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## A Recipe for Success: Two Cups of Collaboration, Two Cups of Hard Work, and a Cup of Good Timing

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# A Recipe for Success: Two Cups of Collaboration, Two Cups of Hard Work, and a Cup of Good Timing

## Facilitating the 2007 Pennsylvania Library Association Conference

by **Lisa German** (Assistant Dean, Technical and Collections Services, University Libraries, Penn State University Libraries; Phone: 814-865-0401) <lb10@psu.edu>

I've lived in Centre County in Pennsylvania for twenty-six months and one of the first things I noticed was the collaborative relationship between the **Penn State University Libraries** and **Schlow Centre Region Library**. I've worked at libraries in two other states and have never seen any collaborative effort quite like this between the public and the university research library.

### Fostered by Library Leadership

This collaboration is fostered by the leadership of both libraries and permeates both organizations. The two Associate Deans at **Penn State University Libraries**, both longtime residents of State College, have been champions of **Schlow** in roles of board member and fundraiser. The Administration and other librarians at the **Schlow Library** are very active, as are many **Penn State Librarians**, in the **Pennsylvania Library Association**. It was the collaboration and enthusiasm of these leaders that served as the catalyst for an academic/public library partnership to assume the responsibility for facilitating the **2007 Pennsylvania Library Association Conference** to be held in State College.

The planning for this conference began back in 2004/2005. The timing was perfect for a suggestion to hold the conference in State College to move forward. The President of the **Pennsylvania Library Association** was the parent of two Penn State students — and so followed events at **Penn State** more closely than might be expected. Librarians from both **Schlow** and **Penn State University Libraries** were on the **Pennsylvania Library Associa-**

**tion Board**. Agreeing to work together, they jointly made the motion for the 2007 conference to be held in State College. The motion was passed by the Board.

### Electing a Conference Chair

In 2006, a librarian from **Schlow** and a librarian from **Penn State** were the two candidates for 2nd Vice President Conference Chair of the **Pennsylvania Library Association**. They agreed to work together on the conference, regardless of the election outcome

**Betsy Allen**, the Director **Schlow Centre Region Library**, was elected. She and **Jack Sulzer**, one of the Associate Deans at **Penn State** and her opponent, became the leadership for planning the conference. The planning committee was composed of a good mix of public and academic librarians in the region and began meeting in the winter of 2006/2007 to plan and organize the conference. It was an extremely collegial working group, with enthusiastic people who were excited about hosting the conference. Fundraising, program planning, local events, publicity and other committees began working in earnest to plan the conference. Each subcommittee worked on its tasks through the spring and summer of 2007. The subcommittee chairs met with the conference chairs each month to make sure the planning was moving forward. The conference was held on October 14-17, 2007 at the **Penn Stater Conference Center Hotel**.

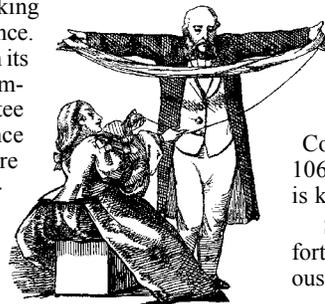
Why did this collaboration between the public and the university research library surprise me? Because, I have not seen it elsewhere, though I've worked in libraries in two other states.

Why did this work so well? I believe it worked well for several reasons. First, there was tremendous administrative support from both the Dean of University Libraries and Scholarly Communication, **Nancy Eaton**, and from **Betsy Allen**, the Director at **Schlow**. Second, the librarians at both libraries assumed leadership roles on committees and wherever else they were needed. The commitment to host a successful conference was shared by employees of both libraries. Many other librarians both from the region and outside the area were integral partners in areas such as fundraising and program planning. And finally there was a great deal of support by the **Association** headquarters staff.

Preliminary reports indicate that the conference was a success and that people would

like to add State College to the regular rotation of conference sites. Though it took 106 years for the **Pennsylvania Library Association** to be held in State College, it will not take another 106 years before it returns to what is known as "Happy Valley."

State College residents are very fortunate to have two such marvelous libraries in their town. 🍁



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### Endnotes

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## Public Libraries for College Students!

by **Gretchen L. Freeman** (Associate Director for Technology, Salt Lake County Library Services, 2197 E. Fort Union Boulevard, Salt Lake City, UT 84121; Phone: 801-944-7527) <gfreeman@slco.lib.ut.us>

### Dual Citizenship

In the larger community beyond ivy-covered campus walls, college students are identified both as students and residents. This unique dual citizenship means they have access not only to the college library, but also to a public library serving the community where the student lives. While the public library does not serve specific curriculum or research needs, it offers a number of resources for college students. With a mission to serve community information and recreation needs, public libraries offer college students collections, facilities

and services that complement those available to students on campus.

For academic and public libraries to form an effective partnership, each should understand the resources and strengths of the other. And librarians need to be aware of the resources their customers are able to access both inside and outside libraries on campus or in the community. Furthermore, students who are public and school library users during their school years are more likely to be successful in their academic endeavors. Librarians of all stripes

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