NEW! Laptop lending program in Alexander and Kilmer libraries

Students looking to do research, surf the Internet, write a paper, or draft a response to that column in the newspaper, who don’t have a laptop with them on campus, now have a helpful new option.

The Rutgers University Libraries are pleased to offer a new laptop lending program in the Kilmer and Alexander libraries on the New Brunswick campuses. Any Rutgers student, faculty, or staff can borrow a 2011 Netbook for use within the library for up to four hours. Each Netbook comes equipped with Internet Explorer,

Rare collection features works of Victorian era writers

With a grant from The Gladys Krieble Delmas Foundation, the Rutgers University Libraries will begin work next year on processing and making publicly accessible the Symington Collection, an extraordinary collection of manuscripts and correspondence of Victorian writers, which has been housed within Special Collections and University Archives since 1947. The collection was developed by James A. Symington (1887-1964), a librarian at Leeds University, bibliographical scholar, and chief organizer of the Brontë memorial at Haworth Parsonage.

The collection features a large amount of letters and manuscripts by the Victorian poet Algernon Charles Swinburne and many of his associates. Best known for developing the roundel form of poetry, Swinburne’s early career was marked by his controversial writing subjects and lifestyle, which was later followed by a period of near seclusion in retirement. Along with works by Swinburne, the collection also offers insight into other writers who broke from the traditional mores of the Victorian period, including early feminist and abolitionist Harriet Martineau and Eliza Wheeler Wilcox, who caused a scandal by using such explicit words as “kiss” in her poetry.

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Dana Library is proud to introduce a new program aimed at helping to support student research and access to information, through individuals very familiar to students - their peers.

The Peer Information Counseling Program (PIC) chooses undergraduate students typically in their sophomore or junior year and trains them in basic reference work. Such training includes database searching, the use of the library catalog, an introduction to RefWorks, print and book searches, among other things. The student counselors can then use this knowledge to assist students with basic reference questions, which frees librarians to address the more specific and discipline-oriented research questions students may have.

Using the PIC program at the University of Michigan as a model, Dana Library hopes that the Peer Information Counselors will be able to facilitate student learning and academic achievement.

The PIC program at Dana Library began this summer with three undergraduate students, all currently in their junior year.

- Wagner Alcivar is a biology major who works in the circulation department.
- Michael Jen is an economics and history double major, recently elected as student government Senator and research assistant to Assistant Chancellor and Director of Dana Library Mark Winston.
- Nichol Perez is an English major who works in the circulation department of the library.

Reference librarian Roberta Tipton trained the three undergraduate counselors in basic reference skills. The counselors will serve in an assistantship role to librarians who offer instruction on library research for Rutgers-Newark courses, as well as enhancing the library’s use of technology.

The Peer Information Counseling Program is supported by the Diversity Research Center, which was launched in Spring 2010 to conduct research, both academic and institutional, on diversity issues and to support diversity work related to library science. The center sponsors a visiting scholar on diversity each year, and the 2010-2011 scholar, Dr. Karen Downing, included the development of a PIC program as part of her recommendations.

“The Dana library is to be applauded for its decision to institute a Peer Information Counseling Program! There is solid research that points to the efficacy of peer teaching and learning, and research that shows the many positive outcomes specifically associated with PIC programs for library users, the PIC students, and library staff -- it is a win/win decision to implement PIC,” said Dr. Downing.

NEW! Laptop lending program, in Alexander and Kilmer libraries

MicroSoft Word, Adobe Acrobat, and other commonly used programs.

Internet access is available in the libraries via the RU Wireless service and users sign in by using their NetID. Documents prepared on the Netbooks can be printed for free in any OIT computing lab.

Laptops can be borrowed on a first come, first served basis and reservations are not offered. There are five Netbooks available through this program in the Kilmer Library and ten in Alexander Library. Users must present a valid Rutgers ID to borrow a Netbook.

This program is an expansion of the laptop loan initiative in the Rutgers University Libraries, which was initiated in the Art Library in fall 2010.
New Personnel

John Cotton Dana Library appoints new associate director

The Rutgers University Libraries are pleased to announce the appointment of Keir Reavie as the new associate director of the John Cotton Dana Library on the Rutgers-Newark campus.

As associate director, Keir will focus on the management of research support activities and functions. He will oversee access services, assist the library director on library planning, and work with the data services librarian on institutional research and assessment. He will coordinate aspects of personnel administration, particularly related to library faculty, as well as other aspects of organizational development. He will oversee facilities projects and have responsibility for aspects of outreach and engagement with academic units and other academic and non-profit institutions, including the health sciences library community.

Keir comes to the John Cotton Dana Library with over 18 years of experience as a leader in academic libraries, with strengths in public service, research support, educational services, and library management. Most recently Keir was head of the Health, Agricultural, and Biological Sciences Department of the library at the University of California at Davis. Previously he was the manager of education and information services in the library at the University of California at San Francisco. He has also worked in the medical libraries at Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan and the University of Manitoba in Winnipeg, Canada.

Keir served as president of the Northern California and Nevada Medical Libraries Group and chaired a number of regional library association committees. He has published articles about library research in science and medicine in authoritative textbooks and presented over a dozen papers and posters on science library topics, alone and with coauthors, at regional and national medical education conferences. Keir started his work at the John Cotton Dana Library on October 17th. The Libraries welcome him into this role and wish him much success.

Libraries increase support on copyright concerns

Many scholars, educators, librarians, and students find that, in the course of their academic work, complicated questions emerge about how to properly use copyrighted materials. Questions include:

How may faculty make good judgments when selecting material for an online course, or for posting in the course management system for easy access to students?

How may scholars and researchers most appropriately use copyrighted works in their own publications?

What are the best approaches for contacting copyright holders?

What strategy should someone take when it is not possible to identify or locate the current copyright holder of a work, in situations when permission is needed?

The Rutgers University Libraries play a central role in facilitating legally and ethically appropriate uses of copyrighted works in the academic environment. To expand our service in this area, the Libraries are pleased to welcome Janice T. Pilch, who joined us as Copyright and Licensing Librarian on July 15th. Janice will provide expertise in matters of copyright, licensing, and other intellectual property issues for the Libraries and the broader University community.

Janice came to the Rutgers University Libraries from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, where she served as Humanities Librarian and Associate Professor of Library Administration. For the past decade, Janice has worked extensively on copyright matters in the international...
The highlight of the collection is a nine-page manuscript entitled “The History of Angria, I” by Branwell Brontë, the troubled brother of Emily and Charlotte. Written in tiny handwriting while Branwell was still a juvenile and detailing the fictional world of Angria, which Branwell created along with his sister Charlotte, this manuscript can only be read with a magnifying glass. Other highlights include unpublished letters of Thomas Hardy detailing complaints regarding critical reviews of Tess of the D’Urbervilles and extensive correspondence and drawings by Pre-Raphaelite poet Dante Gabriel Rosetti. In addition to the core manuscripts, the collection includes an immense amount of associated material such as magazines, pamphlets, and sale catalogue materials that are of interest to scholars of this period as well as those with an interest in the book trade.

The grant from The Gladys Krieble Delmas Foundation will enable the Libraries to hire a graduate student from the library science program at Rutgers’ School of Communication & Information to examine, organize, and create an online archival guide to the collection that will make it accessible to scholars and researchers in Victorian literature worldwide.

For more information on the Symington Collection, please contact Al King, Curator of Manuscripts, at aking@rci.rutgers.edu.

New Scarlet Latte cafe in Alexander Library

The Libraries were proud to launch a new tradition on September 6th, with the opening of a new cafe on the lower level of Alexander Library. The cafe was funded by the Libraries with generous support from the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs and the Rutgers’ Class of 1981.

Student response has been gratifying, with a front page story on the opening printed in the Daily Targum that week and a growing stream of visitors to the cafe.

Libraries increase support on copyright concerns

and national copyright arenas and at the University of Illinois.

Her international work includes service as an international copyright advocate for the Library Copyright Alliance, representing the interests of the U.S. library community at the World Intellectual Property Organization and other international fora, and as U.S. delegate to the Committee on Copyright and Other Legal Matters of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions. She has published, conducted research, and presented widely on copyright topics.

Working closely with the Office of Vice President and General Counsel, Janice will serve as a primary resource on fair use and other copyright issues, advising members of the University community about issues related to the works they write or otherwise create, and about appropriate use of works created by others.

Janice will also be available to conduct departmental workshops for faculty and students, and to provide targeted expertise to increase awareness of copyright law as it relates to teaching and scholarly activity.

The Libraries also offer a Research Guide on Copyright Information to provide an overview of copyright law, at http://libguides.rutgers.edu/cat.php?cid=25877.

The Libraries welcome suggestions for copyright sessions and workshops for faculty, staff and students. Stay tuned for more information on upcoming copyright related activities. You may contact Janice at janice.pilch@rutgers.edu.
In an innovative move that could serve as a model for urban areas nationwide, Camden County Library Commission and Rutgers–Camden have come together to create an outpost branch of the County library in downtown Camden. The 5,000-square-foot space on the lower level of the Paul Robeson Library at Rutgers–Camden is being renovated for maximum efficiency and access.

“This branch will mean so much to city residents,” said Mayor Dana L. Redd. “We are so happy that through our efforts, the facilitation efforts of the County, the expertise of the Library System and the commitment of Rutgers University we will have such a resource available for use downtown.”

The city of Camden is the latest municipality to join the County Library System, which now includes 27 of 37 municipalities in the county. Each municipality pays for its membership through a dedicated tax from its residents. The tax rate is the same for every municipality.

“Libraries hold a special role at the heart of their communities, whether on a university campus or in our hometowns. They are places for learning, centers for research, and focal points for community growth,” said Wendell Pritchett, Chancellor of the Rutgers-Camden Campus. "Here at Rutgers the Paul Robeson Library serves in all of these capacities, and is a critical part of our campus life. As befits the State University of New Jersey, Rutgers is proud to partner with the Camden County Library Commission to put underutilized space in our Robeson Library to work on behalf of the citizens of Camden."

Linda Devlin, Director of the Camden County Library System, who helped create the vision for this unique branch, explained her enthusiasm. "I am excited about the chance to work with Rutgers University and create a new library branch in Camden. A partnership with Rutgers will result in innovative programming and services that will serve as a national model for success," Devlin said.

The renovated area also will include space for the Rutgers Future Scholars Program and the Rutgers College Access Center. The co-location of these programs with the county library seeks to provide Camden families with opportunities to utilize Rutgers college prep programs.

The Rutgers Future Scholars program is a University-wide initiative aimed at providing academically high-achieving students opportunities for educational growth, social development, and personal enrichment in an effort to prepare them for acceptance into higher education upon high school graduation and success once they enter. Currently there are 200 Rutgers Future Scholars on the Rutgers–Camden Campus, in grades 7-10, from the Camden City Public Schools and the LEAP Academy University Charter School.

The downtown library branch will serve as a center for college access, providing resources, materials and programming for Camden city youth and their families to help them with the college admission process. Students will be able to take SAT preparation classes, learn about financial aid, and receive individual support from Rutgers students who will serve as mentors as they go through the college admission process.

In addition to the renovation of the lower level of the Robeson Library, Rutgers-Camden is also embarking on a comprehensive overhaul of the central campus library, which was built in 1958. This past summer, the University concluded renovations with a state-of-the-art computer laboratory which, together with all the other innovations, updated the facility for the demands of a 21st century research university.

Plans for the branch library renovations are still under review, with more detail to come over the next couple of months.
Railroad enthusiasts (AKA ‘trainiacs’) and other friends of the Libraries came out in the dozens, on a cold and rainy night in October, to participate in the opening reception for Special Collections and University Archives’ fall 2011 exhibition, All Aboard! Railroads and New Jersey, 1812-1930.

In this photo, David Fowler, exhibit curator, discussed the exhibit’s scope and introduced the guest speaker, Loretta Treese, the author of Railroads of New Jersey (2006).