

Library and Information Science Department Highlights

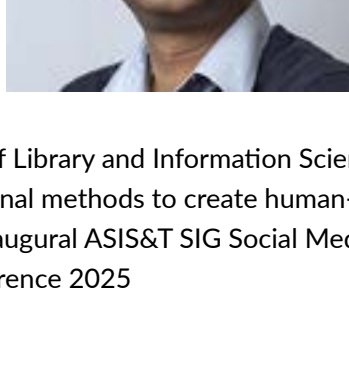
Chair's Note

It has been a busy and productive year for the Department of Library and Information Science (LIS) and iSchool at Rutgers. We are delighted to share highlights from across the department that reflect the energy, creativity, and accomplishments of our faculty, students, and programs. We also invite readers to explore our [latest LIS research and publications](#).

—Rebecca Reynolds, Chair and Associate Professor of Library and Information Science

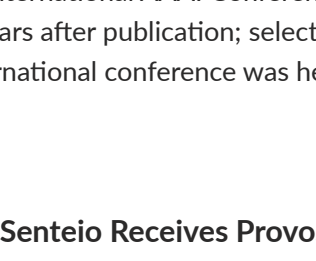
News

Vivek K. Singh Promoted to Professor of Library and Information Science



Vivek K. Singh has been promoted to Professor of Library and Information Science as of July 1, 2026. His interdisciplinary research combines social science and computational methods to create human-centered AI that improves well-being while ensuring privacy and fairness. He received the inaugural ASIS&T SIG Social Media Senior Researcher Award in 2024 and recently co-chaired the ACM Web Science Conference 2025

Shagun Jhaver Earns ICWSM Test of Time Award



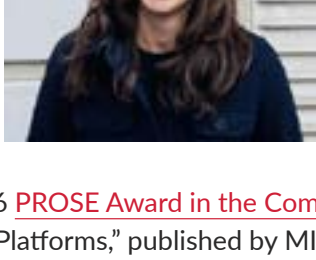
Assistant Professor Shagun Jhaver received the International AAAI Conference on Web and Social Media (ICWSM) Test of Time Award for a paper with lasting impact 10 years after publication; selected from more than 100 papers at ICWSM 2016, it has been cited nearly 300 times. The 20th international conference was held May 27-29, 2006, in Los Angeles.

Charles Senteio Receives Provost Award



Rutgers University–New Brunswick named Associate Professor Charles Senteio the 2026 recipient of the [Provost Award for Excellence in Community and Publicly Engaged Scholarship](#) for his work addressing health inequities through community-engaged research. He was honored at the Chancellor and Provost Celebration of Faculty Excellence on March 31, 2026.

Amelia Acker Earns PROSE Award



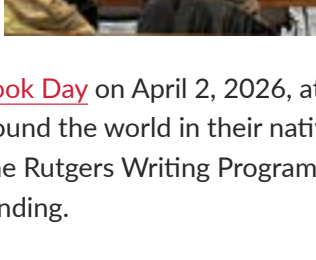
Associate Professor Amelia Acker received a 2026 [PROSE Award in the Computing and Information Sciences](#) category for her book "Archiving Machines: From Punch Cards to Platforms," published by MIT Press in November 2025. The award recognizes outstanding professional and scholarly works published in 2025.

Talks Spotlight Jessica Cheng's Research



Assistant Professor Jessica Yi-Yun Cheng delivered invited talks at National Taiwan University—"From [Animal Crossing to Someday or One Day: The Practice and Imagination of Provenance Metadata](#)" and "[Design, Implementation, and Challenges of Knowledge Organization Systems](#)"—highlighting the LIS Department's leadership in metadata and knowledge organization research.

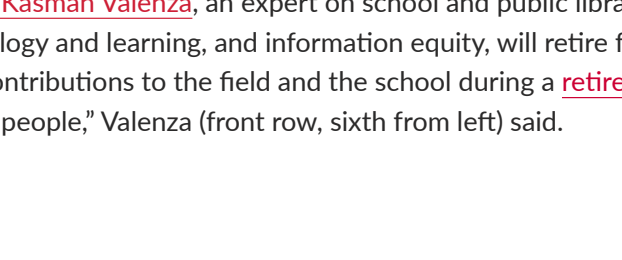
International Children's Book Day a Success



Rutgers celebrated the [International Children's Book Day](#) on April 2, 2026, at Alexander Library, where faculty, students, staff, and guests shared children's stories from around the world in their native languages. Organized by Associate Professor of Practice Marc Aronson and Arete Bouhlas of the Rutgers Writing Program, the event highlighted the power of children's literature to foster curiosity and cultural understanding.

Assistant Teaching Professor GoUn Kim is pictured.

Celebrating Joyce Valenza's Career



Associate Teaching Professor [Joyce Kasman Valenza](#), an expert on school and public libraries, search, youth information seeking, emerging literacies, technology and learning, and information equity, will retire from the LIS Department on July 1, 2026. SC&I honored her major contributions to the field and the school during a [retirement celebration](#) on May 13. "The heart of my career has always been people," Valenza (front row, sixth from left) said.

New Faculty

In fall 2025, we welcomed [four new faculty members](#): [Associate Professor Amelia Acker](#), [Assistant Professor Ali Motamedi](#), [Associate Teaching Professor Jon Oliver](#), and [Assistant Professor Robert Wolfe](#). In fall 2026, we look forward to welcoming two new tenure-track faculty, [Assistant Professor Jeanie Austin](#) and [Assistant Professor Ece Gumusel](#), and [Assistant Teaching Professor Jimmy Bruno](#), further strengthening the department's expertise in social justice, equity, privacy, and information



Amelia Acker



Ali Motamedi



Jon Oliver



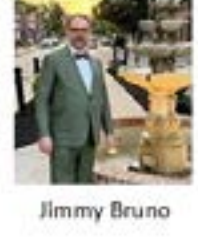
Robert Wolfe



Jeanie Austin



Ece Gumusel



Jimmy Bruno

Student Impact

Democracy Lab Summer Research Fellows



SC&I doctoral students Rachel M. Acosta, Sudhamshu Hosamane, Wenzhe Xu, S. M. Mehedi Zaman, and Yi Zhao received Rutgers Democracy Summer Research Fellowships. The inaugural program supports 25 doctorall projects across Rutgers–New Brunswick, Camden, and Newark on topics including deliberative dialogue, AI and democracy, and democratic innovation. [Read more.](#)

Master of Information Student Field Trip



Sixteen MI students, many from the Archives and Preservation Concentration and the student group SOURCE, traveled to Philadelphia in April of this year to tour [George Blood LP](#), a leading audiovisual and digital preservation vendor serving institutions such as the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), the American Archive of Public Broadcasting, and the New York Public Library.

Outreach & Engagement

Inaugural Mary Hay Glass Symposium



The LIS Department hosted its inaugural Mary Hay Glass Symposium on March 25, 2026, bringing together experts, students, and practitioners to explore pressing issues in health information, medical librarianship, and clinical practice.

Supported by a new endowed gift honoring alumna Mary Hay Glass MLS'50, the event highlighted evolving challenges in the health information landscape—including technological, social, and policy changes—while emphasizing collaboration, community engagement, and health equity. The symposium also underscored SC&I's growing leadership in health information research and education, including its Master of Information concentration in the field.

• [Read more.](#)

Scholarly Book Talk at Ph.D. Colloquium



The LIS Department spotlighted faculty scholarship at its April 8, 2026, Ph.D. Colloquium, where four faculty members—Associate Professor Amelia Acker, Professor Marija Dalbello, Associate Professor Britt Paris, and Distinguished Professor Emerita Carol C. Kuhlthau—presented their recently published books.

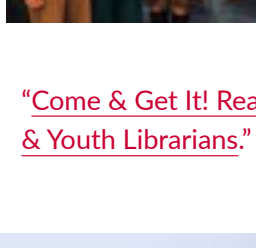
The event drew more than 60 attendees and highlighted how their research engages key questions in information and technology studies, with a particular focus on historically marginalized voices and evolving sociotechnical systems. The talks, followed by a Q&A, offered doctoral students valuable insight into scholarly inquiry, research design, and the lasting impact of academic work.

• [Read more.](#)

Conferences & Presentations

LIS faculty and students remained active in the broader profession, presenting at:

- [ASIS&T Annual Meeting](#) (Washington, DC, November 14-18, 2025)
- [iConference 2026](#) (Edinburgh, March 23-26, 2026)
- [2026 NJLA/NJASL Joint Conference](#) (Atlantic City, NJ, February 17-19, 2026)



At NJLA/NJASL, three 2025-2026 [Schoen Fellows](#)—Toni-Anne McDermott MI'27, Lauren Popp MI'26, and Kaylee Ruiz MI'26—joined Associate Teaching Professor [Brenda Boyer](#) (third from left) to share their presentation,

["Come & Get It! Ready-to-Use Resources for Busy School & Youth Librarians."](#)

Upcoming Events (2027)

Libraries in the Digital Age Conference



The [Call for Papers](#) for [LIDA 2027](#), May 19-21, 2027, in Šibenik, Croatia, is now open, inviting researchers and practitioners to join the conference's ongoing dialogue on libraries and the digital age. The two conference themes are Artificial Intelligence and Ethical Institutional Response and Emotion and Creativity.

Bologna Children's Book Fair



The [Bologna Children's Book Fair](#), to be held April 5–8, 2027, in Bologna, Italy, is a leading international event in children's publishing and rights exchange. Associate Professor Marc Aronson's "International K–12 Books" course typically offers students the option to travel to the fair.

iSchools iConference



The 22nd annual conference of the international iSchools organization will be held in Wellington, New Zealand, from April 59, 2027; the virtual program is scheduled for March 22-25. The 2027 iConference theme will be "He rā ki tua — Look positively toward the future." The [Call for Papers](#) is now open.