

# Developing Meaningful Connections to RU-N Undergraduates

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## Abstract:

Since 1966, the Institute has been a fixture on the RU-N campus, attracting scholars and jazz enthusiasts from around the world. We aspire to have meaningfully engaged with every undergraduate student graduating from RU-N and doing so requires a thoughtful and strategic approach to the different academic programs at the University. The goal of this capstone project is to design a program that engages undergraduate students in Arts, Culture, and Media with the collections at the IJS. I will measure the success of this program by relying on assessment methods used within RU Libraries including use of collections, gate counts, and number of reference interactions with the desired student population. By seeking to establish a formal offering to courses in the department in Arts, Culture, and Media, I will develop the relationships necessary to expand our outreach to the undergraduate students.

## Primary Stakeholders:

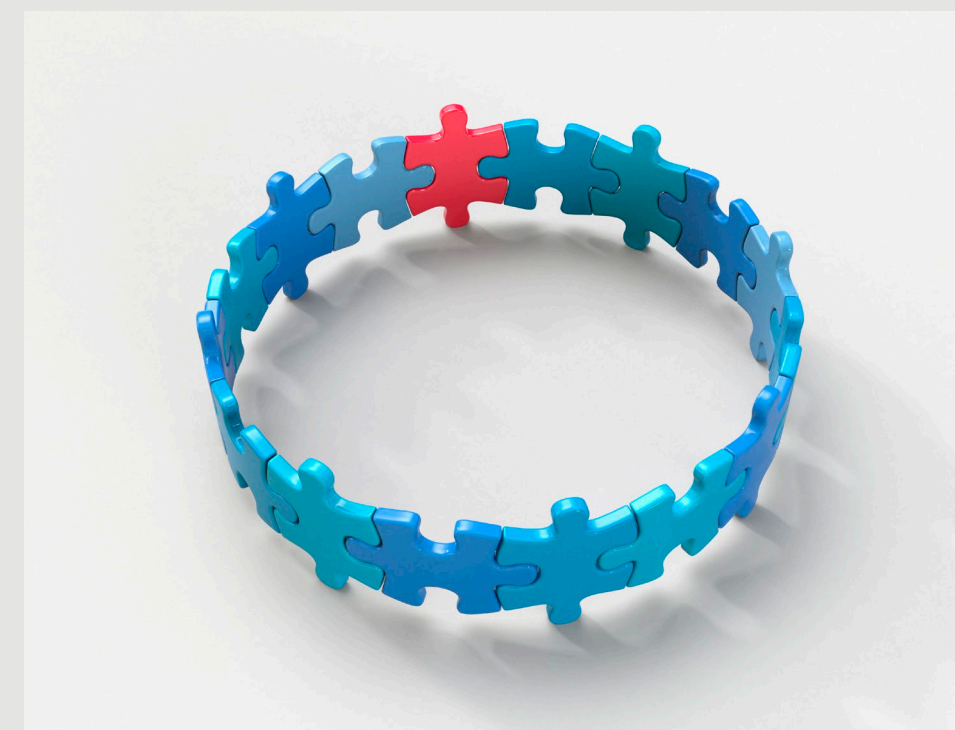
- IJS Archivists/Librarians
- Teaching faculty at ACM
- Undergraduate Students at RU-N

## Key Steps/Activities:

- Identify and connect with teaching faculty whose course subjects orbit the collections at the Institute.
- Share the project plan with the teaching faculty. Identify an activity that fulfills learning objectives for the course.
- Plan the visit/activity and select materials that will be used by the students in collaboration with the instructor and the archivists at IJS.
- Develop assessment tool to gather feedback from both the students and faculty member.
- Host the visit and deploy the assessment tool.
- Analyze review data
- Consult with sponsor on outcomes and next steps

## Effectiveness Measures:

- Increased use of collections by undergraduate students
- Increase in time spent assisting students on reference desk
- Attendance and rollout of end-of-semester showcase event



## Communication/Engagement:

- Work with Dana Library's PR team to share the work students are doing at IJS through social media channels and RU Library website
- Advertising through RU-Newark channels: campus calendars, student email blasts, etc.
- Reporting highlights of event and semester's work in annual reports and other RUL marketing materials.
- Communicating with stakeholders via email and in-person meetings

## Proposed Timeline:

- Oct/Nov: identify class and professor for project
- Jan: Work with professor to fold in archives use
- Feb/April: Host visit, work with students on projects and final presentation
- May: Assessment and planning next steps

## Current Status/Future Directions:

- This project will be piloted in fall 2023 to explore feasibility
- Feedback collected at the end of the pilot will be incorporated into an ongoing initiative to connect undergraduate students with archival materials at IJS.