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NJIT Library Annual Report: 2005-2006

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Dear colleagues, students and friends of the NJIT Libraries:

It's been my pleasure to serve you as University Librarian for the last 11 academic years. AY 2006 was a year of important initiatives including improved library hours, information literacy partnering with Educational Testing Service, and adding one new database, Frost and Sullivan, through the efforts of Judith Sheft and the NJIT Office of Research and Development.



[Richard Sweeney, NJIT University Librarian]

AY 2006 was also a year of severe financial challenges due to a new governor and legislature making large reductions in state support to NJIT. We had one vacant library position, the Architecture Library Specialist, placed on indefinite hold and large reductions in the book budget. In addition, there were two other key professional vacancies, our Cataloging Librarian and Assistant University Librarian positions. The financial challenges will remain in AY 2007 with a continuing reduced book budget and the vacancy in the Architecture Library Specialist position.

We already miss the expertise and easy disposition of Jim Robertson, our former Assistant University Librarian, as he was promoted to become the new NJIT Director of Web Services, first on a part time basis, and then permanently. We all wish him well and are happy that he will still be at NJIT. We have been granted permission to advertise this position and we hope to fill it in the Fall.

There is a looming crisis for NJIT and for the academic libraries in New Jersey since the State Library's NJKI (New Jersey Knowledge Initiative database program) is in danger of not being renewed. See the next article in this report. We need everyone's support.

Library services continue to evolve in this web-driven economy. This year Jackie Buurma, Technical Reference Librarian, and I conducted graduate student and faculty focus groups specifically targeted on how they use the library web site. The library refers to these online faculty students and staff as our "invisible users" since we have a difficult time learning how and what they use remotely. We now know that, although there is a lot of usage of the physical library, more students use the library online. In addition, we discovered that most graduate students and faculty search for books using Google or Amazon rather than the library catalog. They use the library Voyager catalog to discover if the library owns the title and/or has a copy available.

I welcome your comments and feedback at sweeney@njit.edu.

Richard Sweeney

NJKI DATABASES AT RISK

The State of NJ funding for NJKI (The New Jersey Knowledge Initiative) is at risk and has not yet been renewed by Governor Corzine and the NJ legislature for the year beginning July 1, 2007. NJKI must be renewed by the State of New Jersey in FY 2006-2007 or the databases will not be available in September, 2007. NJKI contains a package of high science, technology and medical databases administered by the NJ State Library and provided to almost all of the NJ college and universities on campus and remotely as well as to 300 small business. Even public libraries get access to some NJKI business databases. The online resources are available to any NJ students and citizens on-site at the NJIT academic libraries. NJIT remote access to NJKI resources is limited to NJIT faculty, students, and staff with NJIT network accounts. The loss of these databases would cripple research at NJIT for both students and faculty. NJKI has been a marvelous value because it takes advantage of the economies of scale. The cost to NJIT to offer these databases directly would be enormous. The databases include **Academic Search Premier, Biomedical Reference Collection, Business Source Premier, CINAHL Pre-CINAHL, MEDLINE, Nature Online Journals, Nursing & Allied Health Collection, OVID Selected Core Medical Journals, RefUSA, Regional Business News and Wiley InterScience**

See <http://www.njki.org/> for more information.

INFORMATION LITERACY & ETS PARTNERSHIP

Information Literacy efforts took center stage for the Reference Librarians in this academic year. The planning and collaboration with Humanities faculty of 2004-2005, flowered into the first implementation of our program of systematic library instruction for Freshmen in their required composition course in the Fall of 2005. Library instruction for over 40 sections of Humanities 99, 100 and 101 was spearheaded by Information Literacy Librarian, Heather Huey, with the assistance of all the Reference Librarians. In addition, instruction for students in every department was stepped up with each Reference Librarian creating and teaching individual sessions geared toward specific course assignments or topics.

An investigation into the effectiveness of information literacy instruction for seniors in Fall 2005 showed that based on five performance measures graduating students' information literacy skills were insufficient. Our collaborative yet rigorous approach to assessment helped to provide the basis for appropriate corrective action based on shared values across the NJIT community. A fall presentation at the Committee on Academic Affairs brought increased awareness of the importance of information literacy that led to establishment of the Provost's special task force on Information, Communication and Technology Literacy. Their work culminated in a report recommending that information literacy be integrated across the curriculum with a new subcommittee of the Teaching, Learning and Technology Committee to provide oversight. The Committee on Academic Affairs will consider in Fall 2006 an amendment to the General Undergraduate Requirements incorporating a statement about information literacy.

Following up on the initial research study, in Spring 2006 NJIT collaborated with the Educational Testing Service (ETS) on their [ICT Literacy Assessment \(Information and Communication Technology Literacy\)](#) to explore the validity of alternative assessment methods. As a result, NJIT was asked to provide

representation to the ETS ICT National Advisory Board and through this collaboration we intend to provide national leadership as agents of change to initiate the "second" literacy, reading was the first, for a global and technological environment. Our work with ETS also resulted in some positive publicity for NJIT when ABC News filmed a segment on the ICT assessment at the Van Houten Library and interviewed two of our students on camera.

Our work has already had a major impact on the curriculum with the planned addition of a second composition course to the first-year curriculum, a new course that will stress the relationship between writing and information literacy. A junior-level technical writing course—taken by the vast majority of first-time and transfer students—has embraced the concept of information literacy and is presently adding components of the model to all sections of the course. In both the second first-year composition course and the junior-level technical writing course, program developers will integrate lessons learned. The collaborative model of faculty and librarians which had been solidly established over many years has served the NJIT community well in enabling the rapid spread of the awareness of information literacy to the University and beyond. A website was developed that documents our research study and ongoing activities. See www.library.njit.edu/infolit/.

REFERENCE AND LIAISON SERVICES BROADENED

In addition to traditional reference service, this year the Reference Librarians responded to individual users directly through increasingly popular new channels of communication such as instant messenger, MySpace and Facebook and New Jersey's online library collaborative, QandANJ.org. Bruce Slutsky took over as QandANJ Project Manager and helped us through the transition to new software that should ultimately improve service.

Our librarians created many opportunities for learning about information resources and their uses. Collaborating with two of our major database vendors, Librarian Haymwantee Singh arranged for representatives from Elsevier and IEEE to promote usage of Scopus, and the IEEE Electronic Library on campus.



[Scopus staff Ulrika Nordloff (middle) is flanked by NJIT's Scopus Students Ambassadors Mojisola Otegbeye (left) and Aysegul Ergin (right).]

Haymwantee Singh ably managed two student ambassadors who helped raise awareness of the Scopus database to our user community and helped with product enhancements that will benefit our students and others as well. All librarians participated in expanding access and training to use our electronic information resources for NJIT incubator companies in conjunction with our work with the statewide New Jersey Knowledge Initiative.

CONSERVATION / PRESERVATION WORKSHOP

The University Library, through the efforts of Maya Gervits and with the assistance of Lucy Velez, hosted a Conservation / Preservation Workshop for Libraries at NJIT. Using funds, in part, from the Bay Foundation grant dedicated for rare books and preservation, Maya contracted with Maria Pisano, a notable specialist in preservation and conservation who teaches the Libraries and Archives Preservation Course at Rutgers, to teach this workshop. The workshop included handling and storing materials, environment and damage prevention, minor book and paper repair, and customized protective enclosures. Advertised through VALE (NJ's Virtual Academic Library Environment), this workshop received a very positive response attracting the maximum sized group of 18 librarians and archivists, from throughout New Jersey, including four from NJIT.



[Maria Pisano in blue, leads the Conservation / Preservation Workshop in Fenster Hall. NJIT Library Staff, Jackie Buurma left, Matt Brown, second to left and Erin Finnerty, fourth to left are with unidentified participants.]

INCREASED LIBRARY HOURS

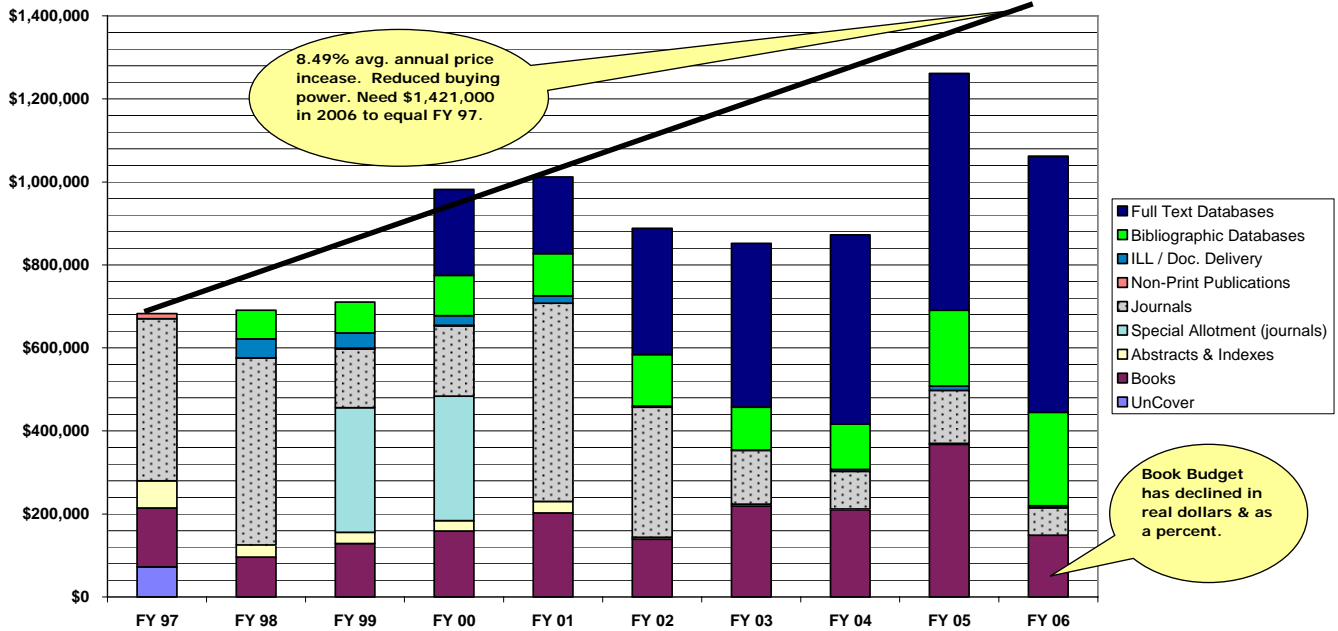
The Graduate Student Association led by new GSA President, Catilin Weaver and former GSA President, Peter Beltran, met in December, 2005 with the Provost Priscilla Nelson, Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs Joel Bloom, and Richard Sweeney, University Librarian and requested that library hours be extended. Previously, the Robert W Van Houten library closed Sunday through Friday at 10:45pm. While they wanted the library hours to run all night, especially just before and during exams, they compromised on closing the library at 11:45pm. The main issue was budgeting sufficient funds to pay the regular staff overtime to cover the additional hours. The GSA voted, after much discussion to appropriate \$10,000 to fund library hours and books and convinced the Provost and Sr. Vice President to kick in the additional funds needed for the remainder of the Fall and all of the Spring Semesters. The result was that on average about 36 people were present in the library at 12:30am. See: <http://www.library.njit.edu/publications/2006-spring-late-night-hours.cfm> for AY 2005-2006 late night usage.

Changes made for AY 2006-2007 hours:

Sun Sep 5 through Sat Sep 23rd Sun-Thu: Closing at 11:45am
Sun Sep 24th through Sat Dec 2nd Sun-Thu Closings at 1:45am
Sun Dec. 3 through Wed. Dec. 20th Sun-Thurs: 7:30am-2:45am

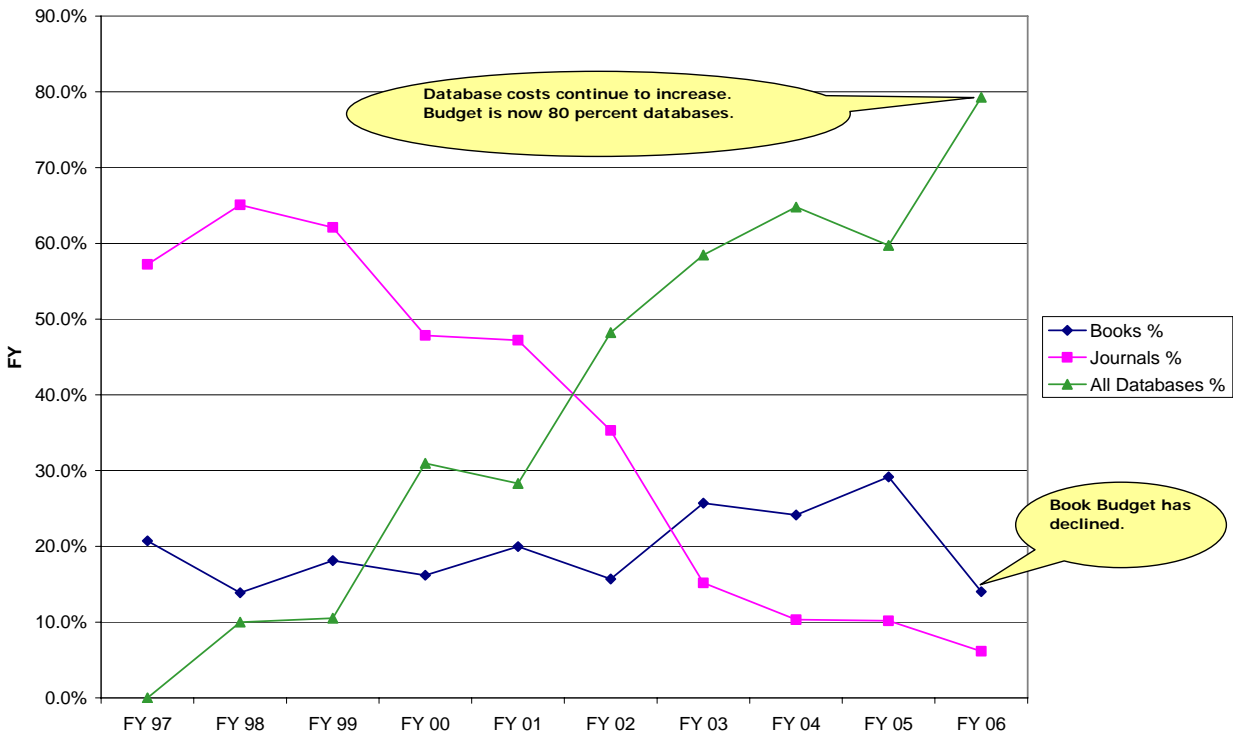
Below is a graph presenting the ten-year history of the NJIT library materials expenditures (and encumbrances). The average subscription prices continue to increase about 8.49% per year. See *Library Journal's* annual periodical price survey. The result is that the NJIT library is able to purchase far fewer titles. The library materials budget was also reduced in AY 2006, resulting in a far lower book budget in AY 2006.

Library Materials Expenditures



In AY 2006 hard copy journals continue to decline while databases expenditures have increased and the book budget has dropped severely.

Percentage of Materials Budget (Books, Journals vs. Databases)



VALE (VIRTUAL ACADEMIC LIBRARY ENVIRONMENT OF NEW JERSEY)

VALE, the consortium of all 54 private and public academic libraries in New Jersey, continued to grow and meet new user expectations in AY 2005-2006. VALE held an important 2006 Visions for VALE Planning Retreat. See <http://www.valenj.org/newvale/calendar/fy2006/calendar-2006-06-08-retreat.shtml>. NJIT librarians remain involved in a number of key VALE committees and continually work on practical ways to cooperate to improve library services and reduce costs. Rich Sweeney continues to serve on the VALE Executive Board. VALE leadership has been working closely with the NJ State Library in attempting to get NJKI renewed. See www.valenj.org

LIBRARY RESOURCES & MATERIALS

In FY 2005-2006, NJIT was the beneficiary of 14,658 journal subscription titles that were accessible to our students and faculty but were paid by some other agency. The New Jersey Knowledge Initiative, funded by the State of New Jersey through the New Jersey State Library accounted for most those titles. This meant that NJIT faculty and students had online access to 35,363 journal titles including 20,705 directly paid by NJIT.

Faculty and staff usage continued to increase dramatically with these journal titles.

See www.library.njit.edu/databases

See www.njstatelib.org/LDB/NJKI/NJKI_WHAT_YOU_SHOULD_KNOW.pdf

To see if a specific journal title is available, please see:

See www.library.njit.edu/journals

Journals table

	FY 2001-2002	FY 2002-2003	FY 2003-2004	FY 2004-2005	FY 2005-2006
Journal titles purchased in online databases	11,638	13,114	13,482	19,541	20,705
Journal titles accessible not-purchased					14,658
Total individual journal subscriptions	726	500	424	410	455
Individual print only journals	606 (7 packages)	378 (6 packages)	195 (16 packages)	100 (14 packages)	161
Individual e-journals only	25	59	134 (6 packages)	197	223
Both print & e-journals	48 (1 package)	50 (1 package)	95 (11 packages)		71
Online bibliographic indexes		8	10	7	7
Online full text databases	9	9	7	11	19
Databases aimed for nationally prominent programs	NA	NA	NA	5	5

LIBRARY BOOKS

The library continued to purchase hard copy books to support the academic programs and research. Note that actual book purchases may occur in the year following the encumbrance. For example, some of the 7080 books purchased in AY 2005-2006 were from encumbrances from FY 2004-2005 or actual expenditures in 2004-2005.

	FY 2001-2002	FY 2002-2003	FY 2003-2004	FY 2004-2005	FY 2005-2006
Books purchased	2,543	2,464	5,624	4,482	7,080
Expenditures+encumbrances	\$169,405	\$171,706	\$364,250	\$368,073	\$148,911

E-BOOKS

In the fall of 2004, the NJIT library began subscribing to its first e-books package from Safari Tech-Books online. Containing e-book versions of print CS and IS books on topics such as Java, C++, and .NET, Safari allows users to search for passages with e-books, search across the e-book collection, and read sections and entire e-books on the web.

Over 200 different e-books were accessed by NJIT users at least once in FY 2004-2005 via the Safari collection. The most-read book was *Java Servlet & JSP Cookbook* (ISBN 0-596-00572-5) with 874 hits (unique reads of a section of the book). The average use of those 205 e-books was 58 unique reads of a section.

ELECTRONIC THESES AND DISSERTATIONS (ETD)

The online ETD collection grew from 1001 to 1106 world-accessible NJIT theses and dissertations during AY 2005-2006, an addition of 105.

Researchers, students, and business people from around the world continue to find hits to our ETDs through Google and Yahoo searches and then get immediate full-text content through our ETD server.

As of July 1, 2006 there were 1001 ETDs online. 105 ETDs went live between 7/1/2005 and 6/30/2006. The breakdown is as follows...

- 47 Current T&D
- 11 ILL Request
- 13 Retrospective
- 34 Web Request

26 of the requests (ILL and Web requests) came from the NJIT community (faculty, staff, students and alumni).

Space occupied on Archive and Library1 = 258.6185 GB
 Archive = 258.4300 GB
 Library1 = 0.1885 GB

779 unique committee members are represented in the 1001 ETDs online, of which 317 committee chair or co-chair for at least one thesis or dissertation.

PDFs for 993 of the ETDs were downloaded a total of 30,062 times during the academic year.

To see NJIT's ETD's go to www.library.njit.edu/etd

ARCHITECTURE LIBRARY

During FY 2005-2006, the Architecture Library continued to work on the [electronic reserve](#). This service, which was introduced two years ago, has become very popular among faculty and students. Over the past year, materials were added in a variety of formats for forty-nine classes and studios, including a few electronic books (although the selection of e-books in architecture is not vast).

With the intent of helping students develop their research skills and to learn on their own at their most convenient time, the architecture library staff created [online tutorials](#) in addition to library classes. A new tutorial, titled "How to Research a Building," is about to be launched.

The Architecture Library received two grants this year. With support from the Bay and Paul Foundation, we established a rare book collection. The Leavens Foundation grant allowed us to create a digital archive of Newark architecture. We were also able to purchase new cabinets and started archival preservation of brittle books.

See www.library.njit.edu/archlib/collections/rarebooks.cfm

The Masonry Contractors of New Jersey also funded a collection of books and microforms on masonry architecture.

In support of the School of Architecture's summer Siena program, the library also established a digital repository of Siena information, including articles, book chapters, maps, former students' works, and administrative paperwork. The architecture article databases, like all of the library databases, are also available remotely, such as for our NJIT architecture students studying abroad in Italy.

ARCHIVES

In the fall of 2005, the NJIT archives digitized the 1955 and 1980 yearbooks and placed it on the web in conjunction with the 50th and 25th anniversary of the alumni visit to the campus during reunion week. See the past yearbooks at www.library.njit.edu/archives



[Students from 1955 yearbook]

STATISTICS

	FY 2002-2003	FY 2003-2004	FY 2004-2005	FY 2005-2006
Hours open in a typical week	93 (spring semester); 91 (fall semester)	91	93 (spring semester) 91 (fall semester)	93 (spring semester) 91 (fall semester)
User visits to the main library	574,943	476,234	403,725	428,274
User visits to the ArchLib	77,757	71,742	71,084	72,135* est.
General circulation (both libraries)	55,780	40,493	40,920	42,412
Items borrowed from other libraries	2,301	2,189	2,200	2,241
Items lent to other libraries	457	307	683	998



[Student Senate from 1980 yearbook]

LIBRARY STAFF TRANSITIONS

Jim Robertson, Assistant University Librarian, was called upon by the senior NJIT administration and promoted to the new NJIT position of Director of Web Services after serving part time in an acting capacity. Jim has been at NJIT since 1992 when he was hired as a Technical Reference Librarian after receiving his MLS at Florida State University. Jim became Acting Architecture Librarian in 1996 and was promoted to the position of Director of the Architecture Library in 1997 where he managed all aspects of that library. In 1999, Jim also assumed the additional title of Director of Library Technology. Jim was promoted on March 1, 2001 to be the Assistant University Librarian where he has served with distinction until he assumed his new position as NJIT Director of Web Services on July 1, 2006. Jim was one of 32 nationally invited participants to the 1996 prestigious Snowbird Library Leadership Institute in Utah. The library is currently searching to replace Jim in the Assistant University Librarian position and hopes to fill the position in Fall 2006.



[Jim Robertson, Former Assistant University Librarian]

Sunny Yoon, e-Resources and Serials Librarian for the last year resigned in December to take a position at NYU.

Erin Finnerty, Architecture Library Specialist, since 2003 was promoted to the e-Resources and Serials Librarian position vacated by Sunny Yoon. Erin will report directly to the University Librarian, Rich Sweeney. Erin has served with Maya Gervits in running the Architecture Library for the last few years. Erin previously served as the Assistant Archivist of the Leo Baeck Institute in the Center for Jewish History.



[Erin Finnerty, new e-Resources and Serials Librarian]

The **Architecture Specialist** position, vacated upon the promotion of Erin Finnerty, remains vacant and on indefinite hold as a result of the budget reductions of AY 2006.

Heidi Frank, Cataloging Librarian, since 2000, resigned in December to take apposition at NYU.

Lisa Weissbard was hired as Cataloging Librarian replacing Heidi Frank on July 5, 2006. Lisa has been the Assistant to the Head of Technical Services Librarian at Fairleigh Dickinson University. Lisa was employed in a variety of positions at marquis Who's Who/NRP from 1988 though 2004. Lisa has her MLS from Rutgers University.



[Lisa Weissbard, new Cataloging Librarian]

STAFF PROFESSIONAL AND PERSONAL ACTIVITIES:

Matthew Brown, Digital Projects Librarian, earned a Certificate in Preservation Management from Rutgers University's School of Communication, Information and Library Studies. Classroom instruction occurred over 3 non-consecutive full week terms starting in October 2004, ending in September 2005 and covered material related to the preservation of library, archival and museum collections.

Jaclyn Buurma, Technical Reference Librarian, presented a seminar for NJIT faculty, staff, and graduate students titled "Citation Analysis for Scholarly Research". She also presented a seminar to assist NJIT researchers in defining the commercialization potential of NJIT's patent portfolio. Jaclyn and **Heather Huey** collaborated with the Career Services Department to present a Career Workshop for graduating students. Additionally, she has continued to serve as a volunteer career consultant for the Association of College & Research Libraries by advising Master of Library and Information Science students of career opportunities in academic librarianship.

Jim Robertson, Assistant University Librarian, was selected in a national competition, to attend the 2006 Frye Leadership Institute, held June 4 to 16, in Atlanta, GA. The Frye Leadership Institute exists to develop creative leaders to guide and transform academic information services for higher education in the twenty-first century.

The Institute seeks to bring to tomorrow's higher education leadership the insights and understanding of the issues that will inform this framework, including academic, technology, economic, public policy, student, and constituent-relations dynamics. Jim was nominated by NJIT Provost Priscilla Nelson and NJIT University

Librarian Richard Sweeney. Only 18% of this year's nominees were selected to attend. See <http://www.fryeinstitute.org/> Jim made two presentations in October to the Endeavor Mid-Atlantic User Group meeting in Millersville, PA. and was also on the program committee. In November, he was invited to present at the Elsevier Scopus Colloquium in Rome, Italy and in February at the inaugural Code4Lib conference in Corvallis, Oregon. In March, Jim was featured in a PALINET podcast on library technology and in April, moderated the Technology Innovation Award presentation at the NJLA conference in Long Branch, N.J. as well as making three presentations at the Endeavor annual Users Group meeting in Chicago. In June, he made a presentation at the College of New Jersey for the ACRL-New Jersey Chapter on social software for librarians.

Bruce Slutsky, Technical Reference Librarian, is an active member of the American Chemical Society Division of Chemical Information and is now on the Education Committee where he recommend useful chemistry related web sites to other chemistry librarians. He is also active in the American Chemical Society Career Consultants Program where he advises chemists who may be interested in science librarianship and other non-traditional career paths. He is also the convener of the METRO Science and Medical Librarians Special Interest Group, attended the LACUNY Institute, and is President of the NJIT Toastmasters Chapter.

David Scharf, Director of Reference, continued working on her doctoral degree at the School of Communication, Information and Library Studies at Rutgers University, and also delivered several professional presentations and workshops. At an InfoLink workshop in March she presented a Tech Talk on Instant Messaging. In May she presented a hands-on workshop on Using Portfolios for Information Literacy Assessment to the faculty of the Graduate School of Library and Information Studies, Queens College. In July she presented the NJIT research findings of the Information Literacy Assessment to the ETS ICT National Advisory Board meeting held at UCLA.

Haymwantee Singh, Technical Reference Librarian, presented a peer-reviewed paper, *Connecting People with Information by Improving Information Architecture* at the June 2006 annual Special Library Association conference held in Baltimore, MD. She was also published in Library Connect Newsletter and Inside Scopus, on her thoughts about the function of Scopus Citation Tracker as a citation analysis tool. As NJIT library liaison to the Elsevier Scopus development partners program, Haymwantee made two presentations in November at the Hyatt Regency, Princeton, NJ and at the Elsevier Scopus Colloquium in Rome, Italy, about NJIT's perspective as a product development partner.

Rich Sweeney, University Librarian, led a preconference at the American Library Association (New Orleans) again this year with a number of colleagues, sponsored by LAMA entitled "If You Build It Will They Come? At this panel a number of Millennials were interviewed and shown slides of newer library building spaces and solicited their reactions.

Rich conducted a live focus group of Millennial students at NJIT sponsored by NJEDg.net simultaneously videoconferenced with students and audience from the County College of Morris, Ramapo College of New Jersey and Mercer County Community College. He also conducted focus groups in front of live audiences at the University of Nebraska-Kearney, University of New Haven (twice), In addition to his focus groups, he has also spoken to the faculty at Union County College and DeVry Institute (NJ) and E.

Speaking on a "Future of Libraries: Disappearing Libraries and Invisible Librarians" panel at the American Library Association in Orlando with Cliff Lynch, Howard Besser, and others, Rich

followed Roy Tennant's dictum about how users care less about searching than finding with, "I would add a third level. It's about learning." Rich proposed a new role for libraries: fostering "accelerated learning" tools that enhance and speed a student's learning process. "We have an opportunity. The whole area of information literacy hasn't really happened." Rich was also a panelist on the topic of *Googleizers and Resistors* at the Association of College and Research Libraries's annual conference, April, 2005, in Minneapolis. At the same conference, he also conducted a preconference focus group with Millennials (people born 1979 to 1994) in front of a live audience.

Rich was featured on the front page of *The Chronicle of Higher Education* on October 7th, 2005. The article was entitled "Teaching the Gadget Generation".

The annual **Library Staff Retreat** was held at and with the staff of the Fairleigh Dickinson University in Teaneck, NJ on May 12, 2006. For the first time, other librarians from NJ were invited since there were extra seats. The program included two speakers, John Regazzi, Dean of the College of Information and Computer Science at the C.W. Post Campus of Long Island University who spoke about the future of publishing. The second speaker, Eric Hellman Director of the Openly Informatics Division of OCLC spoke about iTunes as the model for libraries. The program included a tour of the campus library and meeting of the library staff discussing current issues at the NJIT library.



[Eric Hellman (OCLC) and John Regazzi, (Long Island University) at our library staff retreat at FDU in Teaneck]

NJIT professional librarians attended the **annual VALE User Group Conference** in January 2006 again at Rutgers, the largest gathering of academic librarians in NJ, with a large number of presentations including some by NJIT staff.

Receiving **NJIT Service Awards** this year are **Rhonda Green-Carter**: 20 years, **Maria Denaro**: 15 years, and **Rich Sweeney**: 10 years.

CONTACT US

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Reference librarians
973-642-3210
www.library.njit.edu/aboutus/ref-librarians.cfm

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Library support for NJIT e-Learning students:
www.library.njit.edu/elearning

Library administration:
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Architecture Library:
www.library.njit.edu/archlib