving it the feel of a semi-documentary. This approach allows the writer/director Moshen Makhmalbaf to depict life under the iron fist rule of the Taliban in chilling detail. (For another look at the oppressive rule of the Taliban, see *Osama*.)

On her trek across the harsh, desert landscape of Afghanistan, Nafas wears the head-to-toe burka (traditional

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By Alexandra Rojas, Reference Librarian



Cold Roses
Ryan Adams
Lost Highway
2005

The enigmatic, prolific musician-songwriter Ryan Adams is back with his second release of the year, the first being a

double CD set called *Cold Roses*. *Jacksonville City Nights* is alternative country music, a fantastic listen from begin-

ning to end.

Opening with "A Kiss Before I Go," it seems like Ryan wants to leave the party before it begins. On the following track, "The End," there is so much to be said, the words seem to ride over and around the rhythm. Some other standout tracks are "Dear John," featuring wonderful vocals from Norah Jones. "September" is a down-tempo track where the soul is bared and which moves right into "My Heart Is Broken," where Mr. Adams seems to be drowning in his own tears. "Don't Fail Me Now," the closing track, only leaves you wanting more. The musicianship is beautifully defined with every note and moods swing within each heartfelt track. *Jacksonville City Nights* is as good as it gets. This is a must for any music lover's collection. ■