The Librarians are constantly looking for ways to support the missions of the University and its Libraries.

As we continue to strengthen our role as a 21st century organization, the Rowan University Libraries have embarked on a strategic planning process. New vision and mission statements direct our attention on leadership and excellence. We are focusing on our user communities: students, faculty, researchers, clinicians, and administrators. We recognize the sense of urgency that surrounds so many activities today. To that end, we continuously look at ways to improve our services and spaces. We are working with the members of our user community in ways that are collaborative partnerships.

Libraries are challenged in their provision of space. We still need to offer those quiet spaces for silent, meditative learning. Others are looking for places where they can actively engage in conversations with classmates and colleagues. Still some others are looking for spaces where they can create new forms of scholarship using the latest technology. Remodeling efforts underway and in process reflect these needs. The Libraries are increasing our role in supporting and promoting student and faculty research and learning. New advanced degrees require changes to the breadth and depth of the resources we provide. We also want to make our unique collections, those that only Rowan University has, more visible and accessible. To fulfill this goal, we will relocate Special Collections to a more prominent location in Campbell Library. The Libraries have developed strategies to promote our resources and the research of the University faculty on all three campuses through a newly designed website and through Rowan Digital Works, our institutional repository.

Our most significant resource is our Librarians and staff. The Rowan University Librarians are excited to actively contribute to this dynamic institution. Regularly engaging in learning opportunities and attending conferences, our Librarians are sought out to share their wealth of knowledge on contributing to student and faculty success. The Librarians are constantly looking for ways to support the missions of the University and its Libraries.

A leader in access, service and user experience, Rowan University Libraries is the cornerstone of each academic campus. As partners in education, we look forward to fulfilling the curricular, research, and clinical information needs of the Rowan University community.

I am passionate about Libraries and how they benefit our communities.

Scott P. Muir
Associate Provost
Rowan University Libraries
At Rowan University Libraries, we strive for excellence in every effort, every day. We work diligently to provide services and resources that are of excellent quality, accessible and innovative. We focus on supporting student and faculty success by collaborating with them to ensure we hear and meet their needs. In order to be purposeful with our work, we have updated our mission and vision statements.

**OUR MISSION**

A leader in access, service, and user experience, Rowan University Libraries anticipates and fulfills the curricular, research, and clinical information needs of our community.

**OUR VISION**

Information empowerment through innovative technology and exceptional service.

**OUR STRATEGIC PLAN**

With the University’s Four Pillars in mind, we are currently working on our Strategic Plan. Several committees are meeting to discuss a variety of topics and concerns. We anticipate that our Strategic Plan will be finalized in the 2017-2018 academic year. We look forward to sharing our plans and are excited to see a clear path for Rowan University Libraries.
The RowanSOM Health Sciences Library underwent a complete physical renovation during the summer of 2016. New furnishings, carpeting and paint updated and improved the look of this popular space. Additional study spaces include a banquette study area, individual study desks throughout the Library, new, larger carrels, and new study tables. All study spaces have electrical outlets and the individual work areas have lamps as part of their configuration. The various sizes, shapes and configurations of the furnishings provide many areas for individual and group study and new chairs offer comfortable seating throughout the Library.

As part of the Library’s renovations, an exhibit case was installed which enables the mounting of displays on various topics. The inaugural exhibit highlighted the cartoon art of faculty member Dr. Marvin Herring. Subsequent exhibits highlighted the history of RowanSOM, student and resident physician publications, African-American history month and biographies and photos of women who have made important contributions in science and medicine.

Librarians serve on the RowanSOM Admissions Committee. This role includes meeting with student applicants, reviewing documentation, and participating in the decisions regarding acceptance to the School. During the course of the year, librarians conducted interviews with 56 candidates and reviewed 140 applications from students wishing to be included in the Rowan SOM Class of 2021.

The Process Improvement Office (PIO) of Cooper University Hospital uses Lean Six Sigma to improve safety, quality, cost and patient satisfaction. New projects are chosen based on outcome measures. In 2013, Karen R. Stesis, a medical librarian, was invited to provide a brief overview of library resources to the incoming Process Improvement project leaders. This role was later expanded to conducting literature searches prior to project initiation to increase the effectiveness of PI projects and to assist in obtaining positive project outcomes.

Of the 92 PI projects initiated from 2013 through August, 2016, 65 (71%) had literature searches conducted by the Librarian. In 2016 alone, 78% of the projects included literature searches. 100% of projects where literature searches were conducted were deemed successful based on outcome measurements.

Literature searches conducted to support the PIO contributed to successful outcomes. As a result of these efforts, the committee saved the hospital $2.4 million.

A new Standard Operating Procedure was finalized to assure that literature searches are conducted in the initial phase of each project. Karen now attends monthly meetings of the PIO Steering Committee, where progress on all projects is discussed. This allows all opportunities for the Librarian to network with the project teams and to participate in new departmental PI teams.

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During the 2016–2017 academic year, funds from the Keith and Shirley Campbell Library Endowment were used to update existing service desks to meet ADA requirements, making public services more accessible to patrons with physical disabilities.

The first floor was remodeled and now includes a new circulation / information desk that is wheelchair accessible as well as new lighting throughout the entrance hall. Another important addition is ADA compliant furniture for students to use for scanning, stapling, and assignments. Two new screens for scrolling program announcements or marketing of resources were installed as well.

In addition, the large reference desk was removed from the second floor and replaced by two ADA compliant consultation desks. These desks are designed so that students can sit beside a librarian for a research consultation or sit with a student tech worker to deal with technology issues.

This year Campbell Library hosted a variety of events both on and off the Glassboro campus, including one bus trip, one lecture, three performances and one discussion panel. In the fall semester, a bus trip was organized to coincide with the University selected book called “Americanah.” 125 students hopped on the bus to Washington D.C. and visited the National Museum of African American History and Culture. Response from the bus trip was overwhelmingly positive. One student said “Wonderful opportunity that Rowan’s library and student life presented to the students.” Additional feedback demonstrates Campbell Library’s positive impact on campus life.

WEB LAUNCH

Rowan University Libraries launched new websites for Campbell, CMRSU, and SOM Libraries that involved focus groups, studying users, interviewing constituents, reviewing usage data, and consulting other academic libraries. The websites are designed with the unique needs of each library, ensuring that each of our websites is engineered with its specific users in mind.

After a year-long process, this new site will result in more satisfied users who can find and interact with library resources and services in much more intuitive ways, contributing to faculty and student success.
The Glassboro Summit Collection is an excellent example of the opportunity available through the Digital Scholarship Center. The Glassboro Summit Collection is a website and digital collection, created by the DSC, in collaboration with Rowan University Libraries, University Publications, and University Archives & Special Collections. Its focus is to provide students, historians, and community members access to primary and secondary resources related to the Glassboro Summit. The collection is intended as an educational resource to inspire new scholarship and learning about the Cold War, diplomacy, the Glassboro Summit and how the summit impacted the local community.

Visitors to the site can search archival material for educational purposes, contribute items for possible inclusion into the collection, and review a comprehensive resources list to aid in the research and study of the Glassboro Summit and its impact. To view this digitized collection, please visit the website below:

http://www.glassborosummit.com/

The mission of the Digital Scholarship Center is to develop and curate innovative digital scholarship projects, educational resources, and collaborative programs, and to advance and extend creativity, learning, research, scholarly communication, and teaching at Rowan University.

The DSC is a crossroads of education, creativity, collaboration, and technology. The Digital Scholarship Center is an inclusive space where all members of the Rowan community have equal opportunity to enhance technological literacy, organize and present their research, and express themselves creatively in the digital world.

The DSC offers a wide variety of services including one-on-one consultations, workshops, talks, assistance with digital course projects, student and faculty software assistance, access to high quality computers and equipment for individual and group use. The DSC also offers support for student entrepreneurial startup and research groups, developing digital archives, projects concerning primary resources, and development of tutorials and digital learning materials.

STUDENT WORKER TESTIMONIAL

“The interactive and learning environment that has been created for student workers at the DSC has enabled me to learn a variety of things including website designing, iOS and Android app development, Photoshop experiences and so forth. Currently I have developed my own 2 android apps and I am working on creating my own website with the help of my manager and my co-workers. I have never had these experiences before but in these 4 month of my employment at DSC I have managed to learn all the things I mentioned above.

The help and support that we give to students that come to DSC was very interesting to me and has helped me to improve my social skills and professional approach to people. These are a few things that I have achieved in being a student worker at the DSC and I look forward to learning more and assisting students with efficient skills in the years to come.”

- Anwar Hussein, Junior

RIGHT: DSC student worker Anwar (far back) participates in a conversation with fellow students. Anwar has recently been accepted into the College of Engineering.
Rowan Digital Works (RDW), an institutional repository, provides open access and global visibility to the scholarly, creative and cultural works of Rowan University. A service of Rowan University Libraries, RDW promotes the valuable work accomplished by students and faculty, supporting Rowan University's significant role as a research institution.

To ensure RDW curates and highlights meaningful, quality research, librarian Denise Brush, the chair of the Institutional Repository Committee, attended a three-day training course at Berkeley Electronic Press in California, and is now a certified Institutional Repository Manager as of March 2017.

In an effort to enhance visibility of faculty research, RDW added a new component known as Researcher Profiles. Profiles can be created for any faculty member to showcase their research activity, but are particularly valuable for new tenure-track faculty. Each profile includes a photo, biographical information (e.g. education, previous employment), current research interests, and a selection of their most important published scholarly work. Since last July, library staff has created 103 Researcher Profiles. A recent enhancement to the Researcher Profiles site is a new interface that allows users to "Discover Experts at Rowan University." It displays three Trending Experts (faculty with the most downloads) and Trending Research Topics, with ways to search or browse profiles based on name, research interests, or college/school. Profiles now include "badges" identifying faculty members as research Collaborators and/or student Mentors.

Many members of our faculty have published articles in open access journals, which we have uploaded to their college’s Faculty Scholarship page in Rowan Digital Works. Currently there are 91 publicly available faculty works in RDW. Our two newest RDW collections are the Open Educational Resources collection, which currently contains two open access computer science textbooks, and the Physics Electronic Microscope Project, whose data is currently shared only with external collaborators but will be available worldwide once the grant is done.

This year librarian Samantha Kennedy and Director of the Office of Sponsored Programs, Stephen Robishaw, conducted a series of three Faculty Focus Groups to determine faculty's research needs and how the Libraries can help meet these needs. Samantha and Stephen are putting together a report for the Division of Research and the Dean's office of each college/school.

To learn more about Rowan Digital Works, please visit the website below:

http://rdw.rowan.edu/

Since last August, Rowan University faculty and graduate student scholarship has been downloaded 171,709 times by countries around the world. The above graphic shows the number of downloads for the top four downloading countries: United States, Philippines, United Kingdom, India.

AWARDS

Congratulations to our award-winning faculty and staff on their achievements and success this year.

Michelle Kowalsky and Faye Robinson received the President’s Excellence Award for Diversity.

Marita Malone was named a “Rock Star Medical Librarian” by the National Library of Medicine.

Nancy Demais participated in the four-part Super Supervisor training sponsored by the Library Link consortium.

Zuleika Rodriguez-Cruz, the Health Science Library’s Circulation Supervisor, was selected as the 2017 Library Support Person of the Year for the Health Sciences Libraries Association of New Jersey.


Kowalsky, M. & Woodruff, J. (2017, March). Received award from the Rowan University Faculty Senate. Awarded the “Excellence in Diversity Award, for a Group Project by Faculty or Professional Staff,” which honors outstanding contributions, commitment, and service exhibited in the areas of diversity, social justice, consciousness-raising and inclusion.


Kowalsky & Woodruff book listed as #1 of the top “3 Must Haves for Any and All Librarians” by Library Journal (2017, April 11).

Academic libraries are evolving and dynamic organizations. This year Rowan University Libraries welcomed 8 new librarians and staff members to the team. Our new staff members join a team that is committed to partnering with students, faculty, and staff to contribute to the momentum of Rowan University.

Jennifer earned her Master’s in Library Science and a Master’s in Musicology from the University of Kentucky where she is also currently working on completing a Ph.D. in Musicology on Randy Newman. She lives with her two children, Lee and Melodie, in Southern New Jersey where they are active participants in Little League baseball and Softball. Jennifer is a member of the Faculty Success Strategic Planning group. She is also working with the Parental Leave task force and Autism Spectrum task forces on campus as well as the Digital Library Federation’s Cultural Assessment working group.

Lucritia is an Electronic Resources Associate at Campbell Library, managing the print serials collection and binding as well as ensuring access to online resources. She earned a Bachelor’s in Library Science from Arcadia University in Glenside, PA and has PA Department of Education certifications for public librarian and library assistant. Prior to working at Rowan, she worked as a Circulation Supervisor at Moore College of Art and Design. Currently she also holds this position at Drexel University during the weekends.

Brandon has worked as a Circulation Supervisor at Moore College of Art and Design. Currently he also holds this position at Drexel University during the weekends.

Marryam is a library assistant in Campbell Library’s Access Services Department. She graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Information Management Systems. Brandon has worked in the information technology field for the last four years. At his previous position, Brandon was employed as an Information Technology Specialist with the state’s public school system. Brandon enjoys working with others, solving technical issues, and improving day-to-day operations. Outside of work, Brandon likes to spend time outdoors hiking, kayaking, and participating in sports.

Michael holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Philosophy from West Chester University, a Master of Arts in Instructional Technology and Design from Stockton University and is pursuing Doctoral studies in the Art and Media Studies from Drew University. Mike’s diverse professional experience includes design, publishing, instructional design, technology management, photography, and creativity studies. He has taught courses and workshops on graphic design, contraceptor art, art education, multimedia development, and photography. He has exhibited his fine art in several regional galleries and public spaces.

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Block, Kevin. “Spicing up your Libguides: 2.0” Presentation at the Tri-State College Library Cooperative Summer Camp, Chestnut Hill, PA, July 15, 2017.


COMING SOON

Campbell Library is very excited about our latest remodel, the expansion of University Archives & Special Collections. The Special Collections Room is currently located on the fifth floor of the tower, making it accessible solely by one elevator. During the summer of 2017, a new Special Collections Reading Room will be built on the third floor, making those collections more available to patrons and visiting researchers.

A public opening event is being planned for the new academic year.

MAKING A GIFT

As the university grows, new library technologies and resources are needed to support Rowan’s expanding curriculum and our diverse set of students, faculty, and staff.

Gifts to Rowan University Libraries have a tremendous impact across every area of campus. Whether making an unrestricted gift or supporting a specific program, support from alumni, parents and friends of Rowan University helps to provide the best opportunities for each of our students.

Please consider joining our efforts. For more information on how you can make a difference, visit this website: giving.rufoundation.org.