



# Library Notes

Library Media Resources Center

Vol. 25, Issue 1

Fall  
2013

## *Knowledge in the Digital Age Speakers Series: Highlighting the Importance of Critical Inquiry and Information Literacy Today*

By **Charles Keyes**,  
Instructional Services Librarian

Since March 2007 the Library's *Knowledge in the Digital Age* speakers series has invited speakers annually to come to LaGuardia to address issues related to information, pedagogy, assessment, research, and critical inquiry in today's digital age. The advent of public access to the Internet in the mid-1990s and the later development of the World Wide Web has been a double-edged sword, so to speak, especially for the students we teach here at LaGuardia. While these two developments have helped break-down an old system of "gate keeping" in terms of access to information, they have also required those doing research to be ever conscious that a lot of information the Web gives them access to might not be as credible or authoritative as what one would find in the "old days." Always keeping this in mind, the goal of the Library's Speakers Committee has been to invite people who can frame the skills that students need in the digital age within a context of teaching and learning at the college level.

The very first speaker in the series, Dr. Betsy Barefoot, emphasized in 2007 the importance of the first year and that students are often overwhelmed by the information they have access to while at the same time often lack the requisite knowledge to decipher fact from fiction. According to Tom Eland in 2008, and William Badke in 2010, (two subsequent speakers in the series) developing the skills of critical inquiry and becoming information literate often requires students to be exposed to research across the curriculum in a way that allows their related learning experiences to be scaffolded; students must be able to build upon their prior knowledge. Students who were successful in their research endeavors at the college reiterated this in our 2011 event, the Faces of Student Research.



Dr. Nancy Fried Foster, PhD, Senior Anthropologist, Ithaka S+R

Dr. Nancy Fried Foster, our most recent speaker, made it abundantly clear that students need to be involved in discussions about their life at the College and the skills they need to develop. The Committee is now working on a speaker to bring to LaGuardia in the spring and we hope that you, the faculty, staff, and students of LaGuardia, will be a part of the audience and the discussion on the roles that information and critical inquiry play in our lives. Should you have an idea of someone you'd like to hear, feel free to forward it to the editors of Library Notes.

More information on who has presented in past Knowledge in the Digital Age events may be found on the Library's Information Literacy Center's site: <http://library.laguardia.edu/webguide/infolit> ■

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## **Council Member Jimmy Van Bramer Secures Millions in Funding to Renovate and Upgrade the Library**



Renovation Plans Unveiled.  
*(left to right) Shahir Erfan, the Vice President of Administration; Dr. Gail O. Mellow, President of LaGuardia Community College; Council Member Jimmy Van Bramer, Chair of the New York City Council's Cultural Affairs and Libraries Committee; Jane Devine, Chief Librarian; and Sohug Ghosh, President, Student Government Association.*

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### Editors

Chris McHale  
Ann Matsuuchi

### Copy Editor

Silvia Lu: Special thanks to Riya Mitha & Elizabeth Arestyl for additional editing.

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Comments may be sent by email to: [cmchale@lagcc.cuny.edu](mailto:cmchale@lagcc.cuny.edu) or [amatsuuchi@lagcc.cuny.edu](mailto:amatsuuchi@lagcc.cuny.edu).

## Welcome to New Library Faculty & Staff

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### **Elizabeth Arestyl**

CUNY Office Assistant, Deputy Chief Librarian's Office

Elizabeth comes to us from Queens College, where she worked as a College Assistant in the English department while completing her Bachelor's degree in English Literature. Most recently Elizabeth worked as a Supplemental Instructor in foreign policy with the Queens College Percy E. Sutton SEEK Program.



### **Galina Letnikova**

Coordinator of Library Instruction

As an assistant professor, Galina Letnikova will serve as the Coordinator of the Library Instruction program. Before joining the LaGuardia Community College Library she served as an assistant professor at the Leonard Lief Library of Lehman College. Galina teaches Library courses as an adjunct assistant professor at the Rosenthal Library of Queens College and at the Graduate School of Library and Information Studies at Queens College. Her research interests focus on incorporating the basics of library instructional services into the interface of an academic library website, making it easily accessible and usable to the library patrons. Ms. Letnikova earned her B.A. and M.A in Education at the Moscow State Linguistic University in Russia where she majored in French and English. Her M.L.S. is from the Graduate School of Library and Information Science at Queens College.

### **Riya Mitha**

CUNY Office Assistant, Circulation Department

Riya studied History and English at Hunter College before being hired as a CUNY Office Assistant in the Circulation Department at LaGuardia Community College. She served as the Director of Marketing Operations at LPL Financial in the past. Riya enjoys reading and writing in her spare time. She loves to cook and volunteers regularly with the ASPCA. ■





# *New Information Literacy Center Website*

By **Alexandra Rojas**, Reference Services Librarian



Students need to learn how to find, evaluate, and make ethical use of information needed for their academic and personal careers.

According to the Association of College & Research Libraries, an information literate individual is able to:

- Determine the extent of information needed
- Access the needed information effectively and efficiently
- Evaluate information and its sources critically
- Incorporate selected information into one's knowledge base
- Use information effectively to accomplish a specific purpose
- Understand and make ethical decisions concerning the economic, legal, and social issues surrounding the use of information and access

In May 2013, the Library was pleased to release the Information Literacy Center Website. This is a guide to LaGuardia's information literacy efforts. It includes links to video tutorials, sample lessons, copyright resources, and other tools that could be used to enhance information literacy in the classroom. This website is a work in progress and is designed to help faculty locate relevant resources related to information literacy: <http://library.laguardia.edu/webguide/infolit>

There, you'll find extensive resources, including the workshop "Designing Research Paper Assignments," sponsored by the Academic Standing Committee and presented by Dr. Ximena Gallardo and Dr. C. Jason Smith of the English department.

Comments? Please contact Alexandra Rojas at [arojas@lagcc.cuny.edu](mailto:arojas@lagcc.cuny.edu) or 718-482-6020. ■

By **Terry Parker**, Coordinator, Media Services

**The programs listed below are recent acquisitions to the Library's video collection, which consist of over 2000 titles. All titles are available for off/on campus loan for faculty, and on campus only use for students. Viewing of selected titles is also available on campus via the Library's Streaming Service. For information on purchases and loans, please contact Terry Parker, x 433, or [terry@lagcc.cuny.edu](mailto:terry@lagcc.cuny.edu).**

***Body Corporate: Who Owns Your Genes?* (45 min.)**

Right now across the globe there is a major legal and scientific battle raging over one simple question: should we allow individuals and corporations to patent genes? Some biotech companies say yes, claiming patents reward medical research and promote the investigation of life saving treatments. Others see it very differently, describing patenting as a biotech land-grab that's less about patients and more about greed. Reporter Andrew Fowler travels to the United States and around Australia to hear from both sides in this high-stakes battle. He talks to the researchers, patent lawyers and families who have been forced to pay significant amounts of money to find out if they have genes linked to potentially life-threatening conditions. Who is right? Can the very basis of life itself be patented and sold? Is it possible that a unique gene that makes us what we are could be patented by someone we don't know and then franchised out to a major corporation? **(DVD 603)**



***Born In The U.S.A* (57 min.)**

This program explores the landscape of maternity care through the eyes of three caregivers: a progressive obstetrician working at a teaching hospital, a skillful and articulate licensed midwife who attends home births, and a compassionate certified nurse-midwife who bridges both worlds in an urban, free-standing birth center. The documentary examines child-birth practices in this country, and raises important questions about technology, the social and non-social factors that impact our experiences of child birth, and about what constitutes best care. **(DVD 623)**

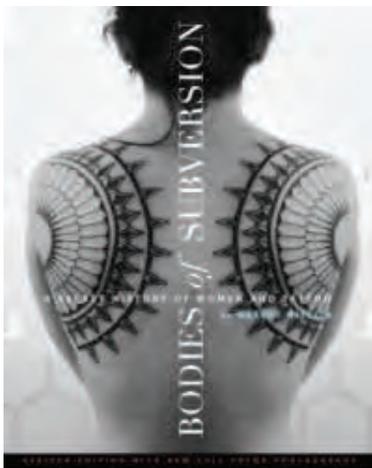
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## New Books

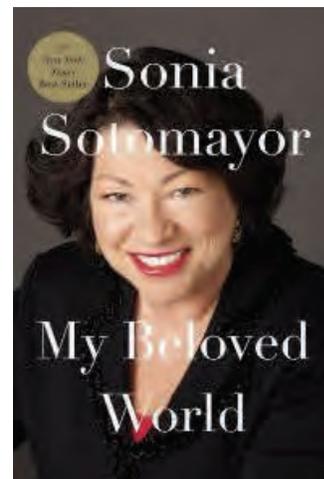
**The books listed below are recent additions to the Library's collection and have been featured in the Books of the Week program. Selections are assembled at the New Books shelf each week by Betsy Crenshaw and spotlight some wonderful titles. Check out the current and past Books of the Week at the Library's Blog:**

<http://library.laguardia.edu/blog>

**Book of the Week, December 09, 2013:**  
*Bodies of Subversion: A Secret History of Women and Tattoo* by Margo Mifflin  
**Location: STACKS GT2345 .M54 2013**



**Book of the Week of September 23, 2013:**  
*My Beloved World* by Sonia Sotomayor  
**Location STACKS KF8745 .S67 A3 2013**



## What's new in electronic resources?

By Catherine Stern, Electronic Resources Librarian

### **New Library databases:**

[Very Short Introductions](#). This series from Oxford University Press is now available online and has over 350 titles. You can “discover a new topic or subject with these intelligent and serious introductions written by authors who are experts in their field.” Titles include *Advertising*, *Wittgenstein*, *Reality*, *Happiness* and *The Meaning of Life*.



[Veterinary Education in Video](#). This collection of streaming videos is available on and off campus and links can be embedded in Blackboard. “The collection explains more than 500 procedures and techniques across more than 600 titles, and covers clinical skills, explanations of conditions, and training on technology and animal handling.”

[Volume II](#) has been added to the popular ***Underground and Independent Comics*** database. “It adds extensive coverage of the pre-Comics Code era horror, crime, romance, and war comics that fueled the backlash leading to one of the largest censorship campaigns in US history. Selections include the complete EC Comics archive, including *Tales from the Crypt*, *Two-Fisted Tales*, and many others both famous and infamous.” Full-text access to notable titles like: *From Hell* by Alan Moore and Eddie Campbell, *Gen Man-hwa* by various artists (South Korea, GEN), *Komiks: Comic Art in Russia* and *God of Comics: Osamu Tezuka and the Creation of Post-World War II Manga*.



The [National Geographic Magazine Archive](#) now contains issues from 1888 to current issues.

Also, [LitFinder](#), [Global Issues in Context](#), and [World Scholar: Latin American and the Caribbean](#) have been added CUNY-wide.



*Coming soon:*

Starting sometime in early 2014, All CUNY ID holders will be able to enjoy unlimited access to *The New York Times* online edition. ■

See page 4 for more database news.

## Faculty and Staff Highlights

- During the December 4, 2013 Professional Staff Meeting, Professor **Clementine Lewis** was recognized for 25 years of service and Prof. **Alexandra Rojas** for 30 years. Both received a pin commemorating their years of service to the College.
- Professor **Francine Egger-Sider** was elected as the new President of Faculty Council.
- Professor **Steve Ovardia** published a new book: *The Librarian's Guide to Academic Research in the Cloud*. Cambridge, UK: Chandos, 2013.
- **Steve Ovardia** also published the following articles:
  - "The Role of Big Data in the Social Sciences" in *Behavioral & Social Sciences Librarian*, Vol. 32, No. 2 (10 June 2013), p. 130-134. <<http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/01639269.2013.787274>>
  - "When Social Media Meets Scholarly Publishing" in *Behavioral & Social Sciences Librarian*, Vol. 32, No. 3. (1 July 2013), p. 194-198. <<http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/01639269.2013.817886>>
- Professors **Alexandra Rojas** and **Catherine Stern** published an article, written with Elizabeth Namei: "Marketing Library Workshops: A Model for Achieving Popular and Critical Success." *Library Communications* 2.1 (2013): 3-6.
- **Dianne Gordon Conyers** served as reviewer for the workshop summary/conference publication: Institute of Medicine of the National Academies. *Health Literacy: Improving Health, Health Systems, and Health Policy Around the World: Workshop Summary*. Washington, DC: National Academies Press, 2013. Print. <[http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record\\_id=18325](http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=18325)>
- Professors **Catherine Stern**, **Hong Cheng**, **Chris McHale** and **Alexandra Rojas** conducted an Opening Sessions workshop on September 4, 2013 on e-books, called *The Hybrid Library: Meeting Users Where They Are*.
- **Ann Matsuuchi** presented a paper on Doctor Who and Buddhism at the University of Manchester (UK) on November 2, 2013.
- **Catherine Stern** presented on a panel entitled "Good Listeners Become Good Communicators" at the NYS TESOL conference on November 15, 2013. Her presentation was entitled "Listening in the Academic Library" and focused on the availability and use of audiobooks and database audio files in academic libraries.
- Congratulations to **Dianne Gordon Conyers** who successfully completed her second master's program. ■

### *More iPads in the Library! Available to Both Students and Faculty*

- Did you know the Library offers laptops for 3 day loan from the Library Media Services desk? Media Services has recently acquired additional iPads that can be borrowed by both students and faculty for 3 days. These can be taken out of the Library and used at home or elsewhere on campus. ■



**KEEP  
CALM  
AND  
EMAIL A  
LIBRARIAN**

<http://library.laguardia.edu/ask>

A red rectangular graphic with a white logo at the top left that says "LaGuardia Community College". The main text is in large, white, bold, sans-serif capital letters. At the bottom, there is a white URL.