

Roberts to write column on technology use in small libraries

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Gary Roberts, an information systems and reference librarian at Herrick Memorial Library, Alfred University, has become a regular columnist for the magazine *Computers in Libraries*. He will write a monthly column on managing computer technology in small libraries. "This is not going to be a technology 'lite' column," wrote Roberts in his introductory column. "'Small' does not mean technologically backward; rather it means developing technology with an emphasis on cost/benefit analysis." Small libraries don't have the resources to adopt every new technology. It is important that small libraries operate strategically, adopting only those technologies that are the most beneficial to their patrons," Roberts explained. "Writing a monthly column is a wonderful opportunity for Gary to share his ideas," said Stephen Crandall, director of Herrick Library. "Gary will be sharing products he's developed, the kind of things that don't cost a fortune and don't require a high level of programming skills to implement. His focus will be on library applications versus university-wide applications." Additionally, noted Crandall, the column will frequently reference what Roberts is doing in terms of technology at Herrick Library, helping to get Alfred University's name recognized in a wider audience. Roberts has been recognized before for his expertise in implementing technological advances in libraries. He was chosen as the 2004 recipient of the 21st Century New Librarian Award, presented by the Syracuse University School of Information Studies. Roberts, who joined the staff of Herrick Library in 1999, shortly after graduating from the University of Buffalo Library School, was only the second recipient of the award, selected from a field of nominees who represent institutions from across the country and Canada. The 21st Century Librarian Award, which was first awarded in 1999, and the 21st Century New Librarian Award, which was started in 2003, "recognize librarians who have been leaders in the evolution of the profession in the new environment" in which librarians today must work. The profession is "evolving, redefining itself to meet the challenges" created by the introduction of technology to information management.