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

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.
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

The Future of Wallace

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.