

RIT | Libraries

# ANNUAL REPORT

2020 - 2021





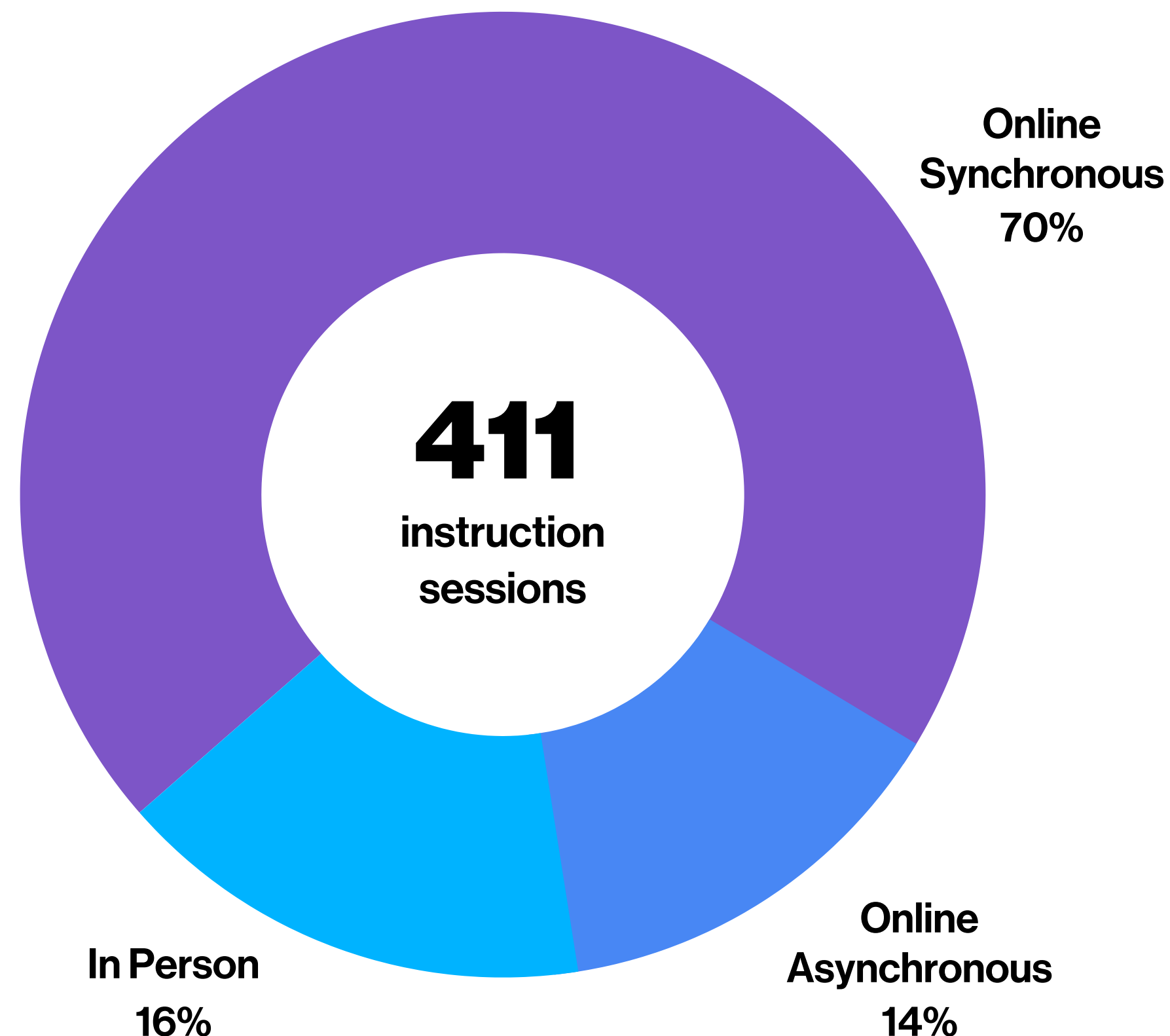
A photograph of two women sitting at a desk, looking at a computer screen. The woman on the left is wearing a black face mask and a grey sweatshirt with a circular logo that says 'UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY 1829'. The woman on the right is wearing a yellow face mask and a floral patterned shirt. The entire image is covered with a semi-transparent blue overlay. A large white chevron symbol points to the right, positioned to the left of the text.

# ADVANCING KNOWLEDGE



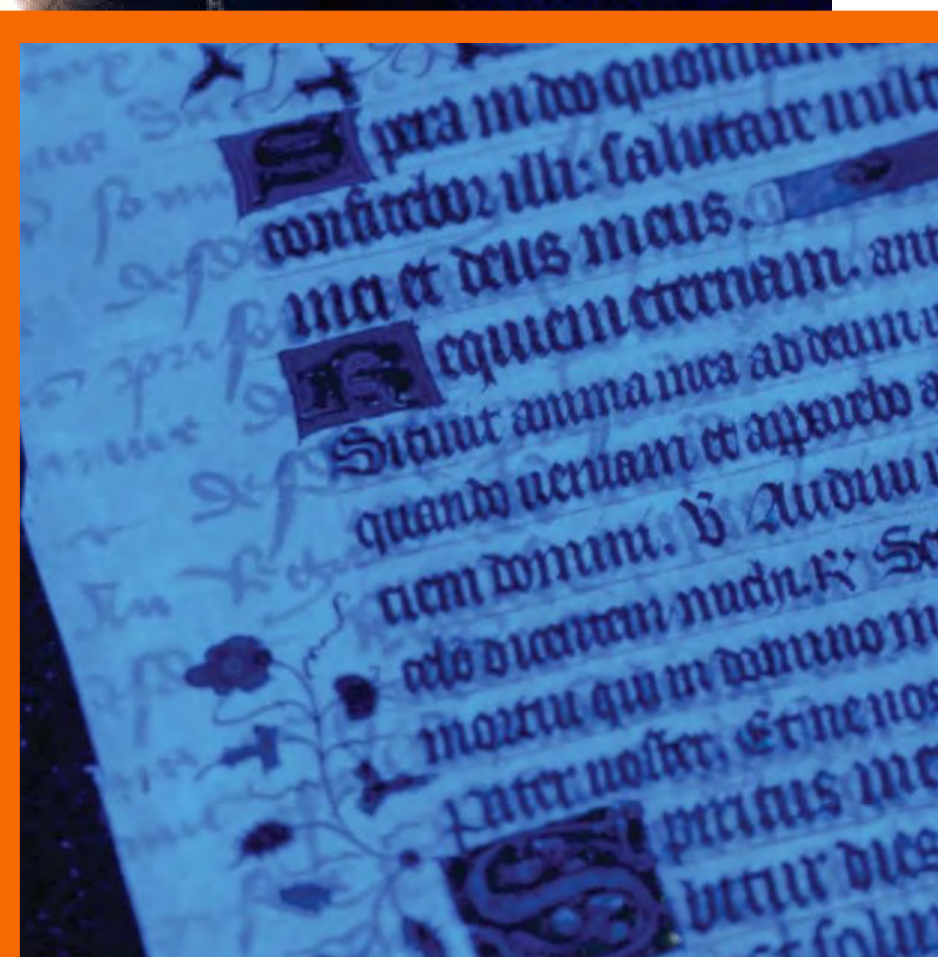
# LIBRARY INSTRUCTION ACROSS THE CURRICULUM

RIT Libraries adapted instruction sessions to a variety of modalities as RIT introduced more flexible course options for the 2020-21 academic year. Librarians provided a total of 411 instruction sessions across RIT's 11 colleges and 5 global campuses.



# STUDENTS DISCOVER HIDDEN TEXT

Imaging science students discovered lost text on 15th-century manuscript leaves using [an imaging system they developed](#) as freshmen. By using ultraviolet-fluorescence imaging, the students revealed that a manuscript leaf in the RIT Cary Graphic Arts Collection was actually a palimpsest, a manuscript on parchment with multiple layers of writing. After discovering another palimpsest in other libraries' holdings from the same manuscript collection, the team is contacting curators across the country to stitch the lost text back together.





# INCREASING OPEN ACCESS



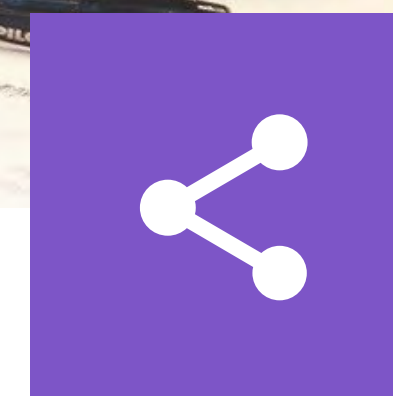
## Milestone Year

RIT's open-access repository  
[ScholarWorks](#) exceeded  
1,000,000 downloads



## Expanded Research

[Frameless](#), a new open-access journal,  
shares the latest research on augmented,  
virtual, mixed, and extended realities



## Alt-Metrics

Items in RIT ScholarWorks  
received 3,570 social media  
shares and 872 citations





# SPARKING CREATIVITY



# STUDENTS CREATE VOTING RIGHTS EXHIBIT

2020 marked the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment, a major yet incomplete expansion of voting rights to women in the U.S. In honor of the centennial, students in professor Tamar Carroll's women's history course created a [digital exhibit about women's suffrage](#). Liberal arts and digital humanities [librarians assisted the class](#) with researching suffragists, accessing a suffrage poster collection, and creating the exhibit using Omeka, an open-source platform.





# DESIGNING SOLUTIONS

Industrial design students developed a custom solution to help library staff transport and display library materials at pop-up events around campus. First, the students tested a variety of materials and methods as part of a team-based user experience in their studio class with professor Amos Scully. The teams then developed their designs, storyboards, scale models, and budgets, and presented them for their class final. The winning team's design, Hexacart, is in fabrication and is anticipated to launch in Spring 2022.





# EDITORIAL CARTOONS INSPIRE STUDENT ART

Students created cartoons to process and communicate their experiences during the COVID-19 pandemic in a workshop taught by artist Kriota Willberg. [Inspired by historical cartoons](#) from RIT Archives, students explored the personal and global relationships between art, politics, and epidemics.

RIT Archives holds a [collection of editorial cartoons](#) by John Scott Clubb and Elmer Messner that span a century of change in the city of Rochester, New York State, and the United States as a whole.

*Pictured at left is a cartoon that RIT student Yilmaz created about the U.S. political response to COVID-19 (top), inspired by this 1960 cartoon by Elmer Messner about health care in the U.S.*







# CONNECTING COMMUNITIES





A History  
of the Book  
Class Kit



Students picked up take-home kits for the online course A History of the Book taught by the Cary Graphic Arts Collection curator



# NEW WAYS TO CONNECT

As campus reopened for the 2020-21 academic year, RIT Libraries explored ways to maintain and expand patrons' access to library resources and services while continuing to safeguard staff and patrons' health during COVID-19.



Students and faculty browsed and checked out library books at outdoor tailgate parties



The RIT community can book appointments online for research help from their librarian



# EXPANDING OUR REACH AROUND THE WORLD

Library staff transitioned events online in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, expanding our ability to connect with communities around the world. More than 400 people from 21 states and 15 countries participated in RIT Libraries' seminars, workshops, and discussions this year.



Cary Online series



Race and Gender in Scholarly Publishing



Love Data Week



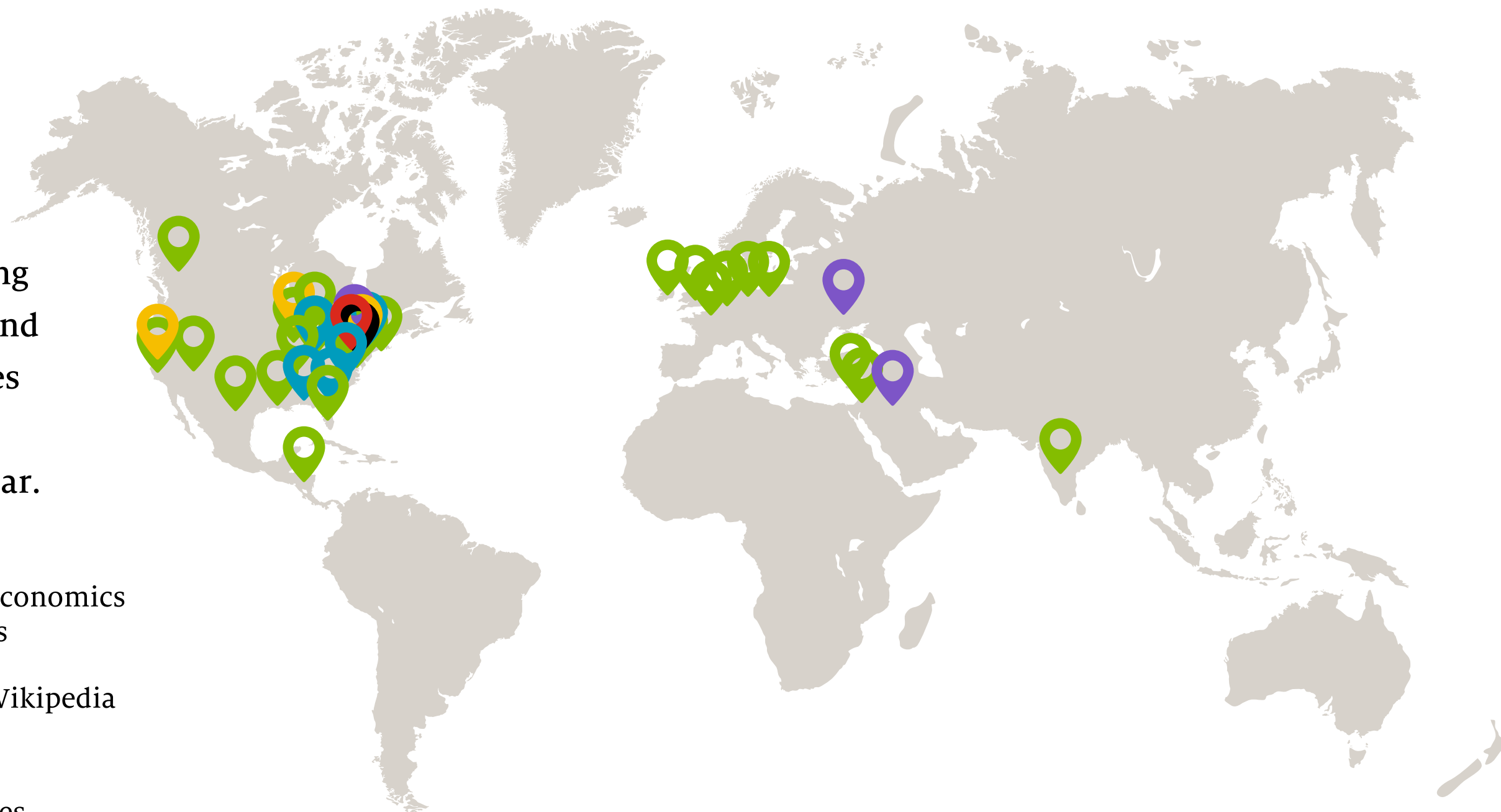
Epidemics, Economics and Elections



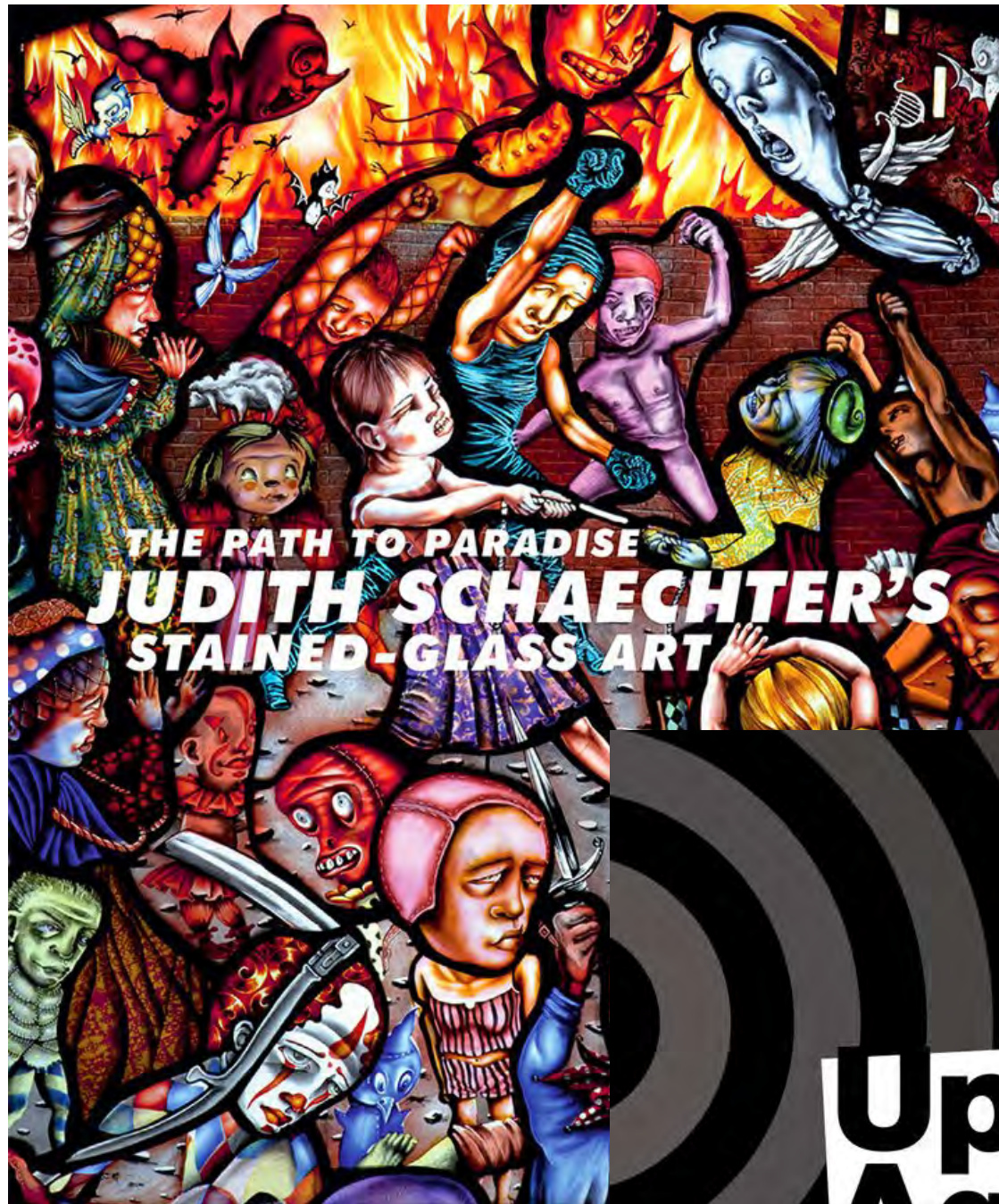
Women on Wikipedia Edit-a-thon



Level Up series







# COLLABORATIONS FUEL 20 YEARS OF PUBLISHING

Expanded partnerships and community-related projects give RIT Press, the university's scholarly book publisher, new momentum as [it enters its third decade](#). From its early years, the press has embraced diverse audiences by broadening its editorial scope. Collaborations with scholars from RIT and other universities have led to a growing number of book series on a variety of topics, from comic studies to craft and social action. RIT Press' partnership with the Memorial Art Gallery has produced four exhibition books, which include [The Path to Paradise: Judith Schaechter's Stained-Glass Art](#) and, most recently, [Up Against the Wall: Art, Activism, and the AIDS Poster](#), in conjunction with the University of Rochester's River Campus Libraries.



## Up Against the Wall

Art, Activism,  
and the AIDS Poster

Edited by  
Donald Albrecht and  
Jessica Lacher-Feldman  
Medical and Consulting Editor  
William M. Valenti, M.D.



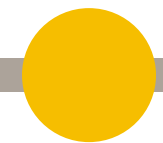
An architectural rendering of a modern building complex. The main building is a multi-story structure with a facade of large glass panels and light-colored, rectangular panels. It has a complex, angular design. To the left, there's a glass-enclosed staircase. In the foreground, a paved walkway leads through a courtyard with green grass and young trees. Several people are depicted: a group of four people walking on the left, two people walking in the center, and a person on a bicycle on the right. A large, dark, abstract sculpture sits on a pedestal in the courtyard. The sky is a clear, light blue.

# THE FUTURE OF WALLACE



# CONSTRUCTION BEGINS

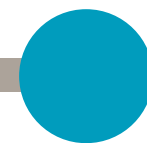
Library staff began a series of herculean efforts to prepare for extensive renovations of Wallace Library and the construction of the neighboring [Student Hall for Exploration and Development \(SHED\)](#), a 100,000-square-foot facility that will house maker spaces, performing arts spaces, and active classrooms.



## Move to Offsite Collections

Spring 2021

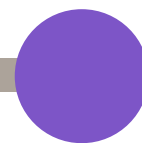
A portion of RIT Libraries' low-use collections were moved from Wallace Library to a new [Offsite Collections](#) facility on the Henrietta campus. Materials are available by request and can be browsed online.



## Move to Ritter Ice Arena

Summer 2021

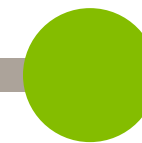
Circulating collections and some public services were moved from Wallace Library to a new, temporary location in Ritter Ice Arena — dubbed ["Wallace on Ice"](#) — for the duration of construction.



## Relocation of Special Collections

Summer - Fall 2021

The Cary Graphic Arts Collection and RIT Archives are relocating within Wallace Library to a new, temporary space with proper environmental controls. Both will reopen by appointment only in Fall 2021.



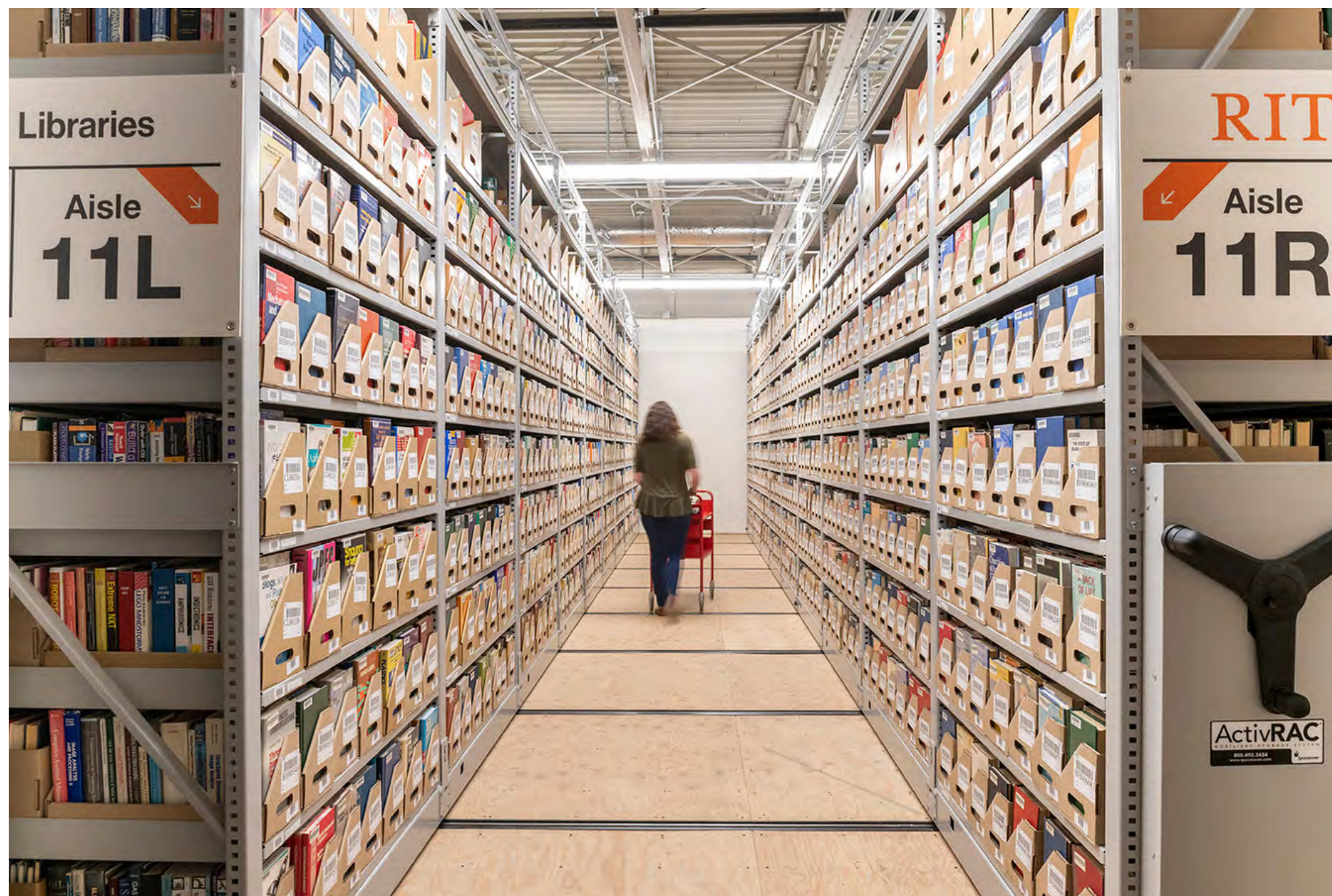
## Reopening of Wallace Library

Anticipated Fall 2023

RIT Libraries will return to Wallace Library after construction is complete. The renovations will bring dramatic changes to the 50-year-old building and connect it with the SHED on all levels.



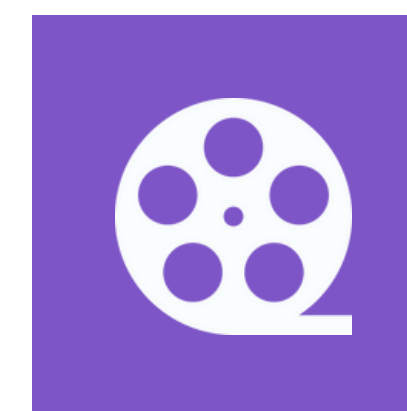
# OFFSITE COLLECTIONS



**164,000**  
books



**42,700**  
journals



**29,000**  
rolls of microfilm



**98%**  
of requests delivered  
within 1 business day



# WALLACE ON ICE



**116,250**  
books



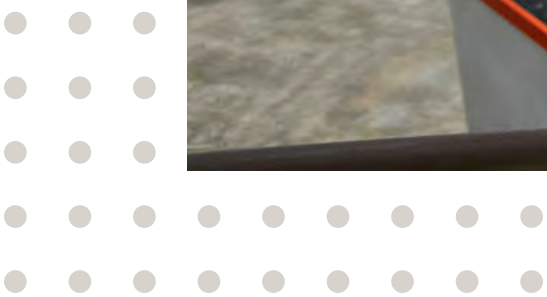
**12,700**  
journals



**360**  
portfolios

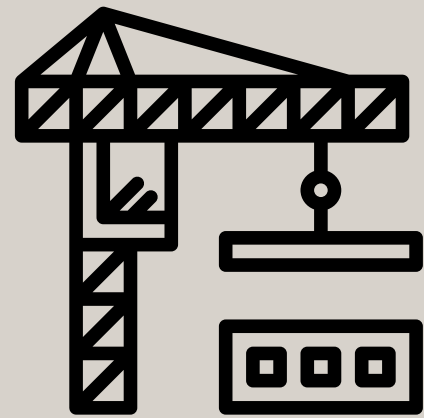


**7,000**  
media



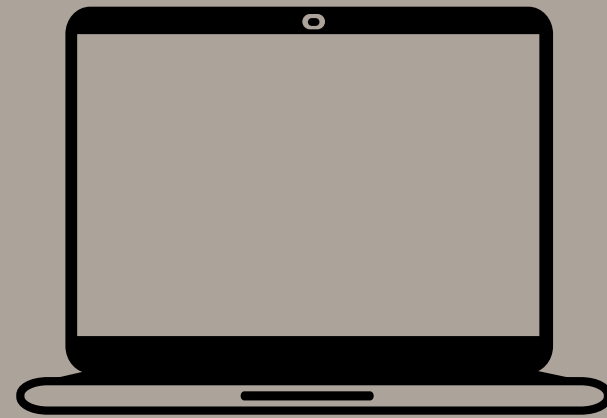


# SUPPORT US



## **Transform Spaces**

Provide comfortable seating, update the aquarium, or showcase historical artifacts in new exhibit cases.



## **Infuse Technology**

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



## **Enrich Collections**

Increase access to online journals or streaming media, or add new books to our collection.



## **Support Students**

Further fund the Salvador Anchondo, Jr. Memorial Scholarship, which RIT Libraries awards annually to transfer students from Monroe Community College.