CDLC’s Strategic Plan:  In August 2011, Jon Allen of Performance Matters, Inc. was hired by CDLC to facilitate a strategic planning process for the organization and to assist in the development of the CDLC Strategic Plan 2012-2014. The planning approach that was used included an Environmental Scan SWOT Analysis (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats) using focus groups that first identified the internal strengths and weaknesses of the organization and then looked at the external opportunities and threats facing the agency. Our thanks to the 82 individuals, representing 44 organizations, who participated in the focus groups. Your input was invaluable!

The Strategic Planning Committee met several times, the CDLC Board completed a self evaluation survey, and a full-day Board retreat was held as part of the process to gather feedback on the strategic direction for CDLC as well as input on the effectiveness of the Board. Strategic Initiatives were developed that incorporate the information gathered in the process. Specific action steps, related to each of the Strategic Initiatives, were then developed. Finally, a strategic plan document was prepared, discussed, and approved by the Board of Trustees at their meeting on February 10, 2012. You can view the Strategic Plan 2012-2014 on the CDLC website.

Implementation of the plan has already begun. One of the Strategic Initiatives includes evaluating all Council programs to determine those of the greatest value and highest priority. Please help us by responding to messages and surveys that you may receive regarding our activities.

CDLC Annual Meeting: For those of you who are eagerly awaiting the announcement of the CDLC Annual Meeting, you’ll have to wait a bit longer. We are planning a fall meeting (an EXCITING fall meeting!), pending final approval of bylaws changes to allow election of trustees by email or mail ballot.

Statewide Delivery Project Update: The NY3Rs Association issued an RFP for the Empire Library Delivery Service in early February. Release of the RFP followed conference calls with potential bidders and project stakeholders, who were given the opportunity to comment and ask questions about the draft RFP. The NY3Rs Association is collaborating with ConnectNY, the IDS project, the SUNY Office of Library and Information Services, and CUNY in developing this statewide delivery service, which is expected to be in place when the LAND delivery contract expires on June 30, 2012. Vendors are being given the opportunity to include the local CDLC delivery service in their bids, which would potentially save money for CDLC libraries as well as providing access to the entire Empire Library Delivery Community. CDLC Executive Director Jean Sheviak and Siena College Library Director Gary Thompson are members of the task force.

CDLC Digital Collections: CDLC’s Digitization Project is now part of the New York Heritage Consortium and participants’ material can be seen in the New York Heritage web site (http://nyheritage.org). CDLC staff are involved in several New York Heritage committees. Committees are working on a metadata dictionary, training material, web site development and other facets that need to be addressed when six Digital Projects come together in a consortium!
The newest organization to join the CDLC Digitization Project, The Rudolf Steiner Library of the Anthroposophical Society of America, has just had their first visit with the CDLC Field Trainer and it was a virtual visit! Using software that allows the CDLC trainer to “see” the participants computer screen we are doing some of our training virtually. This allows us to “visit” a participant more often, regardless of the weather, and minus the travel costs. Judith Kiely, Cataloger and Digital Project Coordinator, volunteered to be the first participant to start the project off with a virtual visit and she did a great job! Who wants to be next?

CDLC Outstanding Student Award Program: After careful consideration it has been decided that the CDLC Outstanding Student Award Program will be discontinued. Over the eight-year history of the program, 22 libraries have nominated 93 outstanding students to receive the award. Recent resignations from the award committee, and the inability to recruit other volunteers for the committee, have necessitated the decision. We extend our thanks to the committee members who have worked on this program over the years.

Direct Access Program: In accordance with the recently adopted Strategic Plan, and the Strategic Initiative of evaluating all Council programs, all Direct Access Program contact people have been asked to complete a brief survey about use of the program and its value to area library patrons. Once the survey responses are studied we will consider the future of the program. If you have any comments about the Direct Access Program please send them to Chris Walker (cwalker@cdlc.org).

Rudolf Steiner Library Awarded Special Project Grant: Judith Kiely, leader of the Rudolf Steiner Library’s cataloging project, has recently received a $1500 grant that will directly benefit the library. The Academic and Special Libraries Section (ASLS) of the New York Library Association (NYLA) and New York’s Reference and Research Library Resources System offer an annual grant to an academic or special librarian. The grant enables the recipient to pursue a special project at an academic or special library that benefits the recipients' professional development as well as the strategic mission of the institution. Kiely’s application was for a pilot digitization project which includes purchasing a flat-bed scanner and digitizing back issues of the Anthroposophical Society in America’s Journal for Anthroposophy.
This project will make it possible to widely share some of the unique content in the Rudolf Steiner Library collection, and also give the library a realistic sense of the time and effort involved in digitizing journals with an eye to more digitization in the future. One of the grant referees wrote: “this sounds like a great project and hopefully one which will lead to more access to your library’s collection by the wider public. Thanks for the interesting application and congratulations!”

CALA News: Several members of the Capital Area Library Assistants (CALA) have recently earned Certificates of Achievement from the New York State Library Assistants Association (NYSLAA): Adrienne Birchler, RPI – Level IV Administration; Susan Costantini, The College of Saint Rose – Level IV Public Services; Kathy Rossello, East Greenbush Community Library – Level IV Technical Services; Karen Strang, Brunswick Community Library – Level IV Administration; and Ling Zhang, RPI – Level II Public Services. Congratulations to all!

For information about the NYSLAA Certificate of Achievement program, visit their website at http://www.nyslaa.org/certificateprogram.html.

Save the Date: Monday April 9, 2012 CALA will host a Library Assistants Day event. “Library Assistants: Empowering the Future of Libraries,” to be held from noon- 4:00 pm at Bethlehem Public Library. Watch the CDLC Calendar for details, available soon!

Clifton Park-Halfmoon Public Library Wins Two Archives Awards: Congratulations to the Clifton Park-Halfmoon Public Library for their extraordinary commitment to their local history collection. This year they received two archives-related awards:

Excellence in the Educational Use of Local Government Records by a Local Government. This is a statewide award given by the New York State Archives and Archives Partnership Trust. It is one of several awards that recognize outstanding efforts in archives and records management work in New York State.

The 2011 Capital Region Archives Dinner Award. This was a joint award with the Clifton Park Historian, John Scherer, to recognize their collaboration in preserving important material related to Clifton Park's history and making it more accessible to the public.

To see an example of some of their work to digitize materials and get them online, visit their New York Heritage page at http://www.newyorkheritage.org/cphpl.php

Retirement News: Sean Maloney, Coordinator of Reference and Electronic Resources librarian at Siena College (and long-time supporter of CDLC!) has retired after twenty-four years of dedicated service to the college. Sean’s career as a librarian began at Keuka College in western NY, progressed to Frostburg State College in Maryland, then to The Sage Colleges in Troy, NY. In 1987 Sean put down roots at Siena as the Interlibrary Loan Librarian and was promoted to Coordinator of Reference Services in 1990. In addition to the many responsibilities of Reference and Electronic Resources Librarian, Sean served as the library’s webmaster, maintained systems and hardware, and participated in the library’s instruction classes, collection development and liaison programs. Over the years Sean has mentored many interns from the State University at Albany; written journal articles; was book editor of the Multicultural Review; edited Scribner’s Encyclopedia of American Lives: The 1960s; and was managing editor of Television and Cable Factbook. The Siena College Library staff will miss his dedicated service and humor.

Heather Miller, Associate Director for Technical Services and Systems at the University at Albany Libraries, will be retiring at the end of February. Heather has been in her current position for 14 years,
having come to work at the University in 1983 as a cataloger and shortly thereafter becoming Head of Acquisitions. Heather previously worked as a librarian at the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, Harvard, Duke and Michigan State. In addition to many publications related to technical services, Heather has served as a director of the Charleston Conference since 1997. In 2009 she was recognized with the Vicky Speck ABC-CLIO Leadership Award for her contributions to that Conference’s mission. Heather has steered Technical Services and Systems through a period of immense change with patience and skill. For more than a decade, she has spearheaded the Library Garden Group, which is responsible for tending the Science Library Garden. The beauty of this purple and gold garden is largely due to her vast horticultural knowledge and willingness to take on a challenge. Her friends and colleagues will miss her competence, perspectives, insight, and dry sense of humor. Heather plans to relocate to southern New Hampshire.

NY 3Rs Association, Inc.: Since CDLC is a member of the NY 3Rs Association, Inc. you have heard references to the NY3Rs, but do you know what it is???

- NY 3Rs Association, Inc. is a 501©3 not-for-profit that includes the nine Reference and Research Library Resources (note the 3 Rs!) Councils in New York State. Members of the nine Councils include individual academic, special, hospital, and public libraries. Additionally, all the public and school library systems in the state are members of their regional NY3Rs Council.

- The mission of NY 3Rs Association, Inc. is to promote and support interlibrary sharing of resources among all kinds of libraries and to assure equal access to information for all New Yorkers.

- NY 3Rs Association, Inc. works collaboratively to identify resources and develop structure and mechanisms for sharing those resources among users of all types of libraries. The Councils provide a range of support services to members including continuing education, access to electronic resources, services to the health care community, consulting, digitization, information technology support, and advocacy.


Currently CDLC staff members on NY 3Rs Association, Inc. task forces include: Jean Sheviak, the Empire State Delivery Task Force (see item above), charged with developing a statewide delivery service; and Chris Walker, the NY3Rs Continuing education Task Force, charged with offering continuing education programs available to library staff across the state.