



REFERENCE SECTION QUARTERLY

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HTTP://WWW.NJLA.ORG/SECTIONS/REFERENCE

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT: ALL TOGETHER NOW!

It's finally back! After a brief hiatus, the Reference Section Quarterly returns, in the very capable hands of co-editors Jenny Lichtenwalner and Nick Van Dorn. A very warm, and very overdue, welcome to our newest board members Leslie Kahn and Richard Stern, and to all of our new and returning Reference Section members. Hello!

So, did you make it to the Adult Services Forum in October? For those of you who missed it, our theme, as [brilliantly described by keynote speaker Peter Bromberg](#), was All Together Now. We chose this theme based on the collaborative effort of multiple

organizations within [NJLA](#), the [NJ State Library](#), and Infolink (now [LibraryLinkNJ](#)) to make the event possible; our shared struggle throughout the economic downturn; and the ways in which cooperation have helped us weather the resulting storms.

As librarians, we possess an outstanding proficiency for working together. Can we do better? In his piece "[Four Lessons for 2010](#)," librarian Andy Woodworth blogged: "Comprehensive library advocacy needs to become a shared purpose across the profession. Not simply for your type of library, but for any library that needs a voice." Like you, RSQ

readers, who work in public, academic, school, special, medical and legal settings.

As members of the Reference Section, you have access to a forum to share information on the trials and triumphs of your profession. I hope you'll take the opportunity to share any information that you deem valuable, through this newsletter, our listserv, and our meetings in libraries around the state. Please join us at [Sayreville Public Library](#) on February 8th from 1 to 4 p.m., to hear about exciting new projects, including news about the [NJLA Conference](#) in April.

Hope all's well!

Michael Maziekien

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- *Reference Section Mtg*
February 8, 2011
Sayreville Public Library
- *NJLA Annual Conference*
May 2-4, 2011
Long Branch, NJ

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MEET NICHOLAS JACKSON



Nicholas C. Jackson is looking forward to taking his new position as Reference/Instruction Librarian at

the Bergen Community College Library, starting spring semester. He will be leaving his position as Adult Services Librarian at the William E. Dermody Free Public Library in Carlstadt. Other positions held by Nicholas were the Acting Director and the Information Service Librarian of the Oradell Free Public Library.

Nicholas has Masters in Information and Library Science at

Pratt Institute. He has a BA from Ramapo College, with a focus in philosophy.

He spends his time with his fiancé Kelly; the wedding will be this October, and their two cats Adel and Thumbs. He enjoys reading Russian literature and Byzantine history, as well as hiking, playing Wii, and writing. One day he hopes to have a Ph. D. in Russian history.

NJLA 2010 ADULT SERVICES FORUM



(Pictured Left) NJLA Reference Section President **Michael Maziekien**, Nutley Public Library welcomes attendees at the 2010 Adult Services Forum



(Pictured Right) Keynote Speaker **Peter Bromberg**, Assistant Director, Princeton Public Library

The 2nd annual Adult Services Forum held on October 18th 2010 at the Monmouth County Library Headquarters brought together many librarians from both the public and academic setting. Librarians from across the state came together to celebrate collaboration among libraries and communities.

Peter Bromberg, from Princeton Public Library, gave the keynote speech which focused on the importance of librarians across the state coming



All Together Now

together as one. Including the Reference Section which sponsored the event, five NJLA Sections, Information Technologies, History and Preservation, Readers' Advisory and Administration and Management teamed up to present a diverse range of 12 topics. Some of the topics discussed were *10 Technologies Every Librarian Should Know*, *The Free E-Library Project*, *Policies: Friend or Foe?*, and *Sound and Vision: Preserving Your Community's History*.



(Pictured Left) **Doug Baldwin**, Cranbury PL, **Tyler Rousseau**, Monroe Township PL, **Beth Cawowski**, QandANJ and **JP Porcaro**, New Jersey City University Guarini Library.



(Pictured Right) **Denise O'Shea** Fairleigh Dickinson University and **Leslie Kahn**, Newark Public Library

ALA MIDWINTER MEETING WRAP-UP



As thousands of librarians convened in sunny San Diego shortly after the New Year for the [American Library Association Midwinter Meeting](#), there was a touch of anxiety in the air.

Outside of the budgeting and funding concerns that permeate our profession and the role technology will play in library service, the Meeting itself handled its own identity crisis. From movers and shakers questioning the need for the Midwinter Meeting at all to controversy during the LITA Board Meeting when a live stream was shut down at participants' request, the mood felt a bit like an awkward dinner with warring relatives at times – anxiety over what comes next.

However, not all of the weekend contained tension and anxiety. Celebrities graced the San Diego Convention Center with their presence as a means of taking attendees' minds off of serious issues. Author Neil Gaiman and recently named Library Journal Librarian of the Year Nancy Pearl enjoyed a casual chat in which he professed his love of libraries, offered a writing tip or two, and shared two very exciting developments – the news of a sequel to *American Gods* underway (along with a 10th anniversary reissue), and the

premiere of his first ever Doctor Who episode later this spring. During the Presidents' Program, actor Ted Danson offered advice that many a librarian could take to heart: "Don't focus on the negative and scary....the problems are fixable."

Midwinter's other focus is honors and awards. ALA honored its best and brightest with the kickoff of the Emerging Leaders program. This year's cohort features 83 professionals (full disclosure: the author is one of them) who will work virtually over the next six months on projects to benefit various ALA divisions, roundtables and working groups, presenting their work at the ALA Annual Conference in New Orleans later this year. Throughout the meeting, ALA announced several awards, including the Newberry Medal winner (Moon over Manifest, Clare Vanderpool), the Caldecott Award (A Sick Day for Amos McGee, Erin E. Stead and Philip C. Stead), the Printz Award for Excellence in Literature in Young Adults (Ship Breaker, Paolo Bacigalupi), and the Coretta Scott King Award (One Crazy Summer, Rita Williams-Garcia).

Other topics discussed during the weekend included transliteracy, emerging technologies, e-books, and the roles the 112th Congress and Tea Party candidates will play in library funding on state and federal levels. In policy news, the ALA Council passed resolutions encouraging employers to clearly state in postings if domestic partner benefits were included with other job benefits and a resolution requesting Congress to reintroduce the DREAM Act.

Projects launched during the meeting included President Roberta Stevens' "Our

Authors, Our Advocates," program, the "Why I Need My Library" video contest for teens, ALA JobList's new free daily e-newsletter, and "Buy India a Library," a fundraising effort born from a Twitter conversation that aims to give a rural part of India a brand new library and pay a librarian to staff it for two years.

And in the spirit of "making lemonade from lemons" seen in libraries today, several Northeast and South-based attendees who found themselves stranded in San Diego after bad weather in those parts of the country cancelled flights extended the camaraderie one more day. Using the Twitter hash tag "#strandedata," they hosted their own dinner and unconference to continue what these conferences are known for best – networking, sharing and friendship.

More in-depth coverage of the Midwinter Meeting is available through AmericanLibraries (<http://www.americanlibrariesmagazine.org/alamw11>), and Library Journal (<http://www.libraryjournal.com/csp/cms/sites/LJ/Community/ALA/index.csp>). The discussions continue in six months, when the ALA Annual Conference returns to New Orleans from June 23 to June 28, 2011.

Kate Kosturski, a resident of East Windsor, received her MLS from Pratt Institute in 2010. She is an Independent Consultant in Outreach and Participation Services for JSTOR in New York.

More information is available on her website, <http://www.katekosturski.com>

SPOTLIGHT ON REFERENCE DESK PRESS



William B. Brahms is Branch Manager at the Voorhees Branch of the Camden County Library and has spent nearly 20 years working in New Jersey Libraries. He cut his teeth as a reference librarian and made the leap from reference librarian to reference book publisher in 2004. His latest reference book, *Last Words of Notable People -- Final Words of More than 3500 Noteworthy People Throughout History* (2010) is out and set for review this winter in several journals, but the book has already received some praise for its scope and scholarly approach. Bill admits that his favorite piece of feedback came, not in a review, but from best-selling author John

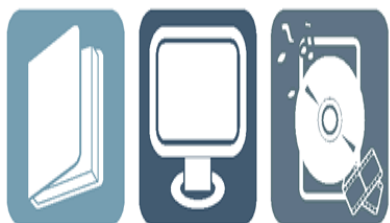
Green (*Looking for Alaska*). Green, one of the top video bloggers on You Tube and a favorite among many librarians for his intellectual sense of humor, received a promo copy of *Last Words of Notable People* and his reaction resulted in a very funny video: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tBmjLEq9-1k>. Bill admits that while the effect on the book of the video is yet to be seen – he does believe it is the funniest video about a reference book he has seen.

Reference Desk Press, Inc. (RDP) was founded in 2004 to produce select reference books by librarians for librarians in an ecologically and economically responsible manner. The book *Notable Last Facts -- A Compendium of Endings, Conclusions, Terminations and Final Events Throughout History* released in 2005 was very well-received by reviewers and library journals and it is now listed in core collection resource works. *Notable Last Facts* was actually inspired by a Rutgers graduate school library class, a story that is told on the RDP company website: <http://www.referencedeskpress.com>

Brahms notes RDP is a small company focusing on quality and attention to detail over quantity—and while it is a struggle competing against the big reference publishers, he admits that as small company, RDP can be a “green” publishing company without hesitation (only using high-quality recycled paper and supporting the Green Press Initiative). The company can also have an extremely pro-library/pro-librarian philosophy, by being supportive of libraries and library issues. RDP’s latest pledge to libraries is to attack high cost of reference print by setting a policy of no new retail price above \$95 on any reference book. Bill welcomes any ideas and feedback for how RDP can help support libraries with quality material and positive action for librarian and libraries.

NJLA REFERENCE SECTION’S FEBRUARY MEETING

SAYREVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY



Andrew Gross, from Recorded Books, will visit the Sayreville Public Library to discuss his company's partnership with Universal Class, a provider of "online, self-paced professional development courses." Sayreville has recently picked up this service, which allows patrons to take online courses with actual instructors. Attendees will get a chance to learn what it's all about, straight from the experts.

Tuesday February 8, from 1 - 4 PM

Sayreville Public Library, 1050 Washington Road Parlin, NJ 08859
(732) 727-0212 <http://www.sayrevillelibrary.org/directions.html>

FINDING ELECTRONIC STATE PUBLICATIONS IN THE STATE LIBRARY

The State Library has the largest collection of New Jersey State publications in print and electronic format. Over the past two decades information technology has changed the way local and state governments conduct business and interact with the public. Many records and publications that once appeared only in print are now available electronically on departmental web sites.

These changes have posed challenges to librarians and the State Documents Library Depository program. To ensure long-term access to these documents the State Library is currently saving electronic documents to a State

Library server, then cataloging and printing out a copy of the document. We are also scanning older copies of state reports and adding them to the existing cataloging records. To date, the State Library has more than ten thousand electronic documents accessible through our catalog.

To find them, start at www.njstatelib.org and look for the catalog. In addition to the usual search fields the State Library catalog also has a New Jersey subject keyword field which searches both government publications and Jerseyana (anything about New Jersey not published by the State government). In the cataloging record a field called

“electronic resource” will indicate that an electronic copy of a publication is available. The majority of electronic publications are available as searchable .pdfs.

If you don't find the hearing or report you need, please contact us at 609-278-2640 x103 or refdesk@njstatelib.org.

-Deborah Mercer, New Jersey Collections

dmercerc@njstatelib.org

NEW JERSEY REGISTER VOLUMES



The State Library Law Section is pleased to announce that it has scanned older editions of the New Jersey Register (Volume 1, September 25, 1969, through Volume 27, Number 12, June 19, 1995) and made them available online at http://www.njstatelib.org/Research_Guides/Law/new_jersey_register.php.

They have been scanned using optical character recognition software and can be searched using the Google “site” command.

When you enter your search, include “site: http://www.njstatelib.org/Research_Guides/Law/njregister” in your search. For instance, if you were looking for the word “techniques” you would search techniques site: http://www.njstatelib.org/Research_Guides/Law/njregister This will find every volume of the New Jersey Register that includes the word “techniques” anywhere in the document. When you open the document, the term will not be highlighted, so you will have to search within that document using the “Find” box.

If some of the words were blurry or otherwise weren't recognized by optical character recognition when it was scanned, Google won't be able to find it.

This search strategy will also work with the School Law Decisions, online at http://www.njstatelib.org/Research_Guides/Law/schoollawdecisions. Simply replace site: http://www.njstatelib.org/Research_Guides/Law/njregister with site: http://www.njstatelib.org/Research_Guides/Law/schoollawdecisions

A complete index to New Jersey legal resources is available at http://www.njstatelib.org/Research_Guides/Law/index.php.

-Robert Heym, Law Librarian

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2011 NJLA CONFERENCE PROGRAMS SPONSORED BY THE REFERENCE SECTION

Tuesday, May 3:

9:00 AM

Literacy Program Success with English Language Learners @ Your Library

Barb Hauck-Mah, Rockaway Township Library; Holly Rogerson, Vineland Public Library; Kate Baker, Piscataway Public Library

Co-sponsoring with Administration & Management Section, Professional Development Committee

9:00 AM

Revolutionary War Stories of New Jersey

Jude Pfister, Morristown National Historic Park; Joseph Bilby, National Guard Militia Museum of NJ

Co-sponsoring with History & Preservation Section

11:00 AM

Beating the Odds: Getting a Job in a Tight Market

Dr. Marie Radford, Rutgers University; Gary Schmidt, Ocean County College Library; Zarita Mattox, Ocean County Library

Co-sponsoring with Administration & Management Section, Professional Development Committee

1:30 PM

Trends & Technologies for Librarians 2011

Michael Stephens, Graduate School of Library and Information Science at Dominican

Co-sponsoring with Information Technologies Section

1:30 PM

Libraries and the Cloud

Ellyssa Kroski, Long Island University's Palmer School of Library Science

Co-sponsoring with College & University Section

4:30 PM

Librarian By Appointment: Making It Work

Julie Senack, Atlantic City Free Public Library; Elizabeth Cronin, Ocean County Library; Ed Troike, Piscataway Public Library; Nick Van Dorn, Nutley Public Library

Co-sponsoring with Administration & Management Section

Wednesday, May 4:

9:00 AM

Hard Times: Library Services for the Disadvantaged

Tonya Badillo, Long Branch Public Library; Cindy Czesak, Paterson Public Library; Nadine Sergejeff, Newark Public Library

Co-sponsoring with Urban Libraries Section

9:00 AM

Recipe Reference 101

Dena Price, Old Bridge Public Library

Co-sponsoring with Information Technologies Section,

11:30 AM

The Year's Best Graphic Novels 2010

Karla Ivarson, Ocean County Library; Laverne Mann, Piscataway Public Library; David Lisa, New Jersey State Library; Tyler Rousseau, Monroe Public Library

Co-sponsoring with Readers' Advisory Roundtable

11:30 AM

Libraries and the NJ Judiciary – Partnering to Promote Access to Justice

Rebecca Pressman, Legal Services of NJ; Nancy L. Manuele, Esq; Deborah J. Fennelly, Esq; Linda Wiggins, Ombudsman, Union

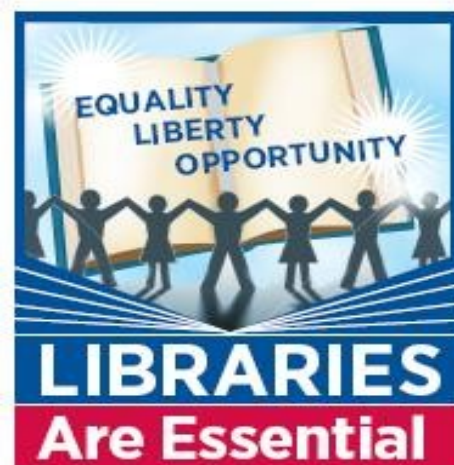
Co-sponsoring with College & University Section

2:30 PM

Double Take: Virtual Reference Research Meets Practice

Marie Radford, Rutgers University; Beth Cackowski, QandANJ.org

Co-sponsoring with Information Technologies Section





NJLA: REFERENCE SECTION

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NJLA REFERENCE SECTION MISSION STATEMENT

The section fosters professional development and networking opportunities for reference librarians. Members plan continuing education programs, including a major workshop in the fall, programs at the annual NJLA Conference, opportunities to interact with colleagues and tours of specialized libraries or collections.

It is the goal of this newsletter to provide a forum for New Jersey reference librarians, from public, academic and school libraries, to read and write about the issues that they face.

MEET NJLA'S REFERENCE SECTION QUARTERLY'S NEW EDITOR NICK VAN DORN



Starting with this February issue, Nick Van Dorn has become an editor of the NJLA Reference Section Quarterly Newsletter and will be working alongside Jenny Lichtenwalner.

Nick received his M.S.L.I.S. from Pratt Institute in the spring of 2010. He is currently working at the Nutley Public Library as an Adult Services Librarian with NJLA Reference Section President Michael Maziekien. Nick also is involved with the 2010-2011 NJLA Emerging Leaders Program.

In his spare time Nick enjoys watching movies, reading a good book, and playing saxophone in a local NJ rock band with his wife Megan.

TWELFTH ANNUAL VALE/NJ ACRL/NJLA CUS USERS' CONFERENCE



The twelfth annual VALE/NJ ACRL/NJLA CUS Users' Conference, "*Strengthening Connections: Keeping Our Libraries Vital*", was held on **Wednesday January 5, 2011**, at Rutgers University, Busch Campus Center in Piscataway, NJ.

This one-day academic library conference focused on collaborations and cooperative ventures between librarians, faculty and institutions. The conference's keynote speaker was James G. Neal, who is Vice President for Information Services and University Librarian at Columbia University. With over 270 attendees, 49 academic institutions in the state were represented. There were 21 break-out sessions presented in three segments and 16 posters displayed throughout the day. The VALE conference is always a great way to connect with other academic librarian colleagues in between

semesters. For more information about VALE-NJ, please visit: <http://www.valenj.org/>

Lisa Coats, Reference & Instruction Librarian at the Monmouth University Library.