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The Rutgers University Libraries, by the numbers

In the 2009–2010 academic year:

- Our libraries taught over 1,000 information literacy classes, reaching over 23,000 students
- There are more than three and a half million publications in our collections
- Our interlibrary loan service was a net lender, loaning 42,704 items while borrowing 36,331 items
- Nearly two and a half million people visited our facilities in person

PARTNERSHIP

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From my vantage point — Message from Marianne Gaunt

As the academic year winds down, there is plenty to crow about from the Rutgers University Libraries. Our librarians have been recognized as leaders by their peers in a variety of areas. Bonita Craft Grant, New Jersey bibliographer in Special Collections and University Archives, has won the 2011 Maureen Ogden Award presented by the Advocates for New Jersey History. The award, named for a former New Jersey Assemblywoman who was a key champion of New Jersey History, was presented at the 18th Annual History Issues Convention. Bonita was recognized for having created an outstanding county history program, and for bringing together elementary, secondary, and college history teachers to keep instruction in our state’s history innovative and growing at all levels.

Grace Agnew, associate university librarian for digital library systems, was recognized along with colleagues from William Paterson University and NJEdge, for her work in designing and building the statewide video streaming service, NJVid, which is used by academic institutions across the state to serve streaming media that is commercially purchased or locally created to their campus communities. She was presented with the New Jersey Library Association’s College and University Section Technology Innovation award at the recent NJLA conference.

Isaiah Beard, our digital data curator, was a featured speaker at the recent Association of Moving Image Archivists/International Association of Sound and Audiovisual Archives where he spoke on the Rutgers University’s repository, RUcore, and how it is used to preserve video in multiple formats. He has since received inquiries from the United Nations Media Department, the Canadian Museum for Human Rights, the National Archives and Records Administration, and the Rockefeller Center Archive.

We are proud of the leadership role our librarians and staff play in the library and information technology community.

This issue of Partnership notes several other successes of the Libraries in the area of special collections and technology. Our first digital exhibition based on the physical exhibition mounted in the Special Collections galleries highlights our outstanding Milton collection and was made available on the web in April. The digital exhibition will be available long after the physical exhibition is replaced, and it will

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make our Milton collection known to those who may never travel to the Rutgers Libraries. We have also made another of our excellent collections available beyond our physical walls. The complete collection of the Peter Still papers was digitized this year. Still was a slave in New Jersey who was involved with the underground railroad and subsequently purchased his freedom. Spencer R. Crew, the Clarence J. Robinson Professor of History at George Mason University, spoke about Still at the Libraries’ Louis Faugères Bishop Lecture in 2009.

While digital technologies are important to our work, we are still purchasing and using print books. We were very delighted to receive a generous donation of poetry from Emerita Professor of English Alicia Ostriker, who amassed this collection of several hundred volumes and donated them to the Libraries. The donation was celebrated recently when Professor Ostriker read from some of her favorite poems by women at the Douglass Library, where the collection will be housed.

We continue to upgrade our physical facilities that are used heavily by students. A new group study room was opened this spring in Alexander Library, and construction is starting on our first café. Photos taken during the winter finals attest to the fact that we are busier than ever—both physically and virtually.

I hope you enjoy this issue!

Vice President for Information Services and University Librarian

From my vantage point

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Libraries receive notable scholarly collection on feminist poetry

The Libraries were delighted to recently receive a large collection of publications and materials from Alicia Suskin Ostriker, an Emerita Professor of English at Rutgers, an important scholar, and a distinguished poet.

The Ostriker collection includes several hundred volumes of poetry by American women writers of the second half of the twentieth century (and from the opening of the twenty-first century). It ranges from hardcover volumes from major commercial and university presses, to publications from dozens of small publishers, to a number of poetry chapbooks. The volumes are in excellent condition and provide scholars and students with a significant portion of the corpus of American women poets at a time when women were successfully challenging and profoundly changing the accepted norms of poetry. Many of the volumes are inscribed by the authors, and feature notes of gratitude to Professor Ostriker for her scholarship, her poetry, and her support of other poets.

Professor Ostriker’s scholarly works include Vision and Verse in William Blake (1965); an edition of The Complete Poems of William Blake (1977); Writing Like a Woman (1983); and several books that re-examine biblical literature in light of feminism, including Feminist Revision and the Bible (1993), The Nakedness of the Fathers: Biblical Visions and Revisions (1994), and For the Love of God: The Bible as an Open Book (2007). Probably her best known work of criticism is the groundbreaking and immensely influential Stealing the Language: The Emergence of Women’s Poetry in America (1986). Of this work one reviewer wrote that she “combines the range of a scholar, the clear expository powers of a critic, and the passion of a feminist and a poet. She puts the poems in their historical and political context, teaches us their body language, demystifies their myths, and shows us how they challenge our habits of reading. But the point of Stealing the Language is not only to provide a map of recent poetry by women. It is also to persuade us that this poetry can change our lives.”

Professor Ostriker has published twelve volumes of poetry, ranging from Songs (1969) to The Book of Seventy (2009), winner of the Jewish Book Award for Poetry. Her other works include The Mother/Child Papers (1980); The Crack in Everything (1996), a finalist for the National Book Award and winner of the Paterson Poetry Prize; and The Volcano Sequence (2002). Her poems have also appeared in The New Yorker, The Paris Review, Antaeus, The Nation, Poetry, American Poetry Review, Kenyon Review, The Atlantic, MS, Tikkun, and many other journals, and have been widely anthologized.

For more information on this collection, please contact Kevin Mulcahy by email at mulcahy@rulmail.rutgers.edu or by phone at 732-932-7129, ext. 129.
On April 1st the first digital exhibition from Special Collections and University Archives’ (SC/UA) “John Milton and the Cultures of Print,” went live on the Rutgers University Libraries website. This digital exhibit captures the physical exhibition on display at the Special Collections and University Archives Gallery in Alexander Library from February 3 to May 31, 2011.

What is unique about this digital exhibition is that it highlights an innovative use of the Rutgers University Community Repository (RUcore). Individual objects in the physical exhibit are digitized, in this case books or manuscripts, along with their associated metadata capturing both “section or case” and “caption” information. They are then retrieved dynamically with the object, and displayed through a presentation tool intended to recreate the organization, look and feel of the physical exhibition. This is an imaginative way to utilize the intellectual resources within the repository.

The user can view the images one at a time with text or full screen, zoom in to see details on the image, or play an automated slideshow. While the physical exhibit can only remain on display for a short time, the digital exhibit can be dynamically retrieved and displayed in perpetuity.

This project was a collaborative effort between SC/UA and Technical and Automated Services (TAS). Many people worked on the exhibition tool and the technology that underlies it. Particular thanks go to the exhibition project team: Fernanda Perrone and Caryn Radick of SC/UA and John Brennan, Chad Mills, Carla Zimmerman, Sam McDonald, and Linda Langscheid of TAS.

The “John Milton and the Cultures of Print” digital exhibit can be viewed at: http://www.libraries.rutgers.edu/rul/exhibits/milton/

A curator’s favorites

A number of very distinctive rare items from Special Collections and University Archives were featured in The Afterlife: The Continuing Legacy of John Milton — a spring 2011 exhibition in Alexander Library. In this article Michael Joseph, rare book librarian and curator of the Afterlife exhibition, highlights a few of these delightful treasures.

As this title implies, The Afterlife considers how later historical periods and particular poets and writers assessed or responded to the great Puritan poet, or absorbed his ideas and literary style into their own writing. The Afterlife begins with books by Milton published just after his death in 1674, and ends some 375 years later with contemporary novels that at first glance one might not associate with the great Puritan poet—for example, children’s books by the world-renowned fantasist, J.K. Rowling and literary fiction by the elusive, postmodern American author, Thomas Pynchon. However, on closer examination, these and other twentieth-century works by authors as dissimilar as C.S. Lewis and Robert Graves attest to Milton’s continuing influence both on popular fiction and belles-lettres. The Afterlife of John Milton is alive and well.


A small octavo publication of Milton’s poetical works would have appealed to a young female audience already exposed to the instructive verse of authors such as John Bunyan, Isaac Watts, Anna Letitia Barbauld, Hannah More, Lucy Aikin, the Taylors of Ongar (Ann and Jane, author of “Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star”), Mary Elliot, Catherine Ann Dorsett, Felicia Hemans, Sarah J. Hale (author of “Mary Had a Little Lamb”), and Lydia Sigourney. Young ladies of a certain position in the world would have received their own copy of Milton as an acknowledgment of their importance to society and their concern for moral education.

While Thomas Wilkins, the publisher of The Poetical Works is not known as a children’s publisher, he did issue religious publications geared to improvement, and we found a copy of one of these similarly bearing the signature of Lady Lucy Leslie-Melville, dated 1822 (two years before her marriage). While we cannot claim that Milton’s poetical works represented the Twilight of their day, this volume provides us with evidence that they do represent a point on the historical continuum of young adult reading.

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Stop Plagiarism: A Guide to Understanding and Prevention
Neal-Schuman Publishers, 2010
Edited by Vibiana Bowman Cvetkovic and Katie Elson Anderson, librarians in the Paul Robeson Library, Rutgers–Camden
Chapters authored by Jeff Teichman & Gillian Newton of Access Services in Alexander Library; and Vibiana Cvetkovic, John Gibson and Julie Still of the Paul Robeson Library

Designed to be of use to all levels of educators working with students—from high school to postgraduate—this book addresses the problems and concerns facing librarians and educators involved in the process of teaching academic honesty. Many of the original authors from The Plagiarism Plague have returned with new essays along with new voices, a majority of whom represent the next generation of librarianship, the Web 2.0 professional.

Stop Plagiarism contains background material, web resources, a collection of sample exercises, and an interactive CD that provides tools an educator can use to stop plagiarism. One of three videos on the CD features an animated interactive quiz that helps student understand when they must include a citation. The authors have also established an anti-plagiarism wiki where readers are encouraged to participate in the ongoing conversation on plagiarism. This book is a one-stop source for anyone who wants to understand why students knowingly or unknowingly plagiarize, who needs materials for teaching academic integrity, and who will benefit from a current resource guide to tools for actively detecting plagiarism.

Describing Electronic, Digital, and Other Media Using AACR and RDA
Neal-Schuman Publishers, 2011
Mary Beth Weber and Fay A. Austin of Central Technical Services, Rutgers University Libraries

Catalogers hungry for hard-to-find answers regarding the best way to ensure access to diverse new content will find expert solutions in this vital new resource. Authors Mary Beth Weber and Fay Austin address RDA, the latest hot new trend in cataloging, along with traditional examples of cataloging like MARC, MODS, and Dublin Core. Streaming video, Internet sites, dual-disc DVDs, blogs, and listservs are just some of the rapidly emerging, and often complicated, new resources covered in this current, easy-to-follow manual. Weber and Austin dedicate separate chapters to each non-print and e-resource format, and include corresponding examples to help demonstrate practical implementation of these critical new skills.

A companion CD-ROM, designed for catalogers to use in creating descriptive records, provides guidance on how to formulate core-level descriptions for the seven media types discussed in the book; live links to online sources for additional information; and templates for creating descriptive records using MARC, MODS, and Dublin Core. Practical and user-friendly, this essential guide to twenty-first century cataloging will teach you to organize your constantly expanding collection.
Students crammed into the Rutgers University Libraries’ buildings during the weeks around finals in the fall 2010 semester. Over 200,000 visitors poured into the Libraries from December 9–23, seeking a quiet place to study and conduct research. The library with the greatest number of visitors was the Archibald S. Alexander Library, the flagship library on the College Avenue Campus, which saw over 50,000 students pass through its doors during the two-week period. Other well attended libraries were:

- Science and Engineering Resource Center Reading Room on the Busch Campus (45,302)
- John Cotton Dana Library on the Newark Campus (26,112)
- Kilmer Library on the Livingston Campus (18,421)
- Mabel Smith Douglass Library, on the Douglass Campus (17,716)
- Library of Science and Medicine on the Busch Campus (15,548)
- and Paul Robeson Library on the Camden Campus (13,611).

To accommodate students’ needs, the Libraries have made a point—despite the challenges of a difficult economy—to institute extended hours during the exam period. The Alexander Library stayed open for 24 hours immediately before and during exams, and other libraries stayed open well past midnight.

In December, we asked some of the students in our facilities what Libraries’ resources they had recently used in their studies. Here are some of the answers we received:

- Psych Info database
- Library catalog
- Library Hours webpage
- JSTOR database
- Criminal Justice database
- Searched “Research Resources” for articles on management, labor, and demographic trends
- Libraries’ computers
- Scanned field notes, using a Libraries’ scanning machine, and put them on a USB drive
- Looked through the collections for books on math topics.

Thank you to Maggie R. Clark, Eric Fizur, and Steph Mikitish for compiling the statistics used in the article.
Tennyson, Alfred. *Seven Poems & Two Translations* (1902)

Second only to William Morris’s influential Kelmscott Press, The Doves Press was the most admired private press of the Typographic Renaissance of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. In contrast to Kelmscott’s Victorian propensity for sensuous decoration, Doves Press books model restraint and spiritual intensity. Our copy of *Seven Poems & Two Translations* is particularly interesting to us because it is inscribed by “Annie Cobden-Sanderson and the printer” to Louis Shore-Nightingale. Shore-Nightingale was the son of a close cousin of none other than Florence Nightingale, the pioneering nurse and author whom Longfellow immortalized as the “lady with the lamp.” Florence Nightingale was very affectionate with Louis and his siblings, who knew her as “Aunt Florence,” as their many surviving letters attest. The inscriber, Annie Cobden-Sanderson was the wife of Thomas Cobden-Sanderson, the founder-proprietary of The Doves Press.


What makes this edition of Emerson’s works thrilling is the leaf of Emerson’s manuscript in the front of volume 1. Evidently, in 1903, no harm to archival research was seen in the dispersion of Emerson’s notes among six hundred volumes (the number of leaf-bearing volumes in the edition); perhaps the publishers assumed the addition of a manuscript would heighten library interest in this celebratory publication.

Whitman, Walt. *Leaves of Grass* (1876)

The Library’s 1876 edition of *Leaves of Grass* is unquestionably one of the most compelling association copies at Rutgers. It probably belonged to Whitman, himself, as is suggested by a holograph note on the fly leaf from Whitman’s friend and literary executor, Thomas B. Harned (after whom the great Whitman collection at The Library of Congress is named) to the physician, Clara Barrus (Dec. 11, 1904).

What we love about our copy is its incredible appositeness for this exhibition. Afterlife might have been conceived expressly to show off this manuscript on which Emerson has copied out lines 244-246 from Book XIV of Wordsworth’s Prelude, in which Wordsworth alludes to John Milton!
In his lengthy inscription, which is really a letter written into the book, Harned informs Barrus that part of this volume was set up [in type] by Whitman in a Camden Printing office and that it was sold largely to those English friends who came to his rescue when he was “poor, old and paralyzed.” Harned concludes his letter with the even more poignant observation that this copy of Leaves of Grass was in his room when Whitman died.

Joyce, James. *Ulysses* (1924)

Copies of the fifth printing of the first edition of *Ulysses* are rare, and yet once again it is the provenance of the library’s copy that makes this book irresistible. This copy was owned and given to Rutgers by Selman Waksman, a Rutgers alumni and professor awarded the Nobel Prize in 1952 for his role in the discovery of streptomycin, the first antibiotic that could cure tuberculosis. Waksman would have picked up *Ulysses* while visiting Paris in 1924, the year it was published, and brought it back with him to the States.

This commonplace act of buying a book abroad and bringing it home is really more interesting than it might sound, since the US Government had declared *Ulysses* obscene and banned it three years earlier, in 1921. The ban wouldn’t be rescinded until December, 1933, and thus the Library’s *Ulysses* is actually the answer to the *Jeopardy* question, What piece of contraband literature at the Rutgers University Libraries was smuggled into the country by a future Nobel laureate?!

These canonical works all reveal the influence of Milton’s genius in unique and powerful ways.

The Kilmer Library on Livingston Campus is now home to a new Recreational Reading section. The collection, which includes over 100 books with an estimated 100 more soon to be added, is maintained by Education Librarian and Instruction Coordinator and current Kilmer Library Reference Team Leader, Jeris Cassel.

The collection, located on the main level of the library in a display bookshelf and bookshelf behind the Reference Desk, features many titles from *The New York Times* Bestsellers list and also includes graphic novels, science fiction, romance novels, and nonfiction titles such as biographies.

Cassel, who is responsible for coordinating staffing for research assistance and oversees the general (non-business) collection at the Kilmer Library, said the collection was created in response to requests from students at the service desks and most recently on the Libraries’ online Counting Opinions survey for a leisure reading section.

“We have received an increasing number of requests from students for books to read for fun and leisure,” said Cassel, “and for a collection of fiction books they could browse to find books for leisure reading.”

The recreational reading books are marked with a red sticker on the spine, and follow different guidelines when they are checked out. The books can circulate to Rutgers students, faculty and staff and can be checked out for 28 days with 1 renewal.

The collection, which includes such titles as Sara Gruen’s *Water For Elephants*, Jodi Picoult’s *House Rules*, Jay-Z’s *Decoded*, and Stieg Larsson’s *The Girl Who Kicked the Hornet’s Nest*, was created with a $500 allocation from the Libraries central administration to start the collection. Many books have been donated by library staff and faculty, their friends, and family members, said Cassel.

In addition to the new collection in Kilmer, students can join a Rec Reading Sakai blog to discuss books, make recommendations to other readers, and make suggestions for the collection. If students would like to join the blog, they can contact Jeris Cassel at cassel@rulmail.rutgers.edu.

A physical suggestion box has also been placed near the collection.

To review the contents of the Recreational Reading section online, please see: http://tinyurl.com/kilmerrecread
If you are 60 or older, you have the option of supporting Rutgers in a way that provides you income for life. Through a charitable gift annuity, you’ll receive a fixed payout rate on your donation. When the contract ends, the entire residuum will automatically transfer to Rutgers to be used as you designate.

You can start receiving payments right away or defer them for a higher rate.

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*Effective July 1, 2010. Rates subject to change.

Your generous support enables the RUTGERS UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES to advance student learning and faculty research. From building and preserving our collections to providing inviting spaces for study, you can make the difference of a lifetime.

For more information on gift annuities to benefit the Rutgers University Libraries, please call the Libraries’ development office at 732-932-7585, ext. 318.

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