



RUTGERS UNIVERSITY
Libraries

Impact Report 2022 - 2023





RUTGERS

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Above: A student reads by Chang Library's bound periodicals section in New Brunswick.
Left: Nikolai Silis' "Don Quixote" sculpture adorns Carr Library's front entrance in Piscataway.
Cover: Dana Library

From the University Librarian



Consuella Askew

Vice President for University Libraries and University Librarian
Rutgers University Libraries

I am pleased to share the Rutgers University Libraries impact report for fiscal years 2022 and 2023, which highlights our activities and accomplishments between July 1, 2021, and June 30, 2023. The stories in this edition demonstrate the Libraries' critical role in empowering student success, engaging in academic excellence, and contributing to the common good. This report showcases the variety of ways by which we effectively and equitably serve the students, faculty, and staff of Rutgers University as one of the top research libraries in North America.

In addition to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Libraries responded to several internal changes during the last two fiscal years. I am proud of how we rallied together, adapted to our current circumstances, and continued serving as an academic catalyst for the Rutgers community. Despite the ever-changing library and higher education landscape, we remain committed to delivering the world-class services and resources our students and researchers have come to expect. We focused our efforts on responding to the

evolving needs of our user community. We improved access to our extensive resources, invested in technologies that extended our service reach, and upgraded our spaces to better serve patrons and house our continually expanding physical and electronic collections.

In this increasingly digital world, libraries matter more than ever. Your support of Rutgers University Libraries will help us continue building upon our strong foundation and providing a brighter future for the next generation of scholars. Together, we can champion the free pursuit and creation of knowledge through teaching and research and ensure the university remains at the forefront of innovation.

We thank you for your interest in our work and hope you enjoy this glimpse into the achievements of our students, faculty, and programming. Connect with us—we look forward to helping you study, collaborate, and discover our many resources to enhance your learning, research, and academic growth.



Our Libraries

Rutgers University Libraries are proud to be among the leading research libraries in the United States. The Libraries' faculty and staff play an essential role in providing the onsite and online resources and services that support one of the nation's most diverse and innovative public research universities.

Our 11 libraries and five distinctive collections are located in thriving cities throughout New Jersey, offering convenient access to our vast knowledge base—comprised of more than six million print and digital resources—and our extensive range of welcoming study, learning, and collaboration spaces.



Alexander Library



Art Library



Carr Library



Chang Library



Dana Library



Douglass Library



Library of Science
and Medicine



Math and
Physics Library

11

Libraries



Robert Wood
Johnson Library



Robeson Library



Smith Library

5

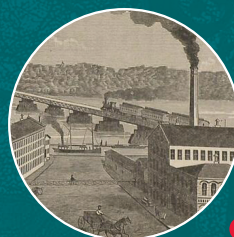
Distinctive Collections



Institute of
Jazz Studies (IJS)



Rutgers University-
Newark Archives
(RU-NA)



Special Collections and
University Archives
(SC/UA)



Special Collections
at Robeson Library
(SCRL)



RUTGERS
UNIVERSITY | CAMDEN



RUTGERS
UNIVERSITY | NEWARK



RUTGERS
UNIVERSITY | NEW BRUNSWICK



RUTGERS
BIOMEDICAL AND
HEALTH SCIENCES

3

Regional Locations*

*Including Rutgers Biomedical
and Health Sciences (RBHS)



Special Collections in
the History of Medicine
(SCHM)

Advancing Academic Excellence. Empowering Student Success.
Fostering Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.

The Libraries Leadership



Regina Koury

Associate University Librarian
Rutgers University–Camden
Paul Robeson Library



Dee Magnoni

Associate University Librarian
Rutgers University–New Brunswick
New Brunswick Libraries



Judy Cohn

Assistant Vice President for Information Services
and Director of Health Sciences Libraries
Retired Summer 2022



Victoria Wagner

Associate Director & Medical Education Coordinator Librarian
Robert Wood Johnson Library of the Health Sciences
Interim in 2023



Abigail DiPaolo

Senior Executive Director of Administration and Technology
Rutgers University Libraries



Rhonda Marker

Interim Associate University Librarian
Rutgers University–Newark
John Cotton Dana Library



Jeffrey D. Carroll

Assistant Vice President for Scholarly Communication and Collections
Rutgers University Libraries



Empowering Student Success



Students are at the heart of Rutgers' mission, and facilitating their success is our North Star.

Focused research instruction helps students find what they need among our millions of electronic and print resources. Virtual and in-person one-on-one consultations provide personalized guidance. Innovative study and workspaces foster collaboration and creativity. Cutting-edge technical tools put the power of the Libraries at students' fingertips. When our students succeed, we all succeed.

In this section, learn how the Libraries are:

- Providing students with the tools to succeed
- Helping students navigate their academic journey at Rutgers
- Championing textbook affordability
- Creating new study and learning spaces

< Students collaborate in the Library of Science and Medicine in Piscataway.



Students search the Art Library's specialized databases in New Brunswick.

Providing Students with the Tools to Succeed

Student Success Is a Pillar of the Libraries

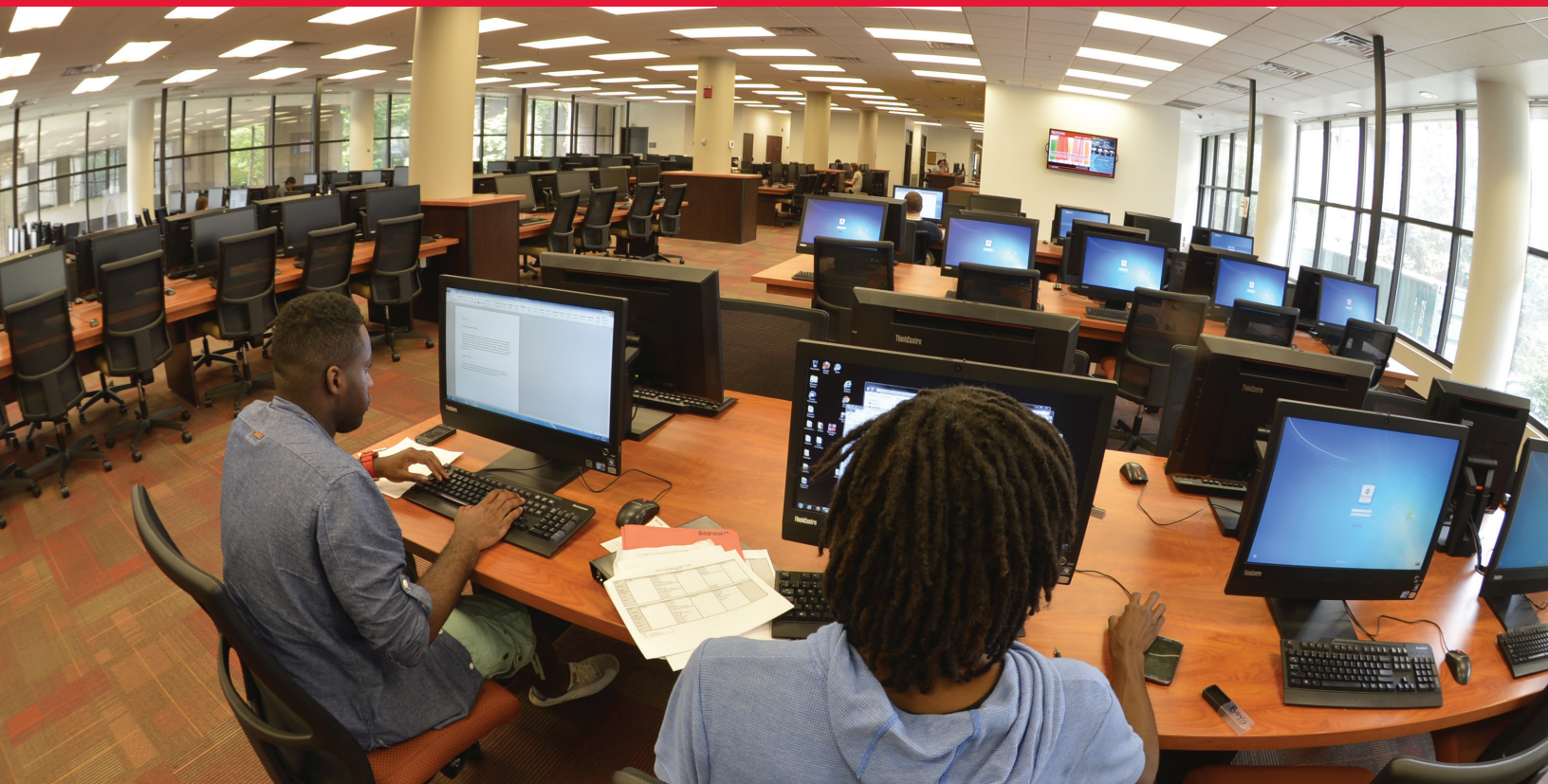
The Libraries is a trusted partner on our students' academic journey. To meet their evolving needs, the Libraries strive to continually improve access and discovery of materials in our expansive collection of 6+ million materials using a variety of tools.

Our website—libraries.rutgers.edu—is the main gateway to our vast collection of print and electronic scholarly materials, including articles, archival materials, audiovisual records, books, databases, dissertations, journals, and theses.

QuickSearch, the Libraries' integrated search portal, is the main access point to the material in our collection.

Research guides are useful resources for research and study compiled by Rutgers University librarians. These guides help students locate the best resources for conducting research related to their course or area of study.

Finding aids (also called collection guides or inventories) are used for the manuscript and archival collections that comprise our distinctive collections. One can find over 282,866 archival objects using the **QuickSearch** and **ArchivesSpace** platforms. They describe a collection's contents making locating specific items easier. However, most descriptions can be found using QuickSearch.



The Rutgers Student Computer Lab in Camden's Robeson Library has over 170 computers.

Subject guides created by our archivists and curators bring together several finding aids to facilitate searching and provide a better understanding of the breadth and scope of our collections.

Library Reading Lists allow students to easily access course materials within Canvas, Rutgers' web-based learning management system. In fiscal years 2022 and 2023 more than 7,000 courses used Reading Lists, resulting in more than 1.2 million student interactions with course materials sourced from the Libraries collection, thereby reducing their cost to students.

These online tools enable our students and other users ubiquitous discoverability and accessibility to materials in our collection.

Library Mobile App Launched

In fiscal year 2023 the Libraries partnered with Ex Libris to develop its first mobile app in North America. The Library Mobile app enhances our students' library experience by providing them with convenient and seamless access to do the following, and more:

- Lookup library locations and hours
- Make study space reservations
- Access course reading lists
- Chat with a librarian

During fiscal years 2022 and 2023, more than 2,000 users downloaded the app.



Metadata Archivist Diane Biunno (left) with students in the P3 Collaboratory's group study space in Newark's Dana Library.

Helping Students Navigate Their Academic Journey at Rutgers

Preparing Students for Academic Success

Rutgers University Libraries offers a wide range of strategic resources and services to support our students across the university's four chancellor-led units: Rutgers University-Camden, Rutgers University-Newark, Rutgers University-New Brunswick, and Rutgers Biomedical and Health Sciences. The following activities highlight some of the Libraries' unique services and programs.

Camden

Paul Robeson Library's **Personal Librarian Program**, a partnership with the Student Success Coach Office, pairs Rutgers–Camden first-year undergraduates with a library faculty member. In fiscal years 2022 and 2023, the program reached over 800 students putting them on a path to success as they learn from the experts how to navigate the abundance of resources and information available to them.

Every spring, Robeson Library recognizes outstanding student research at Rutgers–Camden with its **Undergraduate Research Award Program**. This program helps students further develop critical thinking skills, original thinking, and creativity, all important for emerging scholars. In fiscal years 2022 and 2023, the Library selected nine award winning research projects. Awardees presented public lightning talks on their research to the Rutgers-Camden community.

Robeson Library also co-sponsors Rutgers–Camden's annual Graduate School Professional Development Week, a week's worth of presentations on topics related to graduate student success. During fiscal years 2022 and 2023 the Libraries delivered seven presentations reaching 84 graduate students. Participants learned about their subject librarian and discovered library resources tailored



Head of Access Services Ann Marie Latini (left) with a student in Camden's Robeson Library.

to their academic needs, thereby enhancing their success in academic endeavors.

Studies have shown the benefits of reading for leisure and otherwise are directly related to student success by promoting critical thinking comprehension. In response to students' requests and to promote critical thinking competencies, Robeson Library expanded its collections to include recreational reading materials. The collection has 228 titles with 61 loans/renewals during fiscal years 2022 and 2023.

Newark

The John Cotton Dana Library's **Graduate Student Success Workshops**, co-sponsored by Rutgers Graduate School–Newark, cover literature research skills, information literacy, data, scholarly

communication, and career skills. The workshops were attended by 378 students on the Newark campus.

Dana librarians are integrated with the **RU–N4 Success** platform. This online student success network of advisors that offers our librarians another way of directly impacting student success on the Newark campus.

New Brunswick

Rutgers University–New Brunswick Libraries (NBL) provides graduate student employment and mentoring programs that feature School of Communication and Information (SC&I) assistants, graduate specialists, and intensive literature review assistants. During fiscal years 2022 and 2023, the **Graduate Specialist Program** graduate specialists

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Clinical Librarian Pam Hargwood (top row left) assists medical students in RWJ Library at RBHS in New Brunswick.

Helping Students Navigate Their Journey at Rutgers (continued)

hosted 150 workshops reaching 1,220 attendees. Topics included data science basics, digital humanities, R, and Python.

In fiscal year 2022, NBL launched the **Diversity in Data Program** with five Diversity in Data specialists to research and present on topics such as algorithmic bias, how the impact of health data impacts on COVID-19 vaccinations, and the use of Twitter data to understand the behavior towards the Black Lives Matter movement, emphasizing the importance of data literacy.

Rutgers Biomedical and Health Sciences Libraries

In fiscal year 2022, the Rutgers Biomedical and Health Sciences Libraries' (HSL) **Librarian Liaison Program** marked its first full year of dedicated librarian liaison support for students, faculty, and staff of RBHS' schools

and centers. Using templates for flyers, emails, social media, and other methods of communication, librarians increased their outreach to their liaison communities and focused on increasing awareness of the services and resources provided by the Libraries. In fiscal years 2022 and 2023, HSL liaised with a number of RBHS institutes and schools such as the Cancer Institute of New Jersey, Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy, Rutgers Global Health Institute; the schools of Dental Medicine, Health Professions, Nursing, and Public Health, and others.

The health sciences librarians support RBHS students in Newark, New Brunswick, and Piscataway, staffing virtual and in-person service points. During fiscal years 2022 and 2023, HSL offered 459 instruction sessions reaching 10,340 students.



RUTGERS OPEN ♥ AFFORDABLE TEXTBOOKS

The OAT Program provides financial benefits to both students and faculty.

Championing Textbook Affordability

Library Incentive Program Saves Students Millions

The **Open and Affordable Textbooks Program** (OAT) is an initiative spanning the entire university which aims to alleviate the financial burden of course materials for students. Through OAT, faculty members are encouraged to adopt low-cost materials, utilize library resources, or create open educational resources (OER) for their courses.

Applicants compete in two categories annually: \$1,000 Program Award for course redesign and \$3,500 Authoring Award for creating completely new OER textbooks. In fiscal years 2022 and 2023, a total of 46 awards were granted, showcasing the program's impact and reach.

This application-based incentive program is a point of pride for the Libraries. It not only supports faculty members in adopting cost-effective materials but also aligns with the Libraries' stated value of accessibility and the university's priority to reduce the financial burden of education costs.

OAT Facts & Figures

OAT empowers and supports university faculty to innovate their teaching and lowers textbook costs for our students. To date:

230 faculty awards presented

40,000+ students impacted

\$12 million+

saving in textbook costs for students

For more information about this cost-saving program visit libraries.rutgers.edu/oat-program



Digital Learning Commons



Making a Bigger Impact with New Study and Learning Spaces

Providing Students with Welcoming and Creative Spaces to Study and Learn

When the Rutgers community returned to campus, the Libraries remained committed to investing in our facilities. By updating old spaces and creating new ones, our goal is to provide a welcoming environment tailored to our students' evolving needs. The following provides descriptions of major space projects that have been completed during this period.

Digital Learning Commons. Launched in September 2021, the 15,143-square-foot Digital Learning Commons (DLC) in the Archibald S. Alexander Library provides students with a state-of-the-art multimedia and learning space. Designed to be a central place on the New Brunswick campus for collaboration, creation, research, and study, the DLC gives students access to tools that will enrich their academic experience

and place them on the road to success. With features such as an information desk, a computer lab with 70+ computer stations, a pitch room, a conference room, an audio booth, study pods, consultation rooms, huddle rooms, one-button studios, and printing stations, this widely used space exemplifies President Holloway's vision for a robust, in-person university experience.

Dana Library Transformation. In spring 2022, a 42,222-square-foot transformation of Dana Library's first, third, and fourth floors was completed. Unused space was reimagined and converted into enhanced study and collaborative areas, creating a more dynamic, flexible, and creative learning environment for students, faculty, and the community.



Dana Library Transformation



Informed by feedback gathered during Rutgers–Newark’s strategic planning process championed by Chancellor Nancy Cantor, the Dana Library Transformation Project included:

- A new spacious and welcoming lobby area
- A new staircase and high-capacity elevator, enclosed in an architectural feature on the plaza side of the building serving as a beacon to patrons
- Quiet study space for students on the third floor
- New spaces for our campus partners: the P3 Collaboratory for Pedagogy, Professional Development, and Publicly-Engaged Scholarship; Rutgers Graduate School– Newark; and the Office of Global Initiatives and Experiential Learning.
- Reconceived spaces on the fourth floor for the Rutgers–Newark Archives and the Institute of Jazz Studies, the world’s foremost jazz archives and research library.

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Special Collections and University Archives Reading Room



Robeson Library Graduate Student Study Lounge



Making a Bigger Impact with New Study and Learning Spaces (continued)

Robeson Library Graduate Student Study Lounge.

In fall 2021, Robeson Library opened its 310-square-foot graduate student study lounge on the lower level. The space was designed using feedback gathered from the strategic planning process, focus groups, and the Libraries' LibQUAL+ patron-satisfaction survey. The lounge provides a dedicated space for graduate students to work on group projects, study for exams, or take a break from the rigors of academia.

Special Collections and University Archives Reading Room.

In May 2022, Alexander Library opened the Special Collections and University Archives Reading Room. This space was repurposed from a computer lab and transformed into a welcoming 612-square-foot space for researchers. The Reading Room can accommodate up to 10 researchers and its UV-blocking window film helps protect valuable materials.

The Hatchery Innovation Studio at Alexander Library.

Opened in fall 2022, this 4,000-square-foot innovation space is the first of its kind at Rutgers. The Hatchery, graciously supported by University Academic Affairs and Rutgers–New Brunswick, is a strategic partnership between the Libraries and Rutgers' Innovation, Design, and Entrepreneurship Academy (IDEA). The Hatchery offers students, faculty, researchers, and community organizations a wide range of flexible, collaborative spaces to work on projects, practice pitches, and explore design and entrepreneurship ecosystems. It also offers programs and activities grounded in community-based decision practices. It provides a stimulating environment where individuals and groups can ideate, learn, and discover passions, challenges, and solutions for today's world.



Alexander Library's Franklin J. Marryott Reading Room in New Brunswick.



Engaging in Academic Excellence



Rutgers is a world-class public research university celebrated for its excellence in scholarship. Academic faculty, graduate students, residents, and undergraduates rely on the Libraries to provide the resources, expertise, and support that underpin the university's research enterprise. By connecting people to information in a multitude of ways, the Libraries lay the groundwork for researchers and learners alike to thrive in their quest for knowledge and innovation.

As research methods evolve, the Libraries are the foundation for scholarship and learning—the pillars of academic excellence. From providing seamless access to the resources needed to advance the university's academic goals to promoting opportunities to contribute to the global body of scholarly literature, the Libraries is a core partner with these efforts.

In this section, read how Rutgers University Libraries are:

- Contributing to research excellence
- Enriching the corpus of knowledge

< Head of Archival Collections and Services Adriana Cuervo and a student explore the Institute of Jazz Studies' record collection in Newark's Dana Library.



Reference Librarian Julie Still files a booklet in the Special Collections at Robeson Library in Camden.

Contributing to Research Excellence

Strengthening our Knowledge and Research Ecosystems

Investing in Our People. Rutgers University Libraries go beyond being mere custodians of information. Library personnel place a crucial role in contributing to knowledge production and the scholarly discourse.

Library faculty served as editors or members of editorial boards for high-impact journals in the field such as *Journal of Jazz Studies*; *Library Resources and Technical Services*; *portal: Libraries and the Academy*; and others. They were also peer reviewers for prominent publications such as *Cataloging and Classification Quarterly*; *College & Research Libraries*; *Journal of Academic Librarianship*; *Journal of Information Science*; *Library Trends*; *Media and Communication*.

This active engagement underscores the Libraries' commitment to shaping the research landscape in librarianship and enhances the reputation and impact of the university across the scholarly ecosystem.

Research Projects. The Libraries' 48 tenured and tenure-track faculty members are committed educators and active scholars deeply immersed in research and librarianship. In fiscal years 2022 and 2023, they collectively published over 60 articles in scholarly journals; delivered 122 presentations at regional, national, and international conferences, workshops, and seminars; published four books; authored 19 book chapters, among other scholarly activities. This substantial scholarly output contributed valuable insights and perspectives to academic discourse and amplified their depth and breadth of expertise, further solidifying the Libraries' standing as a hub of intellectual activity and innovation within our profession and beyond.



User Support Specialist Jonas Desir demonstrates anatomy resources to medical students in Smith Library at RBHS in Newark.

Recognition. Our outstanding faculty are recognized scholars and leaders at the national, regional, and local levels, demonstrating their impact on the community.

Leslin Charles won the 2022 and 2023 NJLA College & University Section/Association of College & Research Libraries--NJ Research Award and the 2023 American Association of School Librarians Research Grant Award and is a 2020–2025 Fulbright Specialist. **Adriana Cuervo** and **Victoria Wagner** were selected as a 2022–2023 Rutgers Leadership Academy Fellows. **Vincent Pelote** received the Music Library Association Citation, a lifetime achievement award for distinguished service to music librarianship. **Fernanda Perrone** received the NJ Studies Academic Alliance's 2021 Roger H. McDonough Award. **Jonathan Torres** was selected for an LIS Education and Data Science Integrated Network Group Fellowship and earned a 2022 Rutgers–Newark Chancellor's Impact Grant. **Yingting Zhang** won the 2022 Medical Library Association Liberty Chapter Leadership Award, the 2022 MLA Sewell Travel Award, and honorable mention in the 2022 ORCID US Community Awards.

Systematic Review Service. This service supports the publishing of systematic and scoping reviews— rigorous research methods that synthesize all available empirical evidence to address specific research questions. Our librarians serve as both advisors and collaborators, aiding research teams in advancing healthcare research.

Activities include thorough database searches of scholarly databases and grey literature, assisting researchers with access to full text, and citation management. Librarians also author methodology sections, leveraging their expertise to provide comprehensive database search strategies to support the research questions.

In fiscal years 2022 and 2023, our librarians collaborated on 56 projects and consulted on 109 others. Their engagement underscores the value and impact of the service in guiding and shaping the next generation of healthcare research. The Libraries is committed to empowering researchers and facilitating the production of high-quality systematic reviews that contribute to evidence-based practice and decision-making in healthcare.



Head of Special Collections and University Archives Sonia Yaco with a student in Alexander Library's New Jersey Reading Room.

Enriching Knowledge

Helping Our Students and Faculty Succeed

The Libraries are committed to enriching knowledge and providing a wide range of valued resources that are available to students and faculty wherever they are located.

Interlibrary Loan Service. Our interlibrary loan (ILL) service secures print and electronic materials when they are not available locally. The tools and systems employed by ILL make it possible for us to meet the information needs of our patrons by acting as a gateway to resources held by thousands of libraries around the world. ILL connects our community to local, national and global partners, extending access to even the most specialized and difficult to find resources. Collaborative services such as **EZBorrow** and **UBorrow** tap into additional resources available through the **Partnership for Academic Library Collaboration & Innovation (PALCI)** and

the **Big Ten Academic Alliance (BTAA)** offering rapid access to the physical collections of our 70+ regional partner institutions. As members of **RapidILL** and **OCLC WorldShare**, journal articles and books can be sourced from anywhere in the world and delivered to an email inbox, preferred university library or even to a home. Rutgers students, faculty, staff, and faculty emeriti utilize our personal delivery service and receive print materials mailed directly to their residence.

Improving Discovery and Access to Rutgers Research. Intellectual enrichment extends beyond collections. The Libraries understand how open-access scholarship affects the ways in which knowledge is created and shared. By making research work freely and widely available, we can magnify the scope of its potential impact. Our **Scholarly Open Access at Rutgers (SOAR)**



Students meet in Robeson Library's upper-level study area in Camden.

repository is dedicated to collecting and preserving Rutgers scholarship. By providing free and open access to the research and creative scholarship of the University community, we showcase our faculty's work to a global audience.

Expanding Our Collections. The scope and focus of our collections reflect the breadth of research and inquiry across the university. New online additions like the *National Theatre Collection: Volumes I & II* bring the stage to life through high-definition videos and fascinating archival materials. The digitization of *The Daily Targum* and the acquisition of the *Camden Courier-Post* offer important historical resources and a fascinating glimpse into the past, which can inform the future. *Embase*, a comprehensive biomedical literature database, is invaluable by presenting a wide range of information for medical study and research. We relaunched the *Alcohol Studies Archives* collection, combining an online exhibit

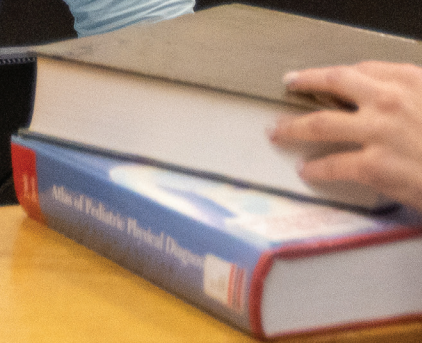
with our Alcohol Studies database and the RUcore collection. With Yale University, we began the Mellon Foundation-funded **Black Bibliography Project** which contains authoritative web-based bibliographies of major African American authors.

Benefiting Researchers with Open Access Scholarship. Our read and publish agreements with **Cambridge University Press**, **Public Library of Science (PLOS) Biology**, **PLOS Medicine**, and **Wiley** resulted in more attractive open-access publishing opportunities and significant savings for Rutgers researchers. The Libraries continually negotiate low- to no-cost article processing charges (APCs) for a growing range of academic journals, reducing out-of-pocket costs for Rutgers researchers who opt to publish their articles as open access. In fiscal years 2022 and 2023, we saved researchers over \$1.2 million in the cost of APCs.



RUTGERS
University Libraries

Robert Wood Johnson Library of the Health Sciences



Contributing to the Common Good



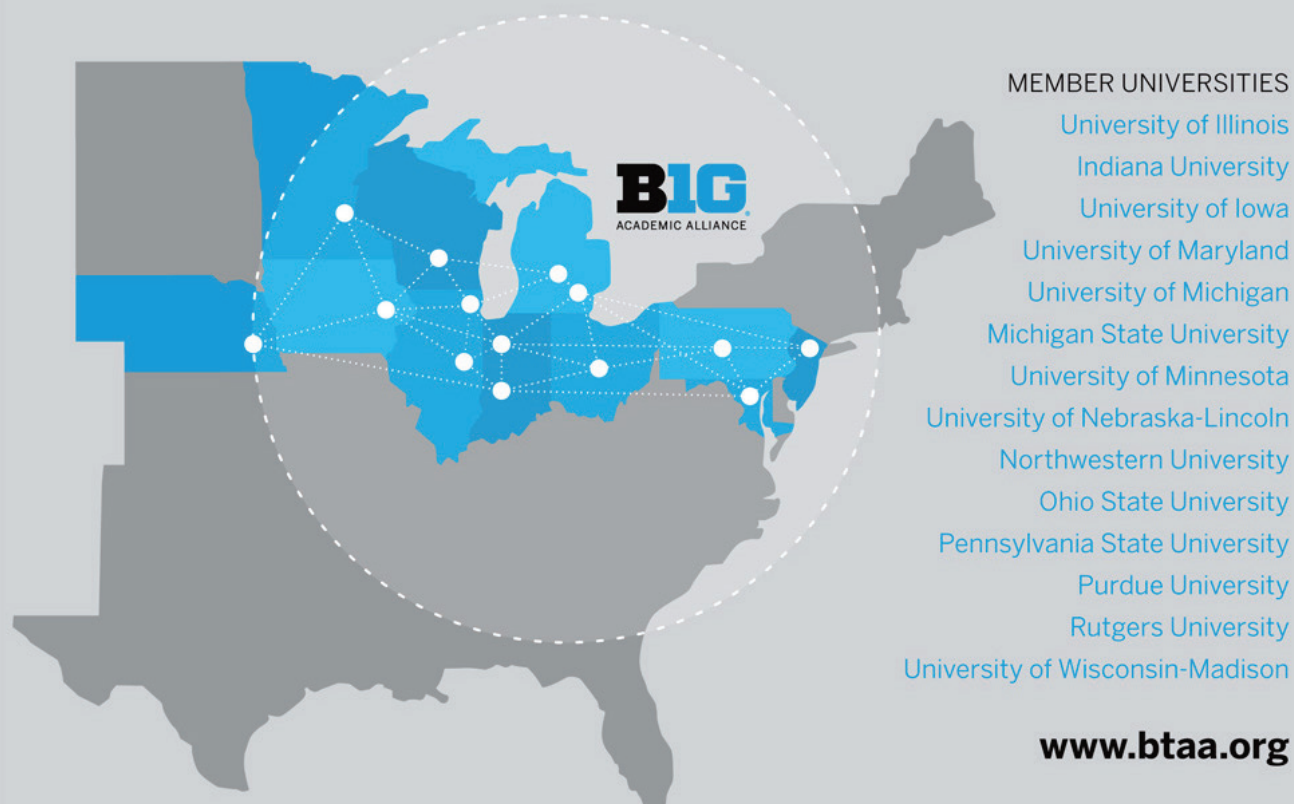
Rutgers University Libraries is dedicated to serving the greater good through strategic partnerships that transcend conventional boundaries. We recognize collaboration with local, regional, and national constituencies is essential to fostering innovation, driving progress, and realizing a better future for all.

Our commitment to the community is resolute. We measure our success by the achievements of those we serve. Through individual and collaborative shared initiatives, the Libraries strive to fuel meaningful contributions to society.

In this section, see how the Libraries are:

- Forging strategic partnerships
- Partnering with students, staff, and faculty
- Engaging with the community
- Providing what the community needs

< Library Specialist Philip Wilson helps a medical school student in Robert Wood Johnson Library at RBHS in New Brunswick.



Partnering with organizations like the BTAA allows the Libraries to provide expanded resources and services at a lower cost.

Forging Strategic Partnerships

Building Partnerships in the Libraries, across Rutgers, Statewide, Nationally, and Globally

While the success of the Rutgers' community is central to the Libraries' mission, our strategic partnerships amplify the breadth of our impact, extending our reach across the globe.

We maximized consortial partnerships with the **BTAA**, **NorthEast Research Libraries (NERL)**, **PALCI**, and the **Digital Public Library of America (DPLA)** among others, to realize financially advantageous contractual agreements with publishers to build our collections. We continue to work closely with the BTAA on the **BIG Collection**, a strategic collaboration dedicated to managing the separate collections of the Big Ten university libraries as a single collection. The outcome of this joint sharing of resources will enable

us to focus more deeply on our distinctive collections and services, and leverage other local strengths and expertise across our library system.

Along with colleagues at **Durham University** in the United Kingdom, we are exploring ways artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning can be employed to ensure our unique digital content is appropriately discoverable, accessible, and usable. Initiatives such as these contribute to the common good by recognizing and addressing the needs of multiple, diverse constituencies independent of location.



Students collaborating in Smith Library at RBHS in Newark.

Partnering with Students, Staff, and Faculty

Giving the Rutgers Community a Stronger Voice

The Libraries are deeply committed to providing a stronger voice to our community in shaping library services, resources, and operations. We purposely solicit input from the entire Rutgers community to inform our decision-making. Through advisory boards and collection acquisitions processes, we prioritize the perspectives of those we serve to ensure our offerings meet their needs.

Advisory Boards. Our student and faculty advisory boards, including the **Paul Robeson Student Advisory Board**, the **Student Public Interest Research Group (PIRG)**, and **NBL Faculty Advisory Board** provide valuable avenues for understanding faculty and student needs. They facilitate open dialogue and establish formal

channels for students to share input and drive change, ensuring all student voices are considered.

New Collection Acquisitions Models. In fiscal year 2023 we implemented evidence-based acquisitions plans with four major publishers. These models are designed to provide immediate access to a significantly larger volume of ebook content at a reduced cost. Through them our users have immediate online access to over 290,000 full text titles. Using this, we ensure our acquisition of ebooks align with the preferences and requirements of our user community, enabling access at point of need.



Information and Education Librarian Matt Bridgeman teaches a workshop in RWJ Library at RBHS in New Brunswick.

Engaging with the Community

Offering Events and Exhibits that Stimulate and Enrich Our Neighbors

Community engagement is foundational to our mission. It aligns closely with our commitment to fostering the free pursuit and creation of knowledge that contributes to the development of a well informed citizenry. Over time, we have cultivated and maintained relationships with a wide array of affiliates, ranging from local organizations to educational institutions and beyond to provide the following.

The **Babs Siperstein Humanities and Medicine Seminars** focus on transgender issues and are a collaboration with **Robert Wood Johnson (RWJ) Medical School Women's Health Institute, RWJ University Hospital PROUD Business Resource Group, and Rutgers' Center for Social Justice Education and LGBT Communities.**

Our Land, Our Stories, a multimedia exhibit developed with the **Department of Landscape Architecture**, highlighted environmental justice advocacy

and curriculum development for Native American history and contemporary Indigenous land relations. **Special Collections and University Archives** hosted public events ranging from the archaeology of the book to a historical tour through New Jersey using postcards that revealed attitudes about class, race, gender, labor, and leisure. The *Queer Newark Oral Histories* was digitized in collaboration with the Newark LGBTQ+ community and the **RU–Newark Department of History. Special Collections in the History of Medicine** in Newark's George F. Smith Library presented "*Dr. Harrison Martland: Newark's Sherlock Holmes?*" at the **Newark Public Library**, who co-sponsored the event with the **Medical History Society of New Jersey**. Additional partnerships with the **Graduate School–Newark, Aresty Research Center**, and the **Institute for Women's Leadership** offered innovative ways for our communities to interact with the Libraries.



Library Associate Edward Robinson with a student in Camden's Robeson Library.

Providing What the Community Needs

Delivering Resources and Services That Help Our Students and Patrons Flourish

Technology has long extended our reach far beyond the footprint of the university. Service expectations wrought by the global pandemic and rapid technological advancements have led our scholars, researchers, and students to expect maximum flexibility when interacting with the Libraries.

Although our online resources and services extend physical boundaries, the Libraries remain committed to personal interactions. Our faculty offer individual consultations in their areas of expertise, and our access services staff provide experienced, boots-on-the-ground assistance to patrons at all locations. Our convenient **Ask a Librarian** service addresses complex research questions and routine inquiries via email, text, and chat enabling library users to communicate with a live librarian in the modality of their choice to get the answers they need.

In addition to our standard services, we provide study rooms, poster printing, digitization, and scanning services.

In partnership with the university **Office of Information Technology** (OIT), most library locations also house computer labs and offer printing services.

We work with the community to reimagine and optimize library spaces to promote discovery and learning. Collaborative efforts with the **Rutgers–New Brunswick Chancellor's Office**, **OIT**, and **Office for Disabilities** led to the creation of the **Digital Learning Commons** in Alexander Library. Partnerships with the **Rutgers–Newark Chancellor's Office**, faculty, staff, and students were critical to the **Dana Library Transformation Project**. Student feedback helped us better understand how they utilize library spaces, guiding our efforts to create environments that meet their needs.

We know that the expectations of an academic library supporting institutions with very high research activity are substantial. We continually strive to improve our users library experience.

Spotlight on Distinctive Collections

Supporting Study and Research on New Jersey and Beyond

The Libraries distinctive collections departments collect, preserve, and make available rare, unique, and specialized sources to support study and research on New Jersey, the history of Rutgers University, and other select subjects. Every library location houses collections of historical and cultural

materials, ranging from rare books and manuscripts to musical instruments, yearbooks, and ephemera. To facilitate research, we have listed most finding aids and collection descriptions in QuickSearch. An increasing number of online finding aids from across our collections are now searchable in ArchivesSpace.



Major Acquisitions

A selection of notable acquisitions across the Libraries for fiscal years 2022 and 2023 are highlighted in this section.

Special Collections and University Archives (SC/UA) at New Brunswick Libraries acquired three artists' books: *I Wake Again* (Holly Brigham), *Baabaa Aab Daad* (Gonar Adili), and *Next Station Stop Will Be...Travels Along the Central Railroad of New Jersey* (Eric Defino). Our notable acquisitions included papers of **Louise A. DeSalvo** (a scholar of Virginia Woolf), the **New Jersey Federation of Colored Women's Clubs**, and **Edna M. Netter** (a noted fine arts collector), with material from the 1690s-1960s.

The **Special Collections at Robeson Library, Rutgers University-Camden (SCRL)** received gift book collections from the families of African American history scholar **Arthur Zilversmit** and bestselling historical novelist **Sharon K. Penman**. Zilversmit enjoyed a long

career at Lake Forest College before retiring to Voorhees, New Jersey. Among his published works are *The First Emancipation: The Abolition of Slavery in the North*, *Lincoln on Black and White: A Documentary History*, and *Changing Schools: Progressive Education Theory and Practice, 1930–1960*. Penman focused on Henry II's reign, including the Welsh Princes trilogy and the Plantagenet series, and is known for her attention to detail and historical accuracy.

The **Rutgers University–Newark Archives of the John Cotton Dana Library at Rutgers University–Newark (RU-NA)** partnered with SC/UA to manage the collection of **Rachel Hadas**, a celebrated poet and the Board of Governors Professor of English at Rutgers–Newark. Professor Hadas's papers were digitized, A selection of notable acquisitions across the Libraries for these two fiscal years are highlighted in the following section. including her work with the Gay Men's Health Crisis and the period leading up to the COVID-19

The Libraries also offer digital collections that include materials from our campus and global partners. Please visit libraries.rutgers.edu/archives to learn more.

Special Collections and University Archives (SC/UA) in Alexander Library is home to the state's largest and most comprehensive collection of New Jersey materials. **Special Collections at Robeson Library** (SCRL) houses Rutgers–Camden campus ephemera and more. **Special Collections in the History of Medicine** (SCHM) in George F. Smith Library

in Newark is devoted to providing resources on New Jersey's history of medicine. **Rutgers University–Newark Archives** (RU–NA) in Dana Library documents the legacies of the Rutgers–Newark campus and its impact as an anchor institution in the city of Newark. The **Institute of Jazz Studies** (IJS) in Dana Library is the world's most comprehensive jazz archives and research library serving scholars, students, musicians, members of the Newark community, and performing arts organizations.



pandemic. A physical exhibition of a cross-section of Professor Hadas's archive is scheduled for next year.

The **Institute of Jazz Studies** (IJS) at Dana Library recently acquired the **Connie Crothers Audio Recordings** and the **John Hozack Collection of Audio Recordings**. Crothers was a pianist and renowned improviser who studied with Lennie Tristano. The John Hozack collection contains over 7,000 CDs featuring jazz concerts and broadcasts Hozack downloaded from the Dime-A-Dozen website from 1995-2022. These and other rare recordings spanning the entirety of jazz history are available on the IJS streaming site at libguides.rutgers.edu/ijs. The Institute also acquired the **Luckey Roberts and Lena Sanford Papers**. Stride pianist and composer Charles Luckeyth Roberts, better known as Luckey Roberts, was an influential composer and considered the most technically gifted member of the post-ragtime stride school. In fiscal year 2023, IJS created an online collection of Francis Paudras's home movies of jazz bebop pianist Bud Powell. Paudras was an artist, amateur pianist, and jazz enthusiast who was Powell's caretaker and unofficial manager. IJS also received additional Count Basie items from his daughter, Diane Basie.

Notable Distinctive Collections

- Badian Collection: Coins of the Roman Republic (SC/UA)
- Count Basie Family Papers and Artifacts (IJS)
- Harrison S. Martland Papers, 1905-54 (SCHM)
- James P. Johnson Music and Personal Papers (IJS)
- Mary Lou Williams Music and Personal Papers (IJS)
- Nicholas Virgilio Papers (Robeson Library - Camden)
- Robison Hebrew Manuscript Collection (SC/UA)
- Shirley Chisholm Papers (SC/UA)
- William Elliot Griffis Collection (SC/UA)



Students study in the lower level lounge in Douglass Library in New Brunswick.



Students study in Alexander Library's Digital Learning Commons.

Photo Credits: **Jeffrey Totaro** (Dana Library, cover, page 19), **John O'Boyle** (Carr Library, page 2; Camden Library, page 3, 24, 27, 34; Library of Science and Medicine, pages 10-11; Art Library, page 12; Dana Library, page 14, 22-23; Robeson Library, page 15, 33 ; RWJ Library, page 16, 28-29, 32; Digital Learning Commons, page 18, 37; Smith Library, page 25; Special Collections and University Archives, page 26; Math and Physics Library, page 37), **Roy Groething** (Smith Library, page 5, page 31), **Alan Goldsmith** (Old Queens, pages 6–7, back cover), **Nick Romanenko** (Robeson Library, page 13; Smith Library, pages 34-35), **Dennis Mark** (Digital Learning Commons, page 18; Special Collections and University Archives Reading Room, page 20; Robeson Library Graduate Student Study Lounge, page 20; Franklin J. Marryott Reading Room, page 21), **Mo Daud** (Douglass Library, page 36).



Overhead view of the Math and Physics Library in New Brunswick.



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