I am the ninth editor of The Journal of the Rutgers University Libraries and have had the privilege of overseeing this seventy-fifth anniversary volume: Forms of Writing in Milton’s England. Each twenty-five year increment of the life of the Journal has been recognized. The Journal’s twenty-fifth anniversary was recognized in the XXVI:1 [26:1] (December, 1962) issue with articles by Donald Cameron, the university librarian and co-founder of the Rutgers University Press, and by the first editor of the Journal, Rudolf Kirk. The fiftieth anniversary in the XLIX:2 [49:2] (December, 1987) issue contained “Greetings from the President” by then Rutgers president Edward J. Bloustein, and an article by the editor of the Journal, Pamela Spence Richards. I am pleased that Rutgers’ new president (the twentieth), Dr. Robert L. Barchi, has written greetings for this seventy-fifth anniversary issue.

I believe my predecessors, especially the first five editors, who came from the English department at Rutgers, would enjoy this volume. Not only would they be pleased that the Journal has survived for seventy-five years, the previous editors would appreciate the fact that the original mission of the Journal, to disseminate scholarly information about Rutgers Libraries collections, is strongly represented here. Forms of Writing in Milton’s England evolved from an exhibition of material from Special Collections, John Milton and the Cultures of Print, on display at the Special Collections and University Archives Gallery at Rutgers University Libraries, from February 3 to May 31, 2011. The curator of the exhibition, Thomas Fulton, is the guest editor of this special issue. He has brought together a collection of exciting articles by several expert authors. The former Journal editors would particularly like the fact that two manuscripts in Special Collection are published here in transcription and reproduction for the first time: one is “A Dialogue between K[ing] J[ames] and K[ing] W[illiam]” by
Charles Blount (1654–1693) an imagined conversation between King James and King William, after the former fled to Ireland in response to the advance of the latter in a conflict known as the Glorious Revolution of 1688; and the other, an odd leaf of a manuscript, containing John Donne “Love’s Progress” conjoined with a bawdy alehouse poem identified as Matthew Mainwaring’s “Sonnet.” The two accompanying essays about these poems by Erin Kelly and Stephanie Hunt reflect upon the nature and purpose of the circulation of texts in printed and in manuscript formats in seventeenth-century England.

The Journal of the Rutgers University Library (as it was known until June 1976) made its proud début seventy-five years ago in December 1937, with welcoming remarks from Rutgers president (1932–1951), Robert C. Clothier (1885–1970) printed as the first article:

*It is gratifying to welcome this first issue of The Journal of the Rutgers University Library. Through the Journal we shall come to know our Library better. We shall “discover” the real treasures it holds. We shall understand better the great opportunities which lie before us.*

Rutgers, of course, was a very different university in 1937 from what it has become. Neither President Clothier nor anyone else connected with the university and the Library could have envisioned the “great opportunities” that lay before them. The Rutgers University annual report for 1937/38 states the enrollment for the entire university was 9,993 of which 2,428 were undergraduates at Rutgers College and the New Jersey College for Women, and the remainder were graduate students, mostly in education programs and various extension courses. The library held over 400,000 volumes and had 5,000 registered borrowers. In the beginning of the second decade of the twentieth-first century, Rutgers has more than 58,000 students, 43,380 undergraduates, and 14,800 graduate students located on three campuses in Camden, Newark and New Brunswick. The Libraries hold over 3.7 million volumes, 91,000 current electronic subscriptions and have 2.4 million building uses each year. The former editors might also be surprised their journal is still being published and simply astonished that the issues of the *Journal* are instantly available to the entire world though something called the Internet, even articles published in print long ago that have been digitized.
The first issue was published with 3,500 copies that were distributed to the Associated Friends of the Library of Rutgers University (established in May 21, 1937 largely to sponsor *The Journal* and to encourage donations of materials and cash to the library); members of the faculty; institutions (including 245 university and colleges, and public and private secondary schools); and alumni. The colored cover was done in Hammermill, Scarlet, 156. Soon after *The Journal* was published, it received what today would be exceedingly unusual attention in several important news outlets. In Philip Brooks' “Notes on Rare Books” in *The New York Times Book Review* in May 28, 1938, it was described as “one of the younger and brighter entrants in the field of college library
periodicals, having been born in December 1937." (p. F17); The Times Literary Supplement also acknowledged its existence in February 12, 1938, along with the New York Herald Tribune Books in January 11, 1942 in Lawrence C. Worth’s “Note for Bibliophiles.” Philip Brooks comes close to identifying an emergent genre, which I call the bibliographic journal published by libraries. This genre began in the early part of the twentieth century but flourished especially from the 1940s through the 1980s (see appendix). It probably grew out of the printed catalogs and new accessions lists that libraries published that sometimes included annotations. The annotations were transformed in these scholarly journals into separate essays on items of note (primarily rare books and manuscripts) from the publishing library’s collection. These journals expanded their scope with articles on more general issues on the history of the book and libraries, the book arts, and subjects that were strongly reflected in their collections. In the case of the Journal, this means New Jersey history, the history of Rutgers, and English and American literature and culture that are particular strengths in Rutgers Special Collections and University Archives.

The editors of the Journal had all been members of the Rutgers teaching faculty, until I—a member of the library faculty—assumed these duties in 1995. The first five were English professors, followed by professors in Journalism, History, and Library and Information Studies. The first editor (1937–1948) Rudolf Kirk (1898–1989) was also the chair of the English department at Rutgers. He and his wife Clara Marburg Kirk (1898–1979), a professor in the English department of the New Jersey College of Women (later Douglass College) were both scholars of William Dean Howells. They appeared to have had a remarkable relationship, having written and edited several books together as well as many articles in The Journal. They also had simultaneous Fulbright Scholarships to England. Clara seems to have been the more prolific scholar.

Kirk established the basic characteristics of The Journal: Two issues per volume published in December and June, with each issue usually running about 33 pages long. The first scope note appeared in v. III, no. 2 [3:2] (June, 1940): “Contributions of articles which are based on material in the Rutgers University Library will be gladly received by the Editors of The Journal.” This statement remains the core of the Journal’s mission as indicated in President Clothier’s comments on discovering the treasures of the library—although later editors broaden this scope, allowing in articles that
Figure 1.2  Rudolf Kirk, first editor of the Journal, December 1937–June 1948.
were not specifically or primarily based on materials from the library collection. Kirk saw *The Journal* through World War II, and the related hardships that faced Rutgers, without missing an issue.

A Byron scholar, Leslie A. Marchand (1900–1999) succeeded Kirk in 1948. He had Richard P. McCormick (1916–2006), then a new assistant professor of history, as his associate editor and Donald A. Sinclair, who had just joined the library as the head of the Special Collections department, as his assistant editor. They remained in these positions throughout Marchand’s tenure as editor, which ended with the June, 1957 issue. McCormick and Sinclair had been classmates at Rutgers College (class of 1938) and both went on to have a significant impact on the university and the library. McCormick was a professor of history, university historian, a scholar of American political history and New Jersey history, dean of Rutgers College as well as the father of Rutgers nineteenth president, Richard L. McCormick. Sinclair (1916–2004) developed the foundations of one of the great state historical collections in the nation. This was a distinguished editorial team.
In the first issue he edited (XII:1[12:1], December, 1948), Marchand wrote the lead article, “The Symington Collection,” describing probably the largest (10,000 manuscript items and a large number of printed materials) and certainly the most important literary collection that Rutgers Special Collections holds. Collected by J. Alexander Symington, an English librarian and bibliographic scholar, these original letters, essays, and drafts of literary works and printed items were by and about such authors as the Brontës, George Borrow, and most especially, Algernon Charles Swinburne and his circle. Other materials relate to the early nineteenth century and the mid-Victorians. Marchand was instrumental in acquiring the collections for the Library and gives in the following article a charming account of his first meeting with Symington at his Yorkshire home:

After dinner as the homemade Yorkshire pudding began to settle down comfortably in the stomach, with the English roast beef (one sometimes does not encounter it in that land of rationing—though he may have the guilty feeling that perhaps a month’s rations have gone into that one display of hospitality), Mr. Symington took me into his library and there turned me loose to browse at my leisure.9

One of the distinguishing features of Marchand’s editorship was his “Last Words,” a statement that ended each issue from 1948 to 1955. They were his personal remarks about the university, the libraries (especially the progress toward the building of the “Central Library,” later called the Archibald S. Alexander Library) and their collections, and about The Journal itself. One of these “Last Words” is devoted to genre of the library journal mentioned above. Here is his take on it:

The staple of most library journals . . . is the article based on some rare book or collection or group of manuscripts in what is frequently called the “Special Collections.” The descriptive articles on the Symington Collection, and the Gide and Swinburne letters in that collection in recent issues of the Rutgers Journal are representative. Another type of article to which this Journal has devoted a great deal of space since its beginning is the actual scholarly editing of unpublished manuscript material and letters in the
possession of the Library. It is the theory of the present editor that when this material is interesting enough in itself, and not so extensive or so important as to be better adaptable to book publication, it is the legitimate function of the Journal to give it to the public with sufficient notes and editorial commentary to show its proper significance.  

Arthur C. Young, who devoted much of his scholarly career to compiling and editing the letters of the English novelist George R. Gissing (1857–1903), was editor of the Journal from 1957 to 1969. Young continued it much as it had been under the two previous English professor editors. During his tenure, volume XXVI: 1 [26:1), December 1962 marked the twenty-fifth anniversary of The Journal. Donald F. Cameron, who was university librarian (1945–1966) at the time, wrote in the issue, “One of the policies of the Journal which has been followed almost without exception is that the sources of the articles are books, manuscripts, pamphlets, prints, and memorabilia already in possession of the Library. It was thought that many of our [Associated] friends [of the Library] were not aware of the diversity and rarity of many of our possessions, and, of course, it was confidently hoped that the interest would be stimulated to such an extent that they would feel inclined to add to these possessions.”

Oral S. Coad, a professor in the English department at The New Jersey College for Women (later Douglass College), who had been on the editorial board since the inception of the Journal in 1937, briefly succeeded Young as acting editor for one issue: XXX:1 [30:1] (1967). After his brief tenure as editor, Coad continued to author articles in the Journal. He is one of the Journal's most prolific authors, whose works included a series of articles on the history of the stage in New Brunswick, New Jersey; on descriptions of New Jersey locales in literature called “A pleasant Land to see”; on Walt Whitman letters in Rutgers’ Special Collections; and accounts of historic visitors to New Jersey, among other topics.

David J. Borrows, also a member of the English department at Douglass College, followed Coad as editor from 1967 to 1970. Unlike all the other editors, Borrows wrote only one article for the Journal. His scholarly output is characterized by editing and compiling several anthologies on various topics as well as casebooks on topics such as racism and alienation. He made no significant changes to the Journal, unlike the editors who succeeded him.
Richard Hixson, a professor of journalism at Rutgers, was editor from 1970 to 1974 (XXXIV–XXXVII) [v. 34, no. 1–37, no. 2]]. His interest in the history of journalism and printing is reflected in the many articles he wrote in the *Journal*. His scholarly books included these and other topics.\(^{13}\)

Hixson’s most radical change to the *Journal* was to change the traditional scarlet cover. From volumes XXXV [35] (1971) through XXXVII [37] (1974), he placed illustrations from Special Collections and University Archives on the cover with an accompanying “About the Cover” article on the back cover.

Figure 1.4 Cover of one of the issues by editor Richard Hixson displaying an illustration from Special Collections holdings.
After Hixson’s editorship ended, there were some changes to the Journal. What prompted these changes is not clear, but there is a hint in University Librarian Virginia P. Whitney’s 1974–1975 Annual Report. The report states that The Trustees Library Committee “investigated the status of the [Associated] Friends of the Rutgers University Library, and reorganized as the Friends of the University Libraries.... Under the reorganization The Journal of the Rutgers University Libraries will be produced by the Rutgers University Libraries and sponsored by the library’s budget.”

Figure 1.5 “About the Cover” featuring commentary on the illustration on the cover.
When v. 38:1 (June, 1976) was published after a year and a half hiatus, the cover reverted to the traditional scarlet color; the name had changed from The Journal of the Rutgers University Library to The Journal of the Rutgers University Libraries; and the publishing schedule had changed. The name change was actually rather late in coming because the Rutgers Library had already changed its name to the plural form in 1970. The publishing schedule of two issues of the journal also changed. Up to this point, the first issue was published in December and the second in June, so one volume covered two calendar years. From v. XXXVII:1 [38: 1] the first issue came out in June, thus one volume was published in one calendar year. With this issue, there was a new editor as well—John W. Osborne, a Rutgers University historian, first at University College in New Brunswick and later at the Newark campus. He was a William Cobbett (1763–1835) scholar and encouraged the library to increase its holdings of Cobbett materials. Osborne published several books. While he continued to publish articles related to the Rutgers’ collections, Osborne was also interested in more general scholarly debate and general discussion. This included in the second issue he published a debate on Liberalism vs. Conservatism, between Peter N. Stearns of Carnegie Mellon University with the liberal position, and Osborne who took the conservative point of view. He also introduced scholarly reviews of books not published by Rutgers University Press. Previously, only books from Rutgers Press (which began publishing at the same time the Journal was first published) were reviewed in the Journal.

Pamela Spence Richards (1941–1999), a professor of Library Studies, followed Osborne and was editor from 1980 to 1994 (LII-I–LVI:1 [v. 52, no. 1–v. 56, no. 1]). While continuing the journal’s general focus on bibliographic studies, book arts, history and literature, usually reflecting resources from the library, Richards brought new perspectives, reflecting her interests, academic background, and what was happening at Rutgers. Most prominently, she sought out articles that reflected the explosion of Women’s Studies at Rutgers during the 1980s and 1990s. Under her editorship, there were a series of articles on women, including transcriptions of nineteenth- and early twentieth-century diaries of New Jersey women; articles on the papers of feminists (Elizabeth Cady Stanton) and Congresswoman Mary Norton; and a special issue on the Dana Women’s Artists Series of exhibitions held in Douglass Library. She also published several articles on the history
and holdings of various libraries within the Rutgers library system, and articles about resources in the library on the Soviet Union, reflecting her interest in Russian Studies, her undergraduate major at Harvard.

I, Robert G. Sewell, am the current editor and the first editor from the Libraries, where I was the associate university librarian for collection development and management from 1989 to 2010. I became a member of Richards’s editorial board shortly after I arrived at Rutgers and Richards was on my board for a few years until her untimely death in 1999.

I have an academic background in Japanese and comparative literature as well as library science. During my tenure as editor (1995–present), I have made several changes to the Journal, primarily related to my preference for special theme issues—half of the volumes I have edited are special issues. They tend to be much longer than the issues of previous editors, often with one volume being more than twice as long as the two volumes (four issues) typical of the early years of the Journal. I believe, however, that each volume has a strong identity and makes an important contribution to scholarship.

During my tenure, the cover of the Journal changed its appearance. From 1997 to 2005, the Libraries adopted a newly minted logo, a figure that looked like the open pages of a book and was a light blue and white in color. This was short-lived because the university decided it needed to strengthen its overall identity by having all units use the official university logo; logos for individual units were discouraged. In the 2006/07 volume, the cover reverted to its traditional scarlet cover. The present volume combines two elements of the past, the scarlet color and, like Hixson’s brief innovation, illustrations from Special Collections, in this case, four portraits of John Milton.

The biggest change I made was in 2005 when I decided to make the Journal an open access journal, using the Open Journal System (OJS) software. While continuing with a printed edition, this innovation began with volume LXI [61] (2005). In the same year, we also placed all volumes, where there were still available electronic versions of the articles, on the OJS platform. In 2012, all the articles in the back files of the Journal were digitized and ingested into the OJS platform. Now the whole run from 1937 to the present and its full-text is searchable via Google, Google Scholar, and on the Journal site. The content of over 500 articles is
Figure 1.6 Cover displaying the Libraries' logo and a special issue by editor Robert G. Sewell.
readily available through the Internet. Now one can discover the rich histories of Rutgers, its libraries and New Jersey; articles on American and British history and literature; Japanese and Western cultural relations; the first English book on chocolate (The Indian Nectar, Discovering Chocolata [1662]); the historical role of libraries in scholarly communication; Abe Lincoln’s train ride through New Jersey on the way to his first inauguration in 1861; Rutgers troubled history with medical schools beginning in the eighteenth century; how books stop time, and many other unexpected treats. These seventy-five years of articles from The Journal of the Rutgers University Library(ies) offer a kind of roadmap to the Libraries and the university, aspects of development of humanities research collections, and trends in humanities scholarship at Rutgers and beyond. By pouring this wine into new bottles in making them available on the Internet, these articles are being rediscovered or discovered for the first time. Since the back issues have become available since late spring of 2012, overall views of the PDF articles are now approximately 1,000 per week. By the last week of September 2012, there have been over 80,000 views of articles.

Will the Journal last another twenty-five years to its one hundredth anniversary? That is difficult to say. While many bibliographic library journals have ceased in the last few decades, I feel there is still a place for the Journal. As Tom Fulton notes in his article in this volume, “One of the most exciting developments in the study of reading over the past twenty years has been a return to books themselves as evidence for the way in which people read.” Along with a reinvigorated interest in the history of the book at Rutgers and elsewhere, the Journal offers an important venue for articles reflecting these trends. But with the rapid transformation in technology, who knows what will happen to the genre of the academic journal itself? We at least have taken steps that have brought us strongly into the digital age.

Notes

1. A digital version of the exhibition is available at: http://www.libraries.rutgers.edu/rul/exhibits/milton.
3. The University Library, Report Submitted to the President of the
University and to the Board of Trustees, January 1, 1938 in Rutgers University Office of the University Librarian (George A. Osborn) Records (RG 40/A1/02) [hereafter cited as Osborn Records], Box 1.


5. Osborn Records, Box 4, folder 3


10. JRUL, XIV, no. 2 (June, 1951): 64.


12. Burrows books include The Son of Royal Langbrith edited with Ronald Bottesman and David J. Nordoh (Series: A Selected Edition of W.


14. RG40 Annual Reports, Box 2.

15. I have not been able to uncover the official rationale for the change of name but the last annual report prepared by University Librarian Roy L. Kidman for 1968–1969 was called “University Library Annual Report” whereas Virginia P. Whitney’s 1970-1971 report was entitled “University Libraries Annual Report.” RG40 Annual Reports, Box 1.


17. The printed version is distributed to major donors to the Libraries, to members of the University’s Administrative Council, selected New Jersey government officials, members of the New Jersey delegation in the U.S. Congress, to institutions that still want a copy in print for their libraries, and to other interested parties.

18. Rutgers Seminar in the History of the Book, an independent group of scholars devoted to research concerning the history of the book, was founded in 1997 and is still very active.
Appendix:
Selected List of Bibliographic Library Journals, Bulletins, Quarterlies, Chronicles, etc.

The Bodleian Quarterly Record. 1914–1938.
Bulletin of the John Rylands University Library of Manchester. 1972–.
Colby College Library Quarterly. 1943–1989.
Columbia Library Columns. 1951 to 1996. (http://library.columbia.edu/content/libraryweb/indiv/rbml/digitalcollections/columns.html)
The Library Chronicle of the University of Texas. 1944–1968.
The Library Chronicle of the University of Texas at Austin. 1970–1997.
Harvard Library Notes. 1920–1940.
Harvard Library Bulletin. 1947–.
The Huntington Library Quarterly. San Marino, California, Henry E. Huntington Library and Art Gallery. 1937–.


