

CIRCUMSPICE

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The City College Libraries Digital Gallery

On August 25 the City College Library's blog announced the Digital Gallery, a new venue for the library's digital content. Viewers can access the gallery via the "Digital Collections" icon on the library's home page.



New digital content will be added frequently. As the introduction to the Digital Archives states, the library is digitizing our archives and unique holdings on an ongoing basis. The site debuted with historical reports issued during the first nineteen years of the college's existence, when it was known as The Free Academy. These reports provide data concerning the curriculum, faculty, and student body involved with this experiment in public higher education that predated the Midwestern land-grant colleges by two decades.

See the left column of the Digital Gallery for an invitation to "Explore" any of the holdings. Among these are issues of the *Lewisohn Stadium Concerts Review* for summer performances of the New York Philharmonic in the stadium that occupied the current site of the North Academic Center building. See also the Harlem Development Archive focused on development in our community or the Langston Hughes Festival collection noting the African-American writers who have been honored in the name of



Langston Hughes. You can retrieve also documents from a vibrant era of student political activism during the 1930s. Additionally, a mosaic from the City College Art Collection is presented via Flickr.

The Digital Gallery makes it easier to navigate to the City College Libraries' digital exhibits such as *The Artistry of Dominican Carnival* now featuring a sound track. One can read about events at the college in issues of *The Campus* from when it was first published in September 1907 until May 1981. This library newsletter, *CircumSpice*, is currently available digitally from 1995. Additional images will be uploaded soon.

The Digital Gallery is the fulfillment of a project begun by members of the City College Library faculty and staff in the spring of 2009. They met to discuss the future presentation and

organization of digital material for our community. Several presentation platforms for web presentations were compared on the basis of sustainability and cost. The WordPress environment with plug-ins designed by Kevin Reiss for the Graduate Center's Mina Rees Library's on-line presentation of "Digital Murray Hill" was approved as a model.

The WordPress program and plug-ins were loaded onto a City College Library server for utilization by John Carrero, City College Library Computer Systems Manager. Content was mounted by Beth Schneiderman, Library Webmaster.

Enjoy your visit to the gallery!

Sydney Van Nort
svanort@ccny.cuny.edu



From The Desk Of The Chief Librarian

Starting in August, the library faculty began converting our subject web pages – the ones you get to by clicking the “[Research by Subject](#)” link on our home page – to a web-based system called LibGuides. Why would we do all that work? I’m glad you asked. Here are a few of the reasons:

- **More usable for you:** no more loooooong pages where you scroll forever – tabs make it easier for you to find things.
- **The ability to incorporate different types of media:** we can add pictures, video, charts, maps, PDF files, Word documents, slide shows and more to the traditional list of web URLs.
- **Becoming part of a community:** LibGuides is used by many libraries in the U.S., and they all agree to share the guides they develop. For instance, our guide for [Government Publications](#) is adapted from one originating at the University of Pittsburgh and our guide for [Image Collections for CCNY Users](#) is adapted from one at Duke.
- **A link checker** that runs automatically every Saturday helps cut down on bad connections.
- **RSS feeds, widgets and tagging:** We’ve embedded our blogs in several pages,

added widgets that recommend books or do searches, and we’re tagging the content.

- You can set up **email alerts** to let you know about page changes, in many places you can send us comments, and you can rate the resources you use.
- The program provides really **good usage statistics**, so that we will better know what features, content or connections you want us to add.

You will find a main subject guide for each college department, school and program (like [Economics](#)). You may also find guides for class use, whether that means a shared guide for all the “Writing for Engineering” classes or [a guide for an individual course](#).

We actually started the process by converting our “[Databases A to Z](#)” aka “[Articles via Databases](#)” page. Now each letter has its own tab, shortening scrolling throughout and eliminating it altogether on some pages.

We also created a [FAQ LibGuide](#) and a “[How Do I... ?](#)” LibGuide to point you to our services and support.

Comments, suggestions and feedback regarding the library’s services are always welcome and should be addressed to me by calling x7271, sending email to prgcc@sci.ccnycuny.edu, or by dropping by NAC 5/333 (Cohen Library).

Support the CCNY Libraries every time you shop at Amazon.com!

Whenever you have the urge for some e-commerce, click on the **Amazon.com** button located in the lower corner of the libraries’ Web site:

www1.ccnycuny.edu/library/

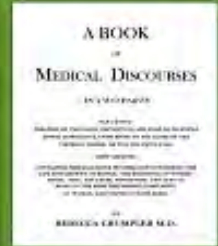
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The *Biographical Dictionary of American Physicians of African Ancestry, 1800-1920* (Africana Homestead Legacy, 2011) compiled by Geraldine Rhoades Beckford is an extraordinary achievement, due to its scope and depth of coverage. First and foremost it is a "labor of love," featuring over 3,000 entries including a physician's birth and death dates, place of practice, medical school and year of graduation, parents, spouse, and children. Beckford worked for over twenty years with various archive and manuscript collections to uncover this information "to share with scholars, educators, genealogists, or with those simply looking for 'the doctor' in the family history."

More importantly, however, in my opinion is the fact that she has succeeded in raising the public awareness and knowledge of the extraordinary achievements made by American physicians of African ancestry. To understand this significance, I present a few historical facts for the period:

From 1800-1920, the African American population had to contend with slavery, segregation and racism. David Jones Peck was the first African American to graduate in 1847 from an American medical school, Rush Medical College, in Chicago. Howard University College of Medicine in Washington, DC, was established in 1868 as the first medical school in the United States to train African Americans. The first entering class numbered only eight students. Other medical schools established afterward for American physicians of African ancestry lasted at most two decades, and some only one year, due to lack of funds. By 1923, only two such medical schools remained: Howard and Meharry Medical School in Nashville, established in 1876. They graduated 80-85% of African American physicians in the United States by the early 1920s. One cannot imagine how difficult it was for

Biographical Dictionary of American Physicians of African Ancestry, 1800-1920



Compiled by Geraldine Rhoades Beckford

Beckford to track down the remaining physicians from the defunct schools, and from the pre-Civil War era.

In a telephone conversation we had, Beckford told me that the *Biographical Dictionary* covers almost 98% of the physicians, but her work is not finished yet. Before she officially retired to complete research on this book, Beckford was an information analyst, as well as a cataloging librarian, in both the public and private sectors. She earned a BA in Biology and Chemistry at CCNY (1960), a Master of Library Science at Long

Island University (1973), and she did postgraduate studies in history at CUNY's Graduate Center in the early nineties.

We are proud that a librarian alumna of City College has made a difference in the African American community and to society at large. Every single student aspiring to become a physician, regardless of race, religion, or country of origin needs to acknowledge the success against all odds, of these early pioneers in medicine, and to believe that he/she can achieve anything.

Claudia Lascar
clascar@ccny.cuny.edu

cITy TECH (Teaching, Energizing, Collaborating and Helping) Center

Over the summer, the college remodeled a significant portion of the first floor of Cohen Library and gave it a new name: it's now the cITy TECH (Teaching, Energizing, Collaborating and Helping) Center, and through

in the library and that he liked the comparative isolation. He especially appreciated the new machines. None of the students thought that connectivity had suffered – one student acknowledged that connections were sometimes slow, but no more than to be expected, given the time of day. And many students complained about the lack of a good cell phone signal on the first floor.

The two existing electronic classrooms (1/340, now STC-2 and 1/340A, now STC-3) have been revamped: new workstations were installed throughout, plus they each have about ten additional stations, giving each room more than thirty seats. The college has also set up an additional classroom (STC-1) with a total of fifty seats. Ten breakout media study rooms can be reserved by groups for collaborative purposes. Breakout rooms

can accommodate up to six students and contain technology and white boards. Two-person study rooms can also be reserved by students, and work well when collaborating with a friend or a tutor. All rooms can be reserved online. As mentioned above, the TECH center also provides free printing and has laptops available to loan for student use.

Working together with the college, the library's objective is to produce technology-savvy and information literate students, who after graduating from City College, are



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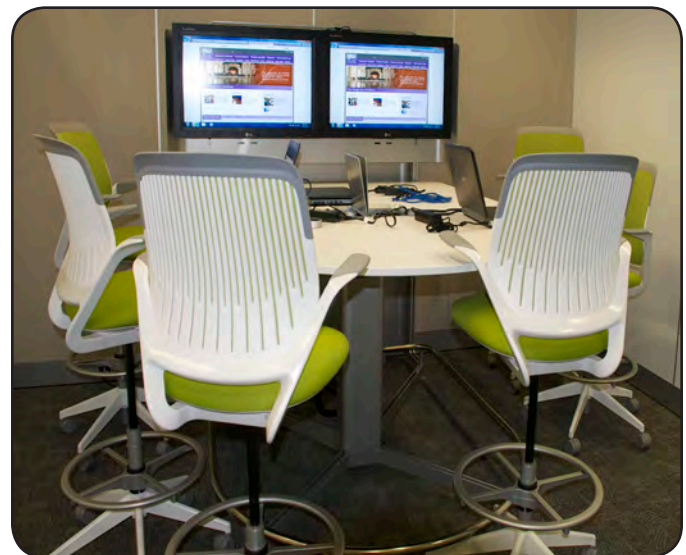
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prepared to lead the way in their chosen fields. The facility doubles our capacity of available computers for general lab purposes. Additionally, software packages beyond the standard office productivity packages are available to help students complete class assignments and practice with tools that they will continue to use in their careers after college.

The TECH Center opened on September 19 on the first floor of the Cohen Library. Additional information about the TECH Center is available on the CCNY website at: www1.ccnycuny.edu/facultystaff/it/index.cfm

it we are providing 250 workstations where students can work, check email, and use software needed for class. The new facility is sectioned into open seating, enabled training rooms/classrooms, breakout media study rooms and two-person study rooms.

Several students, when asked how they liked the new facility, thought it was great. Two freshmen stated that they preferred it to other facilities on campus, specifically mentioning the availability of free printing. A sophomore called the TECH Center "awesome" and stated that he liked the group study rooms. A senior, comparing it with computing facilities that he had used over the course of his City College career, said that he found it quieter than other facilities



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The Library Scene



Cohen librarians Daisy Dominguez (l.) and Shea Taylor join the ranks of assistant professor at their master's graduation ceremonies in May.



Learning more about QR (Quick Response) coding at the library's Professional Development Day (PDD)



Library faculty & staff getting ready for their yearbook photo



Librarians (l. to r.) Amrita Dhawan, Regina Houteling, Seamus Scanlon & Rita Gregory participating in the library's Professional Development Day PDD in the spring semester.

Library Scene (cont'd)



Librarian Daisy Dominguez, Cherry Blossom Film Festival grant winner and organizer, with (l. to r.) Professors Atshushi Tomita, Akemi Reeves, and Shiyo Kaku of the Foreign Languages and Literatures Department after Professor Reeves' "Monochrome Terror" talk at the festival's opening April 28.

CCNY LIBRARY
BOOK SALE
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 3
WE RAISED \$ 1500.

THANKS TO ALL
OUR BOOK LOVERS !



Students with CCNY Jacket across from Great Hall, one of the pen & ink Sketches in CCNY - an Era sketched in Time: The Drawings of Marvin Gettleman, Class of 1957, a library Archives exhibit which ran through October.



Government Documents Librarian Lena Marvin in a light moment at October's Comic Con New York, billed as the East Coast's "most exciting popular culture convention".

New Perspectives Exhibit and a Special Visit to the CUNY DSI Archives and Library

The photographic exhibit *New Perspectives: the Dominican Republic*, on display from September through October 2011 at CCNY's Amsterdam Plaza attracted visits from school groups throughout New York City. The exhibit featured fifty-six aerial photographs of landscapes and historical sites and places in the Dominican Republic. It was co-sponsored by the CUNY Dominican Studies Institute (CUNY DSI), The City College of New York, the Global

Presidential Visit

The President of the Dominican Republic, Dr. Leonel Fernández Reyna, was a special visitor to the exhibit. He also toured the CUNY DSI Archives and Library at CCNY on September 20. This was the first time that President Reyna visited the now



The tour goes on even in the rain.



Sarah Aponte leading one of many visiting school groups

two-year-old premises of the CUNY DSI Archives and Library.

He and his delegation were given an overview of the work done there. He had the

opportunity also to view the unique, specialized bibliographic collections held at the library as well as the original documents of New York's Dominican community held at the Archives. The CUNY DSI Archives and Library are special because they are the only two units in the United States devoted to preserving, and making available for research, publications and documents about Dominicans in this country.

Foundation for Democracy and Development, and The City College Libraries, under the auspices of FUNGLODE (a not-for-profit private organization created with the purpose of contributing to the social, economic, and democratic development of the Dominican Republic.)

The exhibit was inspired by the book *New Perspectives: Dominican Republic* (available at the CUNY DSI Archives and Library) that shows the Dominican Republic as it has never been seen before. The book features an array of original aerial photographs of landscapes, people, and situations that go far beyond the typical images associated with the country, portraying the diversity and beauty the country emanates.



Javier Pichardo

Taken during President Fernández Reyna's visit: (l. to r.) Anthony Stevens-Acevedo (CUNY DSI Assistant Director), Dr. Ramona Hernández (CUNY DSI Director), Pamela Gillespie (Associate Dean & Chief Librarian), Dr. Leonel Fernández (President of the Dominican Republic), Sarah Aponte (CUNY DSI Chief Librarian), Dr. Frank D. Sanchez (CUNY Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs), Idilio Garcia Peña (CUNY DSI Chief Archivist), Ana Garcia-Reyes (Interim Associate Dean for Community Relations, Hostos Community College)

Sarah Aponte
saponte@ccny@cuny.edu

The Friends of the City College Library

We are sincerely grateful to all those who have generously supported the City College Library this year. Private gifts play a crucial role, enabling the library collections to continue to grow. We wish to offer our donors special recognition for all they have done.

The gifts listed below represent the vital commitment of individuals to the library. Donors of both monetary gifts and collections are listed according to the total amount of their library donations.

\$1,000+ (FOUNDER)

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 estate of Stanley Engelstein '39
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Gifts in Memory of Prof. Grace-Ellen McCrann

Anthony Todman
 NYLA GIRT Mildred Lowe Award,
 courtesy of LexisNexis

Library Exhibits/ Events 2011/12

Entertaining Politics: The Art of Public Office

On display until December 22
 Cohen Library Atrium

Cry Uncle: The Artwork of Frances Jetter

November 7-December 21
 Cohn Library Archives

Exhibit Talks in Archives:
 "Torture and the United States of
 America: Why Accountability Mat-
 ters" Dr. Allen S. Keller
 from Survivors of Torture
 Bellevue Hospital
 November 17, 6 pm

"Torture within the Army"
 Prof. Marie Rose Mukeni Beya
 Based on research with Congolese
 children
 November 28, 6 pm

Many Faces of Washington (Gilder Lehrman Institute of Ameri- can History Traveling Exhibit)

February 6-March 19, 2012
 Cohen Library Atrium

The Titanic: 100 Year Commemoration

March 20-May 31, 2012

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Library Contact Information

Chief Librarian	650-7271
Archives	650-7609
Circulation	650-7155
Reference	650-7611-12
Architecture	650-8768
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Science/Engineering	650-8246
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