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## RIT Libraries receive national recognition



The RIT Libraries have received the 2006 Excellence in Academic Libraries Award sponsored by Blackwell's Book Services and The Association of College and Research Libraries, a division of the American Library Association. RIT Libraries, comprised of Wallace Library, the Cary Collection and the RIT Archives, is the first library in the Rochester region and only the second library in New York state to earn this distinction.

This national award recognizes the staff of a university, college or community college library for programs delivering exemplary services and resources to further the educational mission of an institution, and acknowledges staff collaboration and innovation in particular. RIT Libraries have been recognized in the university library category.

This award puts RIT in prestigious company—Cornell University, North Carolina State University, the University of Arizona, the University of Virginia, Loyola University (New Orleans) and the University of Washington—are the other past university library award recipients. It is worth noting that RIT and Loyola libraries have fewer than 50 staff, where the other universities have hundreds. An informative outline of RIT Libraries' achievements is available at <http://www.ala.org/ala/acrlbucket/excellenceaward/ritap.htm>. Each winning library will receive \$3,000 and a plaque. RIT's plaque will be presented to RIT President Albert Simone at an award ceremony held at RIT from 2-3 p.m. on May 12.

"We are proud to be the recipients of this award, not only for what the staff at RIT Libraries has already accomplished, but also in recognition for what we are doing right," says Chandra McKenzie, assistant provost and director, RIT Libraries. "The strategic plan that we created together is moving us toward improving support for our constituents, the university, and the mission of RIT. The ACRL Excellence in Academic Libraries Award encourages us to believe

that how we are doing this work reflects a model of service excellence. What is most important to us is that we are all committed to working toward our strategic goals. Our library's organizational culture is such that we challenge ourselves to find a way to do better everyday, even with the things that are working well."

The Wallace Library, which also contains the Melbert B. Cary Jr. Graphic Arts Collection on the second floor and the RIT Archives and Special Collections on the third floor, is a multimedia resource center with a collection of more than 350,000 books and 2,900 print journal subscriptions. The Web-based online collections feature more than 150 research databases that contain over 16,000 electronic journal subscriptions.

"Judges tell us that RIT was selected for its impressive implementation of a new strategic planning process," says Simone. "The result was an extensive reorganization that focused the organization on using cutting-edge technologies to bridge the library with faculty and students in innovative, highly effective ways."

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