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*The Enemy*

Photo provided by Joanne Schneider

## Letter from the President

Dear ENY/ACRL Members,

As I write this, the snow banks are receding and the ice is melting...that means spring will soon be here! I am anticipating the sunshine and flowers along with our very own rite of spring, the ENY/ACRL Spring Conference.

Suzanne Turner and the Program Committee have put together an exciting program, "Exploring Access in 2009 and Beyond." The conference title is in recognition of the 400th anniversary of Henry Hudson's exploration of the Hudson River. Hudson Valley Community College will be hosting the conference on May 18. Additional information is on the ENY/ACRL web site and has been sent out to the ENY/ACRL Membership Forum.

In the bleak, bleak winter your Board of Directors met via conference phone on January 8. During our meeting we agreed to suggest two changes to the By-Laws. The By-Law changes with rationales were posted on our web site and sent out to the ENY/ACRL Membership Forum in February. Members vote for the changes at the same time as they vote for new board members.

The Board also considered the recommendations submitted by our Archivist, Michelle Parry. Michelle took on the herculean task of reviewing our entire archive, describing the content and making retention recommendations. We have accepted her recommendations and we are extremely grateful for all her time and effort!

While reviewing the archive contents Michelle discovered that we are missing the Fall 1989 Conference Brochure (including speaker biographies) and



*Susan Zappen, ENY/ACRL President*

the Membership Directories for 1993 and 1996. If you happen upon these items during your spring cleaning, please contact Michelle at Mparry1@oswego.edu.

I hope that many of you will be able to attend the Spring Conference at HVCC. And, whether you are new to the profession or an experienced librarian, please don't hesitate to speak to me or any other Board member about serving on a committee or running for a Board position. Serving this organization is not a chore. It is truly an opportunity to meet and work with wonderful, talented colleagues from other libraries. See you at the conference!

### Table of Contents

Letter from the President.....	1
Slate for ENY/ACRL Board.....	2
ENY/ACRL Spring Conference .....	2
Legislative Advocacy .....	3
News from the Editors .....	3
Disaster Planning & Preparedness.....	4
Regional Disaster Depots .....	5
Coping with Mold .....	6
Dealing with Disasters of a Wet Variety ....	7
Mold—The Bloom that Threatens .....	8
Regional Disaster Planning.....	9
Notes from the Field .....	10

## Slate for ENY/ACRL Board

*Francine M. Apollo, Past President  
SUNY Cobleskill*

So, just where did the last three years go anyway? They have slipped by so quickly. I have had the privilege to participate in a few ALA conferences on your behalf. I have had many opportunities to shamelessly plug the very good work ENY/ACRL has done and continues to do on behalf of the profession. I've had the opportunity to recommend the organization to several younger colleagues in our region and hope to see them at future conferences.

Our election this year is almost an embarrassment of riches. Having two wonderful candidates for the position of Program Chair/VP/President Elect in the persons of Brenda Hazard (Hudson Valley

Community College) and Francesca Livermore (Colgate University) is grand. In addition, we have Glinda Asu (Hamilton College) for Communications Chair and Jean McLaughlin (University at Albany) for Secretary. All of these candidates continue the tradition of active, engaged members stepping up to serve. I wish them all well. You'll be hearing from me soon. The balloting must be completed 30 days in advance of the Annual Meeting, so time is closing in.

As I write this it occurs to me that the date of the conference is the day I'll be traveling back from Idaho and I will not be with you. Our son is graduating from the University at Boise's Nursing School...it's a big deal; my husband graduated with his RN 30 years ago. "Young" Darian will continue the tradition of nursing



*Francine M. Apollo  
Past President  
Reference and Instruction Librarian  
SUNY Cobleskill*

*Continued on page 14  
Slate of candidates included*

## ENY/ACRL Spring Conference

Dear Chapter Members:

We're launching our spring conference, "Exploring Access in 2009 and Beyond" with an access and discovery theme, in recognition of Henry Hudson's exploration of the Hudson River in 1609. And, appropriately, the conference will be held at Hudson Valley Community College in Troy, New York. Please mark your calendars for Monday, May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2009.

Our keynote speaker will be Charlotte Hess, Associate Librarian for Collections and Scholarly Communications at Syracuse University. Charlotte will address us on trends in open access and scholarly communication. Paul Rapp, an intellectual property lawyer and Adjunct Professor at Albany Law School, will speak with us on the thorny issues we encounter with copyright in the

digital library environment. Paul writes a column on intellectual property in the regional publication *Metroland* and was a popular speaker at the NYLA 2008 conference. Cyril Oberlander, the Associate Library Director at SUNY Geneseo, is well known in resource sharing circles for his innovative ideas about interlibrary loan, document delivery, buy-on-demand projects, and access/discovery tools. And, Holly Heller-Ross, Interim Associate Director of the Feinberg Library at SUNY Plattsburgh, will share with us her expertise in the area of online learning and distance education. Holly will moderate a panel of librarians who will comment on various facets of online learning. We are so pleased that these experts have accepted our

invitation to speak at the conference.

This year we will also return to having poster sessions. Please consider presenting a poster session on a research study, a pilot project, or an innovative service that highlights access. This is a great opportunity to exchange information with colleagues and to polish your presentation skills. If you are interested please submit a poster session proposal by April 13<sup>th</sup> to Pat Markley at Siena College at [Markley@Siena.edu](mailto:Markley@Siena.edu).

I want to express my sincere thanks to the Conference Planning Committee for their hard work, energy and enthusiasm. Please join your ENY/ACRL colleagues on May 18<sup>th</sup> for a day which promises to be information packed, exciting and challenging.

**Exploring Access in 2009 and Beyond**

## Legislative Advocacy

*Bill Walker, ENY/ACRL  
Government Relations Chair and  
Michael McLane, ACRL's Visiting  
Program Officer for Legislative  
Advocacy*

*Bill Walker on the Government  
Relations Committee of ENY/ACRL*

The Eastern New York Chapter of the ACRL is dedicated to its commitment to ongoing legislative monitoring and action. As a matter of policy and belief no one can better represent the interests of libraries in general, and college and research libraries in particular, than we can.

On a very practical level, the first and best thing that I as the Government Relations Chair can do is alert you whenever the Washington Office lets me know there is a major issue being considered. When issues, bills and debates arise which need or even demand our attention because of their potential impact upon our institutions or our patron's access to information, we need to make our voices heard immediately.

Again on a practical level, it is really up to each of us both individually and as an institution to make sure our representatives know both who we are and how we feel about issues crucial to us. If we do not make our concerns known we can scarcely blame the politicians for not considering them. Perhaps in time, if we speak out often enough and loudly enough, these representatives will actually seek our input in the first place.

I would like to suggest that as issues come to your attention, whether in Albany or Washington, that you let me know about them. I will in turn pass on this information to our members. But please do not stop there. As you get in touch with your representatives, as you have experiences with them both good and bad, please also let me know about these too. Let's share with each other what has worked for us and what has not and perhaps our advocacy can become even more effective.

With the current deep recession and all its attendant cutbacks and

problems on the one hand, but with the fiscal stimulus and all its potential on the other, we can't afford to have the voices of our libraries quiet when it comes to government issues.

*Contact Bill at  
[wwalker@levy.org](mailto:wwalker@levy.org) or  
(845) 758-7729*

*Michael McLane on the ACRL  
Legislative Advocates Program*

As members of the Eastern New York Chapter of the Association of College and Research Libraries, you have already made a commitment to the advancement of academic libraries in New York and the nation. An important way in which to effectively express this commitment is to become active in advocacy work on behalf of libraries on both the state and federal levels.

On the New York State level, several organizations including

*Continued on page 16*

## News from the Editors

*Tammy Gobert and Pat Hults  
Rensselaer Libraries  
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute*

Our special theme on disaster recovery elicited a strong response. We think the information will prove helpful in mitigating the damage and pain of future disasters. Thank you to all who contributed such great articles.

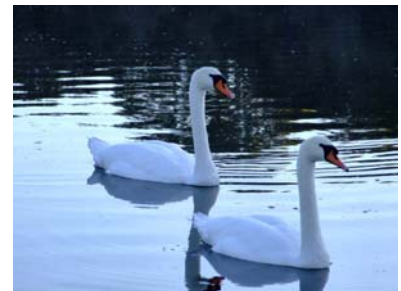
### **A Fond Farewell**

Having served as co-editors/editor of the newsletter for four years, we have made the decision to gracefully

bow out before we burn out. To quote Yogi Berra "When you arrive at a fork in the road, take it."

We want to thank all of you who have contributed the articles that make the newsletter what it is—a great means of keeping in touch professionally.

It has been fun working with format and content and seeing the newsletter grow—we will miss it, but we look forward to the newsletter's next incarnation!



*Swan song — Goodbye from Tammy Gobert and Pat Hults, Editors.*

Photo courtesy of Jordan McClements.



# Disaster Planning and Preparedness

*David J. Stokoe  
Rare Book and Paper Conservator  
Syracuse University Library*

Plan the dive, dive the plan! This was the mantra of my scuba diving instructor way back when I was younger! In a life critical sport where there are distinct advantages to having a concise idea of what's going to happen, planning the event will minimize life threatening risks as much as possible. There are obvious parallels to disaster planning even disregarding the fact that both may involve immersion in water.

In my experience it seems very likely that every institution will at some time have what we all dread and fear, a leak or flood. There are other types of disasters that occur – insects and rodents, mold, computer emergencies, bomb threats and vandalism, but all of these are not immediately related to a water based disaster.

Mold outbreaks are generally a result of adverse humidity levels in storage areas when climatic controls malfunction or are not adequate for the building or type of material stored. Mold will also occur in a disaster situation when wet paper/books are not dealt with immediately so quick clean up is essential.

Fire in a collection is obviously going to incur water damage as soon as the fire department shows up to rescue the situation, and you can guarantee that they will not stop with their hoses until every last spark is extinguished. Fire hoses have tremendous pressure behind them and will blow everything off shelves and leave a large mass of wet paper. You will not have access to the build until it has been given the all clear in health and safety terms. Think sewage, weak floors, electricity and water!

There are numerous types of hard wired fire suppression systems, some of which are more friendly to staff and collections than others. Gas systems tend to be very expensive to install and maintain, they require the rooms to be sealed and have high pressure release heads often resulting in collections being blown off shelves and sometimes shredded! Once the gas is released the collection is left unprotected until the cylinders are recharged so any restart of the fire will be catastrophic. Carbon dioxide and other gas systems will suppress oxygen levels to the point that the fire will die due to lack of fuel.

Staff can be placed at risk by oxygen depleting systems



*Condensation damage causes mold & book covers to stick together.*

and strict control methods need to be in place where they are used. These types of systems are very uncommon within heritage organizations in the U.S., banks, computer labs, oil rigs and refineries are the prime users.

Water base systems are available in two types, the dry pipe system which doesn't carry water until a detection system triggers either through heat or smoke; and the wet pipe system which obviously is carrying water permanently. Both of these systems can be setup for release heads to sprinkle either globally so that all release simultaneously; or locally so that heat will melt plastic seals only on the heads directly affected. Obviously localized head release is preferable in a collection storage scenario.

Water based disasters are generally not caused by fire outbreak or accidental sprinkler release, they are usually related to ingress of water caused by burst pipes, roof &/or gutter failure, condensation or sheer volume of rain. Natural disasters like Hurricane Katrina are not too common fortunately and need to be dealt with in a coordinated "all hands to the pumps" method. Government help is obvious a must to save an institution's collections.

Small disasters can be dealt with in house if space, staff and resources are available. Air drying can be a very cost effective method; the finished results are often not as esthetically pleasing as the vacuum freeze dry method, items tend to warp and swell badly depending on their water content. Advance training of staff is essential to minimize additional damage during handling. Large designated work areas, a large supply

*Continued on page 17*

## Regional Disaster Depots Mark 15th Anniversary

*Pamela Ouimet  
Communications Coordinator  
Northern New York Library Network  
Potsdam, NY*

The Northern New York Library Network has established three regional disaster response depots designed to assist organizations to effectively cope with unanticipated problems associated with flooding, fire, and other crises that jeopardize materials and collections.

Established in 1994, the depots are located on participating university campuses in the eastern, central, and western regions of the Network's service area, and are available for use by any library, archives, historical documents repository, museum, or other cultural entity in the North Country. Procedures have been set up to permit 24-hour access through campus security and for participants to restock materials that were used up.

Each Disaster Depot contains clipboards, box cutters, extension cords, filter masks, a first aid kit, flashlights and batteries, hard hats, disposable gloves, a hygrometer, light bulbs, monofilament fishing line, pens, plastic clothespins, rubber aprons, safety goggles, scissors, a sling psychrometer, squeegees, waterproof markers, work lights, and yellow pads.

The Depots also contain dehumidifiers, floor fans, pedestal fans, plastic crates, plastic garbage cans, a portable generator, hand trucks, and wet/dry vacuums. Other supplies include brooms and mops, clean newsprint, freezer paper, a gas can, and polyethylene sheeting.

Once supplies have been taken from the depots, borrowing institutions are asked to replace materials promptly because another emergency could occur in the region at any time.

Borrowing agencies are asked to complete two copies of the Supply List found in the depot to indicate which items they have used. One copy is to be left in the depot, and the second copy is to be mailed to the Northern New York Library Network.

In addition to the Disaster Depots, the region promotes disaster preparedness by encouraging all libraries and repositories to prepare and maintain disaster preparedness plans. The Network has prepared and published an online disaster response manual called "In the Face of Disaster: Preparing for Emergencies in the North Country" that assists area institutions in preparing for the worst. The manual is available at no charge at [www.nnyln.org](http://www.nnyln.org), and can be found by clicking on "Publications." The manual is regularly updated in order to provide the most current information concerning disaster response vendors and other resources.



*The Depots are supplied with a number of larger items to assist when a disaster occurs.*

## Coping with Mold: the Levy Economics Institute Experience

*Bill Walker*

*Levy Economic Institute of Bard College*

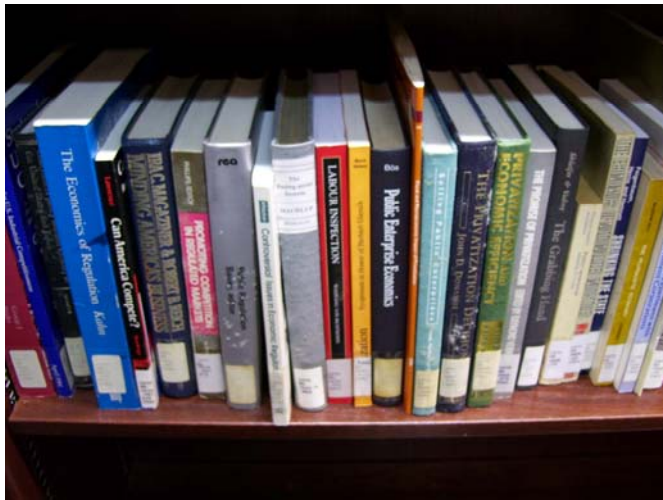
The Levy Economics Institute of Bard College is a non-profit, nonpartisan, public policy research organization founded over twenty years ago, located in Blithewood, an 1899 mansion overlooking the Hudson on Bard's campus. A number of the Levy Research scholars teach courses at the College, and the Institute's Library holds the bulk of Bard's economics and finance titles. The Library is a closed collection of over 12,000 economics books, journals, and data publications. It links into the broader Bard College Library, allowing students and faculty to borrow books from the Institute via interlibrary loan. As mentioned, it is a closed collection, not open for browsing, and housed in the Institute, not in the College's Main Library.

Unfortunately, to hold over 12,000 titles, the Library has been in two rooms in the cellar of the mansion. While normally safe from the weather, pipes do run down the ceilings, HVAC systems have been known to leak, and the far end of the basement has flooded. While we all knew that the basement was far from an ideal location for a book collection it was a fact that given the resources of both the Institute and the College, the books were going to stay there for the foreseeable future. Unfortunately, there were no humidity-control equipment or monitoring tools either in the library or near it.

The Library rooms were not in active use every day. The majority of the books purchased for the collection would be used only by the Institute's scholars or advanced juniors or seniors, particularly those working on senior theses. The cleaning staff entered on a daily basis, but only to sweep and do visual checks.

On Thursday, September 25, 2008, staff went down to the Library rooms to get several books requested by one of the Institute's scholars. We had last been in the Library rooms on either Monday or Tuesday, and had not noticed anything wrong. This day, however, there was mold.

The mold was not on every spine. It was not even on a book in every subsection of shelving, but it was spread throughout this library room, often quite heavy on the cloth. I ran my finger down the spine of one of the moldy titles and rubbed my fingers together. The mold was wet and slimy, meaning it was alive. After checking the shelves throughout that room, I closed the door



*Books speckled with live mold.*

and checked my other Library Room in the basement. The books there appeared mold free.

I went back to my office and called Jeff Katz, Dean of the Libraries and Information Services and left a message for him as he was in a meeting. I next called my colleague Ann Butler, Librarian at Bard's Center for Curatorial Studies, who confirmed my impulse to get in touch with the Northeast Document Conservation Center. There I spoke with Deborah Wender, their Director of Book Conservation, who suggested I call a company like Munters to begin immediate remediation on the room. She also warned me to hope that all their personnel were not busy down in Texas dealing with the aftermath of the hurricanes there.

According to its website, Munters is "a global leader in energy efficient air treatment solutions and restoration services based on expertise in humidity and climate control technologies." I called and spoke with several people, eventually with Paul Miller, their Account Manager for Connecticut and Upstate New York. He promised to be there the next morning and suggested I immediately put whatever dehumidifiers I could into the room. Paul himself arrived early the next day, on Friday morning, with an industrial sized dehumidifier and began a visual survey of the mold damage. Our own Buildings and Grounds personnel had been alerted to the situation and were also on hand. That afternoon we got, via email, Munters preliminary Overview, Scope of Work, and very rough cost estimate. While the cost estimate did go up significantly as the job was re-evaluated, the preliminary timetable

*Continued on page 18*



## Dealing with Disasters of the Wet Variety

*Martha Walker  
Fine Arts Librarian  
Cornell University*

There are more than 260 major buildings on the 745 acre Cornell campus in Ithaca, NY.

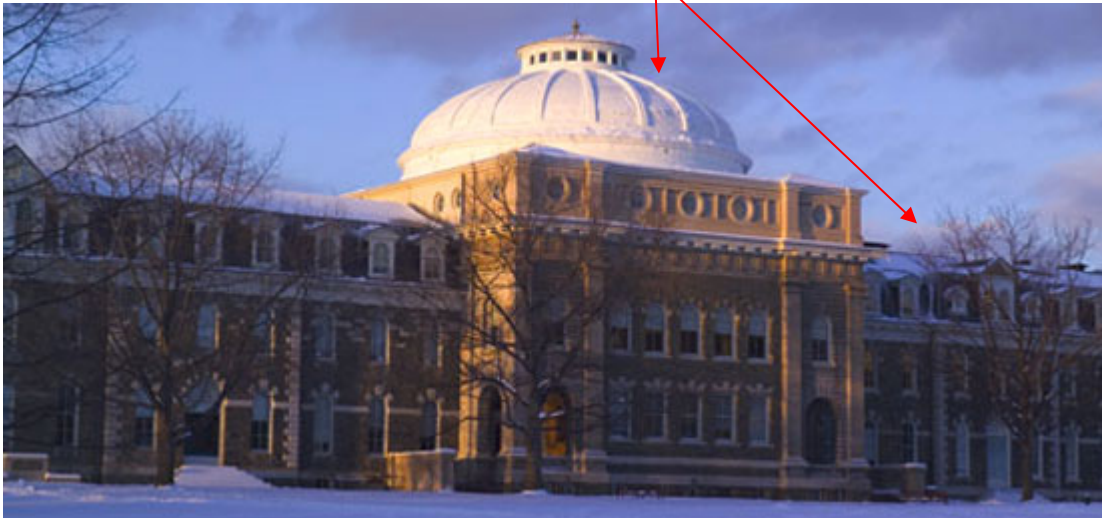
The facility that houses the Fine Arts Library, Sibley Hall, was one of the first buildings constructed on campus. When looking at the exterior of Sibley (see photo below) it is difficult to imagine that the building was actually constructed in three sections over 32 years. The west wing of the building was built in 1870. The east wing was built in 1894 and the centerpiece of the building – the large white dome and area beneath -- was constructed last, in 1902.

The dome area connects the west and east wings. As well it houses the main reading room of the Fine Arts Library (FAL). The FAL extends from the dome through the east wing on the second and third floors of Sibley. The Departments of Architecture and City and Regional Planning, plus a public gallery, business operations, college administration, and student services are also housed within Sibley.

I have been the Fine Arts Librarian at Cornell since Fall 2001. After moving into this building -- from Cornell's relatively young (1961) Olin Library -- I quickly learned that although these three separate buildings appear as one from the outside, they actually respond quite differently to severe weather on the inside.

My first inkling that old buildings could pose problems for new library directors came one night in Spring

*Fine Arts Library, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> floor east wing & under dome.*



2002, during a torrential downpour. I received a phone call from a rather panicky evening supervisor. The report: the skylights on the third floor of the east wing were leaking . . . badly. I happen to live quite close to campus so I decided to head up the hill and check this out for myself. Indeed. The skylights were leaking and the books on the top shelves of roughly six double-faced ranges were getting soaked. The evening supervisor and I (with the help of a student employee) found our “disaster trunk” and quickly covered the shelves with plastic sheeting, redirecting the rain water into large trash barrels.



*Example of “disaster trunk” distributed to all Cornell libraries.*

Adrenaline is an interesting (and inspiring!) hormone. It causes one to think quickly, respond rapidly and (in my case) locate the unit’s disaster plan immediately. I was lucky because I had inherited a “Disaster Response Plan” from my predecessor, complete with a disaster trunk, also known as an “Emergency Unit Supply Box.” It was this supply box (in a standard old-fashioned style foot locker) that contained the Polyethylene Sheeting in 10’ x 25’ rolls, that prevented further damage to our materials.

I am also very lucky because Cornell University Library’s Disaster Response Plan contains step by step instructions for dealing with both major and minor emergencies. For example, a minor disaster is defined as one that involves fewer than 500 volumes. This type of emergency can usually be handled by on-site staff, with assistance from departments such as maintenance and conservation. Larger emergencies will require more expansive response teams, a well organized

recovery site and a clear chain of command to avoid confusion and insure safety at the site.

In reviewing the Disaster Response Plan, I realized that I had a “minor” emergency on my hands. The rain water had not dripped down beyond

*Continued on page 19*

## Mold -- The Bloom That Threatens Library Collections and Their Users

*Joanne A. Schneider*  
*University Librarian and Professor in the University*  
*Libraries*  
*Colgate University*

Colgate, located in Hamilton, is nestled in a landscape dotted with lakes. The high water table had caused on-going problems with dampness in the basement of the old Case Library building. By the late 1990's, the Libraries had developed a Disaster Plan that incorporated Donald Waters' Procedures for Salvage of Water Damaged Library Materials. The proscribed treatment for mold followed the RLG Preservation Manual that called for chemical fumigation. Additionally, periodic leaks from pipes and the roof invoked the segregation of the affected materials for drying as recommended by Waters. Repeated instances of mold typically affected only a small number of books not significant enough for the staff to consider the complexity and expense of fumigation. Rather, they substituted the common treatment that involved wiping or brushing off the mold and drying the volumes before replacing them in the stacks.

As I arrived in June 2005, we packed up and moved roughly 2 million items, including volumes previously cleaned of mold, in preparation for a major renovation of the old library. High-use items were moved into high-density storage in the new Library Automated Storage and Retrieval system (LASR), the completion of which represented the first phase of the construction process. Lesser-used materials were moved to environmentally controlled commercial storage and several small collections were relocated to unused spaces on campus with no environmental controls. What we did not realize is that the lack of a controlled environment in the old building, combined with past methods used to remove mold as if it were simply grime, would come back to haunt our collections and potentially the people who use them.

### **Collections on the Move are Vulnerable.**

After moving out of the building and distributing collections among a number of locations, we experienced unusually persistent, heavy rains in the spring and summer of 2006. The roof over one campus collection storage space leaked followed by local record-breaking flooding in a second temporary location. As we revisited the Disaster Plan it was clear that we needed to completely revise the recommended practices regarding mold. We relied on the information I had gathered several years before to manage two outbreaks at a



*Example of mold growth on a book*

previous institution, which called for taking a more aggressive and protective approach. This placed protecting the remaining collections, especially in LASR's high-density storage, and the people who used them above retaining the affected items. Rather than treating mold as grime to be wiped off, it was now regarded as a possible biohazard that could easily regenerate. With a well-researched aggressive approach, we procured additional funds to move both collections to a controlled environment.

### **What Do We Know About Mold?**

"Mold" is a popular term for a genus of fungus with "mildew" referring to another type. Mold spores are everywhere so when conditions are favorable, they become active. They propagate by "sporeolating" or releasing spores that become airborne, drift to new environments, alight at a new location, and begin to grow. Dyes and starches found in cloth bindings along with cellulose in paper provide the necessary food sources needed for mold to grow. Dust acts as another basis of nutrition. The most important factor initiating and sustaining mold growth, however, is a change in the relative humidity (RH) rising above 70% to 75% but it is possible for many fungi to grow in an RH as low as 45%. Temperature plays a secondary role since warmth will cause water to evaporate and most paper conservators recommend a temperature below 70°F which is difficult to sustain for library collections available on open stacks for ready use.

Besides the damage mold inflicts on library collections, the potential health implications for staff, students, and faculty is of growing concern to conservation specialists. Some molds can produce poisonous substances

*Continued on page 20*



# Regional Disaster Planning

*Ann Carroll Kearney  
Collections Conservator  
University at Albany*

As one who has recently relocated to Eastern New York to accept the position of Collections Conservator with University at Albany Libraries, I am grateful for this opportunity to introduce myself and to share some of my experiences with disaster planning initiatives in my previous work situations.

Part of my work as a private Book Conservator in Northern Ohio involved disaster planning. In addition to working with individual institutions on developing plans and implementing response procedures, I participated in the Northeast Ohio Alliance for Response forum, an outgrowth of a larger all-state gathering in Cincinnati ([www.heritagepreservation.org/AfR/Ohio/index.html](http://www.heritagepreservation.org/AfR/Ohio/index.html)).

Alliance for Response is a national program of the Heritage Foundation ([www.heritagepreservation.org/AfR](http://www.heritagepreservation.org/AfR)) focused on cultural heritage and disaster management. Through a series of local forums, it builds bridges between the cultural heritage and emergency response communities before disasters happen. The forums lead to new partnerships, policies, and cooperative planning efforts.

The Cleveland meeting brought together representatives from local public and academic libraries, police and fire departments, insurance companies and conservators. Even more exciting than assembling all these people was having the opportunity to share experiences, talk about professional priorities, and explore the ways in which we could assist one another to more successfully manage disaster situations.

In the state of New York, disaster preparedness holds a high priority. The New York State Extension Disaster Education Network provides substantial programming for first responders (police, fire, utility company officials) as well as thorough community resource contact information. The New York State Education Department, Office of Cultural Education provides information online specifically for cultural institutions involved in disasters. Many regional library organizations, including the Greater Hudson Conference and the Northern New York Library Network (NNYLN, <http://www.nnyln.org/>), have developed disaster plans. They include preventative measures, planning, response and recovery procedures, and information about vendors specializing in the treatment of work from cultural institutions. The online plan from

NNYLN (<http://www.nnyln.org/faceofdisaster/main.html>) is particularly interesting in its implementation of the concept of shared centers for the storage of disaster recovery supplies.

In 2003, Beverly Lashley conducted a Fulbright-funded study of the disaster planning efforts of eleven New York research libraries. She assembled information on the plans of individual libraries, comparing and contrasting their needs, priorities and budgets. She concluded that cooperation and resource sharing are vital to the successful implementation of disaster plans, and that these areas needed further exploration.

Since the publication of Ms. Lashley's report, considerable energy has been devoted to cooperative disaster planning initiatives in other parts of the country. Interest in mutual aid has become particularly appropriate in these stressed economic times, when the efficient distribution of resources will help insure a quicker, more thorough and ultimately more successful recovery effort. In February 2009 the American Library Association's Preservation Administrator's Discussion Group held an eForum on Disaster Planning that stressed the importance of mutual aid agreements. SOLINET (Southeastern Library Network, [www.solinet.net](http://www.solinet.net)) is sponsoring a workshop in the Spring of 2009 addressing the need for cooperative emergency planning titled "Establishing Emergency Response Networks for Cultural Collections." (Several newly-developed resources are: Florida State University's web portal for librarians focusing on hurricane preparedness ([www.i.fsu.edu/hurricanes/](http://www.i.fsu.edu/hurricanes/)) and a new listserv for librarians and others interested in disaster information outreach (<https://list.nih.gov/archives/disastr-outreach-lib.html>))

To return to my experiences, the Northern Ohio Alliance for Response forum proved to be valuable for libraries, museums and historical societies. New forums in Vermont, Chicago Denver and Raleigh will extend this outreach in 2009-10. Eastern New York, as it works towards Ms. Lashley's recommendations, may find an Alliance for Response forum helpful in bringing its first responders and cultural institution representatives together.

## Notes from the Field

### Binghamton University Libraries

**Kate Bouman, Jill Dixon, Colleen Hailey, Angelique Jenks-Brown, Sarah Maximiek and Julie Wang** gave presentations to Binghamton University teaching faculty titled "Student Research in the Age of Google" in January 2009. The presentations were about the Libraries' role on campus in supporting information management and critical research practices.

**Elizabeth Brown** has been awarded a grant from Binghamton University's Provost to hold a 2009 Provost Symposium on "New Approaches to Scholarly Communications and Publishing."

**Jill Dixon** presented "Location, Location, Location: Comparing the Impact of Site Location on Successful Instructional/Outreach Programs" at the Upstate New York Science Librarians Annual Meeting in Syracuse, NY, in October 2008.

**Jill Dixon** participated in a panel discussion at New York Library Association (NYLA) 2008. The title of the panel discussion was "From Student to Supervisor: Leadership for New Librarians." It was organized and moderated by **Marcy Strong**.

**Jean Green** presented "Old Stuff, New Tricks: How Archivists Are Making Special Collections Even More Special Using Web 2.0 Technologies" as part of a panel at the 123rd Annual Meeting of the American Historical Association in New York City in January 2009. Jean has been appointed to serve on the Society of American Archivists Committee on Ethics and Professional Conduct.

**Angelique Jenks-Brown and Marcy Strong** gave a poster presentation at the annual NYLA conference, "Screencasts to Support Critical Research Practices: From Conception to Implementation" in Saratoga Springs, NY, in November 2008.

**Angelique Jenks-Brown** gave an oral presentation at the annual Geoscience Information Society (GSIS) conference, "Lost in the Stacks: Assessing a Map Room for Content, Service, and Space Considerations," in Houston, TX, in October 2008. Ms. Jenks-Brown also gave a poster presentation at this conference, "Casting a Wider Net: Using Screencast Tutorials to Advance Library Involvement in Supporting Research Practices." The manuscripts for these GSIS presentations will be published in the conference proceedings.

**Erin Rushton, Martha Kelehan, and Marcy Strong** wrote an article that will appear in volume 2, issue 4 of *Journal of Web Librarianship* entitled "Searching for a New Way to Reach Patrons: A Search Engine Optimization Pilot Project at Binghamton University Libraries." Marcy Strong also wrote an adaptation of this article for the fall 2008 issue of *NYLASMART: News &*

*Notes*, entitled "Search Engine Optimization at Your Library."

**John M. Meador, Jr.**, Director of University Libraries, presented a session on "The Binghamton Experience" in the symposium Breaking Down the Silos: Planning for Discovery in the Library 2.0 for the Association of Library Collections and Technical Services Division (ALCTS) in Denver, Co, at ALA Midwinter, January 2009.

**Erin Rushton and Marcy Strong** gave a presentation titled "Get Noticed! Search Engine Optimization" at the November 2008 NYLA Conference.

**Julie Wang** co-created and is working as a manager of Small East Asian Collections Google Group, a platform for small East Asian collections librarians to share resources, exchange ideas and build better collections collaboratively. Julie will also co-coordinate the Small Collections Round Table on the forth coming annual meeting of the Council for East Asia Librarians (CEAL/AAS) in Chicago in March 2009.

From February 25 to March 13, 2009, Binghamton University Science Library hosted the **Places & Spaces: Mapping Science** poster exhibition, which demonstrates the power of maps to navigate and manage physical places and abstract spaces. It is meant to inspire cross-disciplinary discussion on how to best track and communicate human activity and scientific progress on a global scale. Places & Spaces is curated by Dr. Katy Borner and Elisha F. Hardy from Indiana University. For more information about the exhibition, visit <http://scimaps.org/index.php>.

In October 2008, Binghamton University Libraries hosted an informal broadcast from SPARC (Scholarly Publishing & Academic Resources Coalition) on current issues in open access and trends in scholarly publishing. Speakers included Sir Richard Roberts, winner of the 1993 Nobel Prize in Physiology of Medicine, and Philip E. Bourne, Editor-in-Chief of PLoS Computational Biology.

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### Colgate University

**Clarence Maybee** gave a panel presentation with co-presenters **Tyrell Haberkorn** and **Ray Nardelli** at a Special Interest Meeting (Media Scholarship) of the Northeast Regional Computing Program (Nercomp) in Worcester, MA, in February 2009. The three collaborators described their project working with a class to create a podcast series in iTunes. Clarence will present on the same topic at a Cyber Zed Shed presentation at ACRL in Seattle this March. For more information see:

<http://blogs.colgate.edu/2009/01/students-create-podcasts-for-c.html>

*Continued on page 11*

## Notes from the Field: continued from p.10

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### Mount Saint Mary College

MSMC Library Director **Barbara Petruzzelli** is part of a collaborative venture with other Newburgh librarians to identify ways of improving service to users of public, school, and academic libraries in the city. First initiatives include developing an aligned information literacy curriculum from elementary school through college and exploring increased access to library collections. Other librarians participating in the project are **Susan Parry** from SUNY Orange (community college), **Muriel Verdibello** from Newburgh Free Library (public library), **Rosa Tebano** and **Erin Crisci** of Newburgh Free Academy (public high school) and **Sue Conner**, Library Coordinator in the Newburgh School District.

Curtin Library sponsored a mini-celebration of Darwin Day on February 11th, with a lecture by **Dr. Iris J. Turkenkopf**, Vice President of Academic Affairs at MSMC, entitled "Darwin: A Man of Controversy." The event was co-sponsored by the MSMC General Education Program. The library also participated in the Orange County Libraries "Big Read" in October, hosting faculty-led film discussions of *The Grapes of Wrath* and *East of Eden*.

MSMC Instruction and Reference Coordinator **Angel Falcon** participated in the first Information Literacy Workgroup held at Southeastern NY Library Resources Council, Highland, NY. Academic and high school librarians as well as college support staff and classroom teachers have a common goal to see that freshmen succeed when entering college. The workgroup's intention was to 1) learn ways to help students improve their information literacy skills when transitioning from high school to college 2) share suggestions and ideas on working with college freshmen in the library, and 3) learn techniques to improve information literacy teaching strategies. Additional panel participants were **Ron Crovisier**, Head of Reference Services from Dutchess Community College, **Edward (Rus) Springer**, Reference Librarian from SUNY New Paltz, **Kathy Kurosman**, Head of Library Instruction from Vassar College and **Livia Sabourin**, School Library Media Specialist from Fallsburg HS. The moderator was **Patricia Mayo**, School Library Media Specialist, Red Hook HS.

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### Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

**Katie Dunn**, Technology & Metadata Librarian at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, had her entry on Warren and Burton Gammon (founders of the Polled Hereford breed of cattle) published in the Biographical Dictionary of Iowa (University of Iowa Press 2009). Katie researched and wrote the article while living in Iowa and

enjoyed being able to work with primary source documents housed at the Iowa State Fairgrounds. Katie also gave a guest lecture on metadata for Hemalata Iyer's IST 602: "Information and Knowledge Organization" course at the University at Albany-SUNY.

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### Skidmore College

**Susan Zappen**, Associate College Librarian for Collections, presented a paper "Assessing Online Usage In the Best of Times...In the Worst of Times" in the Serials Management session at the 28th Annual Charleston Conference on November 5, 2008.

The Lucy Scribner Library has gone live with a dynamic new AquaBrowser catalog: LUCY. From advanced limiting options to book cover images, LUCY has been designed to make the search process intuitive and search results content-rich. LUCY includes additional content like tables of contents and summaries, as well as better ways to access that content. Intuitive limiting options (format, subject, date, etc.) and better keyword search processing will deliver results that may not have been found in the old catalog. LUCY also exports records directly to RefWorks online citation management tool.

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### SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry

Joining us this semester is **Kate DeVoe**, an intern from Syracuse University's iSchool. Kate will be assisting with one of our sections of Information Literacy, doing some cataloging (she now works part-time cataloging at SU) and will have some reference duties. In addition, we will be welcoming a second intern, **Margaret Backus**, also from the iSchool. We expect that Meg will have a similar internship experience.

**Linda Galloway** is the 2009 President of the Upstate Chapter of the Special Libraries Association. UNYSLA would like to invite you to join us this April 24th at SUNY Albany for our Spring Meeting and Workshop.

Moon Library hosted the 2nd annual Green Holiday Wine and Cheese Party for the campus community on January 6th. A good, sustainable time was had by all.

**Jane Verostek** will be returning from maternity leave (she's had her second beautiful baby girl) in April.

And finally, our esteemed Library Director, **Elizabeth Elkins**, will be retiring at the end of June

*Continued on page 12*



## Notes from the Field: continued from p.11

2009 after 36 years at ESF. She began her career in 1969 at SUNY Geneseo where she was reference and interlibrary loan librarian until the summer of 1973 when she came to SUNY ESF. She became Library director at ESF in July 1995. We will miss her!

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### SUNY Oswego

Penfield Library welcomes **Kathryn Johns-Masten** as Coordinator of Electronic Resources/Serials. Kathryn comes to us from Siena College, and has even survived her first lake effect snowstorm. Way to go Kathryn!

**Deborah Curry**, Coordinator of Collection Development and Acquisitions, hosted The Comprehensive College Collection Development Coordinators meeting here in August.

SUNY Oswego hosted the 5th annual Information Delivery Services Project (IDS) Conference in August with over 110 people attending.

**Barbara Shaffer** and **James Nichols** were part of a team of researchers from the college's Committee on Learning and Teaching who examined faculty, student and staff perceptions of the "learning-centered college." An article reporting their findings, "Beyond Lip-Service: An Operational Definition of 'Learning-centered College'," has been published in the journal *Innovative Higher Education* (23:2).

**Barbara Shaffer** has recently returned from a fall semester sabbatical. During this time she designed and developed /Angel /online library instruction tutorials for graduate education students, and conducted research comparing online and face-to-face information literacy instruction at the graduate level. Both groups demonstrated substantial learning and increased confidence, with no significant differences between groups.

**The library instruction team** has created an Information Literacy Tutorial, "The Lake Effect Research Challenge," which is available at [www.oswego.edu/library2/instruction/challenge](http://www.oswego.edu/library2/instruction/challenge).

Penfield Library is now participating in the Ask Us 24/7 Reference Cooperative. Librarians **Barbara Shaffer** (coordinator), **Chris Hebblethwaite**, **Andrea Ross**, **Deale Hutton**, and **Shannon Pritting** are participating in Oswego's 24/7 efforts.

Penfield's Circulation Department is expanding its Document Delivery services to Graduate Students and Honor Students, in addition to the currently eligible Faculty and Distance Students. Eligible students now will receive scans of articles Penfield owns in print.

**Jim Nichols**, **Shannon Pritting** and **Karen Shockey** each presented posters at the annual "Symposium on

Learning and Teaching" held on the campus of SUNY Oswego. The theme of the symposium was "A Celebration of Meaningful Learning: Bridging Communication Gap with Students." Jim's poster was titled, "Building an Active/Interactive Bridge into Scholarly Research and Communication: Redesigning the Information Literacy Tutorial." Shannon and Karen's poster was titled: "Let's Chat A While." And Shannon's poster was titled "Going Beyond the Textbook: Using Syndication to Supplement Course Readings."

Since Winter seems to last forever in Oswego, Special Collections has created a Virtual Exhibit of snow and winter scenes from the campus and around Oswego, N.Y. Here is your invitation to view this at: [http://www.oswego.edu/library2/archives/snow\\_scenes/](http://www.oswego.edu/library2/archives/snow_scenes/)

We hope you enjoy this celebration of one of our natural resources! Can't you just feel the brisk, refreshing breezes?



*Snowshoe Club from SUNY Oswego's Special Collection Virtual Exhibit.*

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### SUNY Potsdam

**Rich Hartigan** resigned his position as the Crumb Library evening Building Supervisor. We welcome **Jim Hubbard** who was recently hired to fill the vacant Building Supervisor position. Jim is a current graduate student at SUNY Potsdam in English and Communications and most recently worked as a student assistant in the Computing and Technology Services Department at Potsdam.

**Marianne Hebert** presented at the Northern New York Library Network's Library Assistants Conference in October at the Wild Center in Tupper Lake: "Social Software: Weird, Wonderful or Work Related?" She also participated in the SUNY Potsdam, Teaching and Learning with Technology Day and Information Technology Fair, on January 16th, doing a presentation on "Interactive Classrooms: Using Web2.0 Technologies" and a poster session on "Internet Privacy, Searching Conversations." A copy of her presentation is available at

*Continued on page 13*

## Notes from the Field: continued from p.12

<http://www.slideshare.net/hebertm3308/interactive-classrooms-presentation>.

**Edward Komara** received the Richard S. Hill Award at the Music Library Association national meeting in February 2009. The Hill Award is given annually by MLA for the best article on music librarianship or article of a music-bibliographic nature. Komara's study, "'Culture Wars, Canonicity, and A Basic Music Library'" had been published in *Notes: The Journal of the Music Library Association Journal* 64, no. 2 (December 2007), 232-247. Komara examined the debate over the phrase "culture wars" and how the issue of canonicity affects the acquisitions component of the American Library Association publication *A Basic Music Library* (its fourth edition is currently in preparation with the Music Library Association). The award committee noted: "In citing musicological works that focus on canonicity and espousing a skeptical view of the multiplicity of canons and 'musics,' Komara displays exceptional scholarly facility, and his assertion that 'basic' does not have to mean 'canonic' is welcome wisdom in an increasingly digital age. The timeliness and focus of this article, coupled with clear, concise, and well-formulated arguments, make it a relevant and convincing read, especially for those who work in the area of collection management."

**Jane Subramanian** received a National Endowment for the Humanities Preservation Assistance Grant for Smaller Institutions. The grant will be used to fund much needed shelving and other housing for storage of archival material in the archives remote storage room of Crumb Library.

**Jenica Rogers-Urbaneck** presented an Academic Library 2.0 pre-conference session at the Internet Librarian Conference 2008 in October in Monterey, CA, titled "Getting Support for Your 2.0 Technology Projects: No one said it would be easy, but no one said it would be this hard" with Amanda Etches-Johnson, Jason Griffey, Iris Jastram, and Steve Lawson. Jenica also presented "Getting Buy-in for New Technology Projects" at the SUNYLA LiSUG conference 2008 in October:

**J. Rebecca Thompson** will be retiring from the Director of Libraries position at the end of this academic year. However, she will continue in a part time position at the college for 2 years.

Searches for two vacant positions are still underway, one for the Library Director and one for a Senior Assistant Librarian.

The College Libraries have implemented a new digital sign in F. W. Crumb Library. The digital signs are part of the new campus emergency notification service. Library staff are taking advantage of the new service to promote library resources and services. A web version of the

digital sign is available at: <http://signage.potsdam.edu/Carousel/Public/WebDisplay.aspx?ChannelID=12>.

SUNY Potsdam is now participating in the AskUs 24x7 virtual chat reference service.

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### Syracuse University

Effective February 16th, 2009, **Anna Dahlstein** will serve as a temporary librarian through the Mellon Grant for the Belfer Audio Archive to assist with cataloging a portion of the music sound recording collection. Most recently she held the position of Director of External Relations with North Carolina State University Libraries.

**Michael Dermody** accepted the position as Temporary Assistant Librarian/Project Archivist in the Special Collections Research Center (SCRC), in the E.S. Bird Library effective, October 1st, 2008. He comes to SCRC from the H. Douglas Barclay Law Library at the Syracuse University College of Law.

**Patrick Williams** has accepted the position of English Librarian effective January 16th, 2009. He comes to Syracuse University from the College of Staten Island (CUNY), where he served as Web and Instructional Design Librarian. He provided reference and instruction classes in the English, Education, Music, Psychology, American Studies and Engineering at the undergraduate and graduate levels.

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### University at Albany

*Awards/Honors/Acknowledgments:*

**Trudi E. Jacobson** has won the Association of College & Research Libraries' 2009 Miriam Dudley Instruction Librarian Award. Ms. Jacobson holds the rank of Librarian and heads the UA Libraries User Education Program. The Miriam Dudley Award was first bestowed in 1984, making Trudi Jacobson the 25th recipient of this prestigious honor. The Miriam Dudley Award recognizes librarians who have made especially significant contributions to the advancement of instruction in a college or research library environment.

**Deborah M. LaFond**, Associate Librarian and Social Science Bibliographer, has been elected by her peers to lead the Africana Librarians Council (ALC) of the African Studies Association (ASA). The Africana Librarians Council was founded in 1957 as part of the African Studies Association under the name Archives/Libraries Committee.

*Continued on page 14*

## Notes from the Field: continued from p.13

**Win Shih**, Head of Library Systems, has been named a Frye Leadership Institute Fellow for 2009. The Frye Institute is an intensive, two-week, residential program held in early June at Emory University (Atlanta) for faculty, librarians, and university technology professionals. Win Shih is the first University at Albany Libraries faculty member to attend the institute. This is the third year in a row that University at Albany personnel have been invited to attend the institute

### *Publications/Presentations*

**Jesús Alonso-Regalado** and **Mary Van Ullen** have had a paper accepted for publication in *Library Resources & Technical Services*. Jesús Alonso-Regalado also has had an invited paper "Building Latin American Collections" and a panel session proposal "Latin American Spanish Videos on the Internet" accepted for presentation at the 54th Meeting of the Seminar for the Acquisition of Latin American Library Materials (SALALM).

**Yu-Hui Chen** and **Carol Anne Germain** co-authored an article entitled "An Exploration into the Practices of Library Web Usability in ARL Academic Libraries" with **Huahai Yang**, a former member of the faculty at the Information Studies Department at the University at Albany. Their article is to be published in the March 2009 issue of the *Journal of American Society for Information Science and Technology* (JASIST). In addition, Yu-Hui and Carol Anne are conducting a roundtable session entitled "Promoting Good Web Usability through Clear Policies/Standards/Guidelines" at the Association of College and Research Libraries 14th National Conference scheduled for March 2009 in Seattle.

**Yu-Hui Chen** and **Mary Van Ullen** are presenting a poster entitled "Academic Integrity: Coaching International Students to Avoid Plagiarism" at the Association of College and Research Libraries 14th National Conference. 330 poster session submissions were made and 150 were accepted by the National Conference Coordinating Committee. Additionally, their research proposal entitled "Staying out of Trouble: Helping International Students Navigate the Research Process and Avoid Plagiarism" has been accepted for presentation at the Education and Behavioral Sciences Section (EBSS) Research Forum for the ALA 2009 Annual Conference in Chicago this July.

### *ARL Career Enhancement Program (Diversity Fellows)*

In May, the University at Albany Libraries will host two ARL Diversity Fellows: **Arturo Longoria** from University of Texas, Austin; and **Sandra Baker** from University at Albany. The Fellows will complete a 240-hour internship experience at the Libraries. Arturo has expressed an interest in reference work and Sandra has indicated an interest in archives/special collections and

preservation. A minimum of two and a maximum of six fellows may intern at University at Albany over the next three years.

## Slate of Candidates for ENY/ACRL Board continued from p.2

into the third generation. We are all thrilled.

So, I wish you a wonderful conference and expect rave reviews. I'll be seeing you around; I do not plan to disappear. Be well, be happy and do great work. It has been my pleasure to learn, work and serve with you.

Thank you, all, for everything! - Fran

### \*\*\*\*\* Candidate Statements \*\*\*\*\*

#### Candidates for Program Chair/VP

##### **Francesca Livermore**

Catalog/Metadata & Web Librarian  
Colgate University

Francesca Livermore is the Catalog/Metadata & Web Librarian at Colgate University, Hamilton, NY, a position she has held since 2006. Previously, she worked as a Project Archivist and Reference Librarian at the University of Vermont, Burlington, VT.

At Colgate, Francesca is a member of the campus-wide Faculty Affairs Committee as well as the Women's Studies Advisory Group. In the library, she chairs the Web Development Committee and is a member of the joint library-IT Collaboration for Enhanced Learning (CEL), which partners with teaching faculty to enhance learning through the innovative use of technology.

She has been a member of the ENY/ACRL Programming Committee since 2007. In addition, she serves as an academic council member on the School Library Council for Madison and Oneida counties.

While a Project Archivist working on the Consuelo Northrop Bailey Papers at the University of Vermont, Francesca was a recipient of the Society of American Archivists Colonial Dames of America Scholarship. She attended the Modern Archives Institute held biannually at the National Archives in Washington, D.C.

Her interests include the read/write web and how librarians can exploit it to expand and promote library

*Continued on page 15*



## Slate of Candidates for ENY/ACRL Board continued from p.14

services and the evolving role of libraries and librarians in the 21st century. You can find her on Facebook, Twitter, and Tumblr.

In 2004, Francesca received her Masters in Information Science from Drexel University where her emphasis was in web content management. She received her bachelor's degree in Art History from Hartwick College.

### **Brenda Hazard**

Director  
Marvin Library  
Hudson Valley Community College

As we are bombarded with bleak economic headlines, most of are tightening our proverbial belts. Whether assessing our personal or library budgets, we are in a state of constant evaluation of the need and value of our expenditures. The value of membership in ENY/ACRL is unquestionable. If elected as Vice President/President-Elect/Program Chair, I look forward to bringing continued value from our outstanding chapter of academic and research librarians' premier professional organization.

The chapter has a solid legacy of great conferences and opportunities for networking and professional engagement. During my membership in ENY/ACRL, I have worn many hats: library professional, library school student, librarian, and library administrator. Regardless of the stage of librarianship I've been in, ENY/ACRL has met my needs through its programs and services. As a member of Programming Planning Committee and this year's local host, I've had a chance to get to know and learn from other librarians in bringing together informative and inspiring conferences. Annual conferences and regional brown bag programs are tangible means to realize value from membership. Involvement on a chapter committee or a publication is another way to get directly involved in shaping the profession. ENY/ACRL is a wonderful organization in which to practice thinking globally and acting locally.

In these uncertain times, there are many of us who will need support to succeed in our current role or to locate a job. I would like the chapter to identify and conduct services specifically related to job searching, attaining success in early professional years, and engaging in professional activities which are valued by potential employers. Providing opportunities for professional leadership to librarians through committee service, for writing and presentations, and for scholarship opportunities to conferences and

workshops are some ways that we can provide a network of support. I look forward to the opportunity to take a leadership position within the chapter to bring some of these ideas to fruition.

Summary of professional experience: At Hudson Valley Community College, SUNY, Troy, New York: Library Director, 2007 – present. At University at Albany, SUNY: Head of Circulation and Media Services, 2005 – 2007; Head of Media, Microforms, Periodicals, and Reserves, 1998 – 2005; Coordinator, Interactive Media Center, 1989 – 1998. Masters in Library Science, University at Albany, SUNY, 2002; Master of Arts in Teaching, Simmons College, 1989; Bachelor of Science, Lafayette College, 1985.

### **Candidate for Communications Chair**

#### **Glynis Vandoorne Asu**

Science Reference Librarian & ILL Coordinator  
Hamilton College

I have been a librarian since 1984. After receiving my master's degree from the University of Michigan, I served as medical reference and interlibrary loan librarian at the Medical College of Wisconsin for ten years. In 1994, I came to Hamilton College and currently serve as the science reference librarian and interlibrary loan coordinator.

I have served on a number of campus committees over the years. Currently I am involved with collaborative efforts between the library and ITS in the form of HILLgroup faculty outreach and Information Commons services. I have just been appointed to the campus task force to examine alternatives for the campus e-mail system. A favorite part of my work is the interaction with my professional colleagues, as we serve the students and faculty.

I joined ENY/ACRL in 1994, and have served as the Liaison for our campus for many years. I have served as a member of the ENY/ACRL Program Committee for several years. I am active in New York Resource Sharing initiatives, and enjoy the interaction with the Upstate NY Science Librarians and the Oberlin Group Science Librarians.

I enjoy facilitating communication among colleagues, and I hope to carry on the excellent work contributed by Pat Hults in her years as the Communications Chair. I look forward to this new challenge, and believe that I could make a successful contribution to our Chapter, in this way.

*Continued on page 16*

## Slate of Candidates for ENY/ACRL Board continued from p.15

### Candidate for Chapter Secretary

Jean McLaughlin  
Honors College/Assessment Librarian  
University at Albany/SUNY

As the Honors College/Assessment Librarian at the University at Albany/SUNY, I am very interested in serving ENY/ACRL as Secretary. In this role, I would continue the fine work of those who contributed in the past: ensuring the accuracy and availability of minutes, documents, and relevant notices and mailings. I earned my M.S. in Library and Information Science from Drexel University and can bring years of experience from different environments: academia, business, and non-profit. My professional career focus has been a merger of communicating and sharing information as a technical writer, analyst, manager, and librarian in a hospital and two universities. Technology has been an important foundation. With responsibility as Honors College Librarian, I enjoy working with students and teach research skills, develop Web-based materials, and work with faculty teaching Honors College courses. In my reference and assessment role, I assist patrons at the reference desk and work to evolve reference statistics and analysis into meaningful data for decision making. This regional organization is a great resource for the profession and involvement in it is an excellent opportunity to learn about the accomplishments of the librarians here.

### Opportunities Within ENY/ACRL

ENY/ACRL has several ways for its members to become active in the organization.

You can run for the Board of Directors. See a description of what the officers do in the Officer's Handbook [http://www.enyacrl.org/officers %20handbook.pdf](http://www.enyacrl.org/officers%20handbook.pdf).

You can serve on a committee. Committees currently consist of the Program, the Communications, the Membership, and the Government Relations committees. Current members and a brief description are available at <http://www.enyacrl.org/committee.php>.

You can attend the annual spring conference, this year being held at Hudson Valley Community College, or one of the fall brown bag series <http://www.enyacrl.org/FallBrownBagNew.php>

However you get involved, you will find the rewards are great!

## Legislative Advocacy: continued from p.3

the New York Library Association and the nine regional 3Rs Library Councils provide leadership and events which make it possible for librarians and library supporters to address state government on behalf of libraries of all types. Academic and research librarians should be a visible and vocal part of these efforts.

On the national level, the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) is taking an active advocacy role in order to favorably affect state and federal legislation dealing with libraries and library issues. These issues include such important topics as federal funding for libraries through the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA), a strong Federal Depository Library system, access to government information, strong and fair copyright legislation for the digital age, and privacy of library and patron records. These are all issues which affect academic and research libraries and librarians directly. A full explanation of ACRL's position on these and other issues can be found in the ACRL Legislative Agenda: <http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/acrl/issues/washingtonwatch/washingtonwatch.cfm#agenda>.

As a Past President of ENY/ACRL, I am very pleased to be currently serving as ACRL's Visiting Program Officer for Legislative Advocacy. In order to effectively advance library positions, particularly with the federal government, ACRL is expanding its Legislative Advocates Program. I know that there are many members of ENY/ACRL who would make very effective Legislative Advocates. Are you interested in federal legislation and policy affecting libraries? Are you connected in your campus community? Are you willing to work with your members of Congress for change? If so, the ACRL Legislative Advocates Program may be for you! (And, as an aside, service as an ACRL Legislative Advocate is a terrific way for an academic librarian to demonstrate service to the campus and the profession!)

If you are selected to become an ACRL Legislative Advocate, you will be appointed to serve your profession for a two-year term, which may be renewed upon review by the ACRL Government Relations Committee. Legislative Advocates will be recognized and honored on the ACRL web site, annually in C&RL News, and during ALA National Library Legislative Day activities.

The main requirement for an appointment as a Legislative Advocate (in addition to saying yes to the above questions) is that you maintain membership in ALA and ACRL. Advocates are not required to attend ALA Annual Conference or the ALA Midwinter Conference, or to attend National Library Day in

*Continued on page 17*

## Legislative Advocacy: continued from p.16

Washington, DC (although we encourage your participation if possible). As far as possible, ALA/ACRL will provide "virtual participation" in these events, as well as virtual seminars and other advocacy training opportunities. Nor is it necessary to call upon your federal representatives in their Washington offices. It is often more effective to visit your Congressman or Senator in their regional office back in their home district. And of course, other methods of communication (letter, phone call, email) are also encouraged.

If you have been involved in any type of library advocacy activity at all in the past, you will have noticed that our colleagues in the public library and school library communities have been much more present, vocal and effective than members of the college and research library communities. It is time for us to stand up and speak out on behalf of all libraries, and in particular, on those issues which effect academic libraries most directly.

Complete information on the ACRL Legislative Advocates program can be found at:

<http://www.acrl.org/ala/mgrps/divs/acrl/issues/washingtonwatch/acrladvocates.cfm>

You may apply online to become an ACRL Legislative Advocate at:

<http://cs.ala.org/acrl/legadvocates/xxindex.cfm>

If you have questions or comments regarding the program, please contact:

Michael McLane  
ACRL Visiting Program Officer for Legislative Advocacy  
[acrladvocates@ala.org](mailto:acrladvocates@ala.org)



## Disaster Planning and Preparedness: continued from p.4

of paper towels/blotting paper, circulating fans and dehumidifiers (available from local equipment rental companies) are a must.

Large scale disasters require large scale solutions and vacuum freeze drying of collections may prove to be the only safe method of saving library collections. This is a costly process that requires specialized help from outside vendors who deal with this scenario every day so replaceable books would be better replaced! The process calls for very specialized equipment and is eminently suitable for large quantities of soaking wet books and records and also coated paper. Items are placed in a vacuum chamber frozen where the air is evacuated creating a vacuum, heat is introduced, and the collections, dried below 32°F, remain frozen. The process is called sublimation - i.e., ice crystals vaporize without melting. This means there is no additional swelling to what occurred prior to the materials being placed in the chamber. Warning - Coated papers may adhere to one another during this process. Munters and Document Reprocessors are reputable and respected vendors of this service.

The Disaster Planning documents can be as comprehensive as you are prepared to make them. Syracuse University plans are available at <http://library.syr.edu/information/preservation/displan/displan.htm>. Staff phone numbers and written instructions outlining what to do in the event of water ingress are certainly the bare minimum. Don't depend on web instructions as you may have no computer if water strikes! The plan can include collection salvage priorities and locations in the form of maps (MS Word docs are useful for mapping using the draw option). These can also include locations and test dates of fire extinguishers, smoke detectors, locations of sprinkler heads, water cutoff valves, fire pull stations and emergency exits. Stand alone water alarms can be purchased from a variety of vendors for \$10-\$20 and are very useful in problem areas as long as somebody is there to hear the siren. They run on a 9 volt battery that should be replaced annually or more frequently if triggered often. Hard wired water alarms are expensive but will prove invaluable in problem areas where treasured material resides. They feature sensor wires on the floor that will trigger an automated phone dialer to contact up to five user-programmed numbers until one of the designated contacts returns the call. These have the advantage of covering the collection 24/7 and will even trigger for a power outage or excess temperature readings.

*Continued on page 18*



## **Disaster Planning and Preparedness: continued from p.17**

There should be a reporting procedure that details what, when and how. The reports may give an overview of repetitious patterns or even be used to secure funding for corrective measures, also helping to raise awareness and scare people into taking notice of potential causes around them. All designated staff should be familiar with the plan and carry one copy at work and another at home or even the trunk of their car; it's no good having a plan with no access to it!

Having a disaster plan kit which includes all necessary supplies as well as a written set of instruction is essential to any institution large or small. The contents of the kit can vary according to needs and budget but should be as comprehensive as possible. A wet vacuum cleaner is probably the most valuable item that you can have at hand and is not too expensive. Libraries should have the manual and emergency call out lists stored within the kit. These lists should include home/work phone numbers for designated staff and also any local help - i.e. local conservation facilities, supermarkets that use refrigerated/ freezer trucks, equipment rental companies, security companies, freeze dry services, police, fire and ambulance, insurance company, locksmith, electrician, gas supplier, local press and even a legal advisor!

It's too late to hunt down supplies as the event unfolds, you will be panicking whether you have trained for it or not, so – Plan the dive, dive the plan!

## **Coping with Mold: continued from p.6**

and scope remained the same.

We also needed an Environmental Consulting firm to come in and give us a report on the entire basement. Clearly, there would be no point in having the books cleaned only to return them to a mold-friendly environment. We engaged Lighthouse Environmental Consultants of Patterson, NY, to do this, and by October 4th they had done their study and submitted their report. Three different molds were found, primarily concentrated in two of the basement rooms, one of which was the primary Library room, the other was the former mailroom, also scheduled to be a future library room. They reported, "moderate to heavy mold growth coated books, shelving, pipe insulation and air conditioning units" in the library room. The molds observed were *Stachybotrys*, *Penicillium*, and *Aspergillus*. We declared the basement off-limits to all but the Buildings and Grounds crews, remediation personnel, and

other authorized personnel all of whom were required to wear HEPA masks and gloves.

After the predictable meetings, the following plan was agreed to. First and foremost, all books had to be removed from the basement. Those that were contaminated were to be removed by Munters and taken for remediation. Those from the uncontaminated Library Room were packed into boxes, which were numbered with starting LC numbers, and relocated to the First Floor Conference Room. Second, the remaining rooms in the basement had to be emptied, third, the entire basement had to be decontaminated, and fourth, remedial work had to be performed to prevent future mold outbreaks.

We had the final accepted estimate from Munters at the end of October and we scheduled a time for the books to be removed and cleaned. Munters came with their own truck and the books were removed from the shelves, placed into boxes with first and last LC number noted on the box, removed through the basement and out the basement's Bilco doors. Once at Munters they were to be cleaned, the boxes cleaned, and the books replaced into the same boxes they were originally packed in. It took three days for the 514 boxes to be removed. The rest of the basement then had to be cleaned out with most of what had been stored there disposed of.

The pipes were unwrapped, the walls knocked into, the entire basement had to be cleaned. No one but the decontamination personnel was allowed in the basement during this time. The elevator and stairwell doors had thick plastic sheeting put over them; signs were fastened to the upper-level doors warning that the basement was a hazardous area.

The books were cleaned and ready to be returned by late December, but with the holidays and getting the invoice shepherded through the accounts departments, we waited until January to have the books returned. They were put into the first floor conference room along with the boxes from the Library Room that had not been contaminated. Since they did not have to go into the basement, but could be unloaded almost directly from the truck and into the Conference Room, it took only two-days to do this as opposed to the three-days it had taken to remove them.

The basement has been declared clean of mold, and it has a low humidity level. Now all that remains is to rewrap the pipes, install some monitoring equipment, fix the walls, and repaint. We estimate that will be done over the next month to six weeks. The books are in boxes, still in the Conference Room but at least available to the scholars and for reserves. So this has taken five-months so far, and is not finished yet.

*Continued on page 19*

## Coping with Mold: continued from p.18

As for the cause of the entire mess, the best thinking of the environmentalists is that the wrappings of the steam pipes eventually became saturated with moisture and caused a gradual rise in the humidity level in the basement. Apparently mold takes almost no time at all to grow once the optimum conditions for its survival are reached. So while there was no visible mold on the books on the Monday or Tuesday when I had last been in the stacks, by Thursday it was flourishing. The mold was heavier on those books that had dust-friendly bindings, the thicker levels of dust forming better substrata for the mold to grow.

This is, of course, a classic case of not being able to afford the necessary preventative measures, but then having to pay the much higher costs of disaster remediation. Having almost 12,000 books potentially lost was a bracing wake-up call for everyone. At the conservative estimate of \$70 per title, we faced a bill of over \$800,000 to replace these titles, although the final tally would undoubtedly have been over \$1,000,000. The costs of cleaning the books and fixing the basement so that the mold did not immediately return was obviously far less than that! But the costs of ensuring a clean, dry, mold-free environment had been considered unnecessarily high when they were first raised two years ago.

Now our task is making sure that we get our library environment returned to us in good shape, that we purchase, install and use the proper monitoring devices, and that we go beyond our day-to-day inspections to do our best to make sure the library stays in good condition. This time we did not lose any books or bound journals, our costs have been covered by our insurance, and we are taking remedial steps to prevent a recurrence.

## Dealing with Disasters of the Wet Variety: continued from p.7

the top shelf of books. (Note to self: when specifying book shelves in the future, spend the extra money for book stacks with a canopy . . . particularly if the stacks are directly beneath a skylight.)

The handy disaster response manual included the names and phone numbers of staff at Cornell University Library who could advise me on how to best handle these wet materials, numbering roughly 150 volumes. Although it was 10:00 on a Sunday night I started making phone calls to library conservation staff I had of course met, but never really worked with before that night.

I've always appreciated individuals who work with books and in libraries, but I was extremely impressed with the dedication and commitment to the collection I witnessed that night. One of Cornell's chief conservation officers, Michele Brown, drove to campus at 11:00 to help me set up a staging area for working with the soaked volumes. The evening supervisor stayed late as well. We began working at 11pm and did not head home for the night until about

Talk about on the job tr disaster response in th the best process for rec degree of water saturation should be handled differ thoroughly wet. Also, th should be considered (d nally, the paper quality newsprint or are the we this is an art library!) in books is typically heavil dency to fuse together c



*Array of web books drying.*

The other critical piece decisions must be made diately; mold can start growing on wet material within 48 hours.

After creating a staging area -- a clean, dry and secure location with room to spread materials out and outlets to accommodate book trucks and fans -- we removed the wet materials from the stacks and transferred them to this temporary location. We then began preparations for air drying these materials.

It is important to note that while I was concerned about all of the volumes that had been damaged that evening, I was particularly worried because one of the serial titles was relatively obscure. A quick WorldCat search informed me that the Fine Arts Library had one of only three copies of this short-lived but critical title on early 20th century art in Italy. The scarcity of this journal in the U.S. added a level of pressure to the already tense recovery effort.

The rest of the story is, as they say, history. Over the course of the next two weeks we were able to remove the excess water and with time and patient handling, thoroughly dry the books. The process for air-drying books is outlined at this website: <http://www.library.cornell.edu/preservation/manual/mg5a.html>

I'm pleased to announce that we did not permanently lose any materials from that potential disaster. As well, the staff of the FAL and I learned a lot about the recov-

*continued on page 20*

## Dealing with Disasters of the Wet Variety: continued from p.19

ery process. We have since moved our “disaster trunk” to a more central location within the library. Every year we check to make certain that the trunk is well stocked. We have also purchased additional plastic sheeting and even learned to use the sheeting in a preventative manner rather than in a simply reactionary manner. The skylights have since been resealed and are not currently causing us problems – but just to be sure we tend to push the books that are on the second shelf down from the top inward about an inch. In this way, if the skylights do happen to leak again we will be able to contain the damage to the top shelf. In fact, we try to limit shelving on the top shelves of those stacks that do not have canopies.

Here is a link to 2006 edition of Cornell University Library’s Disaster Response Plan. Since Sibley Hall has provided me with more than this one emergency experience, I’ve learned to keep it handy. It contains some extremely valuable information. A list of supplies for the disaster trunk begins on page 29.

<http://www.library.cornell.edu/preservation/emergencies/Disaster2006.doc>

I’m hoping that April does not bring too many showers (and that May brings lots of flowers) but if it should I believe we are prepared for them!



*Hard hat presented to Martha after a series of facility-related learning experiences.*

## Mold -- The Bloom That Threatens continued from p.8

called mycotoxins, which may be present in airborne spores, and toxicity by inhalation can be up to 40 times greater than by ingestion. Several of the most toxic molds, such as *Aspergillus Fumigatus* or *Aspergillus Flavus*, flourish on cellulose and starch, which makes books and their covers particularly attractive hosts.

Even “non-toxic” mold can be dangerous to people in high concentrations, particularly if someone is “immuno-suppressed” which means that s/he could be coming down with the flu. If the mold is actively releasing live spores and these are inhaled by anyone working in the area, serious health problems may result. Diseases caused by fungi include infections. Those of us in rural areas have heard of farm workers sickening and even dying of “farmer’s lung” which is caused by inhaling high concentrations of hay mold spores. Also, mold is a powerful sensitizer and exposure may cause people to develop allergies and be more prone to asthma and other respiratory ailments.

Upon visual examination, the bloom that appears soft and smeary could indicate that it was reproducing rather than dry and powdery which is more indicative of it being dormant. Active sporeolation is marked by black or green coloration and anyone sensitive to mold would notice a reaction.

The varying scale of the outbreak may dictate different approaches. Large-scale outbreaks of active mold may call for libraries to procure outsourced analysis and cleanup by a professional abatement company. Finding a few items with mold may not warrant this and may be dealt with in-house if care is taken. Anyone handling moldy materials should consider wearing personal protective equipment (PPE) composed of a respirator with a particulate filter, goggles, disposable plastic/rubber gloves, and lab coats, which are removed in a designated “dirty area.” It is important to note that individuals with asthma, a heart condition, or women who are pregnant may be compromised while wearing a negative pressure respirator that offers some resistance to breathing.

Several in-house approaches commonly used in the past now are no longer advisable. Wiping down covers with a Lysol solution or with ethyl alcohol may damage the cover cloth. There are also preliminary scientific findings that the use of disinfectants may actually make treated materials more susceptible to mold growth even in a so-called optimal environment where humidity averaged 50% and temperature was below 70 degrees. Hence, old mold blooms, if improperly treated, may lay the foundation for future outbreaks under

*Continued on page 22*



## Mold -- The Bloom That Threatens: continued from p.20

even "normal" environmental conditions. This is the situation under which old mold may return anew. Fumigation is not preventive and the chemicals traditionally used for this purpose have been found to be harmful to people. Finally, freeze drying has been found to be ineffective to kill all mold spores since some species, e.g. *Aspergillus Niger*, remain viable after 77 hours in liquid nitrogen (-253 degrees F).

### Repatriated Collections

In responding to the roof leak and flooding of temporary storage spaces, we had updated the disaster plan which advised the staff who reviewed and dried the affected collections to utilize personal protective equipment and to double bag materials found to contain mold for disposal. The two water disasters provided us with practice for what would come as we brought materials housed in eight locations back to the new Case Library and Geyer Center for Information Technology beginning summer 2007.

As we repatriated collections from their two-year temporary diaspora, past environmental conditions and mold abatement practices came back to haunt us. One of the earliest shipments contained volumes in cartons with active mold. We believe these volumes had originally absorbed moisture from having been shelved against a damp basement wall in the old library, which had been the site of previous outbreaks. Some may have been wiped clean of past mold. With no visible sign of mold, they were packed under mild conditions, held in refrigerated storage for two years, and erupted with mold as they sat parked under a hot sun in a tractor-trailer for a few days before being unpacked at Colgate.

Due to the short growth time and isolation within individual cartons, we decided not to culture the mold or outsource its cleanup. With tens of thousands of volumes in each delivery, we needed to act quickly. Utilizing protective gear, we again took a conservative approach. We considered cutting the textblocks from the bindings if only the covers were infected, a strategy employed at my former library. However, these materials were more extensively affected and we decided to discard some 1,591 volumes to prevent potential cross contamination with other collection items in LASR. The new building's mechanical system had set points that met ANSI-NISO humidity standards for general library collections with allowable temperatures rising to 75 degrees. We feared that fluctuations in humidity or a sustained power outage might put at risk other materials stored under such high-density conditions if the microscopic substructure of mold on previously affected volumes began to grow anew.

Finally, the penultimate collection to return had been originally stored in the campus space with the roof leak. As we began to unpack the 400 cartons, we found items with covers spotted with dry mold. We believe we had not identified all the damp items in the original cleanup and they must have begun to sprout mold the few days in transit before being moved to environmentally controlled storage from which they just returned. Because of the number of materials involved, we procured the services of a professional abatement team to isolate affected materials some of which have covers that are historically important. Because the mold is dry and the items have been isolated under appropriate controls, we plan for them to be HEPA vacuumed and scanned in a controlled environment before being disposed as a biohazard.

The lessons we learned begin with the importance for a library to keep its disaster plan up to date in the context of mold as a threat to the collection and the people working with them. It is advisable to include a range of options based on the number of items involved and funds available for professional assessment and abatement. Library administrators and staff must balance the need to retain previously affected items in the collection against the potential to re-infect other collections. Finally, of growing importance is the need to proactively protect staff against the potential health dangers posed by mold by utilizing recommended procedures based on new scientific findings, varying conditions, acceptable levels of risk, and potential costs.

### Resources

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Provides updated information such as Publications on Exposure to Mold and Related Health Effects (2008) at <http://www.cdc.gov/mold/cleanup.htm> (accessed March 1, 2009).

Ertel, Dennis C. 2004. "Mold: Evaluation of Risk and Decontamination." *AIC News* [American Institute for Conservation of Historic & Artistic Works]. 29 (5): 1-4, 7. Overview of science on mold remediation techniques and its role as a potential biohazard (accessed March 1, 2009).

Northeast Document Conservation Center (NEDCC). Provides consultations and resources, particularly Beth Patkus's Emergency Salvage of Moldy Books and Paper (2007) at <http://www.nedcc.org/home.php> (accessed March 1, 2009).

Schneider, Joanne A. "Mold: Recovery from Potential Collection Disaster and Environmental Hazard" (2004). *The Journal of Inter-Library Loan, Document Delivery and Information Supply* 14(4): 49-67.