Advancing Library Services Through Technology

The Librarian faculty members at BCC and across CUNY have been collaborating diligently to provide improvements for access to information resources for teaching and learning. A couple of "simple" library technologies have been improved here on campus. First, our Technology Services team has worked with campus I.T. to stabilize and advance the Library printing/copying services. Also, we’ve worked with SGA to completely outfit group study rooms with dry-erase boards.

New and improved research resources are available as well. With support from the Chancellor’s Office, STEM research databases have been purchased for universal CUNY patron access, and the CUNY Office of Library Services systems folk have guided the collaborations on OneSearch™, a simple way to search many resources simultaneously. Instr. Julia Pollack has also collaborated with BCC and CUNY Library and Instructional Technology folk to develop “snap-on” library components within the BlackBoard course management environment. Library resources are now “one click away” in BCC online learning.

Along with the resource improvements, the Librarian faculty members at BCC have created expanded topics in our workshops. See the list on page two and know that, whenever possible, the Library team is poised ready to make your teaching, research, and learning activities as easy as possible.

Keep your eyes focused here for continued improvements. Many more are on the horizon!

Prof. Michael J. Miller, MLS, MS
Chief Librarian

STAFF PICKS:

A photo snapshot is an image that is a memory of an instant. In today’s world anyone with a mobile device can take photographs. BCC Library just acquired The World Atlas of Street Photography by Jackie Higgins. Call Number: TR 659.8.H54 2014.

This is a gorgeous photobook of images from anywhere on this planet with an urban center. The composite of the images range from light and dark, animate and inanimate, stillness and motion. Diversity represented. This is a great book for students looking for artistic inspiration and a view into another country.

ARCHIVES

A Place Among the Greats:

A BCC Oral History Project

The Archives’ purpose for this oral history project is to collect the vivid and provocative memories of BCC from students, faculty, staff and alumni. This collective effort will include several voices: from the student who struggled against all odds to get their degree, to the instructor who recognized the potential of teaching nontraditional students, and alumni on their college experience and how it helped shape them into the people they are.

The focus of our oral history work will be to document the era of 1970s when BCC moved into the University Heights campus to the present day. We will capture the history of political and cultural ferment, progressive and retrogressive changes, the anti-war movement, the Civil Rights and Black Power movements, the feminist and gay liberation movements, immigration and the Dream Act, and diverse challenges and success to these moments as experienced by members of the BCC community.

We are also interested in collecting stories from student groups and clubs, department chairs, retired faculty, and past and current administrators.

Students, faculty, alumni or staff wishing to schedule an interview session can reach Archivist Cynthia Tobar at cynthia.tobar@bcc.cuny.edu
WE REMEMBER ISMAEL

Ismael Alicea was a beloved member of the Bronx Community College Library Department staff. Over the course of his 45 year career, Ismael advanced from a page working at the former Donnell Library to Coordinator of Special Services with NYPL to Adjunct Assistant Professor in our Library here at BCC. His many significant contributions improved the services offered to our academic community, advanced his profession, and promoted the welfare of his colleagues. Ismael’s long-standing title here at BCC, does not capture the breadth of his responsibilities. He was deeply involved with many facets involving ‘special services’ to the many diversified populations across the New York City area where he worked full time with New York Public Library as the Coordinator of Outreach Services and became the go-to person for almost all program potentials related to outreach. In addition to this, Ismael served as a driving force in our outreach to teaching faculty through his many instructional classes during the weekend and evening hours he worked with us. Up until his untimely death, Ismael continued to build strong relationships within and outside our department. His special gift for facilitating complex discussions and crafting win-win solutions allowed him to successfully advocate for the needs of the Library, our staff, and our students.

Many colleagues remember Ismael as a fair, approachable, honest, and forthcoming colleague. He was easy to work with – and to work for. Indeed, his personal warmth and his willingness to extend himself for the benefit of others have secured him a special place in the hearts of his colleagues in the BCC Library and throughout CUNY. He is missed.

DID YOU KNOW?

Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor was born in the Bronx?

Born on June 25, 1954 in the Bronx, her parents were both from Puerto Rico. In 1957 when she was three years old, the Sotomayor family moved into Building 24 at Bronxdale Houses. She grew up in a bilingual household and did not learn to speak English fluently until after the death of her father when she was nine years old. She resided at Bronxdale with her mother and brother until she was 16.