Calendar -

January 5	CATS Board Meeting
March 2	CATS Study Group
May 3	Long Island Library Conference

Computer And Technical Services
a division of SCLA

Technically Speaking

The Newsletter of CATS   Fall/Winter 2005/6

Elected Officers
Ted Gutmann
President

Michael Aloi
President-Elect

June Zinsley
Treasurer

Past President
Renée Capitanio

Board Members-at-Large
Joyce Bogin (Hospitality)
Tom Cohn
Cynthia Guzzo
Mellissa Hinton
(Membership)
Susan Ketcham (Publicity)
Min Liu (Archives)
John Richardson (SCLS
Liaison)

Newsletter Editor
Tom Cohn

Third Annual Technical Services Open Forum

At the annual technical services open forum, held on October 19th at Sachem Public Library, about 60 attendees engaged in a wide ranging discussion of issues such as packaging of media, security devices, cataloging, labeling, self-checkout, and database maintenance.

Empanelled were Renée Capitanio of Sachem Public Library, Angela Richards of Northport Public Library, and Michael Aloi of Dowling College Library. Cindy Guzzo of Smithtown Public Library served as moderator of the event.

A number of libraries have started to place their media in clear plastic lock boxes in order to put them right out on the shelves. The boxes must be opened at the circulation desk at check out (this replaces the prior practice of using "dummy" cases). Other lock boxes allow the patron to take them home, however it has resulted in the unfortunate circumstance of patrons locking the boxes themselves inadvertently.

A lively discussion ensued on the use of security strips. Northport Public Library, for example, uses 3M security strips. Other libraries that use the so-called "donuts" for CDs and DVDs find that they can wreak havoc with car CD and DVD players.

On the subject of security, Renee Capitanio opined, "You could not possibly lose the amount of material you spend on security. Between the tattle tapes and the gates, it becomes very, very expensive. You could replace everything you lose, and still have money left over." She attributed library theft to a few individuals. "You always have those individuals, and someone's going to get around it [security measures]." Nevertheless, Sachem Public Library does maintain security protocols in the processing of its items, although "the only thing we don't put security strips on is books on tapes and CDs. We don't find that's a crowd that steals things." This last comment aroused some considerable

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Technically Speaking's
Featured Quotation

"Study as if you were to live forever and live as if you were to die tomorrow."

—Inscription in Tiffany stained glass windows of the Troy Public Library, Troy, New York. Quoted in the *New York Handbook,* by Christiane Bird, Moon Publications, 1997.

"Presidential Meowsings"

As the year comes to a close, it's nice to think back over some of the highlights from the CATS division. In 2005, CATS presented and co-sponsored several technical services and computer-related programs. We started off the year with an informative program on L.C. vs. Dewey cataloging, presented by Sue Ketcham (CATS member-at-large). For the Long Island Library Conference this year we were part of two programs, one on Photoshop/Scanning presented by Stephen Ingram and another on "Geekspeak" presented by Ron and Angela Richards. Laura Hawrey put together a two-part, hands-on Online Career Resources and Resume Software program. Cynthia Guzzo (CATS member-at-large) was instrumental in organizing our annual library tour. This year we visited the South Huntington Public Library, the Hauppauge Public Library and the West Islip Public Library. CATS Past President Renee Capitanio's Annual Technical Services Open Forum, held at the Sachem Public Library was a great success. Tom Cohn (CATS member-at-large) has done a great job and has put in a lot of work over the course of the year to get our new AACR2 study group off the ground. Coming up in December, our annual program will focus on the topic of security in the electronic age. I'd like to thank all of the people, including those who worked behind the scenes, to make this year's programs possible.

This year, one of our longest-

Ted Gutmann

serving members, Melanie Weiss, announced her retirement from the CATS board. I wish her well, but her dedication and commitment to CATS will surely be missed. I'd also like to congratulate Laura Hawrey on her recent promotion to Director of the North Shore Public Library. Laura was a member of the CATS board this year, but was understandably forced to resign when she took on her new role in October.

Finally, I'd like to thank all of the members of CATS, who have supported the division by being members and by attending our programs. Looking forward to next year, we've got more great programs coming your way, and I'll be welcoming Michael Aloi, from Dowling College as the incoming CATS president.

Please, if you're already a member, stay involved in SCLA and CATS. If not, please consider joining. Our goal is to provide great programs and information for all of our members. I look forward to seeing you in 2006!

Ted Gutmann
CATS President

laughter.

Labels were a topic that received considerable discussion. Northport P.L., for example, color codes its *continued from page 1*

items. Other libraries are using the Dymo Electronic Labeling System, which can produce long, thin labels, especially for media items.

Sachem Public Library is in the midst of a massive streamlining of its location codes, which will result in its call numbers containing more location-specific prefixes.

Angela Richards mentioned that she keeps careful records of all large-scale retrospective changes done to items. One audience member shared her philosophy of item processing: "You do it first for the ease of patron use, secondly for the circulation department, and thirdly for the librarian."

Renee wrapped up the morning with demonstrations of two subscription databases of great inter-

OCLC Top 1000 List

If you are always looking for something to read, consult the OCLC Top 1000 list. This list, updated for 2005, contains the "Top 1000" titles owned by OCLC member libraries: the intellectual works that have been judged to be worth owning by the "purchase vote" of libraries around the globe. "Purchase vote" uses OCLC holdings information to create the list. Try looking at the Top 1000 and see how many you've read. Look at the way the list is searched, select a title, and enter your zip code. You'll find the closest library that owns a title. Here's a link to the list:

Podcasting at Dowling

On October 13, 2005, the Dowling College Library went live with its first podcast, Omnibus #1. Dowling College digital resources librarian and SCLA member Chris Kretz created the podcast, which can be downloaded with a simple click and saved to your desktop or any MP3 player. There is also an RSS feed that enables listeners with podcast software such as iTunes to subscribe and automatically receive each new podcast.

The podcast can be found under the "What's New" section of the Dowling College library home page or from the library podcasts page (http://www.dowling.edu/library/new/podcasts.shtm) and was created as a more modern forum to convey information to the Dowling College community. The content is a mix of information including interviews, news, and announcements relevant to community members and read-

Above: Panelists at the Technical Services Open Forum
l to r: Michael Aloi, Renée Capitanio, Angela Richards

Above: The audience at the Sachem Public Library

ings of historical information from the library's collection that the librarians wished to share with the community at large.

Omnibus #1 contains approximately 20 minutes of content. It starts with an interview with Chris Ihm, the Director of Information Technology Services at Dowling College, and addresses the availability at the library of a student help disk with anti-virus and anti-spyware programs for use by the college community as well as some tips on personal computer security. Following that is an interview with Alyssa Rimland, President of the new Dowling Humanitarian Club. Finally, there is "The Story of Idle Hour: Part I" which includes five members of the Dowling College Library as guest speakers reading selected passages from items in the Library's Special Collections which relate to the history of the Vanderbilt Mansion called "Idle Hour" (which is now Fortunoff Hall on the main campus of Dowling College) and the surrounding areas. Selected passages include a nineteenth century New York Times article, book excerpts, personal memoirs, and other assorted news items.

Content gathering is already underway for the second podcast, with a plan for this to become a regular monthly release. Our congratulations go out to Chris and all who participated in this project for aggressively embracing a new technology and using it improve access to information for their Library users.