New Resources for a New Semester

The Libraries are committed to making smart, forward-looking decisions about our collections to ensure that students, faculty, and researchers in any discipline at Rutgers University have what they need to succeed.

As we welcome students and faculty back to campus this year, we are delighted to share these new electronic resources:

- **SWANK Digital Campus**, offering 250 feature films selected by instructors;
- **UpToDate**, a point-of-care clinical resource on over 10,000 topics;
- Full text access to over 1,200 social science, humanities, health science, and science journals, including collections from Sage Journals, Wiley Journals, Oxford Journal Archive, and the American Institute of Physics;
- More than 3,000 e-books from EBSCO (selected by faculty and students) and Springer e-books (primarily in biomedical/life sciences, engineering, and medicine);
- Online access to 500 British periodicals from the 17th through the early 20th centuries; and
- The complete digital archives of Vogue magazine.

These new collections vastly expand our digital offerings, but we’re not done yet. Our plans for the new school year include adding an additional 140,000 current scholarly e-books on all academic subjects with ProQuest ebrary Academic Complete; 7,000 new science, technology, medicine, and social sciences titles from Springer Nature; more streaming media from producers like BBC and PBS from Academic Video Online: Premium; access to more than 1.7 million full-text dissertations and theses; and new clinical resources VisualDx, DynaMed Plus, and JAMA Evidence.

Stop by the Libraries or visit our website to learn more and let us know what you think.
A t the George F. Smith Library of the Health Sciences, good librarianship means stepping away from the reference desk and into the classroom. Health sciences librarians Roberta Bronson Fitzpatrick, Margaret Rush Dreker, and Sarah Jewell serve in the teaching faculty for the From Practice to Preceptor (FP2P) program, a grant-funded initiative of the Rutgers School of Dental Medicine designed to address a nationwide scarcity of dental school faculty. FP2P offers cohorts of 10 participants two years of online and hands-on training in evidence-based dentistry that emphasizes working with multicultural, vulnerable, and underserved populations. At the program’s conclusion, participants have the skills they need to practice and research in an academic environment—and to pass these skills on to the next generation of dentists.

“There seems to be a real need for a program like FP2P in disciplines where faculty must wear a variety of ‘hats’—clinician, educator, researcher, administrator,” said Fitzpatrick. “Information plays a role in all of these components, and the library can train future faculty to become facile with resources and comfortable in critically appraising the published literature.”

In the first year of the program’s curriculum, librarians teach regularly scheduled lectures to help develop the participants’ research and teaching skills. They address different aspects of evidence-based practice, like using the evidence pyramid to evaluate studies and using the PICO (Population-Intervention-Comparison-Outcome) formula to break a question into its searchable components. The training includes techniques for searching clinical databases like PubMed and how to use tools such as Endnote to manage citations for a manuscript. Librarians also discuss different teaching methods and presentation styles so that the participants can learn to communicate their knowledge to others effectively.

“Being able to help the dentists find their way into the field of teaching and develop their own style is a great experience,” said Dreker. For Jewell, the experience offers librarians valuable insights into the communities they support. “We get to learn about the research needs of actual practitioners and establish relationships with future faculty,” she noted.

FP2P has been a success so far, with two members of the first cohort successfully joining the dental school’s faculty and several more taking other roles within the school. It is perhaps the most important takeaway from Fitzpatrick’s perspective that participating in the program helped highlight the library’s value as an academic partner.

“We were part of collaborative efforts at education, research, and even clinical skills within the school. In short, we were a functioning member of the department,” she explained. “And all without having to be a functioning member of the department.”

Endnote

Sarah Jewell. Margaret Rush Dreker and Roberta Bronson Fitzpatrick.

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-Matt Badessa

Into the Archives: Processing the Lautenberg Papers

W hen Sheridan Sayles took on the role of archivist for the Senator Frank R. Lautenberg Papers, there were certain things she did and did not expect to find.

Constituent correspondence, press clippings, and research files for new legislation—these were anticipated and well-represented in the collection. But sheet music for “Vote No on 789,” a song protesting a music licensing bill, or a vinyl record of a 1989 campaign ad—these came as a bit more of a surprise.

It’s all in a day’s work for Sayles, who, along with a team of two graduate student assistants, has been tasked with sorting, arranging, and describing the contents of two 2,200 boxes which the senator’s office donated to Rutgers in 2013. “It’s by far the largest collection I’ve ever worked on,” she said.

But how exactly does this mass of material get shaped into a research collection?

First, a general survey was conducted to determine what should be kept at Rutgers. Personal effects were returned to the Lautenberg family and official committee records were transferred to their rightful homes in Washington. Next came basic weeding and sampling to eliminate, for example, hundreds or even thousands of duplicate constituent mailers. Finally, the more substantive work of archival arrangement could begin.

Sayles describes the job as one that requires careful consideration for both the future and the past. “I work on how to re-fold the papers so that researchers have a good understanding of their contents while keeping as true as the office’s labels as possible,” she said.

But a collection like this presents challenges beyond its sheer size. It also reflects more than 30 years of changes in technology, comprising formats such as U-matic tapes, prime computer files, floppy disks, and nearly every type of hard drive popularly used since the 1980s.

For Sayles, the nature of these materials creates a race against time. “At a recent archives conference, I learned that half of all magnetic media—VHS tapes, cassettes, and the like—will have failed by 2027,” she explained. “And since there are over 200 hours’ worth of video and about the same length of audio, we’re in a fight to digitize these materials before they degrade.”

Moreover, at times it can be difficult to grapple with the subject material of the papers themselves. “It’s never a good day when the first thing you have to process includes reports about genocide in Armenia, war in Bosnia, or the attacks on September 11,” Sayles said.

Ultimately, however, Sayles finds it gratifying to know that such a valuable resource and point of distinction for the university will soon be made available to researchers. “And while the processing—which was slated to be completed in June 2018—is well ahead of schedule, much work remains to be done. ‘Things like preventative conservation, digitization projects, and eventually exhibitions’ said she said when describing what’s in store. ‘We’re on just the first step of a long and exciting process.’”

-Matt Badessa

Preparing the Dental School Faculty of the Future

Libraries Welcome New Audiovisual Archivist

Tara Kelley has been appointed audiovisual archivist for the Golding’s Underwater Photography Collection. The collection was donated by Al Golding, award-winning producer of Titanic.

News from Paul Robeson Library: Interim Director Named, Reference Hours Extended

Katie Elson Anderson has been appointed interim director of the Paul Robeson Library at Rutgers University-Camden.

Beginning this fall, in-person assistance from a reference librarian will be available Mondays through Thursdays until 10 p.m. and on Sundays when the library is open.

Dana Librarian is PI for $25,000 Grant

Bonnie Fong, physical sciences librarian, is the principal investigator for a Rutgers-Newark Chancellor’s Seed Grant totaling $25,000. The project is entitled “Boot Camps for Graduate Student Success.”

Institute of Jazz Studies Completes New Jersey Jazz Musicians Archival Processing Project

Thanks to a grant from the New Jersey Historical Commission, the collections of four New Jersey jazz musicians are now available at the IJS: pianist and composer James P. Johnson (1894–1950), pianist and vocalist Tony Tumbarello (1920–1992), singer Jackie Tumbarello (1916–2000), and clarinetist and educator Harry Leacey (1935–1990).

Endnote

Matt Badessa