



## James M. Milne Library

State University of New York  
Oneonta, New York 13820-4014

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October 8, 2009

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing to urge you to promote Logan Rath to Senior Assistant Librarian at Drake Memorial Library. As a former colleague of Logan's at SUNY Oneonta, I had ample chance to observe and appreciate the superior quality of Logan's enthusiasm and accomplishments, and I know that for Oneonta these were extraordinary benefits. I continue to communicate with Logan, occasionally ask for his help and advice, and see him at professional conferences, so I know his talents are even more developed and utilized now than during his time at Oneonta. He is a visible and extremely active colleague and leader within the SUNY librarian community, as evidenced by his presidency of our professional organization, SUNYLA. There is not a librarian in SUNY who does not know who Logan Rath is!

First of all, I would like to highlight Logan's willingness to take on *any* responsibility or task asked of him with zeal and with competence. He arrived at Oneonta in May with MLS in hand and no classroom teaching in his background. He was almost immediately asked to teach a one-credit course, INTD-150 Library & Internet Research, in the summer EOP program. This course met for an hour every day for 4 ½ weeks and involved significant preparation and daily grading of assignments for 22 students. Without hesitation, Logan accepted the challenge. Although this responsibility was outside of his regular daily schedule and was quite intense, he proved himself committed to providing personal and excellent teaching and mentoring to the EOP students. Having witnessed his teaching and presentation skills and having heard positive reports from students of his, I can attest to his effectiveness as a teacher.

Logan takes initiative in a way I've rarely encountered. I recall that during his interview, although the job description did not specifically mention developing the library's website, Logan asked if that would be part of his responsibilities, since he saw a an opportunity to redesign and update our website. And indeed, once he began his role as the Emerging Technologies Librarian at Oneonta, he immediately tackled the task, re-creating the library's web presence in a beautiful fashion within a matter of a few months. Logan became the co-web coordinator with me, so we worked very closely together on this project, but I admit I was more advisor and Logan did most of the hard work. He came up (repeatedly) with designs, ideas, suggestions, and always respectfully solicited my advice (as well as that of staff and students), incorporating all these suggestions into his ongoing design process. Logan wrote and rewrote innumerable scripts. One set of scripts lets anyone insert a standardized link to a database anywhere on a web page. Another set of scripts allow librarians to add their personal

information to any page. Yet another placed a discreet box with the library hours for the day on the home page. Each of these is still in place. I would like to reiterate that most of these things were Logan's initiatives, not the mandate of the me or the library.

Logan was and remains easy to work with – flexible, responsive, congenial, and quick. Any time I brought (or bring) a problem to him, he responded immediately to address it, whether it was technical or content-driven. He always took any idea offered by a librarian, then set it up not just to the basic parameters of the idea, but with enhancements and a set of alternatives to chose from. He accepted feedback willingly and graciously. I suspect those of you who work with him at Brockport are familiar with these qualities.

I have offered only a small representative list of the ways in which Logan is a superior librarian. Many of the examples of his qualities and abilities that I gave above I can see he has repeated while at SUNY Brockport, and I am not the least bit surprised. As he is an invaluable resource to SUNY Brockport, to me, to other colleagues across SUNY, and to the profession, I heartily recommend him for promotion. From the evidence on his CV, it is clear Logan has met pretty much all of the criteria for promotion to Senior Assistant Library. He is an asset to your organization and well deserves this promotion.

Sincerely,

Kay Benjamin  
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Library Web Coordinator  
Milne Library, SUNY College at Oneonta