



Annual Report 2018

RIT Libraries

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Sparkling Creativity
Connecting Communities
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Dear friends and colleagues,

At RIT Libraries, we are dedicated to advancing knowledge, sparking creativity, and connecting communities.

It is my pleasure to share with you just a few of the recent activities of the RIT Libraries staff. Of special note are the many collaborations with students and faculty that broaden the educational experience, enable new avenues of creativity and scholarship, and provide opportunities to learn from each other beyond the classroom.

As you look through this publication, you will see that RIT Libraries is a unique and vibrant center that is integral to the RIT community, and a place where extraordinary things happen!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marcia S. Trauernicht". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Marcia Trauernicht
Director of RIT Libraries

advancing knowledge

**"The library has become
the locus of community
and knowledge making
in my courses."**



Edit-a-thon participant

“It was an extremely valuable session that can help us contribute to knowledge in a meaningful way.”

Community Empowerment through Wikipedia

RIT Libraries hosted the second annual Women on Wikipedia Edit-a-thon on March 24, 2018. Members of the public and the RIT community improved the representation of 204 women on Wikipedia who are noted for their accomplishments in fields as varied as astronomy, medicine, animation, and sports. Librarians also welcomed 25 new editors to Wikipedia as

inexperienced participants learned the fundamental principles and best practices of Wikipedia and how to make edits on the site.

Wikipedia is the fifth most visited website globally according to Alexa.com but has received criticism for its lack of representation of women. Organized edit-a-thons like Women on Wikipedia help build a community around developing underrepresented content by increasing the diversity of editors and empowering

participants to improve content both during and after the event.

Leading up to the Edit-a-thon, liberal arts librarian Lara Nicosia and history professor Tamar Carroll co-authored an article titled “Why Wikipedia Often Overlooks Stories of Women in History.” It was published in dozens of national and international outlets, educating the global community about gender bias in online content and ways to help improve it.

Enriching Coursework with Medieval Manuscripts

The Cary Graphic Arts Collection often serves as an active learning classroom for courses across RIT's curriculum, enabling hands-on study of real historical objects. This year, students enjoyed the rare opportunity to work directly with medieval manuscripts, thanks to a program sponsored by antique bookseller Les Enlumineurs. The program allowed RIT to borrow manuscripts from Les Enlumineurs' extensive collection, supplementing the manuscript leaves held in the Cary Collection.

Students in professor Sarah Thompson's art history course spent half the semester in the Cary Collection working closely with the manuscripts, culminating with the creation of an online exhibition. In professor Lorrie Frear's calligraphy course, students explored the characteristics of the handwriting and the techniques used over the span of several centuries. The manuscripts also served as inspiration for students' own texts in a digital creative writing course taught by assistant professor Robert Glick.

Students examine manuscripts on loan from Les Enlumineurs' "Manuscripts in the Curriculum" program.



Improving Access to Historical Artifacts

The Cary Graphic Arts Collection continued to document, digitize, and preserve the Graphic Design Archive, funded by a three-year, \$280,000 grant from the Henry Luce Foundation. The Graphic Design Archive preserves the work of 45 pioneering American graphic designers. Among the collections

processed this year are the Cipe Pineles Papers, which document Pineles' professional career as an art director, designer, and design professor. Since completion, reproductions from this collection have been used in a Cipe Pineles cookbook and an exhibition at the Lincoln Center in New York City.



Illustrations by Cipe Pineles
Graphic Design Archive

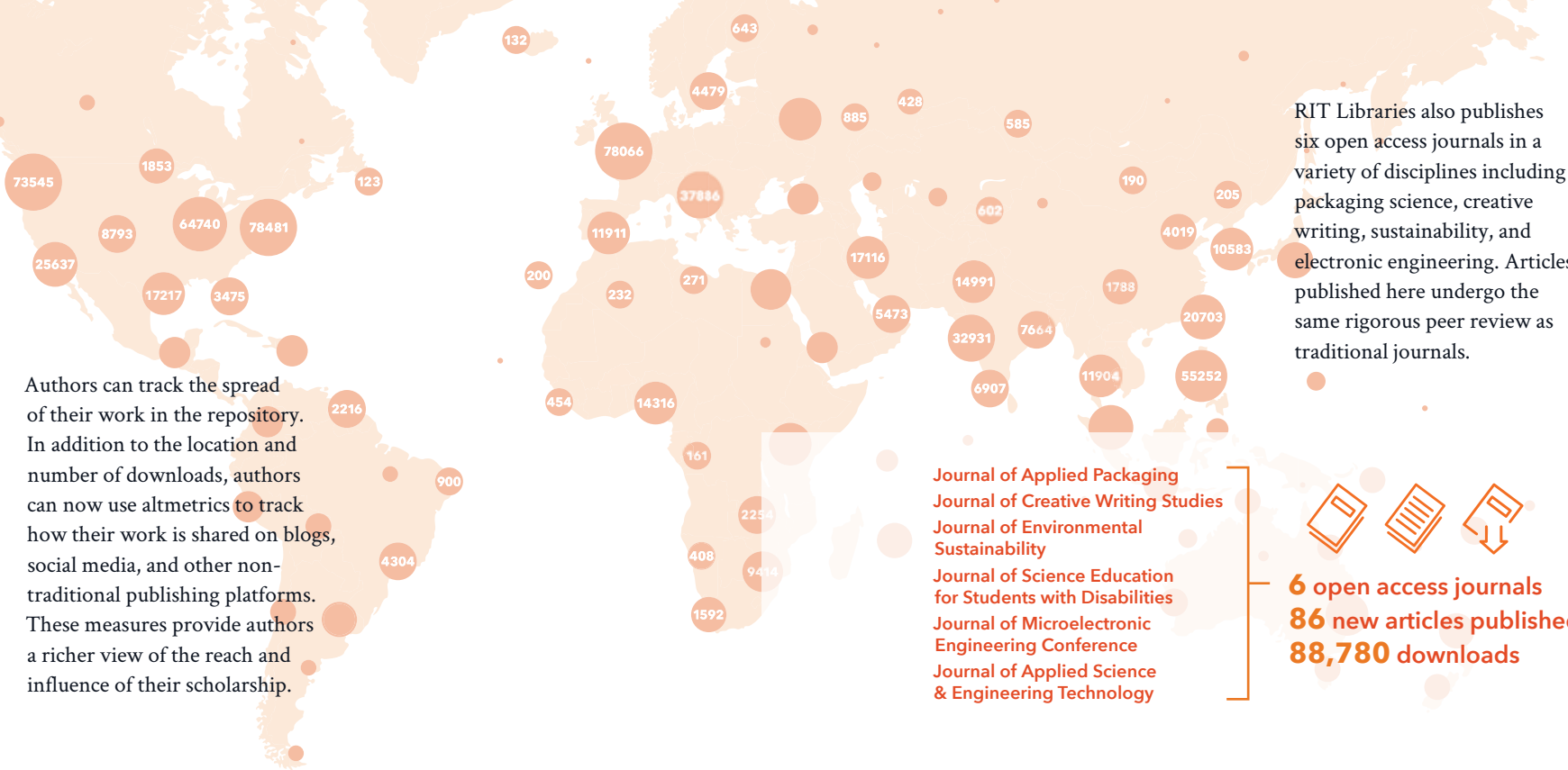
With special funding from donor Megan Williams, RIT Archives hired a temporary archivist to reorganize the Tripod School Collection and preserve this significant period in the history of deaf education. Thousands of documents, photographs, films, and other materials in this collection chronicle the development of the innovative school Williams founded on a philosophy of cooperation and community between educators, the Deaf community, and parents of children with hearing loss.

Open Access Publishing Expands Reach of RIT Scholarship

This year, RIT faculty, students, and staff contributed 474 works to Scholar Works, the digital repository that maintains a permanent record of RIT's research, scholarly, and creative works. Everything in Scholar Works is open access — available in full at no cost — eliminating barriers like paywalls to expand the availability of the works worldwide. Indexing by Google and open access networks also increases their discoverability.

(map) RIT scholarly works were downloaded 785,459 times in 223 countries and territories around the world.

Authors can track the spread of their work in the repository. In addition to the location and number of downloads, authors can now use altmetrics to track how their work is shared on blogs, social media, and other non-traditional publishing platforms. These measures provide authors a richer view of the reach and influence of their scholarship.



RIT Libraries also publishes six open access journals in a variety of disciplines including packaging science, creative writing, sustainability, and electronic engineering. Articles published here undergo the same rigorous peer review as traditional journals.

- Journal of Applied Packaging
- Journal of Creative Writing Studies
- Journal of Environmental Sustainability
- Journal of Science Education for Students with Disabilities
- Journal of Microelectronic Engineering Conference
- Journal of Applied Science & Engineering Technology



6 open access journals
86 new articles published
88,780 downloads

Beginning this year, the Journal of Science Education for Students with Disabilities is indexed in the Education Resources Information Center (ERIC), an authoritative database of full-text education literature sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education. This not only increases the journal's discoverability, but ERIC also keeps a citation count and assigns an impact factor, a measure of a journal's relative importance within its field.

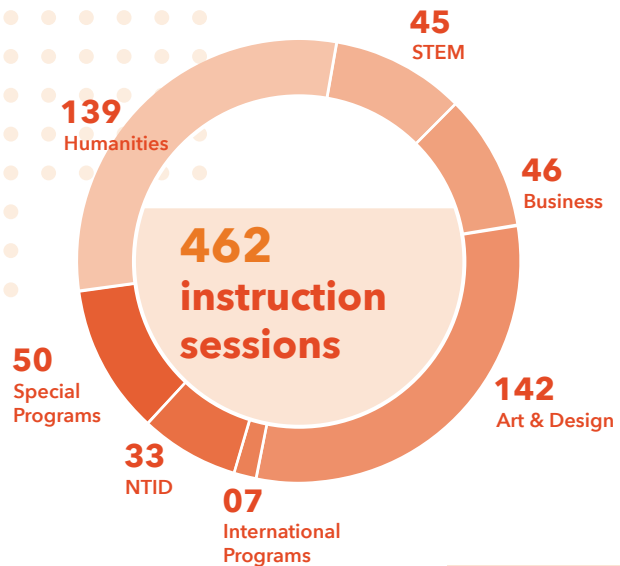
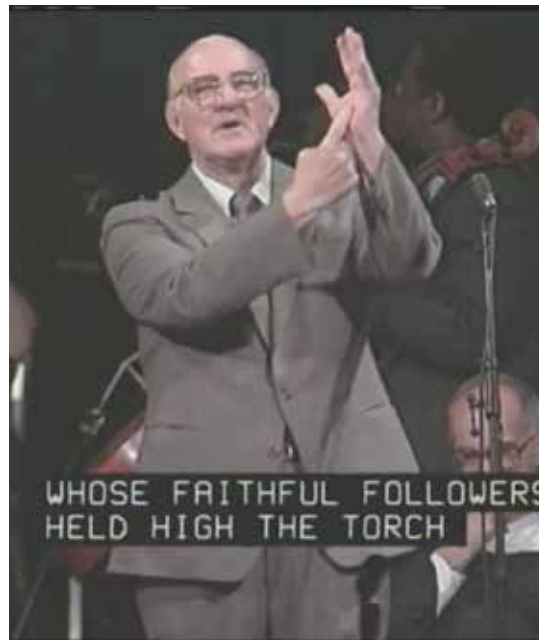
Digitizing Rare Collections

RIT Archive Collections received a \$60,000 grant from the Council of Library and Information Resources to digitize 61 videotapes that document the American Sign Language (ASL) poetry and literature movement in Rochester, NY from 1970 to 2011.

Held in the RIT/NTID Deaf Studies Archive, the historical videos capture signed performances of works by poets like Clayton Valli, who was referred to by critics as “the Deaf Robert Frost,” and Robert Panara, NTID’s first deaf faculty member.

After completion in December 2018, it will be the largest collection of publicly accessible ASL literature.

Professor Robert Panara signs his poem, *NTID*, at the inauguration of Albert Simone as RIT President in 1992. Rights: National Technical Institute for the Deaf at RIT



6,732 reference questions
answered

Students 'Level Up' Their Library Skills

More than 130 students attended Level Up, a new monthly series hosted by RIT librarians. In these 30-minute sessions, students improved a variety of their library skills, including how to cite sources, access print and electronic books, search databases, research companies for the Career Fair, and maximize the usefulness of resources like Google Scholar.

sparking creativity

**" Our library provides a
creative environment for
learning. It is a space of
constant discovery.
One never leaves empty."**



Enhancing Learning Experiences with Virtual Reality

A team of 3D digital design students led by Steven Galbraith, Curator of the Cary Graphic Arts Collection, and associate professor Shaun Foster created a proof of concept for the Virtual Cary Collection, supported by a \$4,000 Breakthru Grant from the Rochester Regional Library Council.

The team developed 3D models of artifacts like a 17th-Century English hornbook, allowing a user to interact with the object in

virtual reality in ways that would not be possible with the physical artifact. Simulations enable users to take the hornbook apart to see how it was constructed and to travel through time to see how it has aged over centuries. The team also designed virtual environments. When users pick up the hornbook in virtual reality, they are transported from the Collection's Reading Room to a 17th-century schoolroom

where they can experience the hornbook in its original context.

The goal is to add more virtual artifacts that enrich users' understanding of each artifact's physical makeup, history, and cultural significance. Ultimately, the team hopes to integrate the Virtual Cary Collection into classes at RIT and open access to researchers worldwide.

Steven Galbraith
Curator of the Cary Graphic Arts Collection

“Through virtual reality, users from all over the world could potentially have access to artifacts in the Cary Collection.”



Juilee Decker, Associate Professor of Museum Studies (left), and Taylor Carpenter, a second-year student, set up an exhibition case on the

first floor of Wallace Library. The exhibits were the result of an ongoing collaboration between Decker and RIT Archives.

Students Unearth Stories from the Archives

Students in the museum studies program gained hands-on experience curating two exhibits in Wallace Library during the fall semester. Working closely with archivists, the students researched aspects of university history through the memorabilia, documents, photographs, and yearbooks held in the RIT Archive Collections. Each student then selected archival objects and designed an exhibition case to tell stories of the RIT community and trace the expression of school spirit through the decades.



Art and design librarian Kari Horowicz helps a visitor construct an artist's book at an exhibit that was fun for all ages.



9 library exhibits
2,646 visitors
at Imagine RIT

Alumnus James Paulius '13 showcases Blockitecture, architectural building blocks he designed as an industrial design student. Visitors explored his iterative design process with artifacts from the archives before interacting with Paulius' final product.

Partnerships Facilitate Practical Experiences

Beyond a place to study and research, Wallace Library also functions as a living laboratory where students can practically apply what they're learning in the classroom and solve real-world problems.

With guidance from assistant professor Mary Golden and input from library staff, interior design students re-envisioned two library spaces. The students not only gained invaluable experience designing for real people with real needs, but they also added an impressive project to their portfolio when their

proposed redesign of the Writing Commons was implemented on the first floor.

Visiting assistant professor Kaitlin Stack Whitney collaborated with library staff to design a project for students

Interior design students Jordanae Smith, Siobhain Page, and Octavia Spelman (left to right) reopen the Writing Commons on the first floor of Wallace Library.



Chalk mural by Olivia Noll

in her conservation biology class. The library's aquarium is a popular location for the campus community to meet, read, or relax, and it often elicits questions from visitors. Students in Whitney's class created posters now on display around the aquarium to educate visitors about its fish and coral and related topics like the effects of climate change on marine life.

Senior Olivia Noll and professor Lorrie Frear partnered with library staff to craft inspirational public art for women's history month. The library's chalk wall became a life-size canvas for Noll to showcase the hand lettering techniques learned in Frear's calligraphy course.

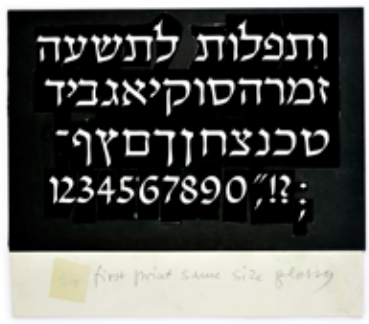
Research Fellow Shares Findings Internationally

Shani Avni, a design historian from Tel Aviv, spent the summer at the Cary Graphic Arts Collection researching the archive of Ismar David, a prolific graphic artist who designed the first Hebrew typeface family. Avni's work was made possible through the Cary Collection's research fellowship program, which supports scholarship in the graphic arts.

While studying David's work in the Cary Collection, Avni was inspired when she uncovered the original metal type David used to print Jewish New Year

cards in the late 1950s. Aided by associate curator Amelia Hugill-Fontanel, Avni used these same printing artifacts on one of the Cary Collection's historical presses to create a new letterpress-printed keepsake for the 21st century.

Since completing her fellowship, Avni has shared her research in nearly a dozen talks in Israel, Canada, and the United States. She also has an article forthcoming in *Visible Language*, a peer-reviewed design journal.



Shani Avni creates keepsakes using a platen press (far left) and Hebrew metal type in the Cary Collection.

Hebrew lettering from the Ismar David archive (left)

"This staggering experience has changed the way I use and appreciate both past technologies for their ingenuity and present technologies for allowing these processes to happen in a blink of an eye."

Shani Avni, 2017 Cary Research Fellow

connecting communities

**"Wallace Library is a hub
for the RIT community,
tapping into our curiosity
and joy in learning."**



Fostering Understanding in a Diverse Community

Living and working at RIT is a daily cross-cultural experience, with nearly 2,700 international students from 100 countries and thousands more from diverse racial and ethnic backgrounds. In an effort to challenge stereotypes and build understanding through dialogue, RIT

Libraries invited members of the RIT community to share their personal experiences in a new event series called My Untold Story.

The first public event held in November focused on immigration, giving

participants the opportunity to have meaningful conversations with four community members who had immigrated to the United States. In engaging, small group discussions, more than 50 people learned about a professor's pursuit of political asylum, an alumna's fight to complete her education as a DREAMer, a student's struggle to learn English as a second language, and a staff member's work in international deaf education.

At the second event held in April, participants discussed religion and spirituality with a professor who is also an ordained priest in the Episcopal Church, a Muslim alumnus who spent

"I never expected anyone to care about what I had to share, and the emotional response I received, during and after the event, has been very encouraging."

Abi Ramos McFiggins '02
RIT alumna and former DREAMer

his childhood in Saudi Arabia, a graduate student who was raised as a Hindu in India, and a staff member who practices Buddhism.

Oral Histories Connect Generations of RIT Tigers

RIT Archives is home to a growing collection of oral histories. For the past four years, archivists have interviewed alumni celebrating their fiftieth reunion during Brick City Homecoming Weekend. The conversations delve into alumni's memories of student life on campus and reflections on their lives after graduation. The interviews are recorded for later transcription by museum studies students.

These alumni oral histories join faculty and administrators' oral histories that were recorded

in the late 1970s. The personal narratives supplement collections of historical objects in the Archives and preserve multiple perspectives of the university's history for future generations of RIT Tigers.



Associate archivist Jody Sidlauskas talks with an alumnus about his experiences at RIT fifty years after his graduation.

Promoting Early Childhood Literacy

For the past ten years, RIT student-athletes and library staff have been helping young students in the City of Rochester learn to read through weekly visits to John Williams School No. 5 as part of the READ: Hope in Action program. RIT volunteers visit every Friday during the academic year to work with students from pre-K programs to the third grade, providing mentorship opportunities and assistance in the classroom.

November 2017 marked the tenth anniversary of the Giant Read, the program's signature event.



More than 40 volunteers traveled to School No. 5 to read with the entire first grade class. At the end of the event, each child — many of whom have few books at home — received a book to encourage further reading.



3,000+ visitors/day
at RIT Libraries

RIT Libraries Named Academic Library of the Year

RIT Libraries was recognized with the region's Academic Library of the Year award in June 2018. The Rochester Regional Library Council (RRLC) determined the winners based on the quantity and enthusiasm of nominations submitted by library patrons in the five-county Rochester area. RIT students and faculty submitted comments commending RIT Libraries' supportive staff, collaborative learning spaces, and special collections. After reviewing more than 1,300 nominations for 73 libraries, the RRLC selected RIT as the winner in the academic category.

"If I ask our library staff for ideas, help, or answers, I am greeted with one word – 'Yes!'"

anonymous faculty nomination, Spring 2018

"I'm able to use the library for research, writing help, curating resources, studying design, relaxing and reading, job opportunities, and more. It's been a core element in my success at this university."

anonymous student nomination, Spring 2018

Redesigned Website Improves User Experience

RIT Libraries launched a new design of their website in January 2018 based on the results of usability studies conducted with students, faculty, and staff. The website was rearchitected to provide easier access to library resources, events, and frequently requested services, such as meeting with a librarian, reserving a study room, and borrowing a laptop. The mobile responsive design, streamlined navigation, and rewritten content improved patrons' experience from any device.

library.rit.edu



8,665 interlibrary loan requests
47,524 study room reservations
through RIT Libraries website



“Wallace Library has an amazing collection of books and periodicals. But more than that, the library staff are so helpful, knowledgeable, and kind.”

Les Laboueurs, Lyon: J.A. Henry, 1833
Cary Graphic Arts Collection

Extremely rare copy of the first "computer generated" book woven entirely in silk using a system of punch cards to program the weave patterns. Supports interdisciplinary study in printing, computer science, history, math, and English. Purchased with a \$25,000 grant from B.H. Breslauer Foundation.

J. Scott Patnode Shopping Bag Collection
Cary Graphic Arts Collection

Nearly 1,200 shopping bags from the 1960s to present, including designs by Andy Warhol, Yoko Ono, and Keith Haring. Supports the study of design and function in packaging design, hospitality, and visual arts.

Materials Library

Samples of physical materials used in design and construction, including wood, plastics, flooring, and fabrics. Enables hands-on research and exploration in programs such as architecture, interior design, and industrial design.

RIT Student Government Historical Materials
RIT Archives

Includes a sweater knitted by students to fit the bronze tiger statue located on the Quarter Mile. Dressing the statue during the winter has been a campus tradition since 2010.

Robert Panara Photos and Papers
RIT Archives

Documents the teaching and life of the first deaf faculty member at RIT/NTID.



J. Scott Patnode Shopping Bag Collection
Designs by Keith Haring and Andy Warhol



RIT Student Government
Historical materials
Knitted tiger sweater
Materials Library
Foams, wood, tile samples

Pronunciator

Language-learning application with courses in more than 80 languages, including American English as a Second Language for 50 non-English languages. Subscription supports international education and global programs.

Investext

Database of the latest financial analyst reports on companies and industries. Subscription supports entrepreneurship, marketing, and business research.

IEEE Explore

Full text of all active Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) standards, ensuring products, systems, and processes developed by engineering and computer science students meet minimum performance, safety, and compatibility requirements.

Frances Andreu
Digital Initiatives Librarian

Awarded Early Career Fellowship from Society for Scholarly Publishing. May 2018.

Presenter, "Up to Code: Systematically Evaluating and Standardizing Legacy Repository Content." Open Repositories Conference, Bozeman, MT. June 4-7, 2018.

Jennifer Freer Lara Nicosia
Business Librarian Liberal Arts Librarian

Co-Presenters, "Informed Leadership: Critically Thinking About News." Leadership Now, Rochester, NY. September 23, 2017.

Co-Presenters, "Rethinking LibGuides: Design, Content, Sustainability." SUNYLA Annual Conference, Canandaigua, NY. June 15, 2018.

Steven Galbraith
Curator, Cary Graphic Arts Collection

Presenter, "The King James Bible: Its Background, Creation and Influence." Invited Speaker.

The Smithsonian Associates. Washington, DC. March 17, 2018.

Presenter, "Virtual, Mechanical, Invisible, and Radical: Rochester Convergences Across Town and Across Disciplines." Annual Preconference of the Rare Books and Manuscripts Section, American Library Association. New Orleans, LA. June 21, 2018.

Amelia Hugill-Fontanel
Associate Curator, Cary Graphic Arts Collection

Co-Presenter, "15th c. Meets 21st c. Technology: Engaging 3D Printing & Letterpress Printing in Classroom Teaching." Graphic Communications Education Association. Toronto, Canada. July 17, 2017.

Presenter, "Typographic Realia: Cataloging and Connecting Wood and Metal Resources," TypeCon. Boston, MA. August 25, 2017.

Author, "Cipe: The Prototype." *Type Magazine*, no. 2, Spring 2018. St. Petersburg, FL. pp. 19-35.

Roman Koshykar
Computing and Information Sciences Librarian

Panelist, "Serving Different Populations." Transforming Libraries for Graduate Students Conference, Kennesaw, GA. March 22, 2018.

Sara May
Marketing and Communications Manager

Received PR Xchange Award: Materials Promoting Collections, Services, Resources. American Library Association. June 2018.

Susan Mee
Global and Online Learning Librarian

Co-Presenter, "Delivering a Collaborative Faculty Orientation to Off-Campus and International Campus Locations." 18th Distance Library Services Conference, San Antonio, TX. April 11-13, 2018.

Jennifer Roeszies
Information Delivery Services Technician

Presenter, "Using Twitter and Facebook to Promote the RIT Archive Collections." Museum Association of New York Conference, Rochester, NY. April 9, 2018.

Richard Palackas
Web Developer

Received M.S. in Computer Science, Rochester Institute of Technology. May 2018.

Becky Simmons Lauren Alberque
RIT Archivist Project Archivist

Contributing Authors, Jeannette Klute: *A Photographic Pioneer*. Rochester, NY: RIT Press, 2017.

Ella von Holtum
Assistant Archivist

Panelist, "Curating Midcentury Media." 8th William A. Kern Conference in Visual Communication, Rochester, NY. April 28, 2018.

support us

spaces
technology
collections

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.

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Discuss other giving options:
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R·I·T

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