



2006-2007 Annual Report

Mission of NYSHEI

To develop, enhance and preserve our research and educational services, collections and resources for the benefit of faculty, students and the larger research community.



Year in Review

At the rain soaked Annual Meeting, NYSHEI received commemorative resolutions that were unanimously adopted by the State Senate and Assembly.

Applauding our fifth anniversary, these resolutions pointed to NYSHEI as a model of public-private collaboration, and stressed the importance of academic libraries to higher education in New York, and also the state economy.

For NYSHEI these resolutions are symbols of our new relationship to the leadership and decision-makers of our state.

With the evolution of NYSHEI into a professional advocacy organization, our mission has sharpened.

2006-2007 has been an important year in the maturation of NYSHEI. This annual report to the membership, our first such report, marks the other major initiative of NYSHEI: to improve transparency and communication with its membership.

We now turn our focus to the months ahead as we work to promote ARIA, NYSHEI and the role of academic libraries in New York State.

Report of the 2006-2007 Chair

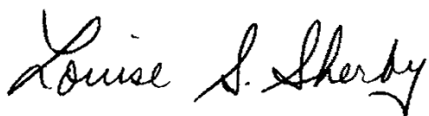
The year began with the retirement of John Townsend, NYHSEI's first Executive Director. John's tenure saw NYSHEI move from a fledgling organization to one poised to take the next steps.

We were lucky to recruit Sharon Bonk, retired Chief Librarian, Queens College/CUNY and former NYSHEI Board member, to take on the task of Interim Executive Director. Sharon did a terrific job of keeping us on track and moving forward.

A Board retreat was held to review NYSHEI's goals and objectives and provide focus for what might be possible in the New York political environment. We focused on our advocacy goals and created a plan to move those goals and objectives forward. We also clarified the roles of the Board, our committee structure, the responsibilities of staff, and created a search plan for the new Executive Director.

In January 2007, we appointed Jason Kramer as our new Executive Director. Jason brought renewed energy to the position of Executive Director. Under his leadership, our web page was redesigned and now includes member interactive contributions. Our face-to-face contacts with members increased, and ARIA (Academic Research Information Access) - NYSHEI's proposal for a \$15 million appropriation from New York State that would leverage the investment New York State's academic and research libraries to expand digital resources to all academic libraries statewide - was advanced.

I am confident that I leave NYSHEI in good hands as Gary Thompson, Siena College, takes over as Chair, and Jason Kramer continues his leadership role for NYSHEI. It has been my pleasure to serve as Chair of the NYSHEI Board for 2006-2007.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Louise S. Sherby". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Louise" being larger and more prominent than the last name "Sherby".

Louise S. Sherby
Associate Dean & Chief Librarian
Hunter College/CUNY

Membership Report

Major initiatives were undertaken to improve communication and reporting to the members, and expand NYSHEI membership by adding new members.

Regional Meetings & Site Visits

Between February and August of 2007, there were eight regional meetings for NYSHEI scattered throughout the state. Participating in these meetings were over **70** members representing **36** member institutions and **eight** non-member institutions.

In addition to the regional meetings, the Executive Director visited another **nine** member institution libraries and attended **five** academic library conferences.

Electronic Communications

Web Site

In February 2007, a new NYSHEI website was launched. The newly redesigned site has grown significantly in traffic and relevance. Monthly traffic is up exponentially from the Fall of 2006.

During its first five months, **136 news** articles were posted on the website. The top news posting, regarding the Governor's Commission on Higher Education, was visited by over 500 people during its first week, and continues to be viewed by a handful of visitors each week.

E-News

Between March and August, **26 e-newsletters** were distributed to NYSHEI members. During this time, the distribution list has roughly **tripled**.

Membership Growth

NYSHEI gained one new member, the **Wadsworth Center**, during the past year.

Financial Report

With 96 percent of its income derived from membership dues, NYSHEI took in \$145,625 during FY07. This exceeded expenses by \$35,589.43 owing largely to the temporary absence of payroll obligations.

These proceeds were placed in the NYSHEI reserve and contribute to the long-term fiscal stability of NYSHEI. Fiscal 2006-07 marks the fifth consecutive year that expenses were kept below the level of income.

By keeping expenses low, NYSHEI was able to offer all its member institutions a one-time 25 percent dues reduction for 2006-2007. Dues are returning to normal levels for 2007-2008.

Elections Report

The SUNY Council of Library Directors returned **Carey Hatch** for his second full term as one of the three SUNY representatives on the NYSHEI Board.

Similarly, the CUNY Council of Chief Librarians returned **Curtis Kendrick** for his second full term as one of the two CUNY representatives.

William Garrison of Syracuse University was elected to fill the Very Large Category seat vacated by **Patricia Renfro** of Columbia University.

Pearl Berger of Yeshiva University was elected to fill the Large Category seat vacated by **Dan Rubey** of Hofstra University.

Gary Thompson was re-elected to the Board as a representative of the Small/Medium Category and becomes the 2007-2008 Chair of the Governing Board.

Annual Meeting Report

Held at Vassar College in Poughkeepsie, the fifth annual meeting of NYSHEI maintained high levels of attendance (over 75) and a substantial increase in vendor sponsorships (up 56 percent).

Event Sponsors and levels of support were:
Thomson Scientific- Platinum
Elsevier - Gold
Apple - Silver
CSA ProQuest - Bronze

Bernard Reilly, of the Center for Research Libraries, gave the annual Keynote Address.

Other speakers were Perry Willett of the University of Michigan, Dr. Lofti Belkhir of Kirtas Technology, Judy Cohn of the University of Medical Dentistry of New Jersey and the NJ Knowledge Initiative, and Darrin Conroy of the NYS Small Business Development Center.

Other notable occurrences from the event.

- This was the first NYSHEI annual meeting that encouraged the attendance of non-members.
- Departing Board members were recognized with service mementoes.
- Embossed commemorative legislative resolutions from the state Senate and Assembly were presented to event leadership.

Advocacy Report

During the 2007 Legislative Session of New York State, NYSHEI wrote on a series of bills affecting libraries including:

- A.7272/S.2125 – The NY Knowledge Initiative.
- A.3405 – New Century Libraries and Education Technology Act of 2007.
- A.3467/S.1683 – Library Science Scholarships.

In addition to meeting with key decision-makers in the legislative and executive branches, NYSHEI engaged Governor Eliot Spitzer's Commission on Higher Education, presenting both a white paper and a policy proposal to the Commission and the NYS Division of the Budget.

This began the roll-out period of the Academic Research Information Access advocacy campaign.



2006-2007 NYSHEI Board

CUNY Representatives

- Curtis Kendrick, University Librarian, CUNY
- Louise Sherby, Chief Librarian, Hunter College and Board Chair

SUNY Representatives

- Chris Filstrup, Dean and Director of Libraries, Stony Brook University
- Peter Genovese, Director of Libraries, Monroe Community College
- Carey Hatch, Assistant Provost for Library and Information Services, SUNY

Private Institution Representatives

Very Large Category

- Patricia Renfro, Deputy University Librarian, Columbia University

Large Category

- Bart Harloe, University Librarian, St. Lawrence University
- Dan Rubey, Dean of Libraries, Hofstra University

Medium/Small Category

- Rhonna Goodman, Library Director, Manhattanville College
- Sha Fagan, Director of the Library, Sarah Lawrence College
- Gary Thompson, Director of the Library, Siena College and Board Vice Chair

Ex-officio Members of the Board

- Loretta Ebert, Research Library Director, New York State Library
- Mary-Alice Lynch, Executive Director, Nylink (July 2006 to January 2007) & Kathy Gundrum, Interim Executive Director, Nylink (January 2007 to June 2007)
- Jason Kramer, Executive Director, NYSHEI



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