Libraries Welcome New Vice President for Information Services and University Librarian

Dr. Krisellen Maloney joined Rutgers University Libraries as vice president for information services and university librarian on July 15, 2015. Maloney succeeds Marianne Gaunt who served in that role since 1997.

A noted researcher, librarian, and educator, Maloney comes to Rutgers from the University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA), where she served as the dean of libraries since 2009.

At UTSA, Maloney led a five-year, multimillion dollar renovation of the John Peace Library, oversaw the development of the university’s first Faculty Center, fostered partnerships with key stakeholders throughout the university, and expanded usage of and access to library collections and services. Under her leadership, the UTSA libraries received wide recognition both locally and nationally, most notably winning the American Library Association’s prestigious John Cotton Dana Award for library public relations in 2014.

She has also previously held leadership positions at Georgetown University, the Library of Congress Law Library, and the University of Arizona.

Libraries Spearhead Campus Initiative

The Libraries have been tapped by President Robert Barchi to design and administer a pilot grant program to foster the use of open textbooks at Rutgers. The program will offer $12,000 in competitive grants to university faculty members to help transition their course materials to an open textbook platform.

LibQUAL+® Survey Yields over 6,700 Responses

An unprecedented number of students and faculty participated in the Libraries’ quality improvement survey. The data gathered about our spaces and services will be used in planning and Libraries’ policymaking.

Questions or Comments about this newsletter: Jessica Pellien, director of communications jessica.pellien@rutgers.edu
Women's Studies Librarian Kayo Denda Nationally Recognized for Career Achievement

Kayo Denda, the women's studies librarian and head of the Margery Somers Foster Center at the Mabel Smith Douglass Library, has won the Association of College and Research Libraries Women and Gender Studies Section Career Achievement Award.

Institute of Jazz Studies Honored by WBGO

The Institute of Jazz Studies was one of three New Jersey jazz institutions honored at the 2016 WBGO Champions of Jazz Gala on March 16. WBGO President and CEO Amy Niles cited the Institute’s “tremendous role in the cultural past, present, and future” of Newark.

Medical Database UpToDate Anywhere Now Available

On December 1, the Libraries launched UpToDate Anywhere, a point-of-care information resource for medical and healthcare professionals. In its first six weeks of availability, over 750 registered users accessed more than 32,500 pieces of information.

Rutgers Art Library’s Acquisition Is a Window into the Genius of Leonardo da Vinci

The book slips free of its protective case, revealing a luxurious leather cover, embossed in gold. It may be a chilly winter afternoon in New Jersey, but in the Art Library archives—known as the X Room—the sunny warmth of 15th-century Italy is spilling across the pages of this rare and impressive work.

Composed of two back-breaking volumes that are 50 centimeters tall and weigh in at more than 30 pounds, Disegni by Leonardo da Vinci is one of the most sought after books in the world. It is also a recent acquisition by the archives at the Rutgers University Art Library.

For art librarian Megan Lotts, having this book in the Art Library archives is a point of pride.

“There are only a few of these books available in the world and the price would be prohibitive for individual purchase,” explained Lotts. “We are incredibly proud to make these volumes available to the Rutgers community.”

The oversized books contain reproductions of 506 drawings and sketches by Leonardo da Vinci on 323 leaves, arranged chronologically, with introductions, source information, and commentaries. According to Thomas Izbicki, librarian emeritus at Rutgers University Libraries, the acquisition of Disegni is part of a larger effort to acquire facsimiles of important books created in manuscript form.

“Facsimiles are used by art historians, historians, and others who want to study the originals,” noted Izbicki. “By seeing the original presentation of the texts and images, students can learn how classic works were created and how ideas got about in the era before the printing press prevailed.”

—Jessica Pellien