Reference assistance included answering questions via email, phone and video conference. Questions were received not only by SMLR faculty and students, but also from the School of Criminal Justice, the School of Communication & Information, the Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy, and from Georgetown University’s Center for Public & Non-Profit Leadership. Inquiries ranged from remote access of materials to in-depth research topics such as child labor and journalism, union membership in the federal sector, and the conventions of the International Labour Organization during economic downturns.

Circulation and Interlibrary loan services resumed in August 2020 in coordination with RUL. The library saw usage for both internal Rutgers patrons, and external requests – with the library lending mostly to other institutions. Library materials were quarantined for 6 days per RUL policy.

The Rutgers University Libraries implemented a new Course Reserve procedure which required the library to learn new procedures and process requests internally, instead of by RUL staff. Most course reserves were streaming videos to accommodate both synchronous and asynchronous classes.
RESOURCES AT-A-GLANCE

SMLR Library resources includes a collection of books, periodicals, journals, & DVDs; as well as a variety of research guides, reading lists, databases, and archival materials.

COVID-19 Reading List
The reading list focused on in-depth articles providing an analysis on how COVID-19 has impacted labor relations and human resource management. The list was initially available on the library homepage and currently resides in the Labor Studies and Employment Relations LibGuide.

New E-Books Ordered - Per RUL's policy, only digital or electronic materials were accepted
- For the many: American feminists and the global fight for democratic equality by Dorothy Sue Cobble
- Front of the house, back of the house: race and inequality in the lives of restaurant workers by Eli Revelle Yano Wilson
- Putting their hands on race: Irish immigrant and Southern Black domestic workers by Danielle T. Phillips-Cunningham
- Strike for the Common Good: Fighting for the Future of Public Education
INFORMATION LITERACY

The Information Literacy Program provides students with the tools and resources necessary to navigate today’s world of information. The most popular session topics include searching library databases, evaluating information, creating citations, and avoiding plagiarism. Information literacy sessions were offered both asynchronously and synchronously for online classes, with an option for having a librarian embedded in the online course as well.

The following videos were created and shared in both synchronous and asynchronous courses:

- Academic Integrity @ Rutgers
- Academic Integrity for 201 & 202 Courses
- Brief Introduction to Evaluating Information
- Common Mistakes with a Summary Paper
- Company Research
- Compiling a Literature Review
- General Library Introduction
- Getting Industry Data
- Identifying and Finding Scholarly Articles in Academic Journals
- Identifying Trade Publications
- Strategic Research
- Understanding and Avoiding Plagiarism
- Using RefWorks

15 Sessions  
13 Synchronous  
2 Asynchronous  
4 Embedded
SPECIAL PROJECTS - HIGHLIGHTS

Curriculum Library for Employee Ownership (CLEO) – Over 30 new records were added into the CLEO database. Functionality continues to improve with added features and collections.

The Rutgers University Workers’ Compensation Research Collection (RUWoCo) – The database, compiled from the research of Monroe Berkowitz, James R. Chelius and John F. Burton, Jr., is now in the development phase where records are being entered and searching functionality is being tested.

National Film Preservation Foundation Grant – The Library, in collaboration with the Rutgers University Libraries, completed the digitization and preservation of the James B. Carey Collection of WFTU Home Movies: 1945-1948, documenting Carey’s travel in Europe and Soviet Union. The Library can begin planning public viewings of the films, as well as including their content into subject-appropriate courses being taught.

We the Owners – The Library manages the distribution rights of the documentary, after securing a new distributor, The Cinema Guild, in early 2020. The Library fields questions about the documentary, and manages the Facebook account.

NJSLA Anniversary Event – Planning the program and event for the 85th Anniversary Special Libraries Association, NJ Chapter was challenging due to the changing dynamics of the pandemic. The event was held virtually in September 2020. The Distinguished Member Award was given to Julie Peters for spearheading the event planning.
OUTREACH

The **Carey Library Research Minute** was launched in February 2021 as a means for SMLR faculty to stay connected while physically apart. Faculty research interests are shared in six issues across the spring and fall semesters. All issues can be found from the library’s homepage.

**Collaboration with Business Librarians** – The Rutgers University Library has a number of business librarians across all campuses. The SMLR Library is included in this group of librarians since many of the resources that are used overlap in subject area. Throughout the year, collaboration was conducted to assess available databases that could be cut due to the current budget restraints, as well as how to organize RUL resources optimally for students. It is a positive outcome that the SMLR Library is included in these conversations. Also worth noting, of the 4 business librarians, two of them are past assistants of the James B. Carey Library.

**Survey Results** – Before the fall 2020 semester, a survey seeking information from faculty was administered to gain more insight on how effective remote library services and resources were being delivered. 30 responses were received. 7 faculty requested a follow-up to be contacted with more information about remote services and resources. It can be concluded from the results that of those who responded, some were not completely aware of what the library had to offer, the role that the library could play in the overall success of the school, and how information literacy can impact all courses, not just those with writing assignments.

A future goal would be to create an annual survey of library services and resources in order to create a baseline assessment for further analysis.
LOOKING AHEAD – GOALS FOR 2021-2024

David Bensman Research Collection – Approximately 12 boxes of David Bensman’s research collection was donated by his family to the James B. Carey Library. In the upcoming year, the process to catalog the donation will begin, with the hope of creating the David Bensman Research Collection in a separate area of the Library.

LibGuides – There are currently 17 research guides managed by the Library. New general guides are being developed for Labor Relations and Employment Studies; and Human Resource Management. These two general guides will provide specifics on some of the more detailed topics, which will decrease the number of guides to manage, while also re-organizing and structuring the information contained within them to provide more functionality.

Labor Community Outreach – New partnerships with local labor communities can be established, offering educational opportunities on research and information literacy in a workplace context.

Archives – Archival collections are in need of processing, including both existing materials, as well as newly donated collections within the past few years. A dedicated library staff member responsible for the archival collection would help increase the visibility and usability of these unique collections.

Book Collection – The book collection needs a substantial improvement to stay up-to-date with current research and trends in both the labor studies and employment relations, and human resource management fields. Possible budget options and applicable grants will be explored.

Increased Visibility – Overall, placing the Library strategically within the overall structure of SMLR, would increase the visibility of the services and resources that the Library has available. Increased visibility can be applied to curriculum development in identifying available resources, an increase in information literacy sessions requested, and collaboration with the research centers would assist in centralizing some of the information outlets of the school.