



RIT | Libraries

Annual Report 2019

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Marcia Trauernicht
Director of RIT Libraries

Dear friends and colleagues,

This year marks the fiftieth anniversary of Wallace Library, and we commemorate the important role the library continues to hold in this community of curious minds.

With RIT's research profile on the rise, our expert-led workshops guide faculty in how best to disseminate their scholarship in the increasingly complex environment of academic publishing. Library staff continue to partner with faculty to create active learning experiences for students. Highlights this year include organizing zine fairs, designing library furniture, and reproducing a Renaissance book wheel. Library events such as the annual Women on Wikipedia edit-a-thon and the My Untold Story series bring diverse members of our community together to forge personal connections and move the world forward.

On to another fifty years of advancing knowledge, sparking creativity, and connecting communities,

Marcia S. Trauernicht

Advancing Knowledge



Preparing for Academic Publishing

With the variety of publishing models and the increasing popularity of open-access resources, it can be daunting for scholars to decide how and where to publish their work. Dozens of faculty and graduate students learned how to select publishers for their research at the third annual 21st Century Scholarship, hosted by RIT Libraries in September 2018.

Four expert panelists offered guidance on how to assess publishers to ensure they will meet their needs, avoid publishers with predatory practices, and ultimately choose the best avenue to disseminate their research.

The following semester, RIT Press, the university's academic publisher, presented a workshop for faculty on how to pitch and publish an academic book. RIT Press staff discussed the editorial and peer review process, design and production procedures, and marketing practices for academic books.



Photos: Sara Kuehl

RIT Press director Bruce Austin shared best practices for pitching a book idea to a publisher during a faculty development workshop in April 2019.

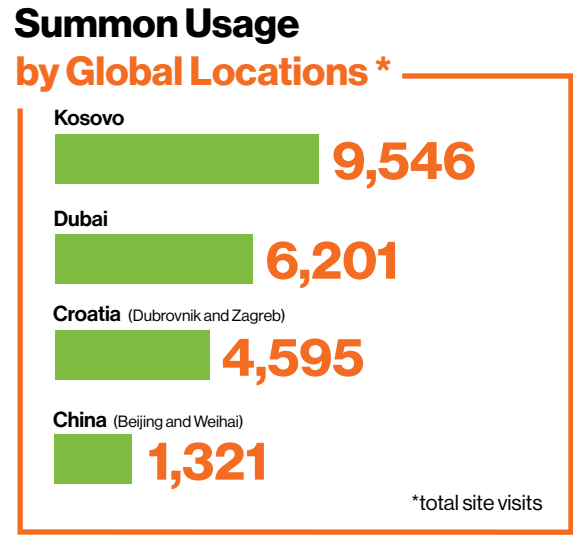
Supporting Students
Across the Globe

More than 2,000 students are enrolled at RIT’s international campuses in Dubai, Croatia, Kosovo, and China. Global librarian Susan Mee strives to provide these students with the same level of access and services, regardless of where they are located geographically.

International distribution issues with publishers are common and complex, so Mee frequently troubleshoots how students can gain access to the research they need in their country. RIT Libraries integrates local holdings at the global campuses with the Rochester campus in a single system called Summon, enabling students to easily search all the resources available to them worldwide. If their local campus does not have what they need, students can request books from the Rochester campus library at no cost. If the resource is not available electronically, RIT Libraries will ship the book to the student’s local campus.

Mee often consults individually with global students and faculty via email, chat, and web meeting tools. She also teaches live through online video conferencing, sometimes in the evening or early in the morning to accommodate different time zones.

Recently, students from the Beijing campus spent the summer in Rochester working on a research assignment and immersing themselves in the English language. Mee, along with business librarian Jennifer Freer, met with the students in person to teach them how to conduct research using RIT Libraries’ resources.

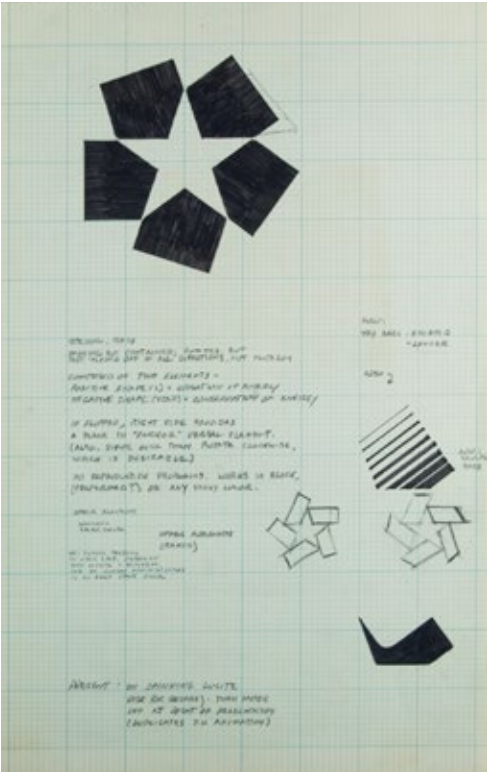


RIT Named One of
Top Ten Universities
for Graphic Design

College Magazine ranked RIT as one of the top ten universities for graphic design majors in 2018. The magazine cites the Cary Graphic Arts Collection and the Graphic Design Archive among the differentiating factors for prospective students to choose RIT, along with the program’s selectivity, breadth of coursework, and co-op experiences. With more than 45,000 volumes about the history of graphic communication and 46 archives documenting the work of important Modernist designers, the Cary Collection is an unparalleled resource for graphic design students.



Graphic designer and educator Fred Troller’s work is part of the Graphic Design Archive, including his process work (right) and final design (left) for the Federal Energy Administration logo.



Photos: Cary Graphic Arts Collection

Interlibrary Loan Enables Professor to Finish Manuscript

Victorian literature scholar Sean Grass was in the last phase of preparing a book for publication when he moved from Iowa to join the faculty at RIT in January 2019. To finalize his manuscript in a few months, he needed to verify hundreds of citations from the exact editions of books referenced. “That was a huge challenge,” Grass said, “because I’d used resources from so many libraries, some of which were rare or unique,” many dating back to the early-to mid-1800s.

To borrow nearly 100 titles from other libraries, Grass worked closely with Morna Hilderbrand, RIT’s Information Delivery Services Librarian. Hilderbrand acquired items daily for his project, and even arranged for Iowa State University Library to send a few archival titles that are not normally available for borrowing. One title Grass needed was only available from The British Library, and Hilderbrand had it delivered to campus via airmail.

“Morna worked very hard to get me some relatively obscure things,” Grass said. “And I know she went above and beyond to accommodate my very particular needs for this project.”

The Commodification of Identity in Victorian Narrative: Autobiography, Sensation, and the Literary Marketplace was published by Cambridge University Press in Fall 2019.

The library really is the lifeblood of my research, not only for the books themselves but for the databases that are indispensable to my work. The RIT Library was crucial to this last phase of the project.”

Sean Grass

Professor, department of English

Library Resource Use

By the Numbers



13,584

laptops borrowed



147,264

hours of use on public computers



7,162

reserve materials borrowed



20,793

books and media borrowed

Interlibrary Loans *



4,908

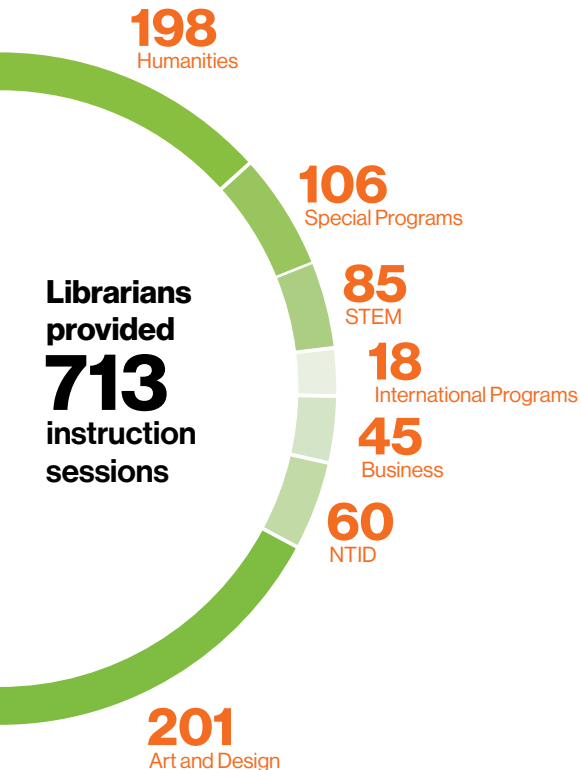
articles requested



2,249

books requested

* most requests fulfilled
within 3 days or fewer



Engaging Students Outside of Class

Lecturer and renowned fashion photographer David Turner pores over magazines with students during lunch every Monday, discussing the photography, lighting, and printing techniques used. He collaborates with art and design librarian Kari Horowicz to curate publications from RIT Libraries and his own personal collection that allow students to explore photography in a variety of forms, from advertising to photojournalism, fashion to fine art.



Sara Kuehl

Book Awarded for Use of Archival Materials

The Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference selected *Jeannette Klute: A Photographic Pioneer* (RIT Press, 2017) for the 2018 Arline Custer Memorial Book Award, which honors the best new books using archival sources. The chapbook was authored by Therese Mulligan, Administrative Chair of the School of Photographic Arts and Sciences, with contributions from retired archivist Becky Simmons and Lauren Alberque, Project Archivist in the Cary Graphic Arts Collection. The book highlights Klute's innovations in color photography using photographs and personal papers from the Jeannette Klute Collection in the RIT Archives.



RIT Press



Sparking Creativity

Zine Collection Inspires Collaborative Class Project

RIT Libraries' collection of zines — self-published works that often focus on niche subjects or personal reflection — inspired student work across the curriculum this year.

Heading into the Fall semester, associate professor of communication Hinda Mandell contacted liberal arts librarian Lara Nicosia about acquiring access to zine resources for her News Editing class. This initial conversation about a potential class assignment evolved into a semester-long collaboration that culminated with a campus Zine Fair in December 2018.

With support from librarians and archivists, Mandell and associate professor Kelly Norris Martin partnered three of their classes to research the market feasibility of zine fairs,

Shayna Brown, a student in Martin's visual communication class, showcased her zine to the public at Imagine RIT on April 27, 2019.

design zines and posters on current topics, and organize the well-attended Zine Fair. Mandell and Martin were recognized with the 2019 Provost's Innovative Teaching with Technology Award for their efforts.

The students' zines were later shared with the public at the 2019 Imagine RIT festival and then preserved in the RIT Archives to inspire future student work.



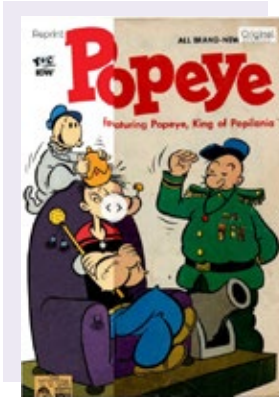
Photos: Sara Kuehl (left), Camryn Finkner (above)

Students Examine Historic Comics with Digital Tools

The Cary Graphic Arts Collection is home to the Stephen Neil Cooper Comic Book collection: pristine copies of 202 comic books that were published in April 1956, a significant period in comics publishing history. The collection is foundational to RIT's new comics studies immersion.

To maintain the collection's integrity, the comics are not removed from their protective sleeves. But thanks to a \$5,000 Provost's Learning Innovations Grant, associate professor Daniel Worden was able to purchase reading copies that students could use in his course, Comics in the Archive.

During classes in the library, each student generated book- and story-level metadata for several comics in the Cooper Collection, identifying each comic's genres, artists, publishers, characters, and more. The students then used the class's collective work for their individual research projects. Digital humanities and social sciences librarian Rebekah Walker was embedded in the class throughout the semester, helping students catalog the collection and produce their final projects using a variety of digital tools and techniques.

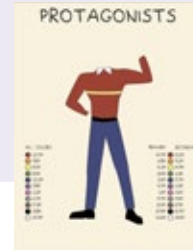


Andrew Lefurge, a third-year new media design major, examined the differences in color saturation of the original 1956 issue of *Popeye* and its reprint.

Students worked as archival researchers, creating new knowledge and making that knowledge accessible to scholars and fans.”

Daniel Worden

Associate Professor, School of Individualized Study and department of English



Sally Boniecki, a third-year illustration major, explored the color composition and clothing of characters across comic book genres.



The Cary Collection and the School of Individualized Study hosted alumnus and Marvel Comics artist Adam Kubert '81 for a standing-room-only discussion of his work in November 2018. The accompanying “Anatomy of a Comic” exhibition offered a behind-the-scenes look at an entire issue of *Peter Parker: The Spectacular Spider-Man* through Kubert's process materials and inked original art.

Student Team Recreates 16th Century Technology

A team of mechanical engineering students built two reproductions of a Renaissance-era bookwheel that will have an active life at RIT's Cary Graphic Arts Collection and Rossell Hope Robbins Library at the University of Rochester. Each library will use their bookwheel to teach the history of the book, engineering, and technology.

Designed by Italian engineer Agostino Ramelli in 1588, the bookwheel is a rotating bookcase that allows one person to read eight large books and cross-reference between them from one location. It functions similar to having multiple tabs open on a web browser today.

The students worked closely with Steven Galbraith, Curator of the Cary Collection, and Anna Siebach-Larsen, Director of Robbins Library, to ensure the design was not only functional, attractive, and safe for use, but also historically accurate. After sourcing more than half a ton of wood, the team used computer numeric control (CNC) machines in the Construct, RIT's maker space, to manufacture the wheels, then installed them at both libraries in January 2019.



Mireya Salinas '19

Ian Kurtz '18 and Reese Salen '18 assembled their team's reproduction of a 16th century bookwheel at the Cary Collection to complete their multidisciplinary senior design project.



Elizabeth Lamark

This experience has helped me understand more of the processes and techniques of building and manufacturing.”

Matt Nygren '19

BS mechanical engineering

Cary Collection Named One of Rochester's Coolest Spaces

Rochester Business Journal named the Cary Graphic Arts Collection one of Rochester's Coolest Educational Spaces in its inaugural 2018 competition. Selected from more than 200 nominations, the Cary Collection was lauded for providing hands-on learning experiences with unique collections.

Students Gain Client Relations Skills

Industrial design graduate students spent the Spring semester designing flexible seating and storage solutions for Wallace Library. Senior lecturer Marissa Tirone's class met with library staff to understand current space constraints and library users' needs. At the end of the semester, the students presented their process work and final designs to library staff for feedback.

Similarly, students in Digital Design for Communication gained client relation experience through senior lecturer Kari Cameron's collaboration with RIT Press. The class met with RIT Press to learn about a forthcoming book and its intended audience. Then each student designed a book jacket and presented their work to RIT Press staff, who in turn provided constructive feedback.

Working with the Press gives my students the chance to design for someone else, simulating an experience they might have when they enter the professional world. In addition, this experience allows me to consider my teaching style and how I am preparing my students for real client relationships.”

Kari Cameron

Senior Lecturer, School of Communication



Connecting Communities



Commemorating 50 Years on the Henrietta Campus

The 2018 Brick City Weekend celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of RIT's groundbreaking move from downtown Rochester to its new Henrietta campus. RIT Libraries brought this rich history to life with a variety of events and publications.

Alumni and families enjoyed walking tours led by RIT Archivist Becky Simmons, which highlighted key features of the award-winning campus and its significant public art collection.

RIT Press published two new books to commemorate the anniversary. *Transforming the Landscape*, a collaboration with faculty and RIT Archives staff, details the planning and construction of the Henrietta campus, coupled with an extensive photographic survey of its innovative architecture.

Two companion exhibits titled "Rewarding Investment in Tomorrow" featured an array of artifacts from RIT Archives and photos from alumni, documenting the early years of the campus, its continued growth, and its promising future.

A Shining Beacon highlights the first 50 years of the National Technical Institute for the Deaf. NTID alumni reminisced at an exhibit curated by RIT Archives and identified archival photos during an interactive event in Wallace Library.



Archivists brought RIT history to life during tours of the former downtown campus and engaging alumni events.

Promoting Student Wellbeing

More than 60 percent of U.S. college students report they have experienced anxiety in the past year, and nearly 50 percent have reported concerns with stress and depression, according to a 2018 report from the American College Health Association. To help students manage stress in a healthy way, RIT Libraries hosts Destress Fest during finals week each semester.

The series of free events vary each semester, from guided meditation sessions to arts and crafts projects, massage therapy to snack breaks with coffee and tea. Therapy dogs are a perennial favorite, and they visit Wallace Library monthly throughout the academic year. Hundreds of students attend the events and leave smiling.



Bringing my dog Macie to visit with students has been extremely rewarding. So many times, students will tell me about the stress they are under and how much they appreciate the opportunity to wind down and interact with the dog.

Michael Serve

Therapy Dog Handler

All too often, female veterans are overlooked for their contributions to the military. I enjoyed the experience of having an engaged audience in an intimate setting, and I felt people walked away having learned something new.

Mireya Salinas '19

MFA photography, U.S. Army Veteran



Photos: Sara Kuehl

Connecting Through Personal Stories

To challenge stereotypes and foster understanding in RIT's diverse community, RIT Libraries hosted My Untold Story in November 2018. The third event in this community conversation series gave community members the opportunity to learn about life in the U.S. military from three Army and Navy veterans, and from the commanders of the Army and Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) detachments based at RIT.

In engaging, small group conversations, storytellers discussed their motivation for joining the military, how they transitioned between military and civilian life, and what they learned from their military experience. Each shared stories of resilience through challenging situations, from sustaining relationships during wartime deployments to earning college degrees while training on American soil.



Women on Wikipedia participants volunteered their time to edit and create Wikipedia articles that helped to better represent women on the site.

Building a Community to Improve Wikipedia

More than 250 women noted for their accomplishments in the military, photography, medicine, and other fields are better represented on Wikipedia, thanks to participants at the third annual Women on Wikipedia Edit-a-thon. The event empowered the Rochester community to edit and create Wikipedia articles in a collaborative environment. Nine campus and regional organizations sponsored tables at the event that focused on improving biographies about women in a particular field, creating a sense of community and shared purpose around those topics.

I liked the atmosphere. There were lots of opportunities to chat with others and discuss interesting women we learned about.”

2019 Women on Wikipedia participant

Women on Wikipedia 2019

By the Numbers



10

New articles created



260

Existing articles edited



23,000

Words Added



833,000

Views of improved articles as of May 2019

Photo: Sara Kuehl

Scholarship Supports Local Transfer Students

Each year, RIT Libraries selects recipients of the Salvador Anchondo, Jr. Memorial Endowed Scholarship, which provides financial support and mentoring to help students who transfer from Monroe Community College (MCC) to RIT continue their education. Brenda Trinidad, a former RIT employee, endowed the scholarship in memory of her husband Salvador Anchondo, who was a researcher, librarian, and teacher at MCC.

This scholarship fills me with encouragement. It reminds me that there are, have been, and will be students that work hard in community college before moving to a university. ”

Jennifer Pfaff '19

Anchondo Scholarship Recipient



The recipients of this year's Anchondo Scholarship were Jennifer Pfaff (left), a fourth-year BS/MS bioinformatics student, and Jenna Rivera (right), a fourth-year psychology student, pictured here with RIT Libraries director Marcia Trauernicht.



RIT Libraries hosted the third annual RIT/UR Library Conference on June 3, 2019. Nearly 100 librarians from four campuses shared insights, collaborations, and strategies for libraries to best serve their diverse communities.

Photos: Sara Kuehl

Library Space Usage

By the Numbers



43,981

Study room reservations



2,800

Visitors per day

Collections

1952

Willa Cassidy-Gardner, 2019

RIT Archives

This one-foot cube constructed of steel and fiber was purchased from the 2019 MFA honors show. It became part of the library's Art Purchase Prize Collection of student artwork, which began in 1972.

[RIT Art Purchase Prize Collection, RITArt.0064]

Dr. Ellen Swartz Collection

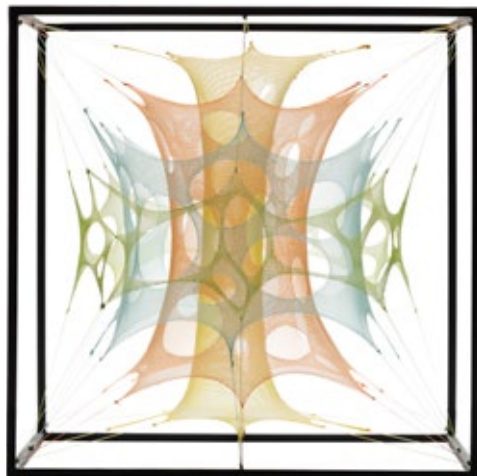
RIT Archives

Dr. Ellen Swartz was one of the first women to graduate from RIT's School of American Craftsmen (now the School for American Crafts) with an Associate of Applied Science in Woodworking. This robust collection of articles, photographs, scale models, and a wooden high chair document Dr. Swartz's woodworking career and accomplishments.

[RITARC.0719]

Claritas

This database contains consumer demographic and lifestyle data from Nielsen. It supports research by marketing and entrepreneurship classes in the Saunders College of Business, advertising classes in the College of Liberal Arts, and technical writing classes in the College of Art and Design.



Chase Gunner '20

1952

by Willa Cassidy-Gardner '19

**The Harris Wood Type Collection: American
Typographic Specimens**

Ridgefield, CT: David Greer, 1984

Cary Graphic Arts Collection

This catalog of 300 wood type fonts — one of only six copies in existence — showcases specimens of large letterpress printing type that was commonly used in 19th Century posters. Students in a variety of arts, design, and printing technology classes benefit from hands-on study of this rare collection.

Journal of Visualized Experiments

This online collection of scientific video journals contains thousands of videos demonstrating laboratory techniques used in biology, chemistry, bioengineering, and environmental microbiology.

Historical Newspapers: U.S. Northeast Collection

This new addition to RIT Libraries' databases helps students who are researching local history across multiple disciplines; Included in the collection is the local *Democrat and Chronicle* dating back to 1884, which documents Rochester's role in the development of new technologies and participation in social movements such as women's suffrage.

Koetsu utai bon. Utofu

Kyoto: c. 1596-1614

Cary Graphic Arts Collection

The Cary Collection continues to expand and diversify its examples of printing from cultures around the world. This spring, the library acquired a very rare and beautiful example of Japanese wood type printing from c. 1600. The text is the libretto of the Noh play, *Utofu*.



Cary Graphic Arts Collection

Koetsu utai bon. Utofu

Support Us

Your donation can:

Transform Spaces

Renovate study rooms, build a classroom for hands-on learning with special collections, or expand student seating that's wired for charging mobile devices.

Infuse Technology

Promote collaboration with technology-enhanced meeting rooms, improve digital access to our cultural collections, or provide a laptop for students to borrow.

Enrich Collections

Increase access to online journals, add new books to our collection, or showcase historical artifacts in new exhibit cases.

Shape RIT Libraries' next 50 years with your gift.

Discuss other giving options:

Natalie Anderson
Executive Director,
Central Development
(585) 475-2638
nzadar@rit.edu

Give online:

library.rit.edu/giving



The Wallace Legacy

This year marks the fiftieth anniversary of Wallace Memorial Library, named in honor of lifelong RIT supporters: spouses Florence Murray Wallace, a 1907 alumna, and inventor Charles F. Wallace. Their generous support established a scholarship fund that has aided students since 1954 and an endowment that helps preserve artifacts in RIT Archives for future generations.



The image features a photograph of the RIT Wallace Library building, a multi-story brick structure with large windows, partially obscured by vibrant autumn leaves in shades of orange, yellow, and green. The scene is set against a clear blue sky. The image is framed by a dark brown geometric shape in the bottom-left corner containing text, and a large cyan and orange geometric shape on the right side.

RIT

Wallace Library
90 Lomb Memorial Drive
Rochester, NY 14623