University Librarian’s Column

This fiscal year began with a challenge—to continue to provide strong services and collections with a major state budget reduction to the university. I am grateful to our wonderful librarians and staff for rising to the challenge in what could have been a devastating year. Many of the cuts we implemented involved reductions to staffing, collections, and “behind the scenes” operations. The most visible results were in library hours, but under the leadership of Francoise Puniello, Acting Associate University Librarian for Research and Instructional Services, our access services staff reassessed library hours in all our facilities after a few months and managed to realign hours of operation to best ameliorate the overall loss.

Under the leadership of our Associate University Librarian, Robert Sewell, the Collection Development Council reviewed all our subscriptions and their terms of agreements, eliminated print journal duplication, canceled lesser-used databases where similar content was available elsewhere, reconsidered some standing orders, and pared down our book approval plan. In all over 600 print subscriptions and 11 databases were cancelled with a relatively small loss of content. Despite these and many other challenges, our librarians and staff remained focused on the future and continued to work on developing services that support faculty research and student learning. Our systems staff implemented a feature in IRIS, our online catalog, which allows users to create a personalized citation database by downloading selected catalog records using RefWorks software (see story on RefWorks, in this publication). Federated searching, the capability to search across multiple databases at one time was also introduced, making it easier to find needed information (see story on Searchlight, in this publication). Systems staff, working with the Graduate School in New Brunswick, transformed the manual process for the transmission and preservation of student theses and dissertations to a digital process. As a result, students will submit and the Libraries will keep only digital copies of theses and dissertations, speeding the process and saving space (see story on Electronic Theses and Dissertations, in this publication). After testing in New Brunswick the RAPID 24-hour article delivery service was introduced systemwide, enabling users from all three campuses to request and receive within 24 hours the journal articles Rutgers does not own.

Support from friends, donors, and foundations enabled us to purchase approximately 3,000 monographs, upgrade our computer equipment, and support two archivist positions to process our unique collections. We are very much indebted to our benefactors for this welcome generous assistance. They have contributed greatly to the Libraries’ capability to meet the needs of our students and faculty, and we look forward to building on this success in the coming academic year.

Recognized Leadership In The Rutgers University Libraries

The librarians and staff in the Rutgers University Libraries regularly provide exemplary leadership in diverse areas of librarianship both within Rutgers, in higher education, and in the larger community. It is gratifying to note that within the past year many Libraries leaders have received broader recognition for their efforts in a number of arenas—through election to national leadership positions, through awards recognizing outstanding service, and through honors bestowed for disciplinary excellence. Through their service, dedication, and creativity these Libraries leaders enable Rutgers community members, New Jersey citizens, and a growing audience of national peers to benefit from the innovations and experience initiated at the Rutgers University Libraries.

These library leaders include:
• Rose Barbalace, student supervisor in Alexander Library, received the university's student supervisor of the year award.
• Special Collections and University Archives head Ron Becker received the Educator of the Year award from the New Jersey chapter of the National History Day competition.
• Kayo Denda, the Libraries’ women and gender studies librarian, was a co-recipient of the 2007 Significant Achievement in Women’s Studies Award, presented by the Women’s Studies Section of the Association of College and Research Libraries.
• University Librarian Marianne Gaunt was elected vice president/president elect of the Association of Research Libraries (ARL), at the organization's fall 2006 membership meeting. ARL is a nonprofit organization of 123 research libraries in North America whose mission is to influence the public policies that affect research libraries.
• Ferris Olin, head of the Libraries’ Margery Somers Foster Center, received a joint annual award, from the College Art Association (CAA) Committee on Women in the Arts and the Women’s Caucus for Art (WCA), to recognize major contributions to the visual arts, art history, and arts administration.
• A new video series on the perils of plagiarism, produced by librarians and staff at the Paul Robeson Library in Rutgers-Camden, received acclaim in the Chronicle of Higher Education’s weekly blog email.
• Triveni Kuchi, a social sciences librarian based in the Kilmer Library, received a special recognition award at the American Libraries Association national meeting from the Asian, African, Middle Eastern Section (AAMES) of ACRL/ALA, for “distinguished contributions in advancing the mission and goals of AAMES”.
• Eileen Stec, an instruction librarian based in the Douglass Library, received the 2007 Teaching Award from the New Jersey State Conference of the American Association of University Professors (AAUP).
Libraries’ New Electronic Theses & Dissertation Service – Benefits Students, Speeds Research

Rutgers requires students completing their graduate or doctoral work to submit their final, approved thesis or dissertation to the University Libraries for inclusion in the library collections. This policy creates a record of completed Rutgers research and supports future scholarship, both at Rutgers and beyond the university.

The way it used to work, each student submitted two physical copies of their paper to the Libraries. Then, Libraries staff bound the papers in hard cover format, typed up the abstract, entered the record in the card catalog, and placed the volumes on the shelves. The process was time consuming and, in the aggregate, carried a significant cost in personnel hours and materials.

With the new Electronic Theses and Dissertation Service, the Libraries have revolutionized the process to the benefit of all involved.

Now, students completing graduate or doctoral study at Rutgers can register online at the Electronic Theses and Dissertation website, http://rucore.libraries.rutgers.edu/etd, and enter information about their name, school, program, degree, date of graduation, and dissertation chair and committee. They also type an abstract of their paper. The Electronic Theses and Dissertation website provides the student with a complete checklist of the requirements needed to complete their degree and their status in the process – information formerly held in paper files in the graduate school offices.

Once the student’s paper is completed and approved by the committee, they upload a copy to the Electronic Theses and Dissertation website. The website automatically notifies the graduate school that the paper has been received and a school representative checks to see that the paper is appropriately formatted, complete, and acceptable.

When approved, the full text of the thesis or dissertation becomes part of RUCore, the Rutgers Community Repository developed by the Rutgers University Libraries (see related story in this publication on RUCore). A record is added to IRIS, the Libraries information system, with a link to the full text of the paper.

The Electronic Theses and Dissertation service also exports a copy of the work to ProQuest, for inclusion in their Dissertations and Theses database. The ProQuest subscription database is the internationally recognized leader in dissertation storage and access. Students across the world use ProQuest’s Dissertations and Theses to see if a prospective topic has been addressed before and to search for related materials for their papers.

The Electronic Theses and Dissertation Service enables Rutgers theses and dissertations to become available far more quickly and accessible to a worldwide audience. The service also allows Rutgers graduate programs to conduct analyses of trends in study topics, faculty involvement, and other aspects of graduate research in their schools.

The Electronic Theses and Dissertation Service was implemented in February 2007 as a team effort with the Graduate School of New Brunswick. Seventy papers were submitted through the service in the spring 2007 semester. By October 2007, the Graduate School will only accept electronic submissions of dissertations and theses through the Electronic Theses and Dissertation Service.

The Libraries are currently in discussion with other graduate schools at the university to enlist their participation in the Electronic Theses and Dissertation Service. The coordinators of the service envision that when fully integrated across Rutgers, the Electronic Theses and Dissertation Service will serve as the ‘express gateway’ for up to 500 Rutgers papers per year, moving each one into the scholarly arena in record time.

For more information on the Electronic Theses and Dissertation Service, please contact Ann Montanaro by phone at 732/445-5896 or by email at montanar@rci.rutgers.edu.

Additional Libraries Support For Dissertation/Thesis Writers

The Libraries subject research guide on “Dissertations and Theses” brings together resources from a variety of areas, to assist students in their graduate study.

The research guide provides information about dissertations and theses from other universities, grouping them by free electronic resources, print resources, and options on how to acquire a dissertation from another university. The research guide also includes a section with helpful tools for writing a dissertation or thesis and a number of links to related Rutgers resources.

The Dissertations and Theses research guide is accessible from the front page of the Libraries website, by following the path:
Research Resources > Subject Research Guides > General > Dissertations and Theses

Collections Update

The Libraries acquired a few new databases of particular relevance to our faculty and students in the previous academic year.

These include:
• Child Abuse, Child Welfare & Adoption Database
• Database of Recorded American Music
• DigiZeitschriften database/German scholarly publications 1777-present
• Film Literature Index
• Gartner Research Database of Technology Industry Reports
• Historical Statistics of the United States
• Homeland Security Digital Library
• VioLit, a collection covering violence literature

The Institute of Jazz Studies (IJS) received a number of historically significant and comprehensive gift collections, including 44 boxes of recordings by Benny Goodman, the archives of jazz historian Rudi Blesh, and the extensive music collection of jazz composer/arranger Manny Albam.

Special Collections and University Archives acquired the day books from the Port Elizabeth, NJ Glass Works for the period of 1813-1844, a map of New Jersey and Pennsylvania printed by Robert Morden in England in 1698, a collection of botanical papers and drawings from the noted and now deceased Dr. Albert List, Jr., a copy of the New Jersey State Gazette printed in 1795, and additional rare books, manuscripts, maps, atlases, and other archival materials.

The Libraries are creating a new technology infrastructure called the RUcore, that will enable the Libraries to preserve digital information in all formats—text, audio, video, images, data—in a searchable database available on the web. The repository can ultimately include the faculty's publications, working papers, scientific data, the university's theses and dissertations, and instructional materials that will be valuable to the Rutgers community. It can also include the unique materials from our collections that we digitize. Faculty can gain experience with RUcore beginning in the fall, when they can participate as beta testers in the institutional repository tool. Faculty will be able to quickly and easily upload preprints and postprints of articles as well as presentations. Utilizing the RUcore dynamic collection facility faculty members can quickly link their articles, as a unique browsable and searchable database, to their web-based curriculum vitae or departmental website.

Faculty at Rutgers will be able to establish contexts for their projects in the Workflow Management System of RUcore as simple ‘events,’ with associated actors (project investigators, graduate assistants, collaborators, etc.), and associated objects (data sets, citations, reports, etc.). By using the system, faculty can document the entire lifecycle of information related to their research and tie together and organize all associated data and actors into a “data mosaic”. This feature will enable a user to both scan the “complete picture” of a research project or to focus on a single element, such as the data set from an experiment within a project.

Departments will be able to upload, organize, and provide ready access to the publications of all departmental faculty members in a dynamic database in the Workflow Management System of RUcore to showcase the scholarship of the department to interested faculty, students and granting agencies.

An Expansive Electronic Repository For Rutgers; Building RUCore

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Search A Few Libraries Databases At Once, With Searchlight

A new Libraries service allows users to search for one term, title, or phrase across a number of databases at the same time.

Searchlight has a “Quick Search” mode that simultaneously searches the following major interdisciplinary electronic databases: Academic Search Premier, Business Source Premier, Medline, PAIS, Periodicals Index Online, PsycINFO, and Web of Science.

The “Advanced Search” offers two choices to help Libraries users find information on their research topic: “Search by Subject” and “Search by Databases.” In either interface, users can pre-select subjects or databases to optimize the performance and results of the search.

Searchlight search results are organized by topics, date of publication, journals, or authors. The search results have an option to “Show Abstract” that enables Libraries users to read the abstract of each article and assess its usefulness. The search results are also accompanied by the “Search for Article” button that will take the user to the article content if the article is part of the Libraries’ collections.

Citation Challenged? RefWorks To The Rescue!

With the help of a new Libraries online resource, students and faculty conducting research no longer have to experience frantic paper shuffling, puzzled head scratching, or alarmed last minute scrambles to collect and prepare their sources. RefWorks allows users to:

• organize their research for different projects or classes, in one easily accessible location;
• import references from electronic databases or IRIS and either store them or add them to the assignment or project;
• build a bibliography in different formats (Word, HTML, RTF, etc.), based on different stylesheets (APA, MLA, etc.)

As a web-based resource, available from the Libraries website, RefWorks enables users to access their RefWorks files from any computer connected to the Internet, no matter what location.

To use RefWorks Rutgers faculty, students or staff must set up an account by using their NetID and password. Accounts may also be set up to allow people working on a group project to share RefWorks folders and access the account simultaneously.

Short tutorials on the RefWorks website (available as Flash presentations or as PDF files) provide guidance on all aspects of the resource’s use such as logging in, getting your references into RefWorks through three different methods, searching online information within RefWorks, organizing references, and building a bibliography.

RefWorks is now easily available from the Libraries website, as the eighth item down in the grey left-side navigation bar. We encourage users to let RefWorks do the research organizing and bibliography building on their next assignment. Allow yourself to worry only about the ideas you’re researching and not the mechanics of how to cite your sources.
Libraries Create Software System That’s Adopted By The Library Of Congress

The Rutgers University Libraries continue to impress prominent federal agencies. In 2003 the Libraries, in partnership with the New Jersey State Library, received a $460,000 grant from the federal government’s Institute of Museum and Library Services. The grant funded efforts to build the “New Jersey Digital Highway,” a web-based portal to the state’s rich historical and cultural heritage materials. The Libraries selected Fedora, an open source information architecture, as the framework for the New Jersey Digital Highway. Fedora is an impressive program that allows the Libraries to manage and preserve in perpetuity digital ‘objects’ such as scanned documents and photos, webpages, records, and other materials accessible from the New Jersey Digital Highway.

The Libraries required other functions that Fedora doesn’t offer, such as the capability to load digital objects into the system, to attach data both to the objects and related items, and the means to track the ‘life’ of an object through a number of ‘events.’ So the Libraries created a sophisticated software program to accomplish all these ends and called it the Workflow Management System.

Meanwhile another federally funded project based at the Rutgers University Libraries, the Moving Images Collections (MIC), was making good progress. Yet an important need for MIC had been identified that required a solution.

MIC was developed through a $900,000 grant from the National Science Foundation, received in 2002. Project co-investigators at the Rutgers University Libraries, Georgia Institute of Technology and the University of Washington collaborated to build the first comprehensive online catalog of film, television and digital video images. Grace Agnew, Associate University Librarian for Digital Library Systems at Rutgers University Libraries, was the principal investigator for the NSF grant and the MIC architect. MIC currently contains more than 300,000 records from organizations such as the Library of Congress, the Peabody Collection at the University of Georgia, National Geographic Television, CNN and more. MIC has been very successful in its primary role to share information about the nation’s moving image heritage. Since its launch in October 2004 MIC averaged 686 visitors each day, for a total of almost one million visitors. MIC is now in the process of transitioning to become a permanent service of the Library of Congress.

The MIC co-sponsoring organizations—the Library of Congress and the Association of Library and Information Science and Technology—have agreed to work together to build a complete and comprehensive moving image digital library. MIC is working with other organizations to build a comprehensive moving image digital library.

The Workflow Management System has enabled the Libraries to make other contributions to the fields of inquiry, scholarship, and intellectual growth outside Rutgers as well. The Libraries will be moving the Workflow Management System into the open source software community to benefit other libraries and digital consortia. In summer 2007 the Libraries shared the Workflow Management System with the libraries at Northwestern University, Penn State and Princeton University, who will collaborate in its further development and release as an open source product in a library cyberinfrastructure consortium led by Rutgers University Libraries.

In addition, Virginia Tech is seriously considering joining the consortium as it seeks to build a digital repository for its campus and users. The Rutgers University Libraries will be assisting Virginia Tech in opening a digital memorial collection to the tragedy that occurred on that campus last spring, by sharing its Workflow Management System and its "dynamic collection" capability. The Rutgers University Libraries will enable the Virginia Tech Library to build a full repository from community members submissions.

The Workflow Management System is a component of RUcore, the Libraries robust collection and service cyberinfrastructure that also includes the Fedora repository and a dynamic collections facility. RUcore’s capability to host a "dynamic collection" provides the appearance that the collection is hosted on an outside group's website, while the searches and retrieving of resources take place through the RUcore repository. The intent behind dynamic collections is that content ownership, organization and look and feel belong to the 'local' division, department, or office, but preservation, management and dynamic updating are handled by RUcore.
Development Report

Institute Of Jazz Studies Advisory Board Sets Broad Plans

Originally convened in the early days of the Institute to provide assistance in identifying and securing new collections, the Institute of Jazz Studies (IJS) advisory board recently reorganized and broadened its mandate. The goal of the new IJS board is to help secure support for the Institute’s exceptional growth in prominence and programming.

The IJS board has turned its attention and considerable talent to helping the staff and faculty raise much needed gifts to endow the Institute and its work. Funding to continue to preserve the history of New Jersey in these collections and make them accessible to citizens and researchers.

The Libraries were also participants in a national advocacy day to ask members of Congress to consider an increase in funding for the grant programs of the National Endowment for the Humanities. Dan Morgenstern, an award-winning scholar of jazz and director of the Institute of Jazz Studies at Rutgers University, was a member of the team visiting NJ elected officials. He reviewed how two grants from the NEH have helped preserve fragile sound and print collections in danger of deteriorating beyond repair—many that would have been forever lost without the support of the NEH.

Libraries’ Advocacy In Washington, DC

The Libraries participated in two visits to Congress in 2007 to lobby members of the NJ delegation on matters of central concern to users of libraries and archives.

The first visit was organized to introduce members of Congress to the many treasures Rutgers holds in collections of political papers. These collections document the important work of our elected officials and their interactions with constituents. Rutgers’ Special Collections and University Archives head Ron Becker discussed how materials in the collections chronicle developments on important social and cultural issues of the time and vividly illustrate the views of New Jerseyans on these issues.

Almost all of these collections have received some preservation and cataloging attention but more work needs to be done. And more collections are being donated each year. Rutgers needs a reliable source of funding to continue to preserve the history of New Jersey in these collections and make them accessible to citizens and researchers.

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GIFTS AND GRANTS

Fiscal Year 2006-2007

July 1, 2006 - June 30, 2007

Academic Excellence ............................ $95,297
Parents ............................................ $251,346
Total Gifts In-Kind ............................... $567,398
Grants Private ................................... $80,602
Grants Fed/State ................................ $316,936
Total Private Funds .......................... $1,468,853
Total Gifts and Grants ....................... $1,785,789
Number of Donors ......................... 6,854

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New Brunswick, NJ 08901-1163