The Interlibrary Loan Service: We are here to help you!

By Clementine Lewis, Extended Day/Interlibrary Loan Librarian

The Interlibrary Loan (ILL) Service supports the instructional and research needs of LaGuardia's faculty, staff, and students by borrowing, for their use, materials that are not owned by the Library. Since the 2020 transition to distance learning, the Interlibrary Loan Service has continued to provide services to the college community by utilizing the University's digital resources. Currently, all requests are submitted online via ILLiad. This web-based database provides faculty, staff, and students self-service options such as submitting requests 24/7, tracking the status of requests, and receiving electronic delivery of documents directly to their email accounts. Most important, the service is free to all members of the college community!

To enhance ILL services and expand borrowing access to online documents in the most efficient manner, the Interlibrary Loan Service joined several large resource-sharing networks with holdings from academic, public, school, and special libraries. These networks include NYC Metro libraries, NYS libraries, global free-sharing networks, CUNY libraries, and the OCLC library cooperative with thousands of library members in more than 100 countries. Recently, several additional large libraries joined the New York State IDS [Information Delivery Services] Project, including California State University at Sacramento, the College of New Jersey, Johns Hopkins University, St. Lawrence University, Trinity College, the University of Notre Dame, Villanova University, and Wayne State University. The holdings from all of these libraries strengthen and enhance the resource-sharing capabilities of the ILL Service to provide faculty, staff, and students easy, efficient, and timely access to online documents as needed.

Accessing ILLiad

How do you access the Interlibrary Loan Service? First-time users may create a new account in ILLiad. Here is the link to ILLiad from the Library’s website: https://lagcccuny.illiad.oclc.org/illiad/logon.html.

On the Library’s homepage, you may also log into your ILLiad account under the menu headings of Faculty/Staff or Students to create and submit a request directly to the ILL Service. Again, simply click on Get Articles Outside CUNY to be directed to ILLiad.

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Faculty and Staff Highlights

- **Professor Chris McHale** has been promoted to Full Professor, effective September 1, 2021.
- **Professor Derek Stadler** won re-election as co-editor of *Urban Library Journal* and Alternate Senator of the University Faculty Senate.
- **Professor Derek Stadler** presented “A Crash Course in Creative Commons Licensing” on April 9 at the online North Carolina Serials Conference, with SUNY colleague Professor Danielle Apfelbaum.
- **Professor Thomas Cleary** and Professor Tomonori Nagano (ELA) were awarded a $12,000 PSC-CUNY Research Grant to support the COVID-19 Oral History Project, focusing on Asian heritage students. For more information visit: [https://asianheritage.commons.gc.cuny.edu/](https://asianheritage.commons.gc.cuny.edu/)

Searching Databases

While searching library databases such as *OneSearch* and subject databases, you will be directed to the ILL Service to request documents not available from LaGuardia (see image below).

The Request Article via ILL is a great feature because the request form will be pre-populated with the citation information for the article. Simply click the Request icon and sign into your ILLiad account to send the request to the ILL Service.

ILL Staff

Remember, we are available and will provide assistance with request of online documents as needed. The ILL Staff includes Martha Mitterbauer and Sadana Raghunath. You may contact us via email at illlg@lagcc.cuny.edu. For additional information about the ILL Service, please visit the website.

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Comments may be sent by email to: tcleary@lagcc.cuny.edu or dstadler@lagcc.cuny.edu.
What’s Been Keeping Us Busy in the Last Year

Compiled by Linda Barber, Media Services

Keep Moving

Quiescing with yoga and jazz.
Uniting across bandwidths
And networking with family and friends.
Reading short stories
And watching their film adaptations.
Navigating Zoom and
Travelling virtually local and abroad – DUMBO, Ireland, and Sierra Leone.
Incorporating cultural recipes,
Nurturing body, mind and soul with crosswords, jigsaws, sudokus and
Exercising through dance.

A Best of the World Jigsaw
Although the last year was far from typical, life went on with a strange semblance of normalcy at Smiling Hogshead Ranch (SHR). The plants grew, the birds played in the sprinklers, and the stray cats sunbathed in this tiny oasis of greenspace surrounded by the post-industrial landscape of Long Island City. My wife and I have been spending our free time on this project since 2012 and have had the joy of watching it grow with our family, which now numbers four. Originally a guerrilla garden, the Ranch is a non-profit organization with a mission “to create a culture that empowers and connects our communities through ecology, education and collaboration.” In addition to maintaining the operations of an urban farm, members are active in the community. We host dozens of free events, demos, and skillshares on our site each year and we partner with other groups in the area, including LaGuardia, to bring our work to schools and neighborhood events throughout the city. All this is accomplished by a team of volunteers, a community, or “farmily,” that has become just as important to my family as the plants that nourish us throughout the season. Although the plants may feed us, the bonds that have formed over shared work, food, and accomplishment have enriched our lives beyond measure. This is why the most difficult part of last year was the fact that we had to spend so much of it at a distance. Despite that, we continued to work, grow, and engage with a community starved for nature throughout the lockdown.

Before highlighting some of the fun we had, I want to take a moment to acknowledge the serious work of my peers and the community that has supported SHR during the pandemic. When the City announced that it would be putting all organic composting programs on pause, several members of SHR stepped up to expand our composting capacity and maintain a place for residents to continue bringing their organic waste so that it can be (Continued on page 7)
A Time to Draw: Reconnect with your past

By Derek Stadler, Web Services Librarian

I have always loved maps. In third grade, I made a map of my school building in Forest Hills, Queens, P.S. 144. Maybe I would have gone on to become an architect. Unfortunately, my fourth grade teacher, Mrs. Walters, gave me an "F" on an assignment for which she asked us to make a map of how we traveled to school. Naturally, I went all out and made a map of all of Forest Hills. She claimed that I had traced it, which I had not. The experience, no doubt, left a scar on me to this day.

However, in the past year during the COVID pandemic, I have turned to sketching maps again. As many of you are aware, I like to research public transportation, in particular, the Long Island Rail Road (LIRR). I have taken on a new project to sketch the entire LIRR system. Similar to a collection circa 1958 housed in the Emery Collection of the SUNY Stony Brook Archives, my three-set collection will have the physical characteristics of the LIRR along with historical information that I have researched, highlighting the LIRR in the years 1978, 1998, and 2018. The collection documents the changes made every 20 years since 1958. With over 100 stations covering 115 miles, this project will definitely keep me busy for years.
All Work and Some Play

By Liz Jardine, Metadata Librarian

Helping “roommate” Ralph the Wonder Llama* adjust to working from home…

No, Ralph, the mask goes over your face.

Ralph helped me check page proofs of a co-authored chapter in The New York Mets in Popular Culture: Critical Essays (now published, the ebook is available from our Library).

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transformed into nourishment for the Earth. This is an important process in farming as it replenishes the nutrients that plants need in the soil, but it is also vital for a world that strives to be greener and more sustainable. Processing food scraps is laborious, but is highly valued by those who seek to bring more balance to the world we live in. With generous contributions from members of the community, SHR was able to expand our composting activities. If you are interested in supporting this initiative, consider joining the compost team at a community workday or contributing in another way.

My family kept busy this year in our usual fashion: watering, weeding, and tending the plants on site. Believe it or not, pest management has become one of our favorite seasonal activities. We value biodiversity at SHR; so pesticides are never used. We find other ways to manage our “pests” instead.

One of these methods celebrates mutual aid across species. Many plants rely on insects for pollination. The more pollinators we have visiting at the Ranch, the more produce we can grow. Butterflies are some of our hardest working collaborators, but not so helpful in their larval stage as they munch away on our plants. Black swallowtail butterfly caterpillars, for example, love to eat dill. So, to save our dill from these gluttonous comrades, we pick them off, take them home and feed them weeds (Queen Anne’s Lace, specifically). We open our home to these bugs and they become cherished family pets. We watch them grow as they eat and eat and eat. Finally, when they are fully mature, we bring them back to the Ranch and set them free.

In this way, we practice a method of pest control that is mutually beneficial to both species. We provide a safe home for the butterfly babies, far away from our dill and from the predators that would normally eat them, and as a result, there are more of them to help pollinate our flowers. The exercise also provides our kids with an enriching experience and a connection to the natural world that was even more meaningful as we found ourselves spending so much time indoors.

See more images on page 9
Ralph attended training on Alma, the new library system (and a partial anagram of ‘llama’).

Ralph and friends practiced social distancing.

You’re not supposed to be in there, Ralph, for the clean-the-microwave-with-a-lemon hack.

* With credit to the credits of Monty Python and the Holy Grail
Smiling Hogshead Ranch (Continued from page 7)

The growth of the black swallowtail butterfly caterpillars
Everyday Librarianship

By Thomas Cleary, Archivist

The LACUNY 2021 Institute theme of “Ending the Library Stereotype: Non-traditional practices for the 21st century” got me thinking about how some parts of being a librarian overlap with my “normal” life. Instead of bringing everyday life into work, I was seeing more how librarianship was popping up in my hobbies and daily life.

Besides a few easy examples such as a friend wanting to fact-check the quote-of-the-day calendar quote “Is it possible that I am so busy doing that I no longer have time to enjoy being?” by Wilson (the Wilson from the poorly aged Home Improvement sitcom? We’ll never know), research skills and data management have come in very handy, especially in the last year.

Forgive Me, for I have Synthed
When lockdown happened, these research skills became particularly important when exploring the noisy world of synthesizers. Personally picking devices (articles) based on price points (date range) and brand (journal) brought up a lot of thoughts on what constitutes a reliable brand? Should I trust this device to last? Does the device boop when I really want it to beep? Coincidentally, doing the research and finding the reliable website that makes unbiased “Top 10” lists had the added bonus of helping a friend identify the best entry-level digital piano for his kid.

Rivers of Gravel
As librarians we all have very diverse interests and skill sets, especially at LaGuardia, and we may find ourselves working on interdisciplinary projects that sometimes have little academic overlap except that we serve as the librarian in the group. While I have always been interested in figuring out how to incorporate GIS (geographic information systems) into projects, GIS has lately become most helpful with planning a bike tour from Buffalo to NYC. The trip follows the Erie Canal and then down along the rail trails near the Hudson River that make the new Empire State Trail.

Besides the regular puzzles that present themselves when planning a trip (where to stay, where to eat, do you really need that many socks?), we needed a map to plan how many miles to travel each day. This quest involved mapping a route that worked for us based on the official Empire State Trail. After I got the trail’s dataset from the state website, my regular library data project skills kicked in. Switching back and forth between Garmin BaseCamp and Google My Maps, I “cleaned” the data, turning trail segments into useful information, adding in stops and detours, and mapped a route that worked for the “project.” The final result was a map that can be used both on phones and on a dedicated GPS device. Added to an obsession with spreadsheets and visualizations to keep track of each item I will be carrying and its weight, I have ended up with groundwork for a digital storytelling project.