

Rutgers University Libraries

IMPACT REPORT 2025



RUTGERS UNIVERSITY
Libraries

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ABOVE: The Mabel Smith Douglass Library offers serene spaces for student learning.

COVER: Students engage in group work at Archibald S. Alexander Library.



FROM THE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIAN

I am pleased to share with you the Rutgers University Libraries Impact Report for fiscal year 2025, which provides highlights of our accomplishments between July 1, 2024, and June 30, 2025.

This was a year of transformation for Rutgers University Libraries—a year in which a multiyear organization process moved through its final phases. This process engaged external consultants and included student focus groups, a universitywide faculty survey, and various methods of incorporating Libraries faculty and staff input along the way. The aim was to enhance the Libraries' contributions to advancing Rutgers' priorities in academic excellence, research and innovation, and community impact.

When the year was complete, we were ready to move toward implementation of an improved structure that will enable the Libraries to align with the university's priorities, deliver a consistent user experience, and be more responsive to evolving needs and expectations.

Through our reorganization, the Libraries' reference and instructional services are now coordinated across Rutgers to ensure widespread alignment with the university's curriculum and mission. Similarly, a universitywide research services team delivers specialized support throughout the research life cycle and across the university. Information technology and shipping



Consuella Askew
Vice President for University
Libraries and University Librarian

and receiving functions are now centralized, enabling greater efficiency and cost savings and a seamless experience for both our employees and our patrons across the Libraries system.

The common thread here is that we can serve the university's mission more effectively by making it easier to access expertise and resources across the Rutgers University Libraries system. No matter where in the university you are, we want you to have the same great experience with the Libraries.

We also are focused on our organizational vitality, aspiring to become a learning organization with a strong culture of assessment. By investing in our ability to thrive, innovate, and adapt to change, and by tying our progress to measurable impact, we are becoming better contributors to Rutgers' efforts in education, research, health care, and public service.

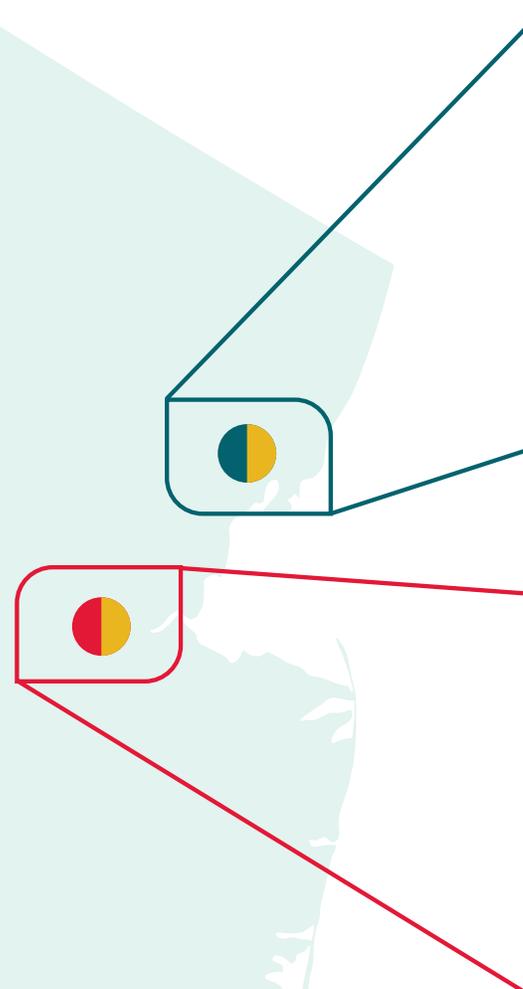
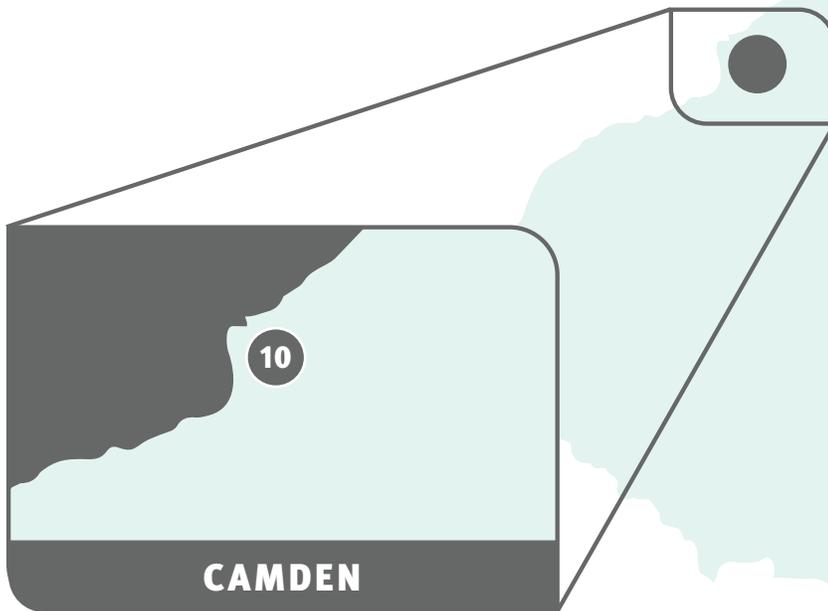
We hope you enjoy these highlights from the past year, and we look forward to continually raising our game as the place of discovery, access to vast knowledge, and the impetus for inspiration, innovation, and exploration.

OUR LIBRARIES

Rutgers University Libraries support and enrich Rutgers' educational, research, health care, and public service missions through the stewardship of scholarly information and the delivery of information services. Our 11 libraries and five distinctive collections serve Rutgers' four main divisions >>

- Rutgers University–New Brunswick
- Rutgers University–Newark
- Rutgers University–Camden
- Rutgers Health

11
Libraries





5

Distinctive Collections



INSTITUTE OF JAZZ STUDIES



RUTGERS UNIVERSITY-NEWARK ARCHIVES



SPECIAL COLLECTIONS AND UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES



SPECIAL COLLECTIONS AT ROBESON LIBRARY

- 1 Archibald S. Alexander Library
- 2 Art Library
- 3 James Dickson Carr Library
- 4 Stephen and Lucy Chang Science Library
- 5 John Cotton Dana Library
- 6 Mabel Smith Douglass Library
- 7 Library of Science and Medicine
- 8 Mathematical Sciences and Physics Library
- 9 Robert Wood Johnson Library of the Health Sciences
- 10 Paul Robeson Library
- 11 George F. Smith Library of the Health Sciences



SPECIAL COLLECTIONS IN THE HISTORY OF MEDICINE

ARCHIVAL IMAGES, LEFT TO RIGHT FROM TOP: trumpet owned by Miles Davis, Rep. Shirley Chisholm speaking at the first Rutgers–Newark commencement, Queen's College charter, Scarlet Raptors nesting dolls, historical medical packaging.

PROMOTING STUDENT SUCCESS

Rutgers is an academic powerhouse, and the Libraries undergird student achievement in many ways. This includes supporting student research, analyzing library traffic to understand and meet student needs, and championing textbook affordability.

Library Instruction

Given the rapid proliferation of misinformation in today’s media environment, it is more important than ever to ensure that students can recognize reliable sources of information—and know how to find them.

Rutgers librarians partner with academic course faculty to improve students’ information literacy, enhance critical thinking, and support successful completion of course objectives. Librarians enhance teaching and learning by providing support for course-related research needs, offering online or in-person library instruction, and offering guidance on incorporating information literacy into courses or assignments.



LIBRARY INSTRUCTION improves information literacy, enhances critical thinking, and supports student success.

Reference Support

Whereas library instruction establishes a solid foundation for information literacy, reference support is one-to-one instruction at the point of need. Rutgers librarians are always available to help students find, evaluate, use, and cite information sources. Students can access this support both at the library and online via Ask a Librarian (libraries.rutgers.edu/ask), which provides live librarian help via chat 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

“ I am so grateful for your help today in navigating Medline. I was honestly lost and not sure what to do. Your help is always a great relief. As I move closer to the dissertation phase at Rutgers, I feel so lucky to have found you as a fantastic resource.”

— Angela Retano-Anderson, doctoral student,
School of Nursing, Rutgers Health

INSTRUCTION AND REFERENCE IN FY25

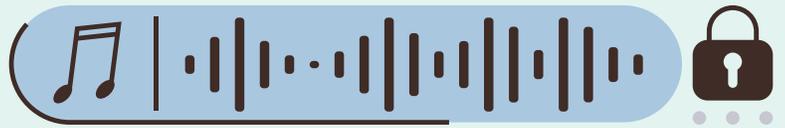
1,224
instruction
sessions taught

26,013
students who received
library instruction

16,312
reference questions
answered

Instruction Spotlight

Bret McCandless, music and performing arts librarian at Douglass Library, regularly provides library instruction for graduate students in the Introduction to Research course in the Music Department at Mason Gross School of the Arts. He has created an online research guide and multiple interactive online modules on a range of topics. Twice every semester, he visits the class to teach in person, engaging applied learning techniques.



These live sessions cover library resources, research strategies, library guides, and music copyright. Each session includes activities that require students to apply what they have learned. “One of the most successful activities is during the music copyright session when, after explaining concepts like fair use, he provides summaries of court cases addressing questions of music copyright to small groups of students, who must then surmise how the courts decided the case based on the evidence presented,” said course lecturer Solomon Guhl-Miller. “The students get very excited by this and are nearly always in line with what the court decided, reflecting a firm grasp of what they have learned.”

Fostering Student Research

Our undergraduate and graduate student researchers benefit from the expert guidance provided by Rutgers librarians in areas such as copyright, data (e.g., collection, analysis, visualization), evidence synthesis, and publication.

There are also multiple ways in which the Libraries collect, archive, and make available student research. These include:

- › **Electronic theses and dissertations**, housed in RUcore.
- › **Digital exhibits** of graduate and undergraduate student research posters and presentations.
- › **The Aresty Rutgers Undergraduate Research Journal**, published annually and hosted by the Libraries, providing students with both a venue for publication and valuable experience and mentoring in the peer review process.

The Libraries play a leading role in advancing undergraduate research through two signature programs:

The Aresty Research Center for undergraduates, housed within Alexander Library, calls upon Rutgers librarians to equip students with skills in database navigation, citation management, and scholarly inquiry. The Rutgers–New Brunswick Libraries also sponsor a financial award for a student whose final research presentation demonstrates exceptional application of these skills.

The annual Paul Robeson Library Undergraduate Research Award recognizes excellence in undergraduate research projects that make use of a range of library resources, collections, and services and show evidence of critical thinking, originality, and creativity. In an assessment of the award published in *The Journal of Academic Librarianship* (September 2025), recipients reported that winning the award had made them more likely to pursue additional academic opportunities and increased their confidence in performing academic tasks.



CINDY DO WON A 2025 PAUL ROBESON LIBRARY UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH AWARD for her project, “Chronic Stress Elevates the Risk of Parkinson’s Disease.”

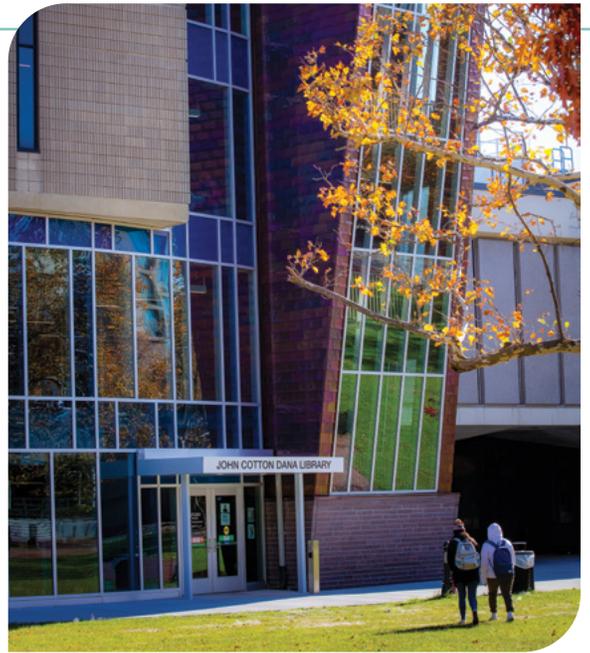
Understanding Libraries Traffic

Total individual visits to Rutgers University Libraries exceeded 1.5 million in academic year 2025. To better understand, anticipate, and accommodate the needs of these users—especially students—the Libraries have implemented enhanced data gathering technology. The former daily people counting system was replaced with Traf-Sys People Counting, which provides the numbers of people entering and exiting each library by the hour.

With a more nuanced picture of traffic throughout the day, the Libraries can illustrate and monitor trends in patron behavior, optimize library staffing schedules, inform operating hours, and anticipate needs for resources, tools, and services.

For example, when traffic patterns show large numbers of patrons exiting a library at closing time, that is a key indicator that a later closing time would benefit students. During reading days and final exams, there are especially large spikes in building usage, and six of our locations across Newark, New Brunswick, and Camden offer extended hours.

In academic year 2025, Alexander, Carr, Dana, Douglass, and Robeson Libraries and the Library of Science and Medicine offered 281 additional hours during fall and spring finals. During these extended hours alone, 6,090 patrons entered the libraries.



NEW TECHNOLOGY is providing hourly statistics on the number of people entering and exiting each library, providing a more accurate understanding of patron needs.

1.5 million
patron visits

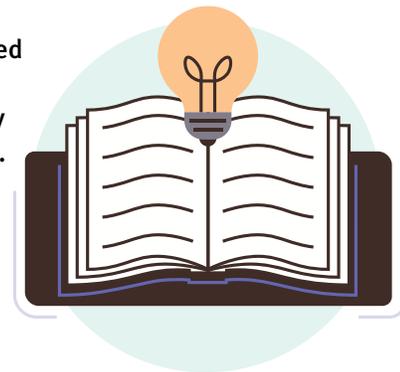


BUSIEST TIMES:	BUSIEST DAYS:	BUSIEST MONTH:	SLOWEST MONTH:	USAGE SPIKES:
10 a.m. to 5 p.m.	Monday through Thursday	October	August	During finals

Open and Affordable Textbooks Program Review

The Rutgers University Libraries Open and Affordable Textbooks (OAT) Program launched in the 2016–2017 academic year. The program awards research funds to Rutgers instructors who make their courses more affordable by using low-cost materials, library content, or open educational resources, or by creating a completely new open textbook.

Over the first five years, the cost savings the program provided for Rutgers students was estimated to be \$6 million. However, this rough estimate was missing the cumulative impact of repeated courses. To investigate this cumulative impact and assess other aspects of the program, the vice president for university libraries paused the OAT Program for review at the conclusion of the 2023 cycle.



IMPACTS OF OAT OVER TIME

\$13.14 million in estimated student savings

84% of courses continued to use the open and affordable textbooks beyond their award period

50% of respondents redesigned additional courses because of their participation in OAT

The program review included the development of an approach to accurately calculate the total compounded cost savings for each course using OAT materials; a thorough assessment of the program's communications, application, and award process; and an anonymous, IRB-approved online survey of 138 past participants.

Among the findings were a cumulative student savings estimate of \$13.14 million and lasting impacts on faculty instructional approach. Of the surveyed program participants, 84 percent reported that their courses continued to use open and affordable textbooks beyond the award period, and 50 percent redesigned additional courses because of their participation in OAT. Additionally, in an open text field of the survey that asked for general feedback on the program, multiple respondents said the program had changed how they think about and adopt materials for all the classes they teach.

Following the program review, OAT was relaunched during the 2024–2025 academic year with a new application form geared to more accurately determine program impact, a revised evaluation rubric to provide more systematic scoring, an increased Course Redesign Award amount to encourage more applications, and an updated program website. These changes are improving the Libraries' assessment of and communication about the OAT Program's impact on Rutgers students, as well as alignment with the university's values, including academic excellence and affordability.

“ I think the program is important and a great initiative to motivate professors to support open-access materials. I strive to make this the norm for all of the courses I teach at Rutgers.”

—faculty OAT award recipient
response to an anonymous,
IRB-approved survey

ADVANCING FACULTY RESEARCH

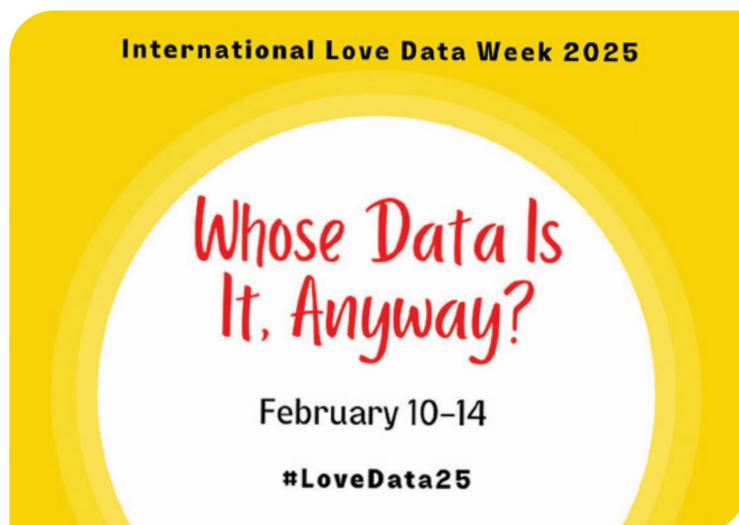
Rutgers is an engine of discovery and innovation, ranked among the world's 100 most innovative universities. The Libraries provide essential support at all stages of the research and publication process.

Workshops for Researchers

Through a wide range of workshops offered all year, the Libraries provide guidance for faculty researchers on various facets of data and research. In addition, the Libraries created thought-provoking programming for International Open Access Week in October and for International Love Data Week in February (held during the week of Valentine's Day).

The Open Access Week theme, "Community over Commercialization," focused on prioritizing approaches to open access that serve the public interest. The Libraries offered workshops in foundations for open access work, making research openly accessible, understanding transformative agreements, and tools for hosting open access content.

Love Data Week, themed "Whose Data Is It, Anyway?" asked us to consider where data comes from before using it. The Libraries offered workshops on topics such as working with GIS data and data mapping, analysis, coding, visualization, and management.



The Libraries created a full week of data-centered workshops for **LOVE DATA WEEK** in February 2025.

VIEW RECORDINGS OF THE LIBRARIES' OPEN ACCESS WEEK PROGRAMMING FROM OCTOBER 2024 AT

go.rutgers.edu/oaweek-24

DATA AND RESEARCH WORKSHOPS IN FY25

66

workshops on citation management tools and impact factor, with 1,109 attendees

97

workshops on data-related tools, with 814 attendees

75

workshops on systematic and scoping reviews in health sciences and humanities, with 357 attendees

13

workshops on artificial intelligence, with 234 attendees

7

workshops on open educational resources, with 143 attendees

Data Support Study and Website Redesign

Data services play a critical role in supporting academic research and scholarly communication. A growing trend emphasizes providing access to the research data itself, in addition to the publications that distill and interpret it. With many funding agencies now requiring researchers to make their data publicly available, the demand for data support services has only increased.

Rutgers University Libraries and the Office for Research recently participated in the nonprofit Ithaka S+R's Building Campus Strategies for Data Support Services project. This two-year study, which Rutgers entered in spring 2023, aimed to evaluate institutional support for research data and develop strategies for coordinating and improving access to data services.

The study team included representatives from both the Libraries and the Office for Research. This collaboration was crucial to the team's ability to evaluate and benchmark support for research data across the institution and then make recommendations for improvement. Institutional data support had been scattered across the Libraries, Office for Research, Office of Information Technology, and individual schools and departments. The study involved a comprehensive inventory of available data support services at Rutgers, interviews with researchers to assess user needs and experiences, and the development of an action plan.

Among the study's findings were that information about data support services was scattered, and that researchers needed easy-to-find training, educational materials, and best practices for data management and sharing.

As a key outcome of this research, the study team collaborated with the Libraries' web services team to create a robust new Research Data Support section of the Rutgers University Libraries website. On the website, users can find:

- › **Resources** for every stage of the research data management process.
- › **Support** in creating a data management plan, preparing data for sharing, and selecting a repository. Users can find and contact a data librarian according to specialty or submit a question to the Libraries' data support team.
- › **Training** on collecting, analyzing, curating, and sharing research data.

FIND RESEARCH DATA SUPPORT AT
go.rutgers.edu/research-data-support

The new Research Data Support webpages help users find Rutgers University Libraries resources and services available for each stage of data collection and management: **PLANNING, COLLECTING, PROCESSING, ANALYZING, PRESERVING, and SHARING.**



Propelling Open Access Publishing

Rutgers research pushes boundaries, solves real-world problems, and empowers communities. In the spirit of advancing this knowledge in the public interest, the university requires that all Rutgers research be freely available.

Rutgers University Libraries manage transformative agreements with 21 academic publishers. Through these agreements, Rutgers researchers can publish open access articles in participating journals with waived or reduced Article Processing Charges (APCs), which can range from several hundred to several thousand dollars per publication.

In the 2024 calendar year (the latest figures available), Rutgers researchers saved more than \$3.4 million in APCs. The bulk of that savings—more than \$2.8 million—came from the agreements Rutgers has in place with the three largest academic publishers: Elsevier, Springer, and Wiley. The bar graph below shows the five schools that saved the most in APCs through Rutgers' transformative agreements with those publishers, and the pie chart provides the percentage of those APC savings realized by each Rutgers division.

FIND THE FULL LIST OF PUBLISHERS WITH WHICH RUTGERS HAS TRANSFORMATIVE AGREEMENTS AT

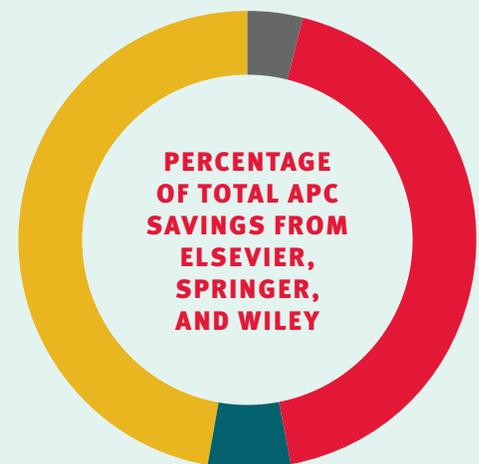
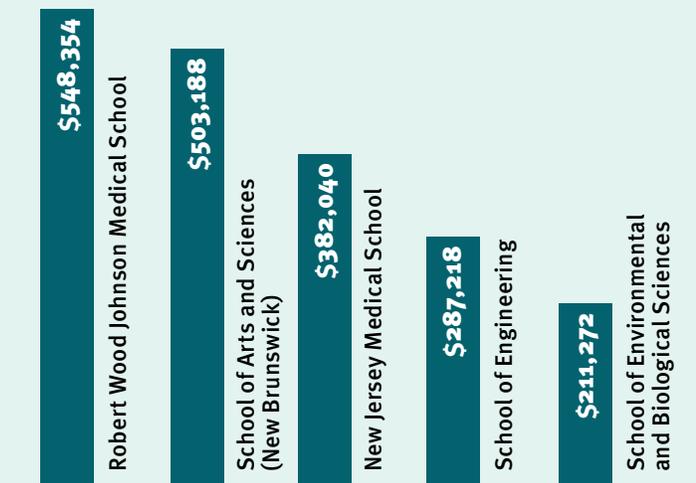
go.rutgers.edu/open-access-publishing



RUTGERS RESEARCH ADVANCES KNOWLEDGE that leads to real-world solutions. Open access publishing, facilitated by the Libraries, makes that knowledge freely available worldwide.

\$3.4 MILLION
saved in APCs for Rutgers researchers

SAVINGS IN APCs FROM ELSEVIER, SPRINGER, AND WILEY (IN DOLLARS)



- Rutgers University–Camden 4%
- Rutgers University–New Brunswick 43%
- Rutgers University–Newark 6%
- Rutgers Health 47%

Supporting Evidence Synthesis Reviews

Evidence synthesis reviews identify, evaluate, and synthesize the findings of all relevant individual studies on a particular topic or research question. Used primarily within the health and social sciences, they follow a rigorous, structured method with a well-defined, transparent, and replicable process.

Rutgers University Libraries support evidence synthesis reviews through live consultations and online resources, such as research guides authored by librarians, and through both access to and support in the use of subscription-based resources, such as EndNote.

Rutgers librarians also collaborate on evidence-based reviews. In fiscal year 2025, 10 systematic and scoping reviews were published with Rutgers librarians as coauthors.

In January 2025, the Libraries rolled out institutional access to Covidence, a user-friendly, web-based software platform for creating and collaborating on evidence synthesis reviews. Researchers can use the platform to more efficiently complete title and abstract screening, full-text screening, data extraction, and quality assessment. Covidence automates tedious tasks like deduplication, uses machine learning to prioritize relevant studies, and provides streamlined approaches to speed up data extraction and simplify collaboration.

By June 30, Covidence had 881 Rutgers user accounts, 257 projects initiated, and 93 evidence synthesis reviews completed.

ACCESS COVIDENCE AT

go.rutgers.edu/covidence

10
**SYSTEMATIC
AND SCOPING
REVIEWS**
coauthored by
Rutgers librarians

93
**EVIDENCE
SYNTHESIS
REVIEWS**
completed in under
6 months using
Covidence

Ensuring the Integrity of Rutgers Research

Responsible research conduct is crucial to research excellence and to maintaining public trust in scientific and scholarly endeavors. The Institutional Review Board (IRB) at Rutgers ensures that studies involving human subjects are ethical, meet regulations, and protect participants from risk. This oversight supports innovation by providing a safe framework for advancing research.

Four faculty and staff members at the Rutgers Health Libraries serve as non-scientist members of the IRB at Rutgers. Collectively, these Libraries employees devoted more than 200 hours to IRB service and reviewed 213 research protocols this year, supporting responsible and trustworthy research.



Human study subjects are protected through IRB oversight. **RUTGERS LIBRARIANS DEVOTE MORE THAN 200 HOURS TO IRB SERVICE EACH YEAR.**

213 | research protocols reviewed by Rutgers librarians who serve on the IRB

INFORMING CLINICAL CARE

Rutgers is one of the nation’s largest and most comprehensive university centers for the study of human health. Through the delivery of information services, Rutgers librarians contribute to clinical care and patient outcomes.

Contributing at the Point of Care

When a librarian joins clinical rounds, health care professionals and patients benefit from prompt access to the latest evidence-based information. By providing this information at the point of care, librarians influence clinical decision-making and patient outcomes.

The involvement of a clinical librarian can be especially impactful when a patient’s condition is rare or represents an area where medical research is evolving rapidly. It can also support a physician’s ability to deliver culturally competent care.

Pam Hargwood, a clinical librarian at Robert Wood Johnson Library, participates in rounds with an interdisciplinary health care team about twice per month. This year, she spent 38 hours attending clinical rounds with the Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital Department of Pediatric Intensive Care.

The information Hargwood provided ranged from the best interventions for low-pressure hydrocephalus to the latest evidence for the treatment and management of rheumatic fever, which is rare in the United States.

In one instance, a family wanted to give their terminally ill child a traditional Chinese medicine, Pien-Tze-Huang, which was unfamiliar to the clinical team. Hargwood found evidence-based information in the Libraries’ Natural Medicines database, which the team reviewed and then provided to the family.

“ Thank you for your research on providing traditional Chinese medicine to a terminally ill child, as it was unfamiliar to the clinical team. It was very helpful to us as we were able to review it and provide it to the patient. It really meant a lot to the family.”

—Daniel Kaplan, assistant professor of pediatric critical care, Robert Wood Johnson Medical School



CLINICAL LIBRARIAN PAM HARGWOOD, pictured with a student in Robert Wood Johnson Library, regularly joins an interdisciplinary health care team for clinical rounds.

Involvement in Clinical Conferences

Rutgers Health librarians regularly participate in clinical conferences in which complex patient cases are discussed by interdisciplinary groups of health care providers. This year, our librarians engaged in three RWJBarnabas Health Bone Marrow Transplant Conferences, six New Jersey Medical School (NJMS) Infectious Diseases Grand Rounds, 12 NJMS Preventive Medicine clinical conference meetings, and 11 NJMS Bioethics Committee meetings.

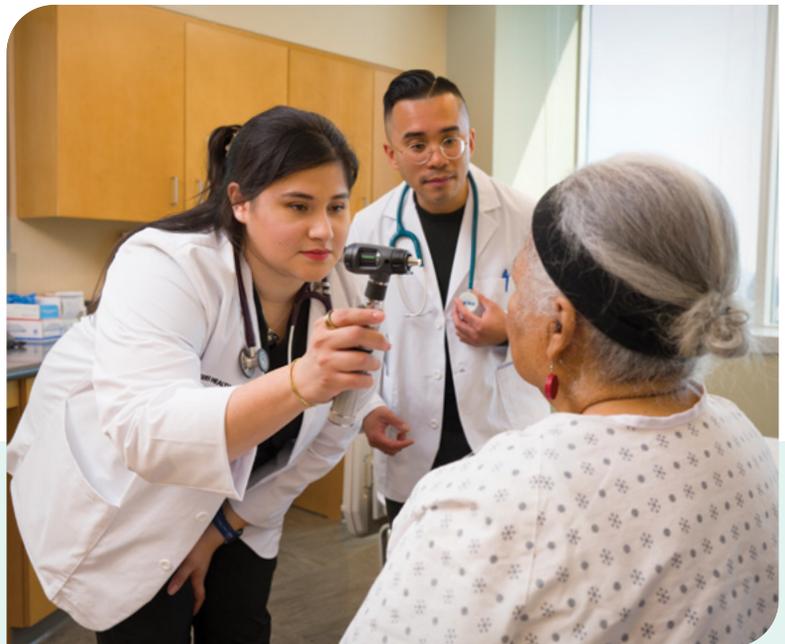
32 | clinical conferences where Rutgers Health librarians were included in complex case discussions



Unified Guidance for Rutgers Nursing Students

A collaboration between the Robert Wood Johnson Library in New Brunswick and Dana Library in Newark led to the development of a universal online guide for all Rutgers undergraduate nursing students. The Nursing Undergraduate Student Library Research Guide provides general information about the nursing profession, subject-specific guidance on the library research process, and an online reference shelf that nursing students might find useful in planning care for their patients.

EXPLORE THE GUIDE AT
go.rutgers.edu/nursing-guide



A new online resource provides **SUBJECT-SPECIFIC GUIDANCE** for all Rutgers undergraduate nursing students.

EMBODYING EXCELLENCE

Throughout Rutgers University Libraries, there are many examples of individual contributions to Rutgers' research enterprise and reputation for excellence. Here are a few highlights.

Katherine Anderson, reference and instruction librarian at Robeson Library, was part of a panel discussion on "AI Ethics and the Library" at the American Library Association Annual Conference, held in Philadelphia in June 2025. The session was highlighted in articles covering the conference by *Publishers Weekly* and by the *Library Journal*.



Joanne Dera, science librarian at Dana Library, was a panelist at the New Jersey Association of School Administrators Spring Leadership Conference, held in Atlantic City in May 2025. The panel, "People Power—The Human Connection in the Age of AI," focused on AI in STEM education at the K-12 level and explored how to strike a balance between innovation and the irreplaceable human elements that drive learning, leadership, and student access.



Antonio Barrera, associate director of information technology for Rutgers University Libraries, was selected as a fellow for the 2025 Association of Research Libraries Intensive Learning Program. This highly competitive program accepts 20 fellows per year from research libraries and archives in major public and private universities, federal government agencies, and large public institutions in the United States and Canada.

Mina Ghajar, education and research librarian at Smith Library, and **Yingting Zhang**, research services librarian at Robert Wood Johnson Library, coauthored "Comparative Cardiovascular Safety of Gonadotropin-releasing Hormone Antagonists and Agonists Among Patients Diagnosed with Prostate Cancer: A Systematic Review and Meta-analysis of Real-world Evidence Studies," published in *European Urology Oncology* in September 2024.



Pam Hargwood, clinical librarian at Robert Wood Johnson Library, was selected to participate in the inaugural cohort of the Association of Academic Health Sciences Libraries (AAHSL)/Network of the National Library of Medicine (NNLM) Professional Coaching for Mid-Level Managers Pilot Program. Hargwood was one of just nine individuals chosen to be a part of this program, which enhances leadership skills and professional growth among emerging leaders in academic health sciences libraries. The AAHSL's 187 member institutions from across the United States and Canada were eligible to submit applications for the program.

Richard Jutkiewicz, head of access services at Smith Library; **Ann Marie Latini**, head of access services at Robeson Library; **Andres Martinez**, library supervisor I, access services, Douglass Library; and **Orla Mejia**, fulfillment coordinator and interlibrary loan services supervisor for Rutgers University Libraries, participated in the first-ever Association of Research Libraries (ARL) Strategies Institute in March 2025 at Indiana University in Indianapolis. ARL had invited Rutgers University Libraries to send a delegation to the institute, which aimed to increase the capacity of participants to effect positive change with and within their respective communities through the acquisition and application of specific knowledge, awareness, and skills related to organizational culture, development, and leadership.

Regina Koury, associate university librarian for Rutgers University–Camden and **Caryn Radick**, who was a digital archivist for Special Collections and University Archives (and is now digital strategies librarian for Rutgers University Libraries), completed the Rutgers Leadership Academy fellowship during the 2024–2025 academic year. The one-year program, for which fellows must be nominated and chosen, brings together mid-career faculty and academic staff who aspire to broader leadership roles.

Triveni Kuchi, social sciences/instructional services librarian at Carr Library, presented at the 17th Qualitative and Quantitative Methods in Libraries International Conference in Lisbon, Portugal, in May 2025. Her talk was titled “Transformation, Contraction, or Intensification? Impact of AI on Academic Public Service Librarianship—A Closer Look at the Research/Subject Liaison Roles.”



Megan Lotts, art librarian, authored the article “The Power of Play in Libraries: Low Cost, High Impact Ideas” in the April 2025 edition of *Public Library Quarterly*, as well as the book *The Playful Library: Building Environments for Learning and Creativity* (ALA Editions, September 2024). Since the book was published, Lotts has given numerous

invited presentations, including an appearance at the 11th Sharjah International Library Conference (SILC) in the United Arab Emirates and the keynote at the Virginia Library Association Annual Conference in October 2024, where she presented to more than 500 live attendees.

Sungmin Park, resource description librarian for Rutgers University Libraries, copresented a poster on “Uncovering Systemic Bias in Library of Congress Subject Headings: A Comprehensive Study on Gendered Headings” at the American Library Association Annual Conference in June 2025.



Vincent Pelote, senior archivist and digital preservation strategist at the Institute of Jazz Studies (IJS), was invited to write a monthly column for *Jersey Jazz*, the magazine of the New Jersey Jazz Society. With his column, called “Pelote’s Place,” he has taken over for the late IJS director Dan Morgenstern, whose column was called “Dan’s Den.” In his first column in March 2025, Pelote honored Women’s History Month with a column about “women who have played jazz from the earliest days of music.” Pelote also performed and gave a talk on “Women Pioneers of Jazz: Lovie Austin—Mary Lou Williams’ Inspiration” at an event held at the National Jazz Museum in Harlem in March 2025.



Fernanda Perrone, archivist and head of the exhibitions program for Special Collections and University Archives, was named a Fellow of the Society of American Archivists (SAA) and later inducted during an awards ceremony at the 89th Annual Meeting of the Society of American Archivists in Anaheim, California. The distinction of Fellow is the highest honor bestowed on individuals by the SAA and is awarded for outstanding contributions to the archives profession.

Mary Beth Weber, who was the head of central technical services for Rutgers University Libraries (and is now coordinator for training and mentorship), coauthored the book *Fundamentals of Collection Development and Management, Fifth Edition* (ALA Editions, February 2025).

Zara Wilkinson, reference and instruction librarian at Robeson Library, won the 2025 New Jersey Library Association Research Award for “The prevalence of textbook affordability and OER initiatives at ARL libraries,” which she published in *The Journal of Academic Librarianship* in July 2024.

ENGAGING OUR COMMUNITIES

Professional events, book talks, exhibits, and distinctive collections are among the ways the Libraries ensure community-wide impact.



A BOOK READING WITH PRESIDENT JONATHAN HOLLOWAY: Exploring African American History celebrated the outgoing Rutgers president's academic contributions.

Book Reading with Jonathan Holloway

In April 2025, Rutgers University Libraries and Rutgers University Press co-presented A Book Reading with President Jonathan Holloway: Exploring African American History. This in-person event, which celebrated the outgoing Rutgers president's academic contributions prior to his departure from Rutgers on June 30, was supported by Rutgers University Foundation and held at Alexander Library. A small group of donors, friends, and members of the Office of the President, Rutgers University Libraries, and Rutgers University Press were in attendance.

During the event, Holloway read from *The Cause of Freedom: A Concise History of African Americans* (Oxford University Press, 2021) and from his forthcoming book, *Race Adjustment and the Middle Ground in Twentieth Century Black Political Discourse*.

He also touched on a book he had co-edited with Ben Keppel, *Black Scholars on the Line: Race, Social Science, and American Thought in the Twentieth Century* (University of Notre Dame Press, 2007). Holloway noted that the book had been among 381 titles removed from the U.S. Naval Academy's library shelves the week before, following federal orders to purge DEI materials from schools. (Most of the books ultimately returned.)

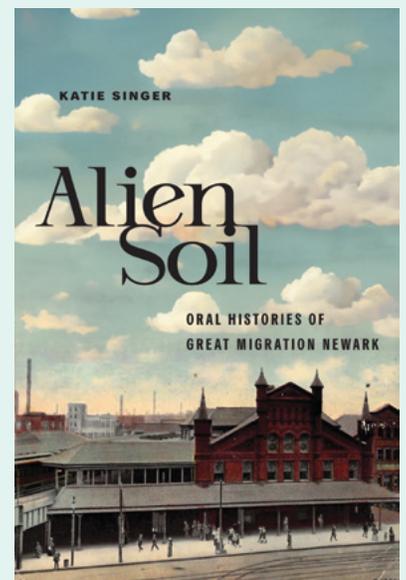
A question-and-answer session following the reading brought lively discussions about topics such as the meaning of patriotism, key elements of democracy, and the impacts of censorship.

Book Readings and Exhibitions Across Campuses

Dana Library hosted an author talk with historian Katie Singer on her book, *Alien Soil: Oral Histories of Great Migration Newark*. The event, held in October 2024, was cosponsored by the Departments of Africana Studies, History, and American Studies, and the Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference (MARAC) New Jersey Caucus.

Robeson Library marked the 10th anniversary of Jersey Collective, a collection of New Jersey-related projects including a book published by Rutgers University Press, with an exhibit mounted in July 2024. During the fall semester, the library also had an author talk and Instagram takeover with Jersey Collective founder Kerri Sullivan, as well as a Jersey Collective themed game night.

Robert Wood Johnson and Smith Libraries were selected to host three National Library of Medicine Traveling Exhibits: *Graphic Medicine: Ill Conceived & Well Drawn*, *Frankenstein: Penetrating the Secrets of Nature*, and *Rashes to Research: Scientists and Parents Confront the 1964 Rubella Epidemic*.





ELIZABETH YORK, electronic resources and interim discovery librarian, presented on how to create e-resources usage data analyses in Alma Analytics at the ENUG 2024 Conference.

Ex Libris Northeast User Group 2024 Conference

Rutgers University Libraries hosted the Ex Libris Northeast User Group (ENUG) Conference in October 2024 at Alexander Library. ENUG is a regional group consisting of higher education institutions using Ex Libris products for library management, research, teaching, and learning. The conference had 135 attendees who represented 71 institutions across 10 states and Washington, D.C.

Amy Wolfe, accessibility librarian at the City University of New York, delivered the keynote address, “Accessibility, Universal Design and Libraries: Let’s broaden the discussion.” Conference sessions provided the library professionals in attendance with numerous practical and innovative applications for Ex Libris library software products. Among the topics covered were collecting digital material, creating e-resources usage analyses, enhanced inventorying, implementing library pick-up lockers, promoting discovery, rapid cataloging, reparative description, weeding, and automated transmission of invoices.

Conference presenters and speakers from Rutgers University Libraries included: Consuella Askew, vice president for university libraries and university librarian; Joseph Deodato, discovery services librarian; Abigail DiPaolo, senior executive director of administration and technology; Ann Marie Latini, head of access services for Robeson Library; Andres Martinez, library supervisor I, access services, Douglass Library; Bret McCandless, music and performing arts librarian at Douglass Library; Sungmin Park, resource description librarian; Christopher Sterback, system administrator, information technology services; Elizabeth York, electronic resources and interim discovery librarian; and Yang Yu, systems programmer and administrator, Libraries applications and development. Mary Beth Weber, coordinator for training and mentorship, chaired the conference planning committee while in her former role as head of central technical services.

135 PEOPLE from **71 INSTITUTIONS** in **10 STATES (PLUS D.C.)** attended the ENUG Conference at Alexander Library

Connecting with Global Audiences

Rutgers University Libraries collections are sought by wide-ranging audiences, often beyond national borders. In October 2024, Rutgers University Libraries hosted Ambassador Mikio Mori from the Consulate General of Japan in New York and a group of students from Koshi High School in Fukui, Japan. The visit to Alexander Library included a special exhibition and lecture by Fernanda Perrone, archivist and head of the exhibitions program for Special Collections and University Archives, on the William Elliot Griffis Collection. The collection documents the experience of Westerners in Japan, the roots of Japanese-American relations, and the special friendship between Japan and Rutgers that began in 1866, when the first students from Japan began studying at Rutgers. The ambassador also visited the East Asian Library and the exhibit *Akiko's Dolls: The Story of a Nagasaki A-Bomb Survivor*, and delivered a lecture for the Rutgers community. The visit was arranged in partnership with the Department of Asian Languages and Cultures in the School of Arts and Sciences.

In June, a delegation of Japanese librarians visited Rutgers to learn from our library leaders and faculty. Consuella Askew, vice president for university libraries and university librarian, gave a presentation on library resources, services, and initiatives. Rutgers librarians who presented to the group included Kayo Denda, Tajah Ebram, Francesca Giannetti, Fernanda Perrone, Ryan Womack, and Yingting Zhang. East Asian Librarian Tao Yang coordinated the visit, which the Japanese delegation had requested to coincide with their trip to the American Libraries Association Annual Conference in Philadelphia.



AMBASSADOR MORI gave a lecture at Alexander Library for the Rutgers community, “Japan-US Relationship and Its Role in the World.”



AMBASSADOR MORI AND HARUKO WAKABAYASHI, associate teaching professor in the Department of Asian Languages and Cultures, view a special exhibition on the William Elliot Griffis Collection.

Highlights from Special Collections

The documentary film, *Zodiac Suite: Mary Lou Williams*, debuted in December 2024 on TV78 vu des Yvelines in France. The film is about saxophonist and composer Pierre-Antoine Badaroux's process of researching Mary Lou Williams during a prestigious residency at the Institute of Jazz Studies and the concert he subsequently produced in Paris featuring her music. The institute's collections of Mary Lou Williams' archival materials are also featured in the film.

Two exhibitions at the Museum of the City of New York received support from Libraries faculty members. The Institute of Jazz Studies partnered with the museum as a cosponsor of the exhibition *Urban Stomp: Dreams & Defiance on the Dance Floor*, lending 15 items for the collection, digitizing photographs, and consulting on curation and installation design. Special Collections and University Archives collaborated with the museum on the exhibit *Changing the Face of Democracy: Shirley Chisholm at 100*. A total of 19 documents, photographs, and artifacts included in the exhibit were drawn from the Shirley Chisholm collection at Rutgers.

Making History

The Rutgers University Archives turned 50 in 2025! The archives were established on February 14, 1975, to preserve the rich and diverse history of the eighth oldest institution of higher learning in the United States. Now an integral part of Special Collections and University Archives, the Rutgers University Archives include records, publications and yearbooks, photographs, and memorabilia that document all aspects of the Rutgers community and are available to any researchers who are interested in the university's history.

The Rutgers University–Newark Archives contributed to the historical elements in the new One-Stop Student Services Center in Conklin Hall. A highlight is a photo-based mural that traces the building's history from the 1940s through the present, including the 1969 takeover by the Black Organization of Students (BOS) to demand racial equity.



The **1969 CONKLIN HALL STUDENT TAKEOVER** is included in a new exhibit that celebrates the building's history.



THE ANNIVERSARY OF RUTGERS UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES

was recognized all year in a series of themed social media posts featuring archival images and using #RUArchives50th. Example images shown here: Fencing, 1898; Kissing Bridge, 1949; Douglass snowball fight, 1968.

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