



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE QUEENS COLLEGE LIBRARY  
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## Music Library News

The Queens College Music Library is the crown jewel of music collections in the CUNY system and one of the best Music research libraries in the New York City area. The 2008-2009 academic year was one of our best yet with additional funding, the completion of major projects, and expansion of technology in the Music Library.

The Music Library received \$10,000 in Graduate Investment Initiative funds to acquire missing volumes of all of the major music reference series, purchase important new reference series, and replace a large number of damaged and usable scores. Through additional funding from the Queens College Libraries, a facsimile edition of one of the most important manuscripts in music history, The Squarcialupi Codex, was acquired. The beautifully illuminated manuscript is the largest primary source of fourteenth-century Italian “Ars Nova” music and contains almost 150 works by the most important composers of Italian music at this time.

In January 2008 the Music Library began converting our score collection, over 35,000 items, to the Library of Congress classification system. Conversion was completed in September 2009 thanks to the heroic efforts of the Bibliographic Access Department, particularly Belinda Chiang and Ronnie Gomez, and the Music Library staff, especially Moumita Chatterjee, Tina Tam, Min Ahn, and former staff member Catherine Frank.

Through Tech Fee funding, the Music Library received an iPod cart, which charges 40 iPods at a time and allows staff to upload and update 20 iPods at a time greatly reducing maintenance time. Through the same funding, the Music Library established a circulating laptop program similar to that in Rosenthal Library. Our proposal for renovating the listening area, which uses equipment that is over 20 years old, was approved by the Tech Fee committee. During the next academic year the listening area will be renovated with multi-functional computer stations replacing the current outdated cassette tape and CD stations. Several LP players and one VHS player will remain available for public use.

## Our New Acquisitions Librarian: Kenneth Rosenberg

Our new Acquisitions Librarian, Ken Rosenberg, has a keen understanding and comprehensive grasp of the role and pertinence of acquisitions in supporting the Queens College Libraries' research and public service missions. "Getting the overall picture of the needs of our students and faculty and matching that with all the resources that we accumulate is what I find exciting," he said. While acquisitions, or the buying of library materials in any conceivable format, is a behind-the-scenes operation, Ken brings his own insight to oversee and orchestrate how a technical services operation ultimately translates into excellent collection development.

"I look over all the possible resources and vendors for the material and select the best match," Ken said. "Right now the book publishing market is started to follow the lead of the journals market in that they are more and more turning to an electronic publishing option. Currently, I am researching the advantages and disadvantages of possibly switching our underlying policy of collecting books in print format to obtaining them in electronic format. This would allow a wider use of the materials by our students and faculty, but I am not sure that the platforms that deliver these books are up to standards we would want yet."

Ken is an old QC Library stalwart, having been with us since 1996 when he began work as a part-time student aide in the Media Center. After graduating with a major in Economics and History in 1999, he became a full-time staff member, accumulating invaluable experience in our bindery, reserve and reference department units. In addition, Ken was always an invaluable on-call resource to resolve pesky Word issues or diagnose technical glitches.

Ken earned his MLS (Master of Library Science) from Queens College in 2007 and became our Substitute Acquisitions Librarian in 2008. In 2009, he received his permanent appointment. "With my economics background and library science education, I combine the best of both fields in doing my job," he said. In these troubled times, we have no doubt that Ken will stretch our dollars for library acquisitions so that we continue to build our excellent digital and print resources collections.

*Lisa Flanzraich, PageDown Editor*

## Micropaleontology Press at Queens College

Two international peer-reviewed scientific journals and the world's primary data resource on microscopic fossils, used in oil exploration and the study of prehistoric climate change, will now be published from Queens College. The arrangement that brings the 75-year old, non-profit Micropaleontology Project across the East River to a new home in the Rosenthal Library means that the College will also have access to the Project's huge reference library and data files that were built up by hundreds of workers during the Depression, when the Project was funded by the Works Progress Administration or WPA. More information about the Project and its history can be found on the website at <http://www.micropress.org>.

Micropaleontology Press, as the publishing arm of the Project, puts out 10 issues per year between the bi-monthly *Micropaleontology* (now in its 55th year) and the quarterly *Stratigraphy* (in its 6th year). Research in micropaleontology includes evolution, biology and morphology among the uncountable numbers of microscopic organisms whose remains have accumulated on floor of oceans and lakes for over 300 million years. Papers on stratigraphy range from studies of the reversals of the earth's magnetic fields and the age of geological epochs, to the effect of meteor strikes and ice ages before human history began. The *Ellis and Messina Catalogues* compile the original published images and descriptions of every species in three of the most important microfossil groups.

The Project is supported by subscriptions and will continue to operate independently, with a board drawn from oil companies, geological surveys and universities. It is headed by editor in chief John A. Van Couvering, a California native (BA, MA geology at UCLA) who did his doctorate at Cambridge under the late Louis S. B. Leakey, in a study of the age and environment of hominid fossil beds in Kenya. Executive editor Susan E. Carroll is a graduate of Queens College (BA biology, 1976) with an MS in marine science from C. W. Post. The staff also includes journal editor Gregory E. Dinkins (BA English, University of North Carolina), who is also active in the New York Stereoscopic Society, and accounts manager Gladys Aviles, formerly at J. P. Morgan Chase in Manhattan.

The Project worked closely with Professor Stephen Pekar of Earth Sciences, Chief Librarian Robert Shaddy, and Vice President Sue Henderson to bring about this move.

*Dr. John Van Couvering, Director, Micropaleontology Press and Project*

## Textbook Initiative Fund

Through our Reserve Services program, the Queens College Libraries provides copies of textbooks and other materials required for use by Queens College students. Materials placed on Reserve may be checked out for short periods of time.

(<http://www.reserve.qc.edu/eres/default.aspx>)

This academic year, special funds from the City University of New York have been made available to the Libraries for the purchase of textbooks and electronic books. The textbooks and electronic books are to support undergraduate coursework, current students, and the current curriculum. Materials are being acquired from a variety of sources, including the Queens College Bookstore. We thank the Bookstore for its participation in this Initiative.

We are trying to provide a balance of multiple copies of high demand textbooks along with materials used in general education and upper division courses. Textbooks acquired with the Fund will be placed on Reserve in the Library and circulated to students.

The Libraries are also investigating a partnership with other CUNY libraries to acquire a subscription to Ebrary, a collection of about 45,000 electronic books. These materials will be available “anytime, anywhere” for research and other uses by our students. We hope to be able to acquire access to other electronic book collections during the Fall 2009 semester and will use Initiative funds for more textbooks in the Spring 2010 semester. Statistics of usage are being kept and we hope the Initiative will be funded again by CUNY during the 2010-2011 academic year. We believe it to be of great benefit to the students of the College.

As always, we encourage all Queens College students, faculty, and staff with information resource and service needs to start with the website of the Queens College Libraries:

<http://qcpages.qc.cuny.edu/Library/>

*Dr. Robert A. Shaddy, Professor and Chief Librarian*