

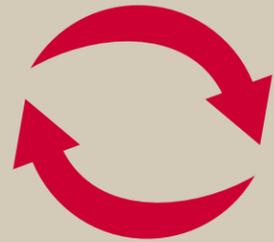
# TURNING THE PAGE

Annual Report 2021



**RUTGERS**  
University Libraries

# BY THE NUMBERS 2021



**23,966**  
reference transactions



**855,015 views** of LibGuides  
directly integrated into Canvas  
course shells

**1,249**  
total instruction sessions

**Over 1,000**  
synchronous digital  
instruction sessions

**29,106**  
students reached



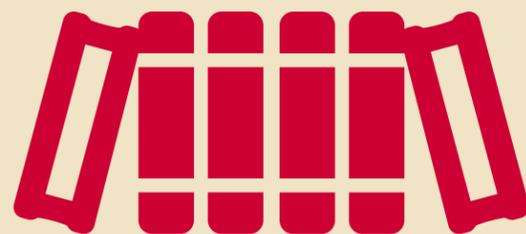
**15% increase**  
in collections

**4.2M** unique titles including  
**1.6M** unique electronic titles



**25% increase** of  
digital titles in the  
collection since FY 2019

**44%** of the collection is  
now digital



**320 courses** utilizing  
Leganto reading lists resulting  
in an **increase of 221%**

## WELCOME

Our 2021 Annual Report is appropriately titled, *Turning the Page*. This year we have transitioned from being fully remote to reopening our buildings, our study spaces, and our collections to provide our students, faculty, and staff with unfettered access to all available resources. We have continued to invest in electronic resources along with online systems and platforms to provide a seamless library experience whether on or off-campus. The COVID-19 pandemic prompted an evolution in the Libraries as we transitioned from traditional models of library services and operations to ones that enabled our user community to interact with our spaces, services, and resources in a manner that preserved the well-being of our users and our Libraries personnel.

We are also turning the page within our organization. Dr. Krisellen Maloney, previously the Vice President of Information Services and University Librarian stepped down and returned to the faculty as a Distinguished Professor. Among, Dr. Maloney's many contributions to the Libraries were the development of a stronger central library infrastructure, increased investment in digital and electronic platforms and systems facilitating, and the migration to a new robust integrated library system enabling us to manage and extract data about our collections in ways that we were previously unable to do.

As the Interim Vice President for University Libraries and University Librarian, my focus is on the self-care of our organization. Not long after assuming this role, I conducted multiple listening sessions with my colleagues across the Libraries. These conversations surfaced the need to focus on our communications, our culture, and our organizational coherence. In response, we have begun work that will **affirm** who we are and who we **aspire** to be and to **align** the Libraries with the priorities and vision of our University.

In the upcoming year, the University will commence its search for a new Vice President for University Libraries and University Librarian. This leader will have the benefit of building upon the existing substantial accomplishments of the Libraries, thus turning the page from our last chapter to the next.

As always, we thank you for your interest in our work. If you have any questions about or feedback regarding the Libraries, please feel free to contact me.



Consuella Askew, MLIS,  
EdD, Interim Vice President  
for University Libraries,  
University Librarian

*Consuella Askew*



## SUPPORTING STUDENTS THROUGH COVID-19

This year, the Libraries' report to Rutgers' Academic Council on the Student Experience illustrated our nimble response to the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. The report highlighted how we transitioned our delivery of services and expanded access to online resources to support the University's pivot to remote learning when in-person activities became impossible. The following are just a few examples of how the Libraries were able to provide seamless support to our University community during the pandemic.

To expand our e-book collections, the Libraries participated in the Hathi Trust Emergency Temporary Access Service (ETAS), Hathi Trust is the largest digital collection in the country comprised of 8.4 million digitized books, journals, and other resources. As a participant in this special exemption program, we were able to make available over 1.2 million of our print titles (55% of the RUL print collection) in digital format to Rutgers students, faculty, and staff.

There was concern that the lack of a physical presence during the pandemic including the limited availability of our study spaces, our print collections, and face-to-face interactions with library personnel, would impede the research efforts of our library users. The Libraries had an existing robust and expanding suite of online

services prior to COVID that enabled us to immediately and seamlessly engage with students and faculty to support their research and information needs when the University transitioned to remote learning.

The Libraries expanded its instructional and research offerings as librarians, instructors, and researchers, across Rutgers University, collaborated on building or enhancing course shells in the University's learning management system (LMS) as a platform to assist students at their point of need. Library faculty developed research guides, created course reading lists, and successfully provided information literacy instruction for courses all through the LMS.

An internal reviewer of the report noted that these activities "illustrates in great detail the exceptional and effective efforts of the University Libraries to meet the needs of students and faculty during the pandemic period" and "At every level, the Libraries stepped into the breach and made sure their services would respond to the needs of instruction and research at a very disruptive time."

We are very proud of our contributions to the university during this period of intense change and evolving demand for our resources and expertise, and to the continued success of Rutgers students and faculty during an uncertain time.

## EZBORROW GETS EASIER

This year, the Libraries worked with our partners at the Pennsylvania Academic Library Consortium, Inc. (PALCI) to migrate the EZBorrow interlibrary loan service to a new technology platform. This system allows our users to check out books from any one of our 60+ university and research library partners around the region. Features of the new platform include a new search and discovery interface, filter and facet functionality for easy browsing, and behind-the-scenes communication and notification tools that allow our library staff to efficiently fill requests.

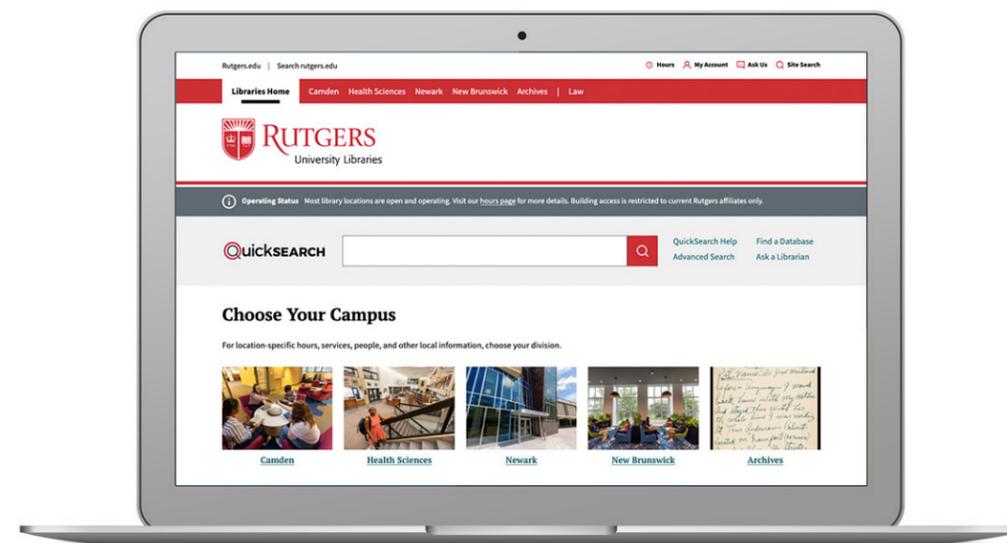
## REDESIGNING THE LIBRARIES WEB PRESENCE TO CREATE A BETTER ONLINE EXPERIENCE

Developed over the course of 18 months, the Libraries' new website was designed with our users in mind. Our primary goal was to create an experience that provides seamless access to our most-used resources and services, backed up by user research with thousands of real Rutgers students, staff, and faculty. We streamlined our content to make it easier to find what users need, while decreasing the noise of content that is less relevant to them.

### Some key features include:

- A new design aimed at improving overall aesthetics, legibility, and mobile responsiveness
- Streamlined pathways directly to campus-specific information, including curated news and events feeds
- More ways to connect with our subject-experts, such as an improved interface for finding a librarian with expertise in a given subject area
- "Smart" features like look-ahead searching and "best-bets" search results for databases
- Bespoke elements tailored to the needs of specific audiences, such as PubMed and UpToDate search tabs on our Health Sciences landing page
- Extra visibility for the unique content in our world-renowned archives and special collections

The Libraries' new redesigned website was launched on July. We are incredibly proud of the web presence we've created, but that doesn't mean we are content to rest on our laurels. In fact, we have taken an iterative approach to our website and are always looking for ways to improve it. Please feel free to reach out to us with your feedback and suggestions at [webservices@rutgers.libanswers.com](mailto:webservices@rutgers.libanswers.com) so we can continue to make our website work for you!



## TAKE LIBRARIES ON THE GO

The Rutgers Libraries Mobile App is coming soon! The Libraries' mobile app is a new way to take the Libraries with you wherever you go. Key features will include easy access to your library account for loans and renewals, integrated reading lists for courses, push notifications for important updates from the Libraries, and much more.

The Libraries are hard at work to develop the app so that patrons can access the Libraries' collections, services, and events from anywhere at any time. Patrons will be able to read, browse, request, and renew at the touch of a button from their mobile devices and stay on top of news, events and exhibitions happening at the Libraries. Check the Libraries' website for more news about the app when it becomes available.

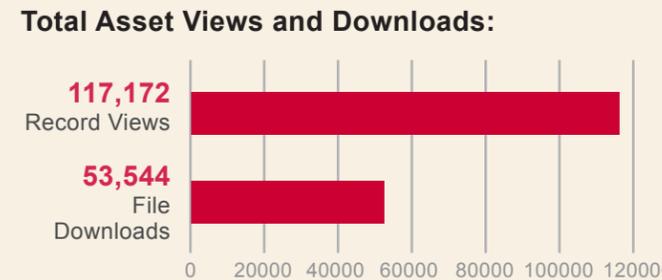
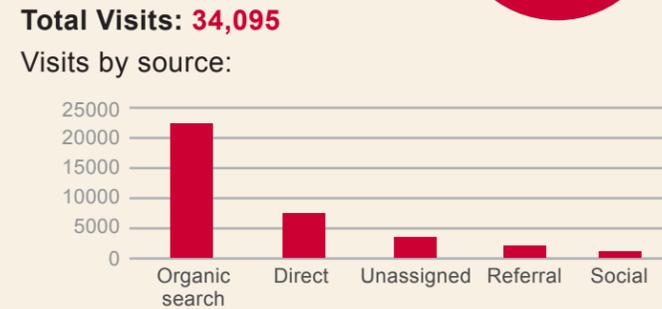
# NEW SOAR REPOSITORY IMPROVES DISCOVERY AND ACCESS TO RUTGERS RESEARCH

This year, the Libraries launched a new and improved version of SOAR: Scholarly Open Access at Rutgers, the institutional repository dedicated to collecting and preserving Rutgers scholarship. Developed in 2015, SOAR supports the Rutgers Open Access Policy by providing free, public access to university research with the goal of increasing its visibility and impact, ensuring its permanent availability, and advancing human knowledge. Works submitted to the repository are made available through the SOAR research portal <[soar.rutgers.edu](http://soar.rutgers.edu)> and indexed by Google Scholar and other search engines where they can be discovered and read by researchers worldwide.

The new SOAR repository, powered by Esploro, improves and extends the Libraries' ability to capture and manage institutional research output in a variety of ways. Key benefits of the new platform include:

- Simple, streamlined capture of research assets via manual deposit and automated harvesting
- Integrated, end-to-end workflows for reviewing, approving, and managing assets
- Support for over 50 resource types including articles, book chapters, conference papers, audiovisual recordings, datasets, and patents
- Automated capture and metadata enrichment from major scholarly indexes
- Open APIs and out-of-the-box integrations with third-party services such as ORCID, Crossref, Oable, IRUS, and Pivot
- Comprehensive analytics for tracking institutional research activity and impact
- A robust global infrastructure to ensure reliable and continuous service

## Year One Facts and Figures



Learn more at [soar.libraries.rutgers.edu](http://soar.libraries.rutgers.edu).

## OAT PROGRAM CREATES MORE SAVINGS FOR STUDENTS

The Libraries' Open and Affordable Textbooks (OAT) Program continued to provide even more savings to students across the university. As of July 2021, after six cycles of the program, the Libraries issued 164 Open and Affordable Textbooks Awards to Rutgers faculty, saving students approximately \$6.0 million. Additionally, in 2021 the Libraries provided several Authoring Awards for the creation and development of completely new Open Educational Resource (OER) textbooks.

Learn more and get involved by visiting [libraries.rutgers.edu/open-textbooks](http://libraries.rutgers.edu/open-textbooks).



# FROM CAMDEN

Oh, what a year it has been! This year highlighted how creative and flexible Paul Robeson Library team was in supporting research, teaching, learning and civic engagement mission of the university. In our annual priorities planning, not only did we plan for new digital collections, but also for returning to the library building to provide access to library's physical collections. Our dedicated library team provided expertise helping find resources to advance research, teaching and learning of our community. Our vibrant exhibits told many new stories! We collaborated more and we built new partnerships.

Paul Robeson Library is part of what makes Rutgers-Camden an exciting place to be, and I thank everyone for their contributions towards the achievement of the Rutgers University Libraries and Rutgers-Camden goals in research, teaching, learning, and civic engagement.



Regina Koury  
Associate University Librarian,  
Rutgers University-Camden



Altogether, Camden reference librarians recorded **3,777** questions.



Instruction and attendance showed significant increase over FY20, e.g., Camden County College and Rowan University in Camden students increased by **15%** in the first quarter of FY21.



## UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH AWARD RECOGNIZES EXCELLENCE IN STUDENT RESEARCH

In the spring, Paul Robeson Library launched the Undergraduate Research Award, a new initiative designed to recognize and celebrate excellence in original undergraduate research. Undergraduate students from all schools at Rutgers University–Camden were invited to submit research papers or other research projects completed between spring 2020 and spring 2021. Applications were required to include a completed project, a bibliography, and a reflective essay describing the search strategy employed and how sources were evaluated.

An evaluation committee of both teaching and library faculty reviewed each application, looking for those that made use of a range of library resources, collections, and services and showed evidence of critical thinking, originality, and creativity. Five winning papers were selected. Each winner received a cash prize and certificate, an invitation to include their paper in a digital collection, and recognition at a virtual event held on May 24, 2021.

View the winning projects at [collections.libraries.rutgers.edu/robeson-library-undergraduate-research-award](https://collections.libraries.rutgers.edu/robeson-library-undergraduate-research-award).

### First Place

- Sujay Ratna, “Ultrasensitive Molecular Profiling of EGFR Mutations in Glioblastoma Multiforme Using a Rapid & High-Resolution Digital PCR Approach”

### Second Place

- Omri Bar & Anthony Monte Carlo, “Effects of SARS-CoV-2 Proteins on Host Gene Expression and Fitness”
- Julia DeFeo, “Evaluating the Effects of Wild and Prescribed Fire on the Taxonomic and Functional Diversity of Soil-Dwelling Arthropods in the New Jersey Pinelands, a High-Disturbance System”

### Honorable Mentions

- Annika Liu, “Blue Wall of Silence: Degradation of Accountability”
- Benjamin Nixon, “Blood and Soil: Right-Wing Terrorism Poses an Existential Threat to the United States”

## PERSONAL LIBRARIAN PROGRAM SEES CONTINUED SUCCESS

The Personal Librarian Program is run in collaboration with the Student Success Coach office, part of the Department of Student Academic Success on the Camden campus. As part of this program, our Scarlet Scholar students have a dedicated librarian throughout their first academic year, allowing the library to personally connect with over 400 students per year. The Personal Librarian Program was expanded in Spring 2021 to include incoming transfer students in addition to first-year undergraduates.



## ADVOCACY AND AFFORDABILITY

The Library Student Advisory Board planned and facilitated a panel discussion about textbook affordability and the Open and Affordable Textbooks (OAT) program. During a fall meeting, student members discussed the difficulty their peers experience paying for required textbooks, an issue exacerbated by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. To learn more about potential solutions, the Board invited librarian Zara Wilkinson to talk about library’s Open & Affordable Textbooks (OAT) program. Hearing about OAT inspired board members Oriana Holmes-Price, Grace Latini, and Erika Pitsker to plan an event designed to inform the rest of the student body about the program and its impact. They invited Zara Wilkinson, Dr. Jamie Dunaev (Assistant Teaching Professor, Psychology), Dr. Nancy Cresse (Clinical Assistant Professor, Nursing) and Dr. Bethany Welch (Lecturer, Urban Studies) to discuss their participation

in OAT and their experiences with open educational resources. After diligent effort on the part of the Board members, the panel, Open & Affordable Textbooks: Faculty and Student Perspectives, was held on April 6, 2021. Faculty, staff, and students attended and learned about the importance and impact of open textbooks and other affordable course materials. Many students expressed interest in taking an OAT course and supporting the program in expanding to include additional courses and departments. In the wake of this successful event, the Paul Robeson Library Student Advisory Board plans to continue championing the Open and Affordable Textbooks program and other library initiatives that benefit their peers.

## HELPING GRADUATE STUDENTS GROW

In collaboration with the Rutgers–Camden Research Office and the Graduate School–Camden, Robeson Library launched Rutgers-Camden’s first Graduate Student Professional Development Week in January 2021. The Professional Development Week featured one workshop per day, addressing topics relevant to new and returning graduate students in both master’s and doctoral programs, including academic writing, literature reviews, grant and fellowship applications, data visualization, and academic publication.

Graduate Student Professional Development Week workshops were facilitated by disciplinary faculty, Robeson

librarians, and representatives from GradFund and the Graduate School. Whenever possible, presentations were followed by breakout rooms divided by discipline in order to connect students with faculty and peers with similar interests. The five workshops had a combined attendance of 79 students from programs in Biology, Childhood Studies, Computational & Integrative Biology, Criminal Justice, Forensic Science, Liberal Studies, Psychology Public Administration, Public Affairs, and more. In a post-event assessment, attendees reported that presenters were “consistently excellent,” and the sessions were “informative and timely.”

## THE DAY THAT CHANGED THE WORLD

September 11, 2001: The Day that Changed the World is an educational exhibition from the 9/11 Memorial & Museum that presents the history of 9/11, its origins, and its ongoing implications through the personal stories of those who witnessed and survived the attacks. This exhibit includes archival photographs and images of artifacts from the permanent collection of the 9/11 Memorial & Museum. It explores the consequences of terrorism on individual lives and communities at the local, national, and international levels, and encourages critical thinking about the legacies of 9/11. The exhibit was on display at Robeson Library earlier this fall.



# FROM NEWARK

Far from being a Lost Year for our patrons and community, the past twelve months solidified the vital role of library services on the Rutgers-Newark campus. As the vast majority of classes continued to be conducted remotely, Dana Library supported our students and faculty whose experience was to be fully online. We dedicated ourselves to Chat Reference, taught students in their online classes, scanned journal articles and book chapters for online reading, and lined up take-out bags of physical materials for Click and Collect.

The Dana Library continued to offer a welcome place for students to study, albeit socially distant. The library was not quiet, though. In this year we pushed to complete the renovation of our spaces, including a striking new entry, a library café off the first floor lobby, and 95 additional seats in the open study space on the newly built out third floor. We welcomed new campus units like the P3 Collaboratory to the library and look forward to the opportunities this will give us for closer collaborations with our campus colleagues.

Thank you for your interest and support. We can hardly wait to see what opportunities the next year will bring.

*Rhonda G. Marker*



Rhonda Marker  
Interim Associate  
University Librarian,  
Rutgers University-Newark



Dana librarians answered **2,487** reference questions through traditional modes and even video chat



The Institute of Jazz Studies scanned **5000+** pages for remote reference and research

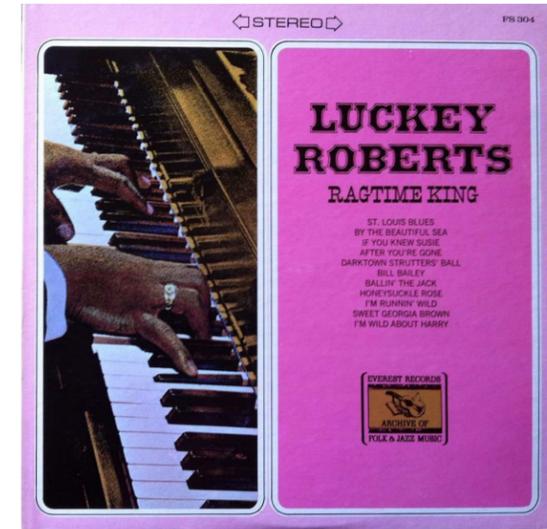
## IJS ACQUIRES LUCKEY ROBERTS COLLECTION, AUGMENTS ITS ARCHIVAL TREASURES

The Institute of Jazz Studies recently acquired the collection of stride pianist and composer Charles Luckeyth Roberts, better known as Luckey Roberts (1887-1968). Roberts was an influential composer and considered the most technically gifted member of the post-ragtime stride school.

The collection has never been publicly accessible and has been carefully protected by Roberts's family and descendants and lovingly cared for. The institute now has the opportunity to provide the first public access to these materials, which will be of interest to a wide range of institute patrons across disciplines. The collection will be processed and made available to researchers in the near future.

In addition to this exceptional artifact, IJS is home to a trove of collections from a range of celebrated jazz luminaries. One such collection, that of Annie Ross, has been augmented this year. Annie Ross is a film, television, and stage performer, best known as a jazz singer and famous for her contribution to the vocalese style of singing with her song "Twisted," and for her part in the popular jazz vocal group, Lambert, Hendricks and Ross.

IJS has been hard at work this year, augmenting its collections and even digitizing over 5000 pages in an effort to accommodate remote reference and research. Learn more about the collections at IJS by searching the Libraries' catalog or contacting a librarian.



## LIBRARY INSTRUCTION IN HIGH DEMAND

In collaboration with the Graduate School-Newark, Research Office, and Career Development Center on campus, the Graduate Student Services Librarian at Dana Library, Bonnie Fong, organized 29 librarian-led graduate student workshops. The webinars covered 15 different topics, spanning from finding funding opportunities to doing archival research, from using citation management tools and data analysis tools, to searching for jobs. "My colleagues and I have been pleasantly surprised by registration and attendance figures that have been many times higher than they were pre-pandemic and are glad to know the students find our webinars helpful and valuable," Fong shared. The graduate student workshop series was so popular, it continues in the 2021-22 academic year with the addition of a number of new workshop topics. Look for more upcoming events on the libraries website!

## COUNT BASIE COLLECTION GOES DIGITAL

The collections of jazz composer and bandleader Count Basie, born William J. Basie in Red Bank, NJ, were acquired in 2018. Now, IJS is embarking on a multi-year preservation and digitization project as part of a grant award to "Save America's Treasures". IJS will use the grant and matching funds conserve and ensure the long-term preservation over 1000 pieces, including papers, photos, audio recordings and other artifacts and ephemera.

# DANA LIBRARY TRANSFORMATION PROJECT TRANSFORMS STUDENTS, FACULTY, AND RESEARCHERS LIBRARY USE ON CAMPUS

In 2018, the Rutgers University – Newark campus broke ground on a renovation and construction project at the John Cotton Dana Library, now referred to as the Dana Library Transformation Project. The priorities for this project included the fit-out of the third floor (constructed as shell space 17 years ago) for the The P3 Collaboratory for Pedagogy, Professional Development, and Publicly-engaged Scholarship (P3 Collaboratory) and new vertical circulation throughout the Library. Some of the guiding principles that informed the quality of the resulting space and its impact on our building tenants and library users included:

- Foster a sense of place on campus for residential and commuter populations and the greater Newark community
- Create a destination for organic exchanges and interdisciplinary collaboration
- Establish a flow of activities that supports spontaneous opportunities for students, faculty, and members of the community to connect
- Provide inviting environments that allow for dynamic interactions and activities
- Improve quality of life on campus with facilities and amenities that support student needs

Despite the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, all these outcomes have been successfully achieved to some extent in the months since the project completion.

The construction part of the project involved a new building entry with a welcoming lobby, featuring modern lighting fixtures and the construction of a new centrally accessed staircase and high speed, high-capacity elevator.

A panoramic view of the campus plaza can be seen from the stairs while the high-speed elevator eases the way to the 2nd and 3rd floors, to find open study spaces that are comfortably outfitted for individual or collaborative study sessions. These spaces include a combination of soft seating, high and low tables, study stations with in-desk charging, and group seating. Our students quickly gravitated to these new spaces and made them their own.

The centerpiece of this project is the build out of the third floor to create additional open study space for our students and a new home for the P3 Collaboratory, the Graduate School-Newark Administration offices, and the Global Office of Experiential Learning. Successful partnerships and collaborations have already launched with Dana Library partnering with the P3 Collaboratory and Academic Technology Services, as well as Graduate School-Newark. The former included providing training and support to teaching faculty using library platforms that support their teaching, learning, and research activities. The latter involved a series of workshops for faculty and graduate students on using library tools—such as reading lists, tutorials, and our institutional repository—as well as understanding research metrics. We are further exploring partnerships to incorporate data and computer literacies into faculty professional development.

A last minute add on to the renovation project was the creation of a café space on the first floor. This space was created in response to our students’ request to have a space where they can enjoy a snack and a beverage during their long study hours in the library. Like the other renovated spaces throughout the library, this space was designed to accommodate students’ habits and preferences. With these renovations Dana Library has truly become a home away from home for our students.



Learn more about the transformation by visiting [blogs.libraries.rutgers.edu/danatransformation/2022/02/17/dana-library-transformation-completion/](https://blogs.libraries.rutgers.edu/danatransformation/2022/02/17/dana-library-transformation-completion/).

# FROM NEW BRUNSWICK

I am so proud to share this year’s update with you. While 2020 has been a year not without its challenges, it has also been transformational for the New Brunswick Libraries—a year in which we moved several steps forward, following our strategic North Star of “Connect, Build, Evolve: Implementing the Future Academy.”

The projects we’ve chosen to spotlight this year only begin to describe the progress we’ve made, but we hope they serve as examples representing everything that makes the New Brunswick Libraries great: our inventive, expert personnel; a penchant for bold, forward-thinking ideas; a spirit of collaboration; and a steadfast commitment to advancing the mission of Rutgers–New Brunswick.

Thank you for your interest in the work that we do. I can’t wait to see what we can accomplish in the year to come.



Dee Magnoni  
Associate University Librarian,  
Rutgers University-New Brunswick



Altogether, NBL reference librarians recorded **9,597** questions.



Number of attendees increased by **95.4%** and the number of sessions offered increased by **23%** in the first quarter of FY21

# DIGITAL LEARNING COMMONS PROVIDES MULTIMEDIA COLLABORATION SPACE FOR STUDENTS

The Digital Learning Commons (DLC) is a state-of-the-art, multimedia collaboration center and a new premier on-campus destination for the Rutgers–New Brunswick community. It is located on the first floor of Alexander Library on College Avenue Campus and opened for use in the fall 2021 semester.

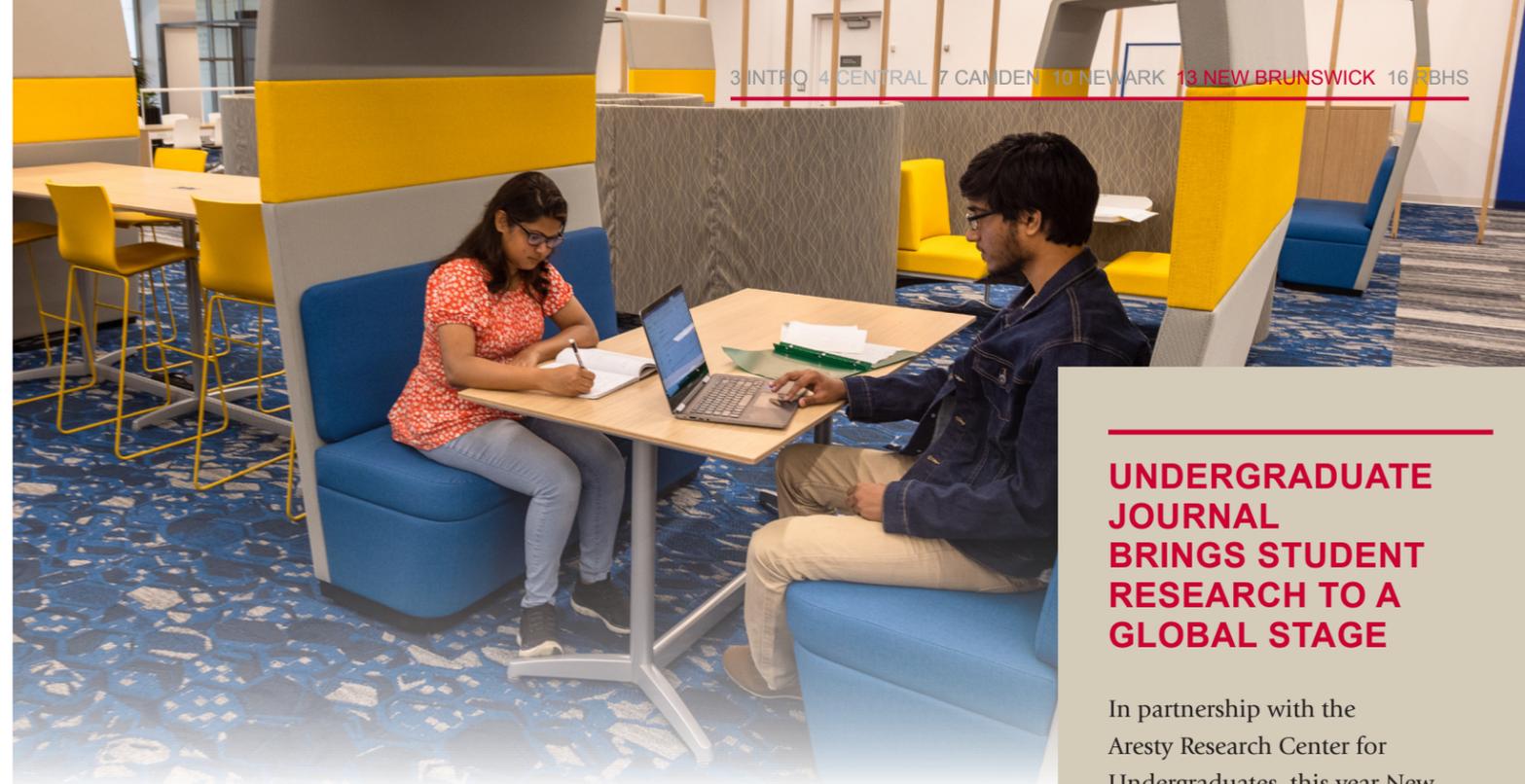
The DLC—a 21st-century, multi-experiential library space—was designed to be a true “commons,” a focal point on campus where studying, collaborating, researching, presenting, meeting, and creating all happen side-by-side. More than just a forum for gathering, the DLC is a platform for possibility and incubator for ideas, one where the next Fortune 500 company might be founded or where the newest million-subscriber podcast might be launched. It is a place where industry meets education and where the students of today are prepared for the careers of tomorrow.

The DLC’s features were fully curated around the idea of enriching the student experience and providing students access to the tools they need to succeed at Rutgers and beyond. These include:

- **Pitch Room:** Also known as the “Red Room,” this is the energy center of the DLC, an innovation space where industry and campus partners can come together to explore new ideas.
- **One-Button Studios:** These rooms are equipped with audiovisual equipment including cameras and greenscreens to allow students to capture professional-quality video of their presentations at the push of a button. They can accommodate 1-3 people at a time.
- **Audio Booth:** A reservable space for recording podcasts with up to 3 participants.

- **Information Desk:** This desk has a joint Libraries/IT presence to assist students with all their information needs.
- **Conference Room:** This 12-seat, state-of-the-art conference room includes a motion-tracking camera to allow remote connections while offering speakers—whether corporate or campus—the flexibility to move freely about the meeting space.
- **Collaborative Study Pods:** These reservable meeting spaces are perfect for group study and collaboration.
- **Computer Lab:** Featuring 70+ computer stations, this lab contains height-adjustable desks that allow students to sit or stand depending on their preference. The machines include software for design, editing, and other multimedia applications.
- **Consultation Room:** A private office space for reference or accessibility consultations.
- **Other Amenities:** Other features of the DLC include moveable space partitions, mobile white boards, Wi-Fi printing, and USB/power access at every piece of furniture in the room. The indoor foliage and color scheme used throughout the space were designed to produce a relaxing, creative learning environment that promotes students’ mental wellness.

Learn more about the DLC by visiting [libraries.rutgers.edu/new-brunswick/visit-study/locations/alexander-library/digital-learning-commons](https://libraries.rutgers.edu/new-brunswick/visit-study/locations/alexander-library/digital-learning-commons).



## UNDERGRADUATE JOURNAL BRINGS STUDENT RESEARCH TO A GLOBAL STAGE

In partnership with the Aresty Research Center for Undergraduates, this year New Brunswick Libraries launched the Aresty Undergraduate Research Journal to spotlight student research on a global stage. In addition to having their work published, students get to experience the peer review process firsthand and learn more about the ins and outs of academic publishing.

Three issues have been released so far. To learn more, visit [arestyrurj.libraries.rutgers.edu](https://arestyrurj.libraries.rutgers.edu).



## PARTNERING WITH STUDENTS TO IMPROVE THEIR EDUCATION

This year, the New Brunswick Libraries created an Undergraduate Advisory Board to partner with students and get them invested in their own education. The board plays a vital role in advising the New Brunswick Libraries regarding initiatives, programs, and services. Participation in the board enables students to gain valuable experience working collaboratively with library faculty, staff, and administrators, and board members have the opportunity to impact the experience of their peers at Rutgers University–New Brunswick. Their charge includes the following activities:

- Provide input on programs and services offered by the New Brunswick Libraries
- Suggest new programs and services to meet the library-related needs of undergraduate students at Rutgers–New Brunswick
- Participate in library initiatives, as needed, and learn about the day-to-day work of library staff and faculty

The program is coordinated by representatives of the New Brunswick Libraries’ Instruction & Undergraduate Services Team, a liaison from New Brunswick Libraries’ Steering Committee, and the Associate University Librarian for Rutgers University–New Brunswick.

## EXPLORING SPECIAL COLLECTIONS AND UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES

Exploring Special Collections and University Archives is a new webinar series from Special Collections and University Archives designed to provide an intimate look at some of our most precious holdings, coupled with expert insights from curators, archivists, and other special guests. Previous events in the series include “The Architecture of Books: The Artists’ Books of Golnar,” “The William Elliot Griffis Collection,” and “National Association of Women Artists Collection.”



For the latest information on Special Collections and University Archives, visit [libraries.rutgers.edu/scua](https://libraries.rutgers.edu/scua).

# FROM RUTGERS BIOMEDICAL AND HEALTH SCIENCES

The transition to remote services due to the COVID-19 pandemic facilitated an increased level of online engagement with health sciences students, staff, researchers, and faculty. Extensive online services such as chat, Ask-a-Librarian, online workshops, and virtual consultations using WebEx and Zoom were key fixtures of our dynamic and responsive library services. The Smith Library on the RBHS-Newark Campus re-opened for study in July 2020 following a Return to Rutgers health and safety plan, and gradually expanded hours of operation. The RWJ Library of the Health Sciences welcomed students and providing on-site services in September 2021.

A robust online workshop series was launched in Spring 2021 highlighting select electronic offerings including tools such as BrowZine, Visible Body, and JAMAevidence, as well as services such as Systematic Reviews and Developing Research Data Management Plans. A History of Medicine talk on James McCune Smith's nomination for Fellowship to the New York Academy of Medicine was another featured session.

In order to improve service to RBHS schools and units, our liaison librarian program was re-envisioned. Meet our health sciences librarian experts and the areas they support on the Health Sciences Research and Teaching Support webpage. Our Meet Our Experts webpage provides an eye-catching directory with easy access to librarian contact information and availability for appointments and consultations.



Judy Cohn  
Assistant Vice President for Information Services and Director of Health Sciences Libraries

*Judith J. Colva*



Altogether, RBHS reference librarians recorded **3,466** transactions.

RBHS had a **74.4%** increase in reference from the first quarter of FY20

## BETTER SERVING THE RBHS COMMUNITY

This year, the Health Sciences Libraries took a holistic look at our liaison librarian program, making several changes to improve our engagement with RBHS faculty, staff, researchers, and students. In addition to establishing communication leads to RBHS schools and institutes, we've developed clearer guidelines which establish responsibilities for our librarians in a number of key areas:

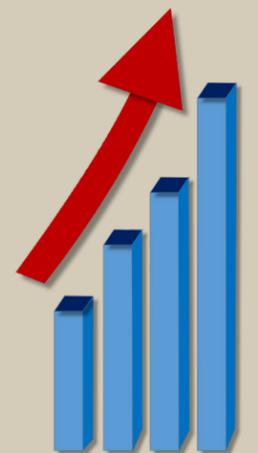
- **Communication and outreach**
- **Education and instruction**
- **Research support**
- **Collections**
- **Assessment**

Our hope with these changes is to increase the visibility of the Health Sciences Libraries among our stakeholders and to make it easier to get in touch with an expert when assistance is needed.

Learn more about our health sciences librarians and the areas they support at [libraries.rutgers.edu/health-sciences/research-teaching-support/health-sciences-librarians](https://libraries.rutgers.edu/health-sciences/research-teaching-support/health-sciences-librarians).

## DEMONSTRATING RUTGERS' IMPACT ON COVID-19

The Health Sciences Libraries' librarians put their expertise to work this year by providing customized, comprehensive reports on COVID-related articles authored by Rutgers faculty as well as comparative data from other major academic health centers to the Sr. Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Research at Rutgers Biomedical and Health Sciences. These reports help illustrate the impact of Rutgers researchers on overall efforts to combat the COVID-19 pandemic and allow our leadership to advocate more effectively for the university.





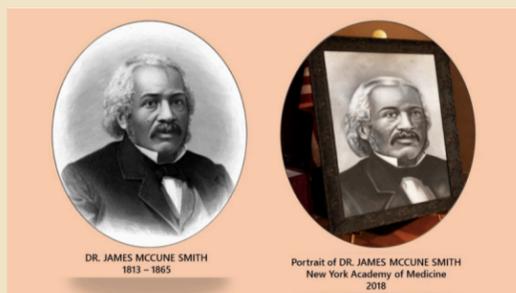
## RWJ LIBRARY EVOLVES TO MEET STUDENT AND STAFF NEEDS

Even though the physical space at Robert Wood Johnson Library was closed temporarily due to the COVID-19 pandemic, that didn't stop us at the Health Sciences Libraries from making improvements to the space to better accommodate student needs when we did eventually reopen our doors. This year, we added a small conference room to provide a space for small group meetings and librarian consultations. We are also conducting an ongoing review of library spaces aimed at creating flexible workspaces for staff and librarians and a variety of study spaces for students. New furniture and additional access to power were also installed in the fall/are planned for the coming semester.



## WORKSHOPS HIGHLIGHT SPECIALIZED RESOURCES AND SERVICES

This year, we rolled out a robust series of workshops for students and faculty to highlight resources and services supported by the Health Sciences Libraries. These well-attended workshops included "Overview of JAMAevidence," "Agitation of the Question: Dr. James McCune Smith's Nomination for Fellowship to the New York Academy of Medicine, 1847 and 2018," and more.



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