

INFO BITS

Nylink Fall Conference Series

Join your colleagues for this informational series of conferences presented by leaders in the field. See you there!

Emergency Preparedness

October 5, 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Floods, burst pipes, fire, wind damage, loss of power and other disasters can strike at anytime. Are you prepared? Aimee Primeaux from the Northeastern Document Conservation Center will discuss the fundamentals of disaster planning and preparation.

Through this course you will:

- Understand the elements of an effective disaster plan and begin to apply them to your institution.
- Learn how to update current plans.
- Assess how other institutions have dealt with emergencies and apply best practices to your situation.
- Discuss disaster recovery, salvage of wet collections, response and rehabilitation.
- Practice the salvage of wet collections.

This conference will be held at Nazareth College in Rochester, NY. For more information, or to register, please go to: < http://nylink.org/conf/emergency_prep06.htm >.

Weeding A-Z, (Or from 000-999)

November 8, 9:00 a.m.-noon

Weeding is an essential part of developing and maintaining your library collection. At this conference experts from Pace University will teach you the principles and practices of weeding.

Through this course you will:

- Understand the economics and theory of weeding and apply them to your library collection.
- Learn the vital role weeding plays in maintaining a healthy library collection.
- Understand how to develop a weeding program for your institution.
- Apply principles of proper disposal of weeded materials.

This conference will be held at SUNY IT, in Utica, NY. For more information or to register please go to: < <http://nylink.org/conf/weeding06.htm> >.

Nylink Information Showcase

The 8th annual Nylink Information Showcase returns to The Hotel Pennsylvania in New York City on November 14. Many of the exhibitors that members have met over the years will return, and, as of this date, three new vendors will be present (Olive Software, MPS Technologies and Atlas Systems.). Also becoming a fixture: Nylink member Poster Sessions for the second year. As always, admission and refreshments are free, and there will be a very interesting selection of door prizes! For a complete list of exhibitors and to help us plan for refreshments and programs, please register at < <http://nylink.org/showcase/> >.

If you would like to submit a proposal for a poster session, please do so before September 30; full details and a proposal form are at: < http://nylink.org/showcase/poster_info.htm >.

What's Up on the Web?

It is fitting that the back-to-school season includes two national observances that address the topic of intellectual freedom: Banned Books Week (September 23-30, 2006) and Constitution Day (September 17). What follows are web resources that pertain to these events and remind us of the vital presence of libraries as educational institutions and promoters of intellectual freedom.

From the American Library Association's "Banned Books Week" page < <http://www.ala.org/ala/oif/bannedbooksweek/bannedbooksweek.htm> >, the "Frequently Asked Questions" and the "Frequently Visited Pages" provide links to numerous interesting resources including lists of challenged books and authors dating back to 1990, and statistical information categorizing and quantifying incidents by year, by the type of challenge (e.g., offensive language, sexual explicitness), by initiator (e.g., parents, elected officials), and by type of institution being challenged. A "Book Burning" page < <http://www.ala.org/ala/oif/bannedbooksweek/bookburning/bookburning.htm> > chronicles censorship activities, both recent and past, in this country and around the world.

Numerous tips and guidelines for addressing attempts to remove or restrict access to materials are provided on a "Dealing With Challenges" page at < <http://www.ala.org/ala/oif/challengesupport/dealing/dealingchallenges.htm> >. The New York Library Association, via its Intellectual Freedom Committee, also provides such resources online, including the *Intellectual Freedom Manual*, available in HTML and PDF formats at < http://www.nyla.org/index.php?page_id=104 >.

A related observance occurring just prior to Banned Books Week is Constitution Day on September 17th which commemorates the signing of the U.S. Constitution on that day in 1787. Constitution Day, Inc. < <http://www.constitutionday.com/> > promotes and facilitates the celebration of this event each year by coordinating the simultaneous nationwide recitation of the

Constitution's preamble. This year, the recitation takes place on Monday, September 18th (in order to allow schools to participate) and is being led by former Secretary of State and retired Gen. Colin Powell at 2 p.m. ET. The recitation can be viewed live from the Constitution Day, Inc. web site or downloaded from the site later.

Another organization participating in the Constitution Day celebration is the National Constitution Center, a museum located in Philadelphia in the Independence Mall complex. The Center's web site not only offers numerous resources for celebrating Constitution Day < <http://www.constitutioncenter.org/constitutionday/display/MainS/Home> >, but also offers interesting ways to learn more about the Constitution online. The *Interactive Constitution* < <http://www.constitutioncenter.org/constitution/> > allows you to explore the Constitution in a variety of ways: section by section, by keyword, by topic (e.g., affirmative action), or by Supreme Court case. The text of the applicable section(s) is provided at the top of the page and then displayed below are explanations from the book *The Words We Live By: Your Annotated Guide to the Constitution* by Linda R. Monk (Hyperion/Stonesong Press, 2003). Placing the Constitution within the larger context of U.S. history from 1607 to 2003 is *Centuries of Citizenship: A Constitutional Timeline* < <http://www.constitutioncenter.org/timeline/> >, an informative and entertaining interactive multimedia educational resource.

One way to illustrate the role of libraries in promoting intellectual freedom and lifelong learning is to look at their statistics. In terms of volume alone, the number of libraries and the amount of services they provide help paint an impressive picture of libraries as an educational force. OCLC took this approach in 2003 with its report *Libraries: How They Stack Up* which is still available online at < <http://www.oclc.org/reports/2003libsstackup.htm> >. In 2005, the concept of the OCLC report was applied to New York State and *New York's Libraries: How They STACK UP!* was published. It is accessible from the New York State Library web site at < <http://www.nysl.nysed.gov/libdev/stackup.htm> >.

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