WHAT DO YOU THINK OF OUR PRIORITIES?

We're thinking a lot about you lately as we plan our future.

Over the past year, librarians, staff, and administrators at the Rutgers University Libraries have been developing a new strategic plan to guide our actions for the next three years. What you have told us in our various surveys and focus groups, what we hear from you in conversations in the libraries and around campus, and what we know about how you work have informed our thinking a great deal.

We are now releasing our Draft Strategic Plan, 2012-2015 for your consideration and comment.

Every segment of our organization - from subject specialists to computing professionals to HR managers - have participated in preparing our plan.

To review our Draft Strategic Plan, please see http://tinyurl.com/7wtbc2f

To offer your comments on this plan, please go to: http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/libplan.

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LIBRARIES LAUNCH NEW MOBILE WEBSITE

The Rutgers University Libraries are pleased to introduce a new service for our users on the go - a mobile website, easily accessible from all smart phones.

The new website at m.libraries.rutgers.edu allows users to perform essential functions like search the library catalog, look up hours and directions, and chat with a librarian. The library catalog on m.libraries.rutgers.edu is a highly streamlined version of the one that is available on the regular website (www.libraries.rutgers.edu), and has been carefully designed to include the most essential keyword and browse searching options.

The mobile site provides maps and current building hours for all libraries across the New Brunswick, Camden and Newark campuses. Users can dial out to reference librarians or email and chat with them. The mobile website will also be available from the Rutgers Mobile App that is scheduled for release by the university's Office of Information Technology.

The core developers of the new mobile website were Yuhwei Ling, Mary Ann Koruth, Sam McDonald, and Bob Warwick of the Libraries' Integrated Information Services (IIS). Christopher Sterback (IIS) and Joseph Deodato (Digital User Services Librarian) contributed to the design and testing of the site.

School of Communications and Information (SC&I), under Dr. Jacek Gwizdka - a faculty member at SC&I and a member of the Web Board. Barrera designed a first iteration of the catalog for mobile devices, which became the basis for what is currently offered on the Libraries' mobile website.

The mobile website comes at a time when the number of people choosing a smart phone over an ordinary mobile device is rapidly increasing. Earlier this year, The New York Times reported on a study conducted by The Pew Research Center, which found that smart phones are increasingly being used to access web and email; this trend is expected to continue.

The Libraries are proud to have tapped into this trend and invite feedback. Please write to rulweb@rulmail.rutgers.edu with your comments and suggestions. The website will continue to evolve as future releases of the mobile library site will provide greater functionality.

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IJS RECEIVES $165,000 GRANT TO CATALOG WOMEN IN JAZZ COLLECTIONS

The Institute of Jazz Studies (IJS), based in the John Cotton Dana Library on the Rutgers-Newark campus, received a $165,000 grant from the Council on Library and Information Resources for cataloging hidden special collections and archives.

IJS received the grant for a two-year project that deals with five separate archival collections of prominent women in jazz. The first four include:

- Ella Fitzgerald (1917–1996), known as America’s “First Lady of Song”;
- Abbey Lincoln (1930–2010), a singular vocal stylist;
- Annie Ross (1930– ), singer and “vocalese” pioneer, who is still active and recently named an NEA Jazz Master;
- Victoria Spivey (1906–1976), a blues singer whose career extended from 1920s recordings with jazz legends King Oliver and Louis Armstrong to a 1960s association with young admirer Bob Dylan.

The final collection to be processed during the project focuses on Wilma Dobie (1918–2005), a pioneering promoter, journalist, and jazz activist.

IJS plans to create online finding aids for these collections to assist researchers in discovering and accessing the records and artifacts in each archive. Vincent Pelote, Head of Technical Services/Sound Archivist in IJS, is the principal investigator for this two-year project.

For more information on this grant, please see: www.libraries.rutgers.edu/rul/news/12/01_catalog_women_in_jazz.shtml