

## From the Desk of Carey Hatch, Library Services

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The SUNY Office of Library and Information Services (OLIS) and the SUNY library community have undergone a significant evolution in the last few years. Working cooperatively, we have successfully installed and implemented shared catalogs and circulation systems for forty libraries. We have pooled our resources to purchase access to online databases and services. Most importantly we have learned that there is a positive synergistic effect caused by working together.

The major new initiatives (SLAM, *SUNYConnect*) that are currently underway are the natural progression of [LAIP](#) (1989), the FirstSearch Group (1994), the SUNY Council of Library Directors Task Forces (1995), and the SUNY Virtual Library Proposal (1998). All of these earlier programs were conceived and moved forward by the SUNY library community, with various levels of assistance and support from the OLIS.

As Assistant Provost for the OLIS, I am proud of the role the office has played and continues to play in SUNY-wide library activities. One of the most important things that we have learned over the last 10 years is that open and direct communication is essential to successful implementation of cooperative programs. Lately, we have struggled to communicate information about the various initiatives underway, and how they inter-relate with each other. Hopefully, this publication will fill the information void, and provide us a formal mechanism to deliver useful information on SUNY-wide library initiatives.

The next several years will be an exciting and challenging time for everyone involved with SUNY libraries. I am confident that through continuing cooperative efforts we can help in the creation of modern-day library environments that benefit all students and faculty within the SUNY System.



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