



RUTGERS

The Rutgers University Libraries
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IN THIS ISSUE

- A 'second-career' librarian excels at Rutgers
- Process of Scholarly Communication faces multiple challenges
- Create a lasting tribute, with the Libraries' Honor with Books program
- Libraries help orient first-year students to Rutgers

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University Libraries

Report

FALL 2009 ISSUE

A SECOND-CAREER LIBRARIAN EXCELS AT RUTGERS

Karen Hartman, social sciences librarian at the Rutgers University Libraries, supports two schools at Rutgers with the focus, insight, and drive of someone who has done social science research.

After receiving her Ph.D. in Social and Personality Psychology from the University of California in Riverside, Karen worked for 10 years as a research psychologist on federally funded grant projects. Yet when her family moved to New Jersey in the early 1990s, she began to rethink her career.

Her husband Richard Lau, then a new professor in Rutgers' political science department, developed ties with a colleague whose wife was (and still is) a social sciences librarian at Rutgers. That librarian, Myoung Wilson, became a mentor to Karen and encouraged her to consider academic librarianship. Karen took her advice and has been pleased with her professional path ever since.

Karen received her Master of Library Science degree from the Rutgers' School of Communication, Information, and Libraries Studies in 1994. She worked as a temporary librarian in the Kilmer Library for two years before accepting a full-time post as social sciences librarian at The College of New Jersey in Ewing in 1997. When a position as social sciences librarian opened at Rutgers in 2003, Karen applied and got the job. Karen has become an active partner

in many facets of librarianship at Rutgers. She serves as a member of the Libraries' Web Advisory Committee, the Library Resources Council, and the E-Books Task Force. She is participating

on the Ethnography Research Project, which is overseeing a multi-method study of student uses of and attitudes about the Libraries' website. Karen is also active in her field, serving on national committees for social science and research within the Association of College and Research Libraries.

Karen has gained particular distinction for her exemplary work as a Libraries' liaison with the School of Social Work and the Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy.

At the School of Social Work, Karen has built strong ties with Dean Richard L. Edwards, Associate Dean Arlene Hunter, and a number of faculty members. At the beginning of each semester she sends email to all faculty members, with information on new resources and a reminder that she is available to instruct classes on effective research techniques. Karen attends orientations for Ph.D.s, masters, and advanced standing students a few times a year, at which she makes presentations on library resources. She attends faculty meetings once a year and conducts a number of instruction sessions for the masters and Ph.D. programs.



Karen Hartman

PROCESS OF SCHOLARLY COMMUNICATION FACES MULTIPLE CHALLENGES

Digital technology and the Internet are changing communication in all facets of life, encouraging people to expect immediate access to information through computers and mobile devices. Scholars are no different. They want seamless access to published materials and to "data-mine" huge sets of textual, visual and numeric data. They want to collaborate with researchers worldwide from formulation of research designs to formal release and distribution of research results. Digital technology and the Internet facilitate these activities. Commercial publishers of scholarly journals have exploited this technology effectively, but some have become a major impediment to the flow of scholarly communication.

The commercialization of scholarly publishing, especially among the STM (Science, Technology, and Medical) publishers, is perhaps the greatest impediment. For decades, commercial publishers have subsumed scholarly publishing as many university presses have been reluctant to publish periodicals. Academic societies have turned to commercial publishers to produce their journals. Large investment companies have purchased the most viable publishers and have demanded increasing profits. According to the *Library Journal's* annual Periodicals Price Survey, the average cost of a chemistry periodical was \$3,690 in 2009, an increase of 32% since 2005. The average cost of periodicals in all scientific disciplines is over \$1,000. Price increases for STM journals are more in line with trends in health care costs than with the Consumer Price Index.

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**A SECOND-CAREER LIBRARIAN
EXCELS AT RUTGERS**
continued from front page

Karen created a subject research guide for social work that is widely valued. She has created special Web guides for individual professors, bringing together Libraries' databases and Web links that address the focus of particular classes.

At the Bloustein School she works closely with Lynn Astorga in the Dean's Office and many of the faculty, participates in the fall orientation for grad students, and emails all faculty members each semester. She has presented research methods classes for the Senior Seminar, the Community Development, and the Gender, Family, and Public Policy courses. She holds office hours in the department once a week, making herself available to faculty and students to offer support and expert advice for their research.

Karen reports finding her work with students and faculty most rewarding, taking great satisfaction in helping them refine their research interests and zero in on the specialized resources they need to excel in their scholarly work.

In recognition of her research, exemplary service within the Libraries, and her work as a vibrant link to the two schools, Karen was granted tenure by Rutgers in 2009.

Karen Hartman's work embodies some of the best ideals of the Rutgers University Libraries. We look forward to reporting her successes for many years to come. ■

**CREATE A LASTING TRIBUTE, WITH THE
LIBRARIES' HONOR WITH BOOKS PROGRAM**

Outstanding collections are at the heart of Rutgers University Libraries; advancing student and faculty research in more than 100 fields and covering the full range of human experience. Through our *Honor with Books* program, you can play an important role in building our collections while creating a lasting tribute to a family member, friend, colleague, teacher, or other special person. With a gift of \$100 to the *Honor with Books* Fund, a virtual personalized bookplate is placed in the online record of one newly purchased



book chosen by a Rutgers librarian. The gift supports a critical acquisitions need, and the loved one, friend, special teacher, or colleague will be remembered for years to come each time a student, faculty member, or community member accesses the book's record. Donors will receive a letter of acknowledgment, a copy of the bookplate to be sent to the honoree or their family, and the satisfaction of helping to build the collections of one of the nation's leading research libraries. For more information on the *Honor with Books* program, please contact the Libraries Director of Development Tara McDonnell at taramcd@rci.rutgers.edu or 732/932-7505. ■

LIBRARIES HELP ORIENT FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS TO RUTGERS

Rutgers has upgraded the process of orienting new students to the university and the Rutgers University Libraries have a feature role. Over the summer months, dozens of groups of



are the building hours of the library which holds the book, how do you search Library databases off campus, and what is the name of the Libraries' online information tutorial. In the process of

incoming students visited the Kilmer Library, as part of the Rutgers-New Brunswick orientation program, and participated in an online scavenger hunt in small teams. The teams were challenged to answer four questions using the Libraries' website; where in the Libraries can you find a book on MySpace and YouTube, what

answering the questions the students received their first "hands on" introduction to the Libraries' website. In the photo, librarian Jerris Cassel (standing) looks on while incoming students Tahia Haque and Dana Cosentino scan the Libraries' website during one of the orientation sessions in August. ■

**PROCESS OF SCHOLARLY COMMUNICATION
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continued from front page

Major STM publishers also have developed bundled packages, making purchasing all of their journals seem more advantageous than purchasing each title separately because of the steep discount in access fees to the bundled package, along with "add-ons," such as data sets related to published articles. The cost of a smaller set of titles can be more expensive than the whole package. Publisher packages can cost universities over \$2,000,000.

The Report is a semi-annual publication from the Office of the Vice President for Information Services and University Librarian.
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All of this is put into dramatic relief by the global economic crisis. With endowment's values slashed and state funding cut, universities simply cannot afford to operate as usual. While some commercial publishers are more amenable to renegotiation of contracts and to limiting price increases, their pricing has reached such a high level that universities must cut back. The system is no longer sustainable.

Academia has not, however, stood still while all this has occurred. Academic libraries have formed state and regional consortia to negotiate as large purchasing groups with commercial vendors for licensed resources on matters of pricing and terms. Accompanying these developments, complimentary and ultimately replacement strategies to traditional scholarly publication are being envisioned.

The umbrella term for these strategies is "open"--open access, open repositories, open source software --

with the underlying principle being to open up scholarly communication by reducing policy, technical, and commercial barriers to information. Open access refers to a scholarly publishing and other forms of communication strategy in which peer-reviewed published articles, books and new forms of scholarly collaborations are available at little or no cost to Internet users.

To address the challenges and imperatives facing the field of scholarly communication, Rutgers will hold a major symposium, "Scholarship in the Digital Environment: Opportunities, Challenges, Recognition," on October 9, 2009 to address current issues and consider efforts to transform the way scholars communicate.

A more detailed announcement about the conference will be posted on the Rutgers University Libraries website, at: www.libraries.rutgers.edu. ■