



*un*COMMON

Salon Series @ the Research Commons

*“How a Salon Series Transformed the
Research Commons into the unCOMMON”*

Lee Ann Fullington & Laurie Murphy
Elmer Holmes Bobst Library, New York University

What is a Salon?

A **Salon** is a gathering of people under the roof of an inspiring host, held partly to amuse one another and partly to refine the taste and increase the knowledge of the participants through conversation. These gatherings often consciously followed Horace's definition of the aims of poetry, "either to please or to educate" ("aut delectare aut prodesse est") through the exchange of ideas.

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Salon_\(gathering\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Salon_(gathering)))

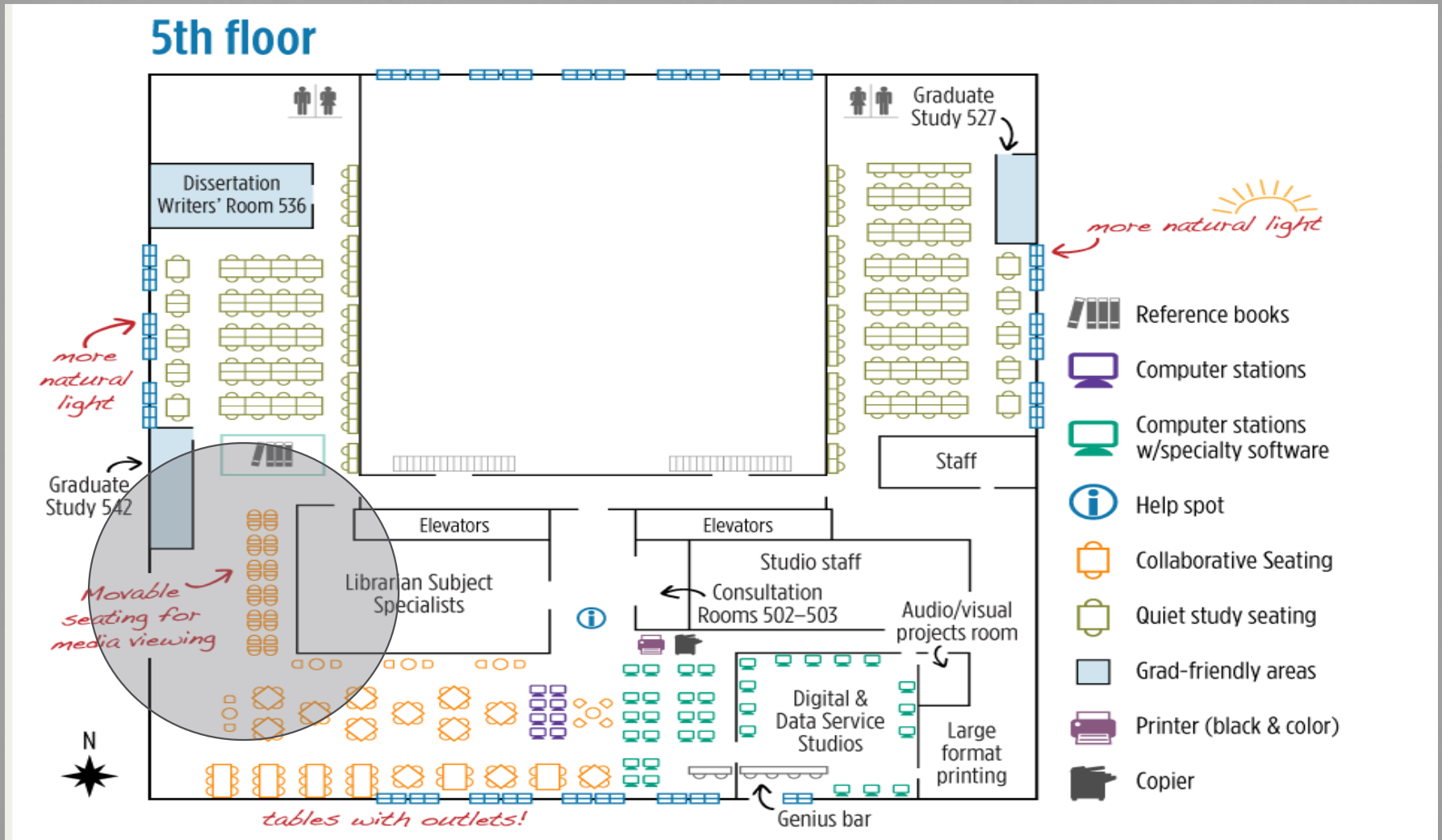
History of the Salons c. 2007

- ❖ Originated in the Coles Science Reference Center.
- ❖ Science Librarians sought to bring the science faculty and students into the physical library space.
- ❖ Expected outcomes where to highlight library services and non-electronic resources – i.e. Librarians!
- ❖ Designed as a forum to share ideas and research.

History of the Salons c. 2012

- ❖ Re-organization of Reference Services and library space renovations.
- ❖ Business & Government Documents began to host their own Salons.
- ❖ Social Sciences & Humanities Reference sought to plan their own Salons.
- ❖ A collaboration is born!

Renovating Spaces – Rethinking the Salons



unCOMMON Salons c.2013

- ❖ Bringing together the Reference departments to plan and present the Salons came about organically through the new library spaces and a desire to collaborate with one another.
- ❖ Rather than present multiple departmental oriented Salons each semester, uniting for multi-disciplinary Salons would also divide the labor involved in the planning and promotion.
- ❖ Multi-disciplinary Salons reflect the types of research being undertaken at NYU.

Multidisciplinary Salons

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Salon Series @ the Research Commons

URBAN FARMING: SOWING SEEDS, SOWING MINDS URBAN AGRICULTURE'S ROLE IN LOCAL FOOD SYSTEMS

A talk by Carolyn Dimitri



Thursday, November 7, 2013
6:00-7:30pm

Bobst Library, 5th Floor
West Wing, Media Viewing Area
For more information and to RSVP, please go to <http://bit.ly/uncommonsalon>

Light refreshments will be provided

UNCOMMON SPONSORED BY BUSINESS & GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS, COLES SCIENCE CENTER, SOCIAL SCIENCES & HUMANITIES REFERENCE CENTER

Urban agriculture is a growing trend among policymakers, the "good food" movement, and the "local food" movement. Similar to rural farming, urban agriculture is not being formed as a commercial enterprise, but as a community-based activity. What a farmer can do in a city is different from what a farmer can do in a rural area. The Dept of Agriculture has been working to address the challenges of urban agriculture. The food system is a complex system that is constantly evolving.

Carolyn Dimitri is a multidisciplinary scholar who has worked in the area of urban agriculture for several years. She is currently a research assistant at the Center for Urban Agriculture and Sustainable Food Systems at NYU.

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Salon Series @ the Research Commons

NUMBER SENSE

CLEARING THE FOG OF BIG DATA

Thursday, April 11, 2013

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Salon Series @ the Research Commons

Labors of Waste and the Value of Knowledge



Picking Up
On the Streets and Behind the Trucks with the Sanitation Workers of New York City
ROBIN NAGLE

An effective means of managing garbage is necessary for any urban area to thrive. The waste management system and revenue generating capabilities of what most people assume is a straightforward task. What kinds of expertise are necessary to do the job well? How are these forces of knowledge acquired? Given their importance in the daily well-being of the city, how is such knowledge valued or discouraged, and by whom? What's the real part of life for a workforce of 10,000 people?

Robin Nagle's most recent book, *Picking Up*, is an ethnography of New York City's Department of Sanitation. As part of her research, she was hired as a New York City sanitation worker. During her time on the job, she worked out trucks, operated incinerator brooms, and plowed snow. She is the director of the Center for Urban Agriculture and Sustainable Food Systems at NYU and is also an associate professor of anthropology and director of the Center for Interdisciplinary Media's Program in the Graduate School of Arts and Science.

Thursday, April 24, 2014
6:00-7:30pm

Bobst Library, 5th floor
West Wing, Media Viewing Area
For more information and to RSVP please go to <http://bit.ly/uncommonsalon>

Light refreshments will be provided

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Salon Series @ the Research Commons

THE BOOKSTORE NINETEENTH-CENTURY NEW YORK CITY

A TALK BY KRISTEN HIGHLAND



The romantic bookstores—havens of literary playgroups and selling books—their and peripatetic shelves more than the shelves.

This talk explores how technology in New York City and Highland trace book-selling as a new form of nineteenth-century definition and understand the bookstores as a site of intellectual escalation. In a post-9/11 world, it is a

Kristen Highland is a PhD candidate in the English Department at NYU. Her dissertation project focuses on the social and cultural life of antebellum New York City bookstores, and broader research interests include book history, spatial humanities, and early American culture. She is a graduate coordinator at NYU and a graduate faculty research collaborator on cultural geography and humanities scholarship at the Humanities Initiative.

BOBST LIBRARY,
WEST WING, MEDIA VIEWING AREA
APRIL 2, 2014 6:00-7:30PM

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO RSVP PLEASE GO TO: <http://bit.ly/uncommonsalon>
LIGHT REFRESHMENTS WILL BE PROVIDED

UNCOMMON SPONSORED BY BUSINESS & GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS, COLES SCIENCE CENTER, SOCIAL SCIENCES & HUMANITIES REFERENCE CENTER

2ND FLOOR, SOUTH WING

PROVIDED BY SOCIAL SCIENCES & HUMANITIES REFERENCE CENTER

Identifying Potential Speakers

- ❖ Read campus newspapers or other publications to see what kinds of interesting research are being conducted at your institution.
- ❖ Ask your library colleagues about any compelling research their faculty or students may have mentioned during research consultations.
- ❖ Invite graduate or undergraduate students as speakers—it gives them a chance to build their CVs and is a nice way to connect with academic departments.

Importance of Liaison Work

- ❖ Connecting with faculty and students to identify interesting and newly developing areas of scholarship.
- ❖ Connecting the librarians and the library to the scholarship being undertaken at the institution.
- ❖ Highlighting specialized services and knowledge in the library.
- ❖ Show the librarians as partners in scholarship creation and dissemination.

Salons as Community Builders

- ❖ Provide direct evidence of the library as an academic partner, not just a provider of material for research.
- ❖ Provide direct evidence of the library as a specialized service provider (GIS, Special Collections, Data Services).
- ❖ Provide a forum for scholars with common interests to mingle, network, and share knowledge.
- ❖ Provide a relaxed forum for pre-publication research to receive comments.

Salon Format and Frequency

- ❖ We hoped for 2-3 salons per semester (spring and fall), but two seems to be the most manageable number as far as planning and attendance.
- ❖ However, we do plan to experiment with an early summer Salon this year.
- ❖ The Salons are scheduled for 1.5 hours with the presentation taking up 30-45 minutes and the remainder for questions and socializing.

Marketing and Outreach for the Salons

- ❖ Use inter-library and departmental emails and listservs to announce upcoming Salons.
- ❖ Leverage social media (Facebook, Twitter) to advertise Salons to campus community.
- ❖ Place Salon posters throughout the library and in academic departments.
- ❖ Leverage any institution-wide information systems in print or via web/email.
- ❖ Establish a mailing list of past Salon attendees/registrants.
- ❖ Contact attendees with “thank you” and survey emails.

Salon Planning Tips

- ❖ Collaborate with colleagues to divide the work and play to one another's strengths – design, promotion.
- ❖ Check with other library departments (e.g. Special Collections) to make sure events do not conflict.
- ❖ Advertise early and often with posters, email blasts, and social media.
- ❖ Refreshments don't have to be too costly – offer coffee and cookies and they will enjoy!

Research Guide as a Landing Point

NEW YORK UNIVERSITY
LIBRARIES

Research Guides

New York University Libraries » Research Guides » unCOMMON @ the Research Commons: A Salon Series

[Admin](#) [Sign In](#)

unCOMMON @ the Research Commons: A Salon Series

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Presented by Business & Government Documents, Coles Science Center, Social Sciences & Humanities Reference Center

Labors of Waste and the Value of Knowledge



Picking Up

On the Streets and Behind the Trucks with the Sanitation Workers of New York City

ROBIN NAGLE



Reference Associate



Laurie Murphy

laurie.murphy@nyu.edu

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Links:

[Profile & Guides](#)

Reference Associate



Lee Ann Fullington

Contact Info

Coles Science Center

Research Guide for Video Hosting

unCOMMON @ the Research Commons: A Salon Series

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Search:

Carolyn Dimitri's Urban Agriculture: Sowing Seeds, Sowing Money


The unCOMMON Salon Series presents:

Carolyn Dimitri's Urban Agriculture: Sowing Seeds, Sowing Money

The video player thumbnail features a black background with white text. At the top, the 'unCOMMON' logo is displayed, with 'un' in a script font and 'COMMON' in a bold, sans-serif font. Below the logo, the text 'Salon Series @ the Research Commons' is enclosed in a white rectangular box. The word 'presents:' is centered below the box. The name 'Carolyn Dimitri' is prominently displayed in a large, bold, sans-serif font. Underneath her name, her title and affiliation are listed in a smaller font: 'Associate Professor of Food Studies, Department of Nutrition, Food Studies, and Public Health, NYU Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development.' The main title of the presentation, 'URBAN AGRICULTURE: SOWING SEEDS, SOWING MONEY', is written in large, bold, all-caps sans-serif font. Below the title, the subtitle 'Urban agriculture's role in local food systems.' is displayed in a smaller font. At the bottom of the thumbnail, the text 'Funding provided by NIFA's Agriculture and Food Research Grant no. 2012-68006-30177' is visible. In the bottom left corner, 'NEW YORK UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES' is written in a bold, sans-serif font. In the bottom right corner, the date 'November, 21, 2013' is displayed. The video player interface at the bottom shows a play button, a progress bar at 00:00, a volume icon, a full screen icon, and a resolution of 1200k.

New York University Libraries

November 21st, 2013

 [Carolyn Dimitri, Urban Agriculture presentation slides \(November 21, 2013\)](#)

[Comments \(0\)](#)

NYU Specialized Video Hosting

The screenshot shows the NYUStream website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the NYUStream logo, an 'Add New' button, and links for 'My Media', 'My Playlists', 'Help', 'My Channels', 'Open Channels', and 'Im1518 (logout)'. Below this is a secondary navigation bar with 'Media', 'Captions', and a search box labeled 'Search all media'. A main menu bar contains categories like 'Everyday Life', 'Stream Interactive', 'New York', 'NYU Abu Dhabi', 'Global Centers', 'NYU TV', and 'Support'. The 'Everyday Life' category is selected, leading to an 'Events' page. The page shows a list of video thumbnails with titles and view counts. A large video player is featured, showing a video titled 'UnCommon Salon Series: Carolyn Dimitri's Urban Agriculture' with 406 views. The video player includes a title card with the 'unCOMMON' logo, the presenter's name 'Carolyn Dimitri', and the video title. Below the video player, there is a 'Like' button and a '1 like' notification.

NYUStream | Add New | My Media | My Playlists | Help | My Channels | Open Channels | Im1518 (logout)

Media | Captions | Search all media

Everyday Life | Stream Interactive | New York | NYU Abu Dhabi | Global Centers | NYU TV | Support

Events

Everyday Life \ Events (1-10 of 16 media) [+ Add Media](#)

Media | Captions

Search this gallery

View: All Media | by: Recent | Views | Alphabetical | Likes | Comments

UnCommon Salon Series: Carolyn Dimitri's Urban Agriculture
By: nyu358
406 Views

The Of Many Institute for Multifaith
By: rtd239@nyu.edu
2,609 Views

UnCommon Salon Series: Kaiser Fung's
By: nyu358
271 Views

When Humanities Falter Keynote Address
By: akj244
469 Views

When Humanities Falter Panel III: Humanities &
By: akj244
55 Views

unCOMMON
Salon Series @ the Research Commons

presents:
Carolyn Dimitri
Associate Professor of Food Studies, Department of Nutrition, Food Studies, and Public Health,
NYU Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development.

**URBAN AGRICULTURE:
SOWING SEEDS, SOWING MONEY**
Urban agriculture's role in local food systems.

Funding provided by NIFA's Agriculture and Food Research Grant no. 2012-68006-30177

**NEW YORK UNIVERSITY
LIBRARIES** November, 21, 2013

by nyu358 uploaded a month ago
1 like

Like

❖ Allows for repeated viewing.

❖ We have experienced 250+ views for the Salons currently on the service (not counting the views from the LibGuide).

❖ Can be replicated with YouTube or Vimeo.

Research Guide Usage Statistics

unCOMMON @ the Research Commons: A Salon Series

unCOMMON @ the Research Commons: A Salon Series

Daily

2014-02-01

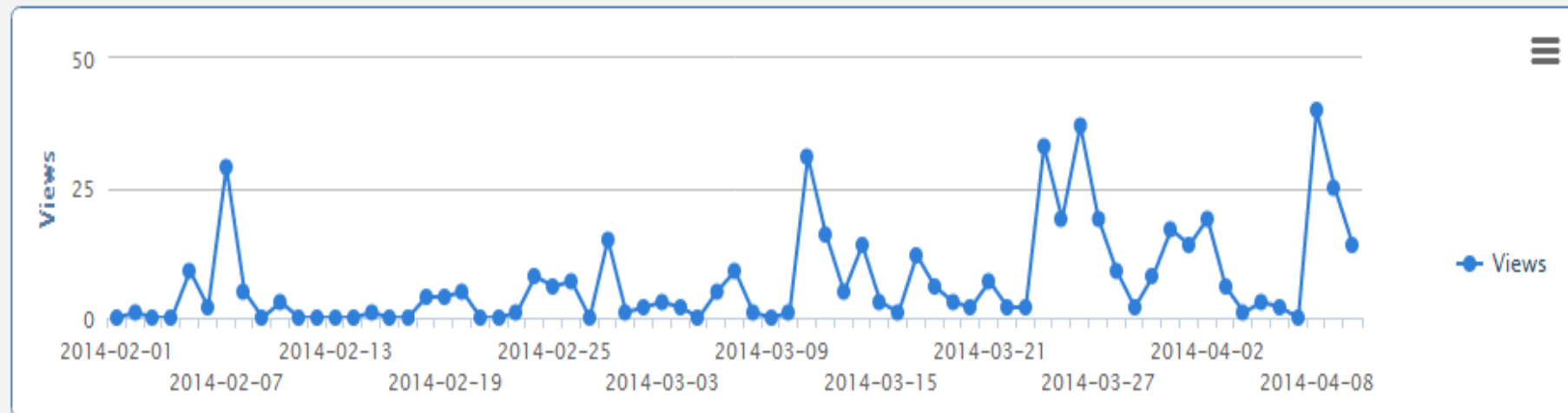
- 2014-04-10

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10 pages, 496 views



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	ID	Page Name	Views
1.	4339855	Home	361
2.	4656381	UnCommon Salon Videos	60
3.	4339901	What is a Salon?	25
4.	4388864	Past Salon Posters	24
5.	4339873	Previous Salons	19



THANK YOU FOR COMING TO THE SALON: "The Bookstore in 19th Century New York City" with
Kristen Highland

Library usage

	Daily	Weekly	Monthly	Once or twice a semester	Seldom	Never	This was my first visit
How often do you visit Boobst Library?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

How important is this aspect of the Salon for you?

	Not at all important	Very Unimportant	Neither important nor Unimportant	Very important	Extremely important
Networking	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Learning something new	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Topic/speaker of interest	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Free refreshments	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

In your opinion, how beneficial are library events like Salons?

	Not at all beneficial	Not Very beneficial	Neither beneficial nor not beneficial	Very beneficial	Extremely beneficial
Intellectual growth	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Satisfy your curiosity	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Meeting new people	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

What did you think?

	Far short of expectations	Short of expectations	Equals expectations	Exceeds expectations	Far exceeds expectations
What effect, if any, did attending the salon have on your perception of Boobst Library and/or NYU Libraries services?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Library events attendance

	Yes	Maybe	No
Was this the first unCOMMON Salon event you've attended?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Would you come to another unCOMMON Salon?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Have you attended other NYU Libraries events in the past?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Comments or suggestions:

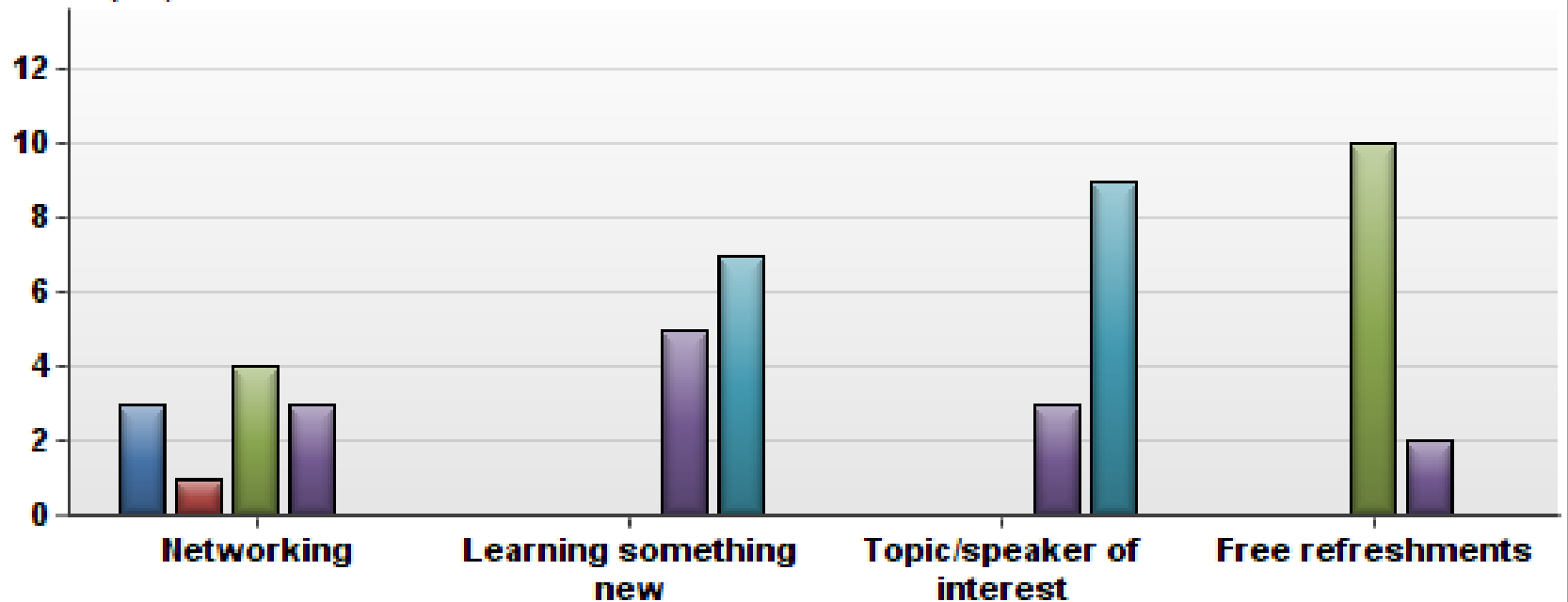
Assessment Survey

- ❖ Frequency of library usage
- ❖ What aspect of the Salon is important?
- ❖ How beneficial are Salons to you?
- ❖ Has the Salon changed your perception of the library and it's services?
- ❖ Salon attendance

Assessment Survey data

2. How important is this aspect of the Salon for you?

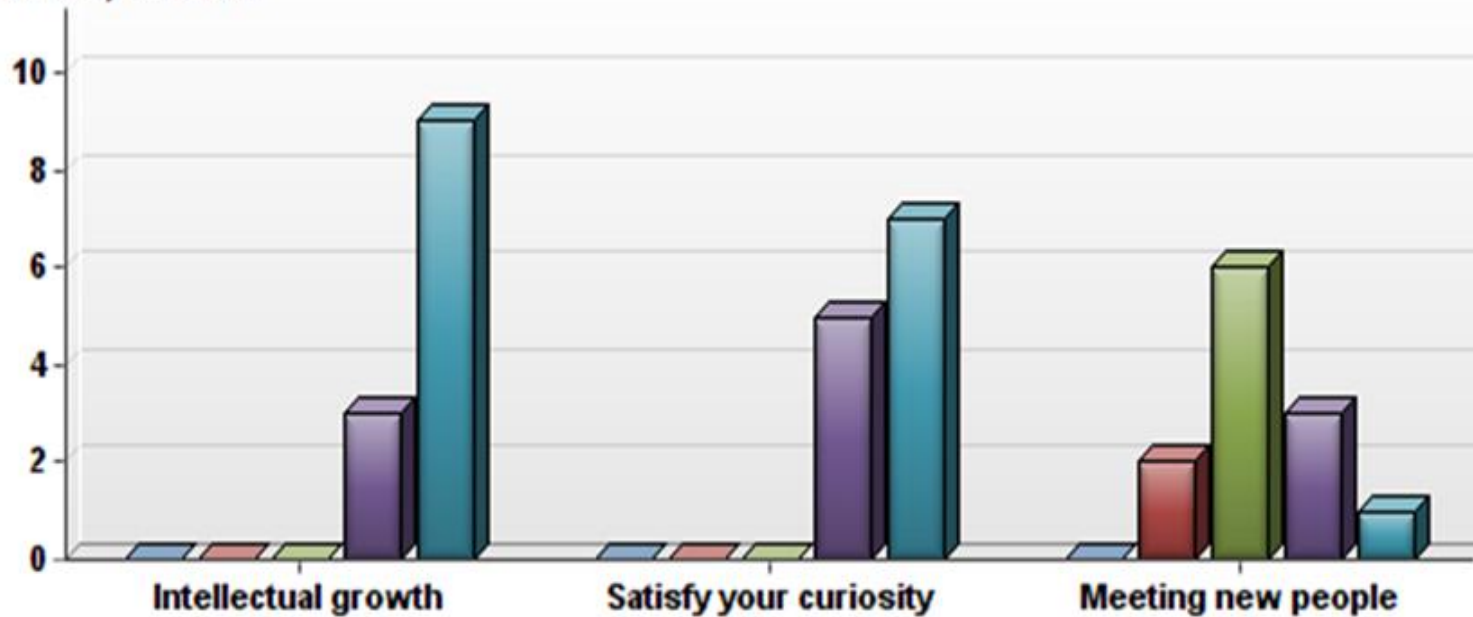
■ Not at all Important ■ Very Unimportant ■ Neither Important nor Unimportant ■ Very Important
■ Extremely Important



Assessment Survey data

3. In your opinion, how beneficial are library events like Salons?

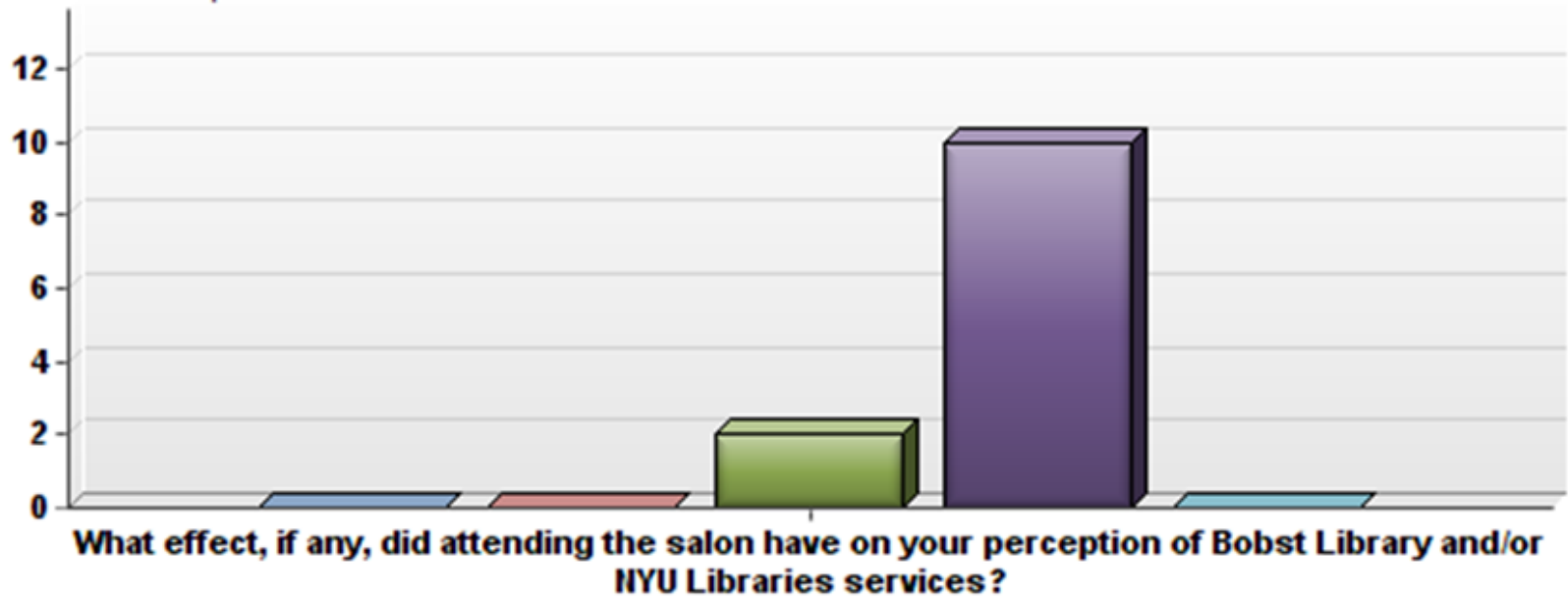
■ Not at all beneficial ■ Not Very beneficial ■ Neither beneficial nor not beneficial ■ Very beneficial
■ Extremely beneficial



Assessment Survey data

4. What did you think?

■ Far short of expectations ■ Short of expectations ■ Equals expectations ■ Exceeds expectations
■ Far exceeds expectations



Expected and Unexpected Outcomes

- ❖ Positive effect of perception of the library.
- ❖ Important for intellectual growth and curiosity.
- ❖ Important for learning something new and pursuing interesting topics.
- ❖ Refreshments not as important as we thought.
- ❖ Number of video views both on the research guide and NYU Stream.
- ❖ Volume of registrations and attendance numbers.
- ❖ Attracted the interest of bloggers outside of the institution.
- ❖ Attracted the interest of the NYU Libraries Development office.

Media Viewing Area in the Research Commons





Images courtesy of Arie Reiss

Carolyn Dimitri, “Urban Agriculture: Sowing Seeds, Sowing Money”

November 21, 2013



Images courtesy of Arie Reiss



Images courtesy of Arie Reiss

Kristen Highland, “The Bookstore in Nineteenth-Century New York City”

April 2, 2014



Images courtesy of Arie Reiss



THANK YOU!

We hope that you will be planning your
own Salons in the near future.

Please feel free to contact us with any
questions!

❖ Lee Ann Fullington – fullington@nyu.edu

❖ Laurie Murphy – laurie.murphy@nyu.edu

New York University, Elmer Holmes Bobst Library – library.nyu.edu