Web Sites for Everyone

July 2000 was the 10th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). It is also the 25th anniversary of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). At the time of its passage, it was estimated that 43 million people had one or more physical or mental disabilities. From 1991 to 1997, New York saw a 40% increase in disabled students enrolled in post-secondary educational institutions. For 1997, that figure was 30,889 students (Task Force on Postsecondary Education and Disabilities, New York State Education Dept., 2000). With almost 400,000 students in the SUNY system, it is not a question of whether you will have people with disabilities at your college, but more so what do we need to do to accommodate these students.

> The ADA is "a comprehensive mandate for the elimination of discrimination against individuals with disabilities."

Work is needed to guarantee that these anti-discrimination provisions continue and that they are carried out. Much of this work needs to be done at the state level. New York State is moving to ensure that the equal protections afforded by the ADA are fully secured by incorporating them into state statutes and/or regulations. One example of this is the effort to see that New York State web sites are accessible and useable by all people, including people with disabilities. As more and more information becomes available via the web, such a goal is not only laudable, but necessary. It is also an example of where libraries are taking a lead even if it means extra efforts by already busy library staff members.

This issue of *SUNYergy* provides a number of perspectives on this topic. These include a status report on universal accessibility for SUNY OLIS' webs, a dialogue between Tom Neiss (Assistant Provost for Technology Infrastructure at SUNY System Administration) and Andy Perry (Assistant Director for Systems Management at Binghamton's Bartle Library), and a summary of some of the efforts by SUNYLA that looks at accessibility issues related to SUNY*Connect* database vendors.

Cover Story

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Web Sites for Everyone

The Making of an Accessible SUNY*Connect* Web

Web Accessibility: a Q&A

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Accessibility and SUNY*Connect* Databases

Nothing but Net: SUNY*Connect* and netLibrary

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Announcing The SUNY*Connection*

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