

## **Fall 2008 Brown Bag Lunches: Reinventing Services: Innovations @ Your Library**

### **The dates and locations were:**

Friday, October 10, 2008, Colgate University

Tuesday, October 14, 2008, University at Albany

Friday, October 24, 2008, SUNY Plattsburgh

### **Report on the Lunches**

The Eastern New York ACRL Chapter held three brown bag lunches during October, 2008 in order to offer the opportunity for members to participate over the wide geographical area represented by ENY/ACRL. Organizers of the lunches were Francesca Livermore at Colgate University, Jane Kessler at the University at Albany SUNY, and Elin O'Hara at SUNY Plattsburgh. The purpose of the gatherings was to provide an opportunity for area librarians to take a few hours out of their schedules to meet and discuss topics of relevance to the members. The gatherings built upon the Chapter's previous success with the fall brown bag lunch concept, and the informal format provided an opportunity to network with area colleagues. Dessert and beverages were provided by the host library. This year's theme was: "Reinventing Services: Innovations @ Your Library".

The following are excerpts from the reports filed by the facilitators:

Francesca Livermore, Colgate: "The brown bag at Colgate was a great success. Seventeen librarians, representing several area schools, discussed a range of new projects and ideas from 24 hour reference services to class management software, e-books, and virtual collections, next generation catalogs, learning commons spaces, faculty-librarian relationships, documentation for new technologies and services. .... The brown bag ended with a tour of the library. "

Jane Kessler, University at Albany: "The brown bag lunch at Albany was attended by thirteen librarians representing four schools in the Capital District: Russell Sage, Siena, Skidmore, and the University at Albany. Dean and Director of Libraries at U. Albany, Frank D'Andraia, joined the group to talk about ACRL initiatives and scholarships available to attend the ACRL national conference. The group discussed the different models of information commons at their institutions, including lessons learned and the challenges involved. Other topics included digital repositories, chat reference, and e-books.

Elin O'Hara, SUNY Plattsburgh: "Eight people attended the ENY/ACRL Brown Bag lunch held at SUNY Plattsburgh on October 24, 2008. The group viewed several photos of innovative practices at Swedish academic libraries that SUNY Plattsburgh librarian Elin O'Hara encountered on her spring '08 research trip. Attendees spoke about the effect of the NY state budget on library operations such as coordinated collection development. The recent adoption of a print management system at SUNY Plattsburgh was also discussed."

Attendance and comments received about this year's brown bag series indicate that this format continues to be popular with ENY/ACRL membership.

Reported by Suzanne Turner (University at Albany), Vice President/President-Elect /Program Chair