

<KEYWORD>

The Pratt Institute School of Information and Library Science Student Association Publication

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Photo by Wazir Rahemtulla

LIBRARY STUDENTS: A TRIBAL CLASS OF THEIR OWN

Who would have deemed such a project unless there was a deeper intuitive grasp about it? Professor Rabina came up with a brilliant brainwave and refreshing idea of photographing students with tattoos for the Pratt calendar. I began the assignment rather skeptically thinking the librarian students and tribalism are twains that do not meet, however, I was certainly wrong footed because Dr. Rabina seemed to have this grasp. How much experience and intuition account for all corners of life, one wonders?

Within a fortnight, I had photographed eighteen students who were amenable partners and took immense joy in the assignment. I was gradually and surely immersed into a primeval world which I would otherwise not have had a glimpse of, only presupposing a postmodern world with a fancy for tattoos. Not only did the students take time to explain their rationale for the choice of having tattoos, but also what particular image they had chosen. Summarizing from a general perspective it appears that a unique hermeneutic social group exists, no matter what time or period of history, they are drawn towards a very primal behavior. In this sense, how social individuals have an affinity towards and are drawn to tattooing. One could identify this attitude anthropologically within the nomads and tribal groups in ancient times as

well as today. Whereas within these modern social groups and tribes, rooted in ancient lore, social bonds hold them tightly together, age and human experience are accorded a seniority, wisdom is linked with experience of life and nature while tattoos mark and record various degrees of these experiences. In contrast, modern social individuals such as Pratt students, are part of a highly dispersed social group, unencumbered by societal bond or belonging to a specific social group; they have strong individual drives and are mostly evolved by and live in a relatively liberal environment. Even then there is such a primal urge towards a tribal form of aesthetics continued on page 3

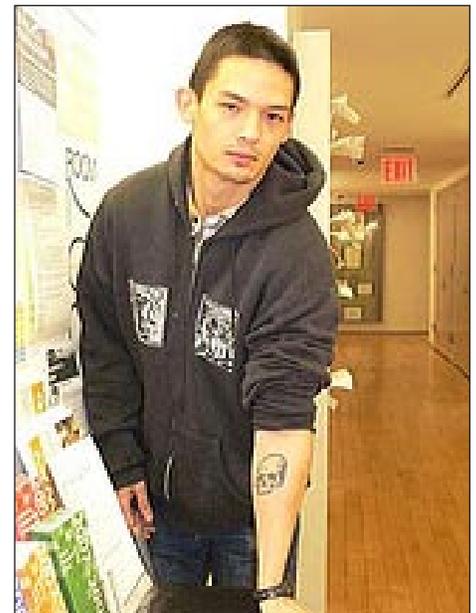


Photo by Wazir Rahemtulla

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From the Editor's Desktop: Save Free Culture

Copyright is an important issue for librarians. The abuse of copyright and the importance of creative commons and free culture are likewise matters that librarians should be aware of. Freeing culture involves freeing creativity, remixing, and parrotting, all those wonderful ideas that are currently stifled by 70+life copyright laws. Laws that prevent one from building upon prior knowledge; nevermind that copyright began as a 14 year law.

As Lessig puts it, when translating the jargon from Disney's lawyers, "No one can do to Disney, Inc. what Walt Disney did to the Brothers Grimm." American libraries were created with a mind toward free speech, freedom of information, and access to that information. If libraries were invented in this day and age, they wouldn't stand a chance due to overzealous copyright laws. After all, we share materials with millions of people and sharing materials recklessly abandons copyright.

Controls (DRMs) are now built into our technologies to lock down copyright in forms that it was never meant to encompass. Creative Commons and Free Culture are two organizations prepared to ensure that these principles are upheld. Google: "free culture" and "creative commons" and see what you find. I don't have to tell you how to search this stuff, you're librarians! But what are you fighting for: a proprietary culture or a free culture?

<Alicia Gibb>

President's Notes

By now you may have realized that the semester is in full swing. SILSSA hopes all is going well. You can always hit up our VP in the Cyber Cafe since he is also the Tech Tutor.

When you have a chance, please check out our new website. We are very happy it has gone live and we continue to make additions and modifications to improve it. If you have comments, please email them to pratt.silssa@gmail.com.

We have planned a few events already this semester and we look forward to even more. This past snowy Friday evening, we hosted five Pratt SILS graduates to speak about their experiences. Judy Nylan from Career Services was there to moderate and also tell all of us about the services we can take advantage of from her office. We had a nice variety of graduates there and hope the event will only get better next year. Very soon we will send out an email regarding

the annual trip to D.C. to visit the Library of Congress. This year we have joined with SLA @ Pratt to share the boss and offer some variety. Stay tuned for registration information.

Check out our calendar for upcoming events, particularly our general meeting. Also keep an eye out for a survey SILSSA will be sending out as part of our accreditation process.

See you around . . .

<Julie May>



Students reading Keyword — Thanks for your support

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For more information about SILSSA or online versions of Keyword: pratt.edu/~silssa

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NEW SILSSA WEBSITE!

SILSSA has redesigned the website: <http://pratt.edu/~silssa>. Comments are most welcome at pratt.silssa@gmail.com.

Special thanks to Tim Salazar for his great work.

<SILSSA Officers>

The Library of Congress on Flickr

As recently discussed on Gothamist, the Library of Congress (LC) has moved more into the 21st century by joining Flickr, the photo-sharing social networking site. It already had a blog, and now this pilot project is sharing more than 3000 images (those without copyright restrictions). LC has their photos divided into two groups: News in the 1910s and 1930s-40s in Color. As with most photos on Flickr, viewers are invited to comment and tag. In fact, according to LC's website, the more interest expressed through comments, the longer this project will continue. A FAQ page can be seen at http://www.loc.gov/rr/print/flickr_print/flickr_pilot_faq.html#replace. The Flickr group can be viewed at http://flickr.com/photos/library_of_congress/.

<Holly Deakyne>

LIBRARY STUDENTS: A TRIBAL CLASS OF THEIR OWN

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and the unconscious. It emerged from our tit a tat that the underlying reason for having tattoos ranged from one's deep drawing from the subconscious to identifying oneself with some remarkable archetypal imagery, to the purely aesthetic and the social rebellious. One could imagine the existence of such a spectrum of people in all societies irrespective of time and place. Two archetypal images stand out particularly in my mind, since they are very closely associated with the notion of the sacred in human life. These students specifically explained in detail the recurrence of their images, which ultimately were tattooed. These were one, the images of the symbol of a goddess of a South American native Indian tribe and two, the clasping of hands together in prayer, a universal image of one's succumbing in worship to the almighty concept of

the unknown and mystery of life. Other students also took time to explain their affinities and pull by particular images, such as the coral and the shell which appears to have great feminine symbolic meaning.

My gratitude to the students who volunteered and warmed up to the session and explained to me how they formed such affinity towards the primal world of tattoos. In my opinion the ladies exuded natural exuberance, charm, and took more time to explain this phenomenon. One student even took care to jot down and elaborate the origin of the symbol, which formed the basis of her tattoo. I am grateful to both male and female students. And indeed, thanks to Professor Rabina for this wonderfully challenging In-Pratt assignment. The photographs have been put up for display by her at the

student website and at the sixth floor across the SILS office.

<Wazir Rahemtulla>

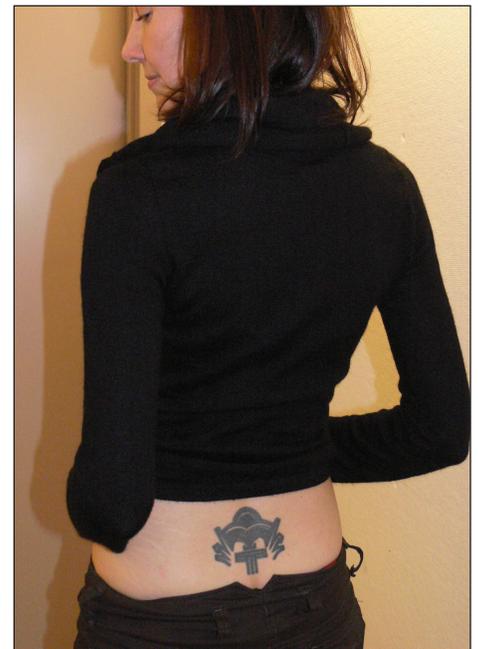


Photo by Wazir Rahemtulla

Heather Joseph, SPARC's Catalyst for Change



Angel Roman and Heather Joseph

Comparing Heather Joseph to David taking on the publishing industry's Goliaths may make her blush, but it is an apt comparison. Joseph is the Executive Director of SPARC the Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition. SPARC is an international alliance of academic and research libraries "working to

correct imbalances in the scholarly publishing system". SPARC was developed by the Association of Research Libraries (ARL).

Joseph was an exhibitor at the ALA's Midwinter Conference in Philadelphia this January and led various forums and discussions. I caught up with her at a presentation for the ARL's Diversity Scholar Leadership Institute. SPARC's efforts include fostering new scholarship communication models, expanding the dissemination of scholarly research and offsetting the financial burdens on libraries.

Joseph challenged the Diversity Scholars to participate in the "open access movement" by influencing academic policy, organizing activities such as brown bag lunches and conferences, and creating new avenues for student and faculty publishing. Previous efforts have

centered on open access and faculty awareness of scholarly publishing, and lobbying for public access. Joseph mentioned recent advocacy activity at the national level including the Federal Research Public Access Act, as well as the NIH Public Access Policy.

Her concluding comments focused on practical initiatives that can be undertaken by students. Joseph mentioned The Right to Research campaign which was developed by Gavin Baker and refined with input from undergraduate and graduate students across the U.S. For more information, visit the SPARC Web site at <http://www.arl.org/sparc/students>.

<Angel Roman>

ALSC Announces Winners of the Caldecott and Newberry Awards

This January at the American Library Association (ALA) midwinter meeting in Philadelphia, the Association for Library Services for Children (ALSC) announced the literary awards, which includes prestigious awards such as the Caldecott Medal and Honors for most distinguished contribution to American picture books for children and the Newbery Medal and Honors for most distinguished contribution to American literature for children. In LIS 676 Literature and Literacy with Children with Professor Caroline Ward, we are discussing past award winners and evaluating the books.

This 2008 winner of the Caldecott Medal is *The Invention of Hugo Cabret* by Brian Selznick and the honorees are *Henry's Freedom Box: A True Story from the Underground Railroad* by illustrated by Kadir Nelson, written by Ellen Levine; *First the Egg*, by Laura Vaccaro Seeger; *The Wall: Growing Up Behind the Iron Curtain*, by Peter Sís; *Knuffle Bunny Too: A Case of Mistaken Identity*, by Mo Willems.

The Newbery Medal winner is *Good Masters! Sweet Ladies! Voices from a Medieval Village* written by Laura Amy Schlitz and the honorees are, *Elijah of Buxton* by Christopher Paul Curtis; *The Wednesday Wars* by Gary D. Schmidt; and *Feathers* by Jacqueline Woodson.

For more information on these and other ALSC awards, visit the ALSC website:

<http://www.ala.org/ala/alsc/awardsscholarships/literaryawds/literaryrelated.htm>

<Lauren McBride>

Kindle

I've had my Kindle—Amazon's new digital book reader—since November 21, having been one of the crazy, obsessive people to order it the morning it was launched on the Amazon site. It was on backorder for almost two months.. I have some problems with it, which I will write about later in this review, but mostly I just love it and don't leave home without it. We're going overseas next week, and it will be the first time in my life I will get on a plane without a backpack full of books.

The Specs

The Kindle is \$400. There, I've said it. And, yes, I know that's why I have no savings and will never be able to retire.

It is 7.5" x 5.3" x .7" and weighs 10.3 ounces. It uses E-Ink technology. There is no backlighting so it is much easier on your eyes. E-Ink technology also doesn't use power except when you turn the page, so the battery lasts for a long time (I've heard up to two weeks if the wireless connection is turned off). It fully charges in two hours, which is pretty good in my experience.

There is free EVDO wireless through Sprint. Books, magazines, newspapers, and blogs download wirelessly to your Kindle, usually very quickly. If you are out of wireless range, you can download texts through the USB cable that is included. You can email Word, HTML, JPEG, GIF, PNG, and BMP files to a dedicated email address you're given, and for 10 cents a document, Amazon converts it and sends it wirelessly to your Kindle. They will do the same conversion for free if you have the converted document emailed back to you and you download it yourself using the USB cable. The Kindle supports, natively, Audible format (audio books), Text files, MP3s, Non-DRM MOBI and PRC. It comes with only 180 MB of free memory, but

it can take an SD memory card of up to 4 GB.

Some extras: Free wireless access to Wikipedia. Free, but very "unfriendly" Internet access.

The Pros

- You can highlight and jot notes in your books. And then erase them. Wow. It's like magic.
- You can copy your notes and "clippings" to your computer for later use. Now, I know you are going to provide attribution for those quotes in your papers, right?
- You can download books, magazines and blogs wirelessly when away from your computer.
- Newspaper and magazine subscriptions are cheaper than for the print versions (Wall Street Journal is \$9.99/month).
- Save trees! Feel less guilty about the months of unread magazines and newspapers you've accumulated.
- Brand new hardcovers are often just \$9.99 on the Kindle, versus \$15-\$30 for the physical hardcover book.
- With a cheap memory card added, you can carry ALL of Shakespeare, Dickens, Trollope, James, Wharton, Melville, etc. with you. There are thousands of public domain books out there for the taking. ALL of Shakespeare. This is very important as you never knows when you are going to get an urgent craving for a little King Lear.
- You can hold the Kindle and turn pages using the same hand (hanging from a subway car pole, for instance). No more falling on the person standing next to you when

you let go of the pole to turn a page. If you like falling on the person standing next to you, if that is how you met your last significant other, than stick with the paper book.

- You can read with gloves on! I can't tell you how excited I was when I realized I could turn pages without taking my gloves off while waiting for the train or the bus. No more trying to turn the page with my nose.
- You can change the font size. We're ordered one for my mother since she often has trouble reading books that have small print. And if you've slept too little and drunk too much the night before, a larger font can't hurt.
- You can replace the battery yourself when needed and the price is fair (\$19.99).
- It's got speakers so you can listen to music while you read without wearing headphones. Sure, it will bother everyone around you, but isn't it worth it?
- You have new books almost instantly while you're on the train, waiting for a doctor's appointment, or on a rollercoaster ride. Good. Very good.

The Cons

Minor:

- The page turning buttons are so big it is difficult to avoid hitting them by accident, at least until you get used to using it. Of course, it does mean you get through the book faster. I mean, is it really that important to read every single page?
- The cover they send with the Kindle is atrocious. It has a very poor hold on the device and falls out of it easily.

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Kindle

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- For \$400 it should have come with a Gucci carrying case.
- You can only highlight line by line, not word by word, so you have to clean up your clippings in order to make them usable (i.e. get rid of the unwanted beginnings or endings of lines). You also can't continue a highlight from one page to the next so you would have to cut and paste the two halves of a passage back together.
- The on/off button and the wireless button are on the back of the device. You have to remove it from the cover in order to switch these on and off.
- They charge for Blog subscriptions. This is just silly. Blogs should be free like rain, sun or smog—just part of the natural environment.

Major:

- Amazon does not allow you to read your Kindle books anywhere else, including your own computer. This is a very disturbing fact to me. If you lose your Kindle, or if it goes in for repairs, you have zero access to your own books. Since I've already managed to lose it once (raising my blood pressure substantially), this really matters.
- They do not support any other DRM format. I was very upset to learn that they weren't even supporting DRM Mobipocket books since they OWN Mobipocket. You made the people at Mobipocket, your own employees, cry. You made me cry—I own a lot of Mobipocket books that are DRMed.
- They do not support PDF files.
- It is absolutely lousy at reading graphs/charts/tables. If a book is heavy in visuals, it is useless trying to

read it on the Kindle.

- While there are more Kindle-formatted books available than have been available for previous devices, there are still huge gaps. Hopefully this will be rectified as publishers get onboard. But if you are considering buying a Kindle, first make sure that there is enough reading material

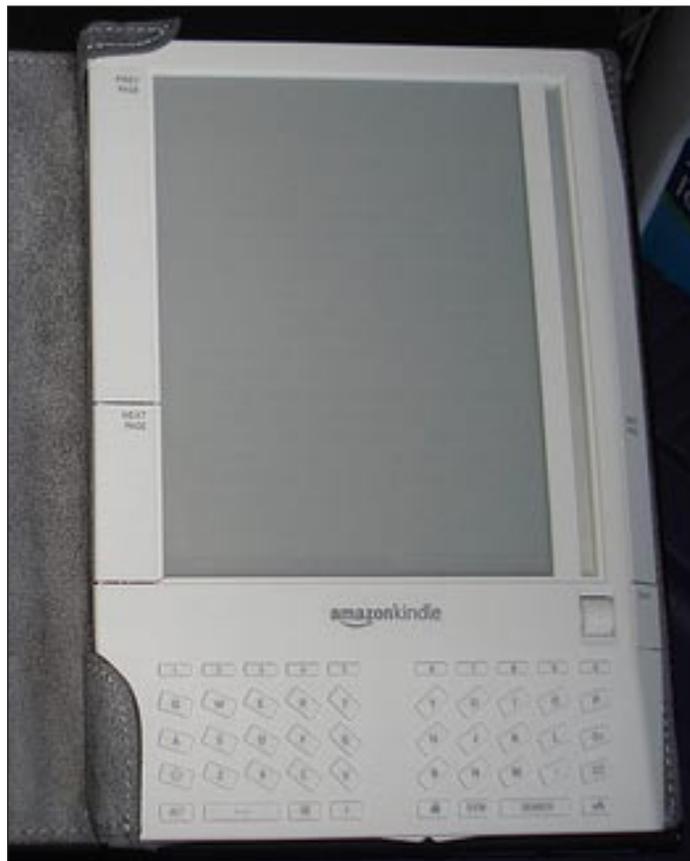


Photo taken by StrFireBlue

available to make it worth your while. Of course, you could also just write your own

books when you need something to read—Amazon has clearly made it easy for anyone to self-publish for the Kindle. And, to quote Oscar Wilde, "I never travel without my diary. One should always have something sensational to read on the train."

- You have new books almost instantly

while you're on the train, waiting for a doctor's appointment, or on a rollercoaster ride. Bad. Very bad.

Thoughts

I don't know how many of you have been following the "great Kindle debate," but it is truly fascinating. Some time, if you have a minute, go browse through the Kindle reviews on Amazon (1,542 and counting). The reviews are largely split between "five star" reviews by people who own one and "one star" reviews by people who've never set eyes on one. I'm still trying to understand some of the almost visceral responses from some of the reviewers who loathe the very idea of a digital book and seem to think that those who "go digital" are trying to kill off the printed book.

Here are some examples from the

site:

"I am not a luddite by any means, but the idea of replacing the printed word with a digital tablet horrifies me. I know my attachment to bound books is entirely sentimental, but even with its brilliant-sounding screen technology, this device cannot replicate the touch and smell of the real thing - sensations that are every bit as integral to the

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Flight of Fancy

As the plane landed I silently did jumping jacks; I would finally be in London and far away from the Girl Scout leader that I had been seated next to since my connection in Canada.

London Summer 07 Group



Heathrow was bustling and finding my way to the dorms at University College London (UCL) was no easy task, especially with a lethal combination of sleep deprivation and jet lag.

As it started to rain by midafternoon and I had done my third circle around the general area of my dorm, I started to lose hope. Finally I met another tourist with a map that pointed me in the general right direction.

I arrived at my final destination with tired feet and a look of jet-lagged crazy in my eyes. Soon I discovered to my horror that the dorm we were all staying in at Astor College had a 2 p.m. check-in time. As a token of British hospitality they let me check my luggage at the desk. I left and half wobbled down the lane seeking to find an affordable lunch, which I had

been told did not exist in London.

As I sat outside at Thai Metro a few streets away with my Panang Curry and a glass of chilled white wine, I suddenly grew optimistic about my situation. Sure I was beat down by the day, but I was in London

at a conference about electronic publishing, a subject that I care deeply about, in a foreign country which I would soon master. I looked at the overcast sky and the clouds started to clear. A modern-day miracle! London became less dismal and more inviting by the second.

London was my new home for the next two weeks of classes at UCL. The dorms were ideally located in the Bloomsbury nestled in between the UCL campus and the British Library. I was also pleasantly surprised to learn that students mostly inhabit the area and so there are plenty of dining options, pubs, and places to visit.

The next morning, I woke up at 6:15 a.m. and joined the breakfast line in the cafeteria at Ramsay Hall on 20 Maple Street. I was pleasantly surprised to find Weetabix (a wheat-based breakfast cereal) and scrambled eggs

readily available for consumption. Here is a list of some other food items found daily in the cafeteria:

Baked beans; Hash brown triangles; Eggs (a rather strange color though); Veggie sausage (that looked suspiciously similar to the hash browns)

My favorite part of this morning ritual was definitely the staff in the cafeteria that would call everyone "love". After entering the labyrinth of the campus, I soon found my class and met the instructors and organizers of the conference: Professor Anthony Watkinson and Professor Andy Dawson at the School of Library, Archive and Information Studies (SLAIS), through the Centre for Publishing.

The topic of discussion was E-Publishing and E-Publications and on the website for the conference you can still find the daily itinerary of activities that we participated in as well as lectures, field trips, and people we met through the brief but intensive program. Here is the link: <http://www.ucl.ac.uk/slais/e-publishing/>.

For more information about the next London Program, please visit the program web site at <http://pratt.edu/%7Einfosils/london.html>.

To explore last year's exciting program further visit the Summer School on E-Publishing web site at <http://www.ucl.ac.uk/slais/epublishing-summer-school/>.

First Bloomsbury Conference of E-Publishing and Publications: <http://www.ucl.ac.uk/slais/e-publishing/>.

Look in Keyword for the next installment of the Flight of Fancy article when the class visits Oxford and Cambridge.

<Mary Leggiero>

VISIT STUDY LEARN: IN FLORENCE & LONDON

It's time to apply for SILS Summer 08 programs in Florence and London

Offering students a great learning experience at an affordable price – Plus new fellowship and scholarship opportunities to support your studies.

According to the New York Times (12/31/08 by Laura Pappano. Education section), "The consensus today is that globally fluent graduates are essential to American competitiveness, making study abroad a must-have credential. But are American students ready and willing to experience the real world?"

Pratt-SILS is among a few LIS school that offer students a global learning experience. Our Florence and London programs attract students from across the US and last year we had about 10 students from other universities.

SILS 2nd London Summer School 2008 on E-Publishing and Bloomsbury Conference – "The Virtual Scholar" in partnership with University College London, School of Library, Archive & Information Studies.

For detailed information and application, visit: <http://pratt.edu/~infosils/london.html>

PROGRAM COSTS:

Participate in this year's programs for at affordable costs comparable to last year's:

Tuition — \$2,550 cost of a SILS 3-credit course.

Housing — London: Astor College Dorm, private single room, 30 pounds per night includes English breakfast. Florence: 40 Euros per night at the Convent Oblate a few

blocks from the Duomo (other options available).

Travel – about \$700 RT, students make their own reservations.

International fee: \$200

FELLOWSHIPS & SCHOLARSHIPS:

Through the new SILS Fellows Program students are encouraged to apply for fellowships and scholarships once they have been accepted to the program ranging from \$1000 scholarships to \$3,600 and \$2,550 fellowships. For detailed information and application, visit the SILS Fellows Web site – <http://pratt.edu/~infosils/sils-fellows.html>

COURTAULDARTINSTITUTE LIBRARY, Somerset House, Strand: We are delighted to offer one research fellowship and one internships fellowship at the Courtauld Art Institute Library considered the finest art library in the UK. The Coutauld has a wonderful gallery and art school. Students will work under the supervision of the Library's Director, Anthony Hopkins, Kilfinan Librarian, Head of Libraries, Image Services & IT. This is an especially fine opportunity for dual-degree students. <http://www.courtauld.ac.uk>.

LONDON: June 16-27, 2 weeks - Summer 08 marks the 2nd Summer School on E-publishing and the 2nd Bloomsbury Conference (included with the course) as we build on the enormous success and excitement of summer 07. This years Bloomsbury Conference theme is "The Virtual Scholar." Speakers who will be recognized leaders in their field represent a broad spectrum of the information world today, from scholars and LIS faculty, to publishers and information industry executives.



SILS PARTNERSHIP WITH UCL SLAIS:

The London course is taught by the faculty of University College London, School of Library, Archive and Information Studies giving students a special opportunity to study with recognized leaders in information science research and in e-publishing.

We invite you to visit the program Web site which includes the application form: <http://pratt.edu/~infosils/london.html>.

To get a sense of the London course faculty:

Listen to the Pod cast of UCL SLAIS' Director, David Nicolas author and faculty, Ian Rowlands author of the "Google Generation" – a study for the British Library at <http://www.jisc.ac.uk/whatwedo/programmes/resourcediscovery/googlegen.aspx>

SUMMER SCHOOL

Visit the UCL SLAIS Website and explore last year's summer school and Bloomsbury Conference Program at <http://www.ucl.ac.uk/slais/e-publishing-summerschool/>.

VISIT STUDY LEARN IN: FLORENCE & LONDON

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BLOOMSBURY CONFERENCE – (the conference is included as part of the course) – <http://www.ucl.ac.uk/slais/epublishing/>

“The first conference in this series held last year was entitled *Models in Flux*. It originates from the *Centre for Publishing and the School of Library, Archive and Information Studies* at UCL. In 2007 the concentration was on the challenges to existing models for scholarly communication and future opportunities very much from the perspective of those professionals, publishers and librarians, who serve the scholarly community and facilitate communication. It provided a successful forum for publishers, librarians and scholars.”

May 26-June 13, 3 weeks - Florentine Art and Culture: Museum and Library Research and Documentation.

Now in its 5th year, the Florence Summer program is interdisciplinary with the School of Architecture. Experience life at the intersection of art, architecture and information. Immerse yourself in Florentine culture through its museums and libraries. Develop your knowledge and skills attending lectures and demonstrations and carrying out research. Whether you aspire to being a librarian or art historian, this course will enrich your understanding, placing you at the heart of your profession.

For detailed information and application, visit the program Web site – <http://pratt.edu/~lis-dean/florence.html>.

Please contact Dean Giannini if you have any questions at giannini@pratt.edu or contact Claire Moore in the SILS office 212-647-7682; cmoore5@pratt.edu.

<Dean Giannini>



Spanish Language Materials Book Fair, Newark Public Library

REFORMA's Northeast Chapter is hosting an upcoming event that may be of interest to you. On Friday March 7, 2008 there will be a Spanish language materials Book Fair held at the Newark Public Library. The Book Fair is an excellent opportunity for librarians, educators, and library students to purchase Spanish language materials for adults, teens, and children! Admission is Free and will take place at 5 Washington Street, Newark, NJ 07101 from 10:00AM to 4:00PM. To confirm your attendance send an email to: lromerobpl@yahoo.com

Directions: www.npl.org/Pages/AboutLibrary/directions.html

Parking: <http://www.npl.org/Pages/AboutLibrary/directions.html#parking>

<Angel Roman>

Lunch Time Read Out

Pratt Institute's
America Reads/Counts
Costumed Read
March 28th, 2008
Pratt Gym
9am-2:30pm

for more information
please contact Peggy Feagin
at 718.399.4489

come and join us
to read to over 700 children

HOW TO FAIL A JOB INTERVIEW

Let's face it, after failing five job interviews, I have become somewhat of a novice at the true art of interviewing. I have a certain amount of expertise on the don'ts of interviewing, and by reverse osmosis, I have some ideas about of the do's of interviewing.

By all means, have fun at the interview. Don't tremble. If you have aspergers, try not to ramble. Drink coffee if you have to, and if you're avoiding medication as a matter of principal, by all means self-medicate.

Green tea is always a good thing. And yes, yoga. If you can exercise in the morning before the interview, that is ideal. You will be relaxed, or at least you can imagine yourself as a Gold's Gym model, instead of a slouchy specimen. Go for a brisk walk or a jog around the park – it's good for reducing hyper-tension and can create an image of flushed cheeks without investing in Bobbie Brown cosmetics.

Before the interview, get a beauty treatment. Get a fresh haircut, streak your hair if you like, and if interviewing in West Texas, big hair is always a good thing.

Seriously, do something truly healing – take a footbath, or indulge in aromatherapy. A dash of lavender scent is said to cure depression, and rosemary helps mental focus. This is better than a toxic dash of all too loud cologne.

Now for serious failure – remember this is theater, and this is the stuff great memoirs are made of. When you become president of ALA or the Lukenbach Library, you can tell these stories at conferences, for a fee or

at least free airfare. Hey, you might end of writing stand-up anyway.

Be Zen. Remember, you are interviewing them. And worse case scenario, you may end up shelving books, or "you can always work in a bookstore", or work on Wall Street. Remember, Father Sky has a plan for you. Go with the flow. Good things can happen to bad people, and you know, "chop wood, carry water", and it will all work out. Your mistakes are meant to guide you on the great path.

Now for some real basics:

When you are introduced to the hot seat, (the head seat at the conference table), don't shy away and ask for a side view, run to the chair Jerry Lewis style, and without breaking any lamps or accoutrements, get into that chair and exclaim, "Are we ready to rock and roll?"

Stare at the floor. Avoid eye contact.

Place a worn copy of Sartre's Being and Nothingness on top of your manila folder. And then begin.

For a reverse experience of the above, bring a new thin copy of Heidegger's Being and Becoming and place it gingerly underneath your manila folder. Eat a healthy lunch before the interview. Fasting all day will not improve your concentration or your pallor. And begin. Make the interview your dessert. And at least, its material.

<Ann Roseman>

The Human Genome Project:

Community Conversations is funded by a grant from the National Institutes of Health through Libraries for the Future and WE ACT for Environmental Justice. The goals are to address to the public need for information and education about the Human Genome Project and to foster understanding about the implications of genetic research. To support these goals, Brooklyn Public Library will have the following events:

Wednesday, March 5 at 6:30pm-8:00pm

Brooklyn Public Library – Central Library (10 Grand Army Plaza Brooklyn, NY 11238)

Genetics 101: An Introduction to basic concepts for understanding the complex issues of genetics. Participate in a conversation with Dr. Morales following his presentation. Funded by a grant from Libraries for the Future and WE ACT for Environmental Justice.

Friday, April 25 at 10am-4pm
Brooklyn Public Library – Central Library (10 Grand Army Plaza Brooklyn, NY 11238)

National DNA Day: A day of exploration into the world of DNA and genomics. Interactive workshops, computer lab activities, and more.

<Lisa Chow>

The Library Science Report

In *The Library of Babel*, Borges writes of the library—often referred to as a microcosm of the universe—as the universe itself. It follows then that a recently published *New York Times* article (whose opening paragraph revealed the two most common questions fielded at the main information booth of the New York Public Library at 42nd Street and 5th Avenue) arrived with cosmic force. Long suspected but not until now affirmed, the number one most frequently asked question indeed is: Where the bathroom at?

The news was greeted as vindication by the entourage of rapper Nelly, who—with Jagged Edge—scored a major hit in 2001 with the single, “Where the Party At?” Originally entitled “Where the Bathroom At?” the video was reported to feature middle-aged librarians in their underwear dancing provocatively in the stacks. The FCC, however, fearing a public outcry no less riotous than the one which followed the debut of Stravinsky’s “Rite of Spring,” in Paris in 1913, motioned against its release. In light of the *Times* report, many in the music industry and academe quickly touted Nelly as the single most important composer of the 21st century, at last removed from the long shadow cast by the aforementioned Russian master.

Reached for his thoughts while on tour in Atlanta, Nelly responded, “Yo, son! There’s a porta-potty out back of the tour bus.”

Meanwhile, the ripple effect reached the doctoral level of the University of Illinois’ School of Library and Information Science, which routinely lures the world’s best library scientists—men and women like chief researcher Dr. Joy

Killjoy, whose long list of laboratory accomplishments is topped by being the first person to demonstrate the proper way in which to measure the iconic words of Charles Dickens. Pour from beaker in left hand: it was the best of times. Pour from beaker in right hand: it was the worst of times. Left: it was the age of wisdom. Right: it was the age of foolishness. Left: it was the epoch of belief. Right: it was the epoch of incredulity. Etc.

A team of researchers here went public with a remarkable new alternative; one many years in development, which has already stirred great debate amongst library scientists and led to a wealth of scholarship, the significance of which experts predict will not be known for decades still to come. At a news conference to announce the project’s completion, Dr. Dewey Doolittle shocked those in attendance by saying, “After shedding much blood, sweat, and tears, and losing two dedicated colleagues to the cause—rest in peace, Beatrice and Georgia—I have the most distinguished honor of presenting to you the very first of its kind, a truly revolutionary answer to a most extraordinary question—ladies and gentlemen of the press, the ‘Where the Bathroom At?’ t-shirt. Comes standard with blinking red arrow on the back.”

During the Q and A, Doolittle said that within five years researchers hope to be able to address the second most frequently asked question: “Where the free Internet at?”

Moments later, on the other side of campus, students stormed the Humanities wing and demanded that University curricula promptly accommodate the emerging field of Bathroom Studies. Acting Chair Dr.

Nicolai Naughtyboy, interrupted in the middle of an extended navel-gazing binge, pulled his shirt down in a huff, composed himself and said: “You know, it reminds me of an essay I wrote in the 60’s called, ‘The Marshmallow and Society,’ which I’m currently revising as ‘The Bathroom and Society.’ I point out that far from being the latest thing, there is actually quite a bit of historical precedent. Duchamp, for example, was deeply preoccupied by the matter, as were people from much earlier times. I invoke Lord Buckwheat of Lower Buckwheat County who peed himself and cried, ‘Where the bathroom at?’ as early as 1215 while being burned at the stake. Quite fascinating, really.”

Naughtyboy, here echoing Borges, continued to say that a bathroom in itself is not a reflection of the world—save those rare occasions when in proper light a globe held just so mirrors in the still waters of a toilet—but an addition to it; an entity that commands attention not because of its truthfulness but because of the rightness of its construction—beauty, order, symmetry.

Many librarians in Spanish-speaking libraries expressed a belated desire for this knowledge after a mistranslation of the news conference, widely circulated via AP news wire, caused an embarrassing epidemic. In place of the correct, “¿Dónde el baño está?” the translation read, “¿Dónde el banjo está?” Under the misconception that every library should be equipped with banjos, panicked library directors rush-ordered record numbers from dumbstruck manufacturers.

Blind Bobby Bowfinger, founder of
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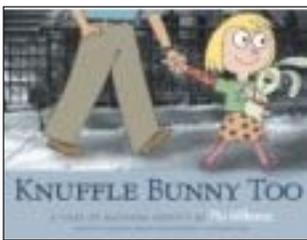
Blind Bobby's Banjos, reached for comment, said: "What d'all them fancy-pants librarians want with these here banjies, anyways? Ain't never seen nothin' like it in t'all my life Well—'cept for oncet I done. The year was 19-hickory-tree..."

And finally, back in New York City, huge crowds gathered in Madison Square Park for the grand opening of the first of what the city plans to be a series of public bathrooms. In a fight for his political career, Mayor Bloomberg pledged that city government would not be rendered irrelevant by libraries. To raucous applause and with tears in his eyes he proclaimed, "Four double-quilted squares and one flush ago, New Yorkers asked, 'Where the bathroom at?' Well, I say to you now, 'Ask not what your bathroom can do for you, but what you can do for your bathroom.' And now, three-time Grammy-winner and recording superstar, Nelly."

<Brendan Curley>

BOOK REVIEWS

Willems, Mo. *Knuffle Bunny: A Cautionary Tale*.



In this 2005 Caldecott Honor picture book, former Sesame Street writer and artist, Mo Willems, uses cartoon hand drawn ink sketches on black and white photographs of Brownstone Brooklyn to tell an adorable story about a baby named Trixie, who brings her stuffed toy, Knuffle Bunny, on a trip to

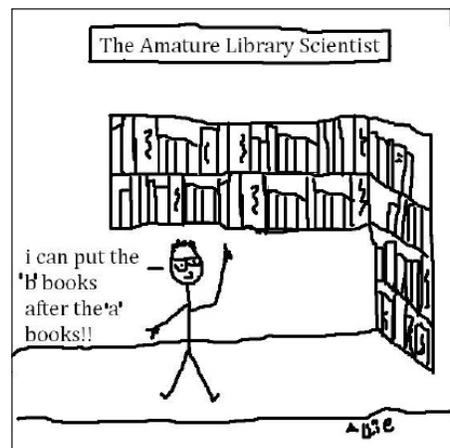
the Laundromat with her Dad. Knuffle Bunny is accidentally left behind, Trixie has a public meltdown, and the whole family races through Prospect Park and back to the Laundromat to find Knuffle Bunny. Once Knuffle Bunny is found, Trixie shouts her first words.

Willems, Mo. *Knuffle Bunny Too: A Case of Mistaken Identity*



white photographs of Brownstone Brooklyn. In this sequel, Trixie brings her Knuffle Bunny to preschool one day and finds out a classmate has the same stuffed bunny. The bunnies are mixed up and sent home to the wrong homes. Both girls realize the mix up at 2:30 a.m. After a phone call from the other family, the girls and their dads race to meet up in the middle of the night under the big arch in Grand Army Plaza. The bunnies are exchanged and the girls become best friends.

<Lauren McBride>



Dear Library Scientist

I overheard some pretty alarming things about Library Scientists the other day. They're classified as a cult in Europe, their invention was some sci-fi writer's idea of a sick joke, they brainwash their patrons and enlist high-powered Hollywood types to further their agenda, and worst of all, once you become one—you can never get out. Is all this true? I have a personal essay to write called, "On Psychiatry: the dangers thereof," but now I'm too afraid to ask a Library Scientist for help. ~*Totally Omnipotent Maniac Crusading Righteous Unilateral Invective Saves Earthlings!*

Dear Tom Cruise,

Embarrassingly, I do not know which classification system they use in Europe, but ours indeed was created by the sci-fi writer Melvil Dewey. It is true that we brainwash our patrons with book recommendations and research guides and that without the support of Hollywood types many Library Scientists would be out of a job. Your final concern, however, is wildly incorrect. I have said it before, these days graduates of Library Scientist School find exciting careers not only in the traditional settings of archives, libraries, museums, and janitorial positions, but throughout the sciences—even psychiatry, where Library Scientist P(osh) L(ady) Travers discovered that just a spoonful of sugar helps the medicine go down. In the most delightful way.

Goodbye and Good Luck,
Library Scientist

Send inquiries to

askalibraryscientist@gmail.com

SILSSA CALENDAR OF EVENTS

This Month:

Wednesday, February 27th 8:30pm
Bar Night at McKenna's

Wednesday, March 12th 5:30pm
SILSSA General Meeting

Thursday, March 13th 9pm
Mind Jam for April Fool's Keyword

Thursday, March 27th 8:30pm
Bar Night at McKenna's

Thursday, April 3rd all day
D.C. Library Trip with SILSSA and SLA @ Pratt — Library of Congress, the Textile Library, and the Federal Reserve.

Upcoming Events:

Late March — Free Culture @ Pratt: Open Forum with Fred Beneson

April — Tom Nielson from METRO

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about why the Kindle has provoked such passionate negative responses from book lovers. No one can love the printed book more than I do (and I have the groaning bookshelves to prove it), but I have always felt that the digital book is a complement to, not a replacement of, the printed book. Does anyone else think that "Sentiment and the Printed Book" would make a great panel discussion topic? It is clear that, as future librarians, we will soon be faced with ardent emotional reactions to the introduction (or expansion) of digital book programs in our libraries. It might be wise to figure out our response now. And sticking out your tongue is not a proper response—I tried it once and it didn't do any good at all.

<Lauren Albert>

Data Shows No Sensational Students at Pratt SILS

In a recent study by Dr. Walczyk's Usability class, data showed no sensational students at Pratt SILS. The class was asked to complete an assignment reflecting inward on their own personality type using theories of Carl Jung. Out of a class of twenty not a single person identified with being a sensational type. This is statistically improbable and we know someone put the class up to this and whoever it is, is probably the same person that stole my lunch money. I mean, check out the sensations we've got at Pratt SILS, Ann Garner wrote an article on Rebuilding Afghanistan; Laena McCarthy and David Connors got published in

Library Journal ; students Julia West and Charles London each wrote an entire book; Terence Fitzgerald shared his knowledge on designer librarians (not to be confused with designer jeans); Josh Hadro and Romel Espinel won second runner up for the Sparky awards; and rumor has it Brendan Curley is up for Best Writer Award in Keyword. Clearly data shows just the opposite of students at Pratt SILS. But if you really want to know why data came to show no sensational students, it's actually because Carl Jung isn't talking about the same type of sensation here. The sensation type refers to people who perceive things

by their physical organs meaning they feel things strongly with their physical senses; much different than thinking(7), intuition(4), or feeling(9) type. You can read all about it in Daryl Sharp's book *Personality Types*. In the Fall 2007 Usability class, within the 4 groupings mentioned above, 12 people were Introverted, 8 people were Extraverted. Pretty good odds for a library school. And of course when it comes to labeling types of people we can't forget the *New York Times*, which has labeled all of us as hip. Fluh.

<Elinor Anguissola>