



*Computer And Technical Services*

*a division of SCLA*

# **Technically Speaking**

The Newsletter of CATS

Spring 2005

## **“Do It Yourself Software Solutions”**

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### **Elected Officers**

Ted Guttman  
*President*

Michael Aloï  
*President-Elect*

June Zinsley  
*Treasurer*

Melanie Weiss  
*Secretary*

Renée Capitanio  
*Past President*

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Joyce Bogin (Hospitality)  
Tom Cohn  
Cynthia Guzzo  
Laura Hawrey  
Mellissa Hinton (Membership)  
Susan Ketcham (Publicity)  
Min Liu (Archives)  
John Richardson (SCLS Liaison)

**Newsletter Editor**  
Tom Cohn

At the CATS annual meeting held on December 7, 2004, five speakers presented a well-received program on “in-house solutions” to information technology problems in libraries to an audience of approximately 45. The speakers shared their experiences with programming of existing software to avoid the need to purchase new software.

Joseph Balsamo and Khaled Saeed of the Health Sciences Center at Stony Brook University described Project ROAMS, a tool for managing subscription databases and electronic journals in one simple interface. It allows for titles, URLs, provider, proxy, and other information to be entered into a database. The database can then be queried to produce the web and configuration files necessary to display the resources on the health science center web site.

Ted Guttman of Emma S. Clark Memorial Library presented two projects: a custom off-line circulation module,

and “smartPAC” a public PC time control and management tool. The offline circulation module serves as a replacement to the Innovative offline circulation front end and is designed for easier end-use. It includes support for library defined loan periods, scanners and receipt printers.

The smartPAC, which was custom developed for the Port Jefferson Free Library, requires users to enter a valid barcode number in order to use public computers. Cardholders’ barcode numbers are checked against parameters in their patron record stored in the Innovative Interfaces system. An

### ***Technically Speaking’s Featured Quotation***

“Reading is still the most basic survival skill in today’s information-driven economy.”

—William Eckenbarger,  
“Libraries Are an Essential Service, Too.”  
*Christian Science Monitor*,  
3-11-05



accompanying component program, installed at the reference desk, allows librarians to generate unique barcode numbers which can be printed out and given to non-cardholders. The program validates these generated barcode numbers based on a built-in algorithm. It supports different policies and different time limits for cardholders and non-cardholders.

Terrence Madden of Smithtown Library presented several projects, including a searchable online property tax database, an online library program/event calendar called ipCalendar I, and GateKeeper I, a computer-use policy display and patron barcode identification application that works with WinU that has been running on eight patron computers for over 2 years at Huntinton Public Library.

Anthony Martocello of Northport - East Northport Public Library presented a centrally administered user interface for public access computers that provides menus (categories) of program and URL icons the patron can run and an authenticated patron wireless internet access.

## Presidential Meowsings

I'm happy to be serving as the new incoming President of the CATS division. We've got a great year in store for our members, with programs fo-

cusing on technical services and computers in libraries.

First of all, I'd like to thank Renée Capitanio, our outgoing president for the great job she did last year for the division, and for making my transition so easy. I'd also like to thank all of the members of the CATS Board, several of whom have served for many years, for their continued support and dedication to providing our membership with top-notch programs.

We're very excited about our upcoming programs for the year. Sue Ketcham, from Southampton College/LIU, recently presented an informative program on Dewey and Library of Congress classification. Tom Cohn is overseeing a new AACR2 study group that will meet several times throughout the year, and we also have some great presentations for the upcoming Long Island Library Conference. This year at the conference, we'll be sponsoring two programs. "Geekspeak: or how to communicate with your technical/non-technical personnel" will be presented by Ron and Angela Richards, and will provide a thoroughly entertaining and informative program on communication between techie and non-techie personnel. "Photoshop and scanning: removing the mysteries of digitization" will be presented by Stephen Ingram, and will be co-sponsored by CATS, SCLA, NCLA Technical Services Committee and NCLA Computer and Technology Com-

mittee. The program will demonstrate how to scan images into a computer and manipulate them using Adobe Photoshop for digitization projects. In June, we'll be sponsoring a program by Ceil Hearn of Sharper Training Solutions, Inc. which deals with online job search resources and resume writing.

Be sure to check our website <http://cats.suffolk.lib.ny.us> for more upcoming programs throughout the year.

—Ted Guttman

## Audiobooks via iPods

The South Huntington Public Library now circulates 10 iPod Shuffles loaded with popular audiobooks, becoming perhaps the first public library in the nation to do so. Six of the iPods are preloaded with specific titles; four are made available for patron requests.

The audiobook content is purchased from the iTunes Music Store of Apple Computer. Titles include *The Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini, *Night Fall* by Nelson DeMille, and *Trump: Think Like a Billionaire* by Donald Trump. To enable patrons to listen to these audiobooks, the library lends out a kit that contains the iPod Shuffle and lanyard, a car stereo input, a charger, and an FM transmitter.

According to library director Kenneth Weil, "the library has an important role to provide technology to everybody. We



really feel strongly we should have the latest equipment: here's a piece of technology that not everybody owns. We should be the vehicle: the community should be able to come to us to see if it's something they would like to own." As another example, for some years the library has been circulating laptop computers for patron use. The library has also been lending out music cds downloaded from Apple's online music store.

Sachem Public Library also lends a selection of some 120 audiobooks that are downloaded for patrons from audible.com onto the Otis digital media player. Like the Apple iPod, the Otis player employs the MP3 digital audio compression standard. Alan Schelp, Head of Electronic and Nonbook Services at Sachem, oversees the program. He says it has been quite popular, but cites the limited memory of the Otis digital media player (64 MB of flash memory) as just one drawback. South Huntington opted to go with the iPod shuffle because, as Weil states, it is "a good product and relatively inexpensive."

The iPod audiobook program presented unique cataloging challenges. Joseph Latini, Assistant Director at South Huntington, approached John Richardson of the Suffolk Cooperative Library System (SCLS), and asked him to create catalog records. John did original

cataloging for both the electronic content and the kit. Bib records for the contents contain a general material description of "electronic resource" and an Innovative material type of "ebook." Call numbers carry the prefix "ipod." The library maintains a list of all of its iPod audio books on a "course reserves" list using the Innovative system.

Weil cites the willingness of his board to take risks as a major ingredient in the success of the program. "We're fortunate here. We have a board that's very supportive. They understand that when we try something new it may not work, but they're supportive of that." Taking that plunge has paid off, however. Not only does the technology work, the South Huntington iPod audiobook program has proved hugely popular with patrons."

## Dewey or Don't We?

On Thursday, March 29<sup>th</sup>, Sue Ketcham of Southampton College/LIU examined and compared two disparate systems of library classification, Dewey Decimal and Library of Congress in a program sponsored by the CATS division at Suffolk Cooperative Library System (SCLS) in Bellport. The subject may have seemed abstruse to the casual observer, but its presentation provoked

so much interest and discussion amongst the twenty-five catalogers and reference librarians who attended that they decided to forego a coffee break.

Although both systems have the same goals, which include bringing items together in a logical sequence and providing a specific shelf location for library material, they are structured under different philosophies. The Dewey Decimal System is broken down into ten disciplines that provide a basis for numbers that can address many facets of the material at hand, or provide specificity (597 for cold-blooded invertebrates, vs. 597.6798 for sea horses). Subjects in Dewey can be expressed in different classes depending on the discipline involved (e.g., 599.772 for scientific works about dogs, vs. 636.7 for works about dogs as domestic animals).

Library of Congress Classification, developed in 1897, replaced the fixed-location system that had been used by Thomas Jefferson. It divides subjects into twenty-one major classes of knowledge, with subdivisions and a Cutter table allowing flexibility and growth. For example, "Dolphin Societies" would be given the following classification:

QL (zoology)  
737 (mammals)  
C432 (dolphins)

*(continued on page 4)*

D653 (Cutter)  
1991 (date of publication)

Additions to the scheme depend on acquisitions by the Library of Congress.

One lively discussion focused on how the two systems are used. Academic catalogers who use LC Classification strive for consistency amongst institutions. This enables students or scholars to use the same classification as they go from one institution to another. However, Dewey catalogers in public libraries may build numbers according to the needs of their communities. One community might prefer all books about medical issues in the 610 area. Another might

want to separate books about illnesses from interdisciplinary works about services to people with specific illnesses (362.1). Would you like to know more? Sue Ketcham's Powerpoint presentation is posted on the CATS web site.

—*Melanie Weiss*

## Calendar

### May 10:

AACR2 Study Group at SCLS,  
10:00am

### June 9 and June 16:

Online Career Resources  
and Resume Software:  
A Two-Day Workshop

### June:

Annual Library Tour

### Coming this fall:

Technical Services Annual  
Forum

**Computer and Technical Services Division**  
**Suffolk County Library Association**  
c/o SCLS  
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Bellport, NY 11713

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<http://cats.suffolk.lib.ny.us>