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From the Dean..

Often, if I introduce myself outside the university and mention that I am the Dean of Libraries at Virginia Tech, the person I am talking with will say -usually a bit wistfully- “Oh you must love to read….”. I’m sure the wistful note is because my new friend is envying me a job that lets me sit in the midst of all the new wonderful books that have just been published as I read and absorb every word.

I do love to read. Even so, it seems that much of my reading right now is more often an article like The Impact on University Libraries of Changing Information Behavior Among Academic Researchers: A Multiple Case Study or a report like Studying Students: the Undergraduate Research Project at the University of Rochester. I read these kinds of materials because libraries are very much part of the change environment that characterizes higher education. The basics are the same—libraries build collections, provide services that assist our faculty and students in using the information resources we offer, develop comfortable learning spaces that that allow collaborative and individual study, and provide technologies that make it all work. The challenge is in understanding how to do all these old good things in new ways that reflect changes in user expectations, changes in research and publishing venues, and changes in how we teach and learn. So professional reading—reading that helps us know how others are meeting the same expectations, what others have tried that failed, what others tried that succeeded—is a very important underpinning for developing and doing the kinds of things you find in this annual report. In the Virginia Tech Libraries we all need to engage in lots of this kind of reading to deliver the resources and services that enhance our ability to support the University’s goals for Learning, Discovery, and Engagement plans.

I must admit though that many of the book titles on the cover caught my eye when I was looking through the New Materials list for the libraries at http://www.lib.vt.edu/services/newbooks/newbooks.php. Maybe I’ll check out a few before the summer is over.

As always I welcome your comments and thoughts on our annual report.

Eileen E. Hitchingham—Dean of Libraries hitch@vt.edu
Mission
The University Libraries at Virginia Tech provide and promote access to information resources for the achievement of the University’s objectives in teaching, learning, research, creativity, and community service.

We are dedicated to meeting the information, curricular and research needs of students, faculty, and staff of the Virginia Tech community, wherever located, in a manner that respects the diversity of community and ideas.

We provide selected services to a wider community of users.

Values
We are defined by our core commitment to the sharing of what humanity has discovered and thought. We value:

- **Information**, whose free flow throughout the university provides an accurate basis for its work
- **Ideas**, the university’s defining occupation
- **Knowledge**, which preserves the progress of past generations
- **Discovery**, which builds the future
- **Truth**, which guides our interactions with one another and with our public

Vision
We will be collaborative partners with members of the university community as we collectively work to position the university as a top-tier research institution. Wherever they are located, members of the Virginia Tech community will be supported by the library as they engage in research, as they share in quality learning experiences at the undergraduate and graduate levels, and as they work in transferring knowledge and expertise between the university and society.
Learning

Libraries Celebrate 3 Millionth Barcode

On December 3, 2007, the libraries celebrated a milestone in their growth by adding their three millionth bar-coded item, a 1798 edition of *The new art of cookery, according to the present practice: being a complete guide to all housekeepers, on a plan entirely new: consisting of thirty-eight chapters ....: with bills of fare for every month in the year, neatly and correctly printed* by Richard Briggs.

The volume is important for helping to trace the growth of indigenous cuisine among the settlers of the United States, and continues the libraries’ tradition of selecting books of historical value. The book was donated by the Peacock-Harper Culinary History Friends.

“The selection of this particular volume allows us to highlight our 3,000 volume Culinary History Collection as well as celebrate the inclusion of Special Collections items in the online catalog,” Aaron Purcell, director of special collections, said. “The three millionth barcode represents important progress for the library, including our ability to track many different kinds of items in our collection using the inventory control module of our new Millennium system,” Paul Metz, director of collection management, said.
Learning on Film: Gaskins gift expands DVD collection

A gift from Dr. Ray Allen Gaskins (VT alumnus ‘64, ‘72) has allowed the university libraries to greatly expand its DVD collections. A professor emeritus of math and statistics at Hampden-Sydney College, Dr. Gaskins is an avid movie buff, and has used his statistical skill to maintain his own database of timeless movies, based on relevant input factors like reviews. With this generous gift, Dr. Gaskins hopes that Virginia Tech’s film collection can become one of the largest in the mid-Atlantic region.

Films are such a great way to learn. Classic movies can tell us wonderful stories and also give us a glimpse of the past by providing the world view of the filmmaker of that period. Modern films help us to expand our horizons and experience cultures beyond our doorstep. It has been great working with Ray so that we can expand the collections for the entire Virginia Tech community.

An Extraordinary Assemblage

Historian and VT alumnus Robert Freis can often be seen working in the Special Collections reading room. An author and tour guide with Civil War Journey, Freis centers his research at Virginia Tech.

“Most of my research is conducted at a very fine archive, the Special Collections Department of the Carol M. Newman Library at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, Virginia. Within is an extraordinary assemblage of rare and valuable old books, many published over a century ago. These memoirs, narratives, articles and regimental histories are the foundation stones for any contemporary Civil War book, listed in the footnotes and bibliography,” Freis states on his website, www.civilwarjourney.com.

Above: Book truck of more than 250 DVD’s for the collections. Among the most checked out DVDs last year were Ken Burns JAZZ; the French film Amelie from Montmartre; and episodes of Seinfeld.
New Library Spaces Support Learning: Opening New (Old) Doors

Change may be the new constant for Newman Library. In the works for some time, the original doorways to Newman Library—closed for over thirty years—are going to reopen to welcome students returning to campus in Fall 2008. Very visible help desks and staff for checking out materials (Circulation) and getting information assistance (Reference) have been relocated to the second floor.

New study spaces, networked computers, a mixture of tables with good electrical access for laptops, and comfortable individual seating are available near the windows overlooking the Drillfield. More study tables are located in the center of the entry space. While the third and fifth floors of Newman are designated quiet floors, the second and fourth floors are arranged with the understanding that many students are now seeking places to work as teams or groups as they carry out their projects. By repurposing the second floor, we hope to make better use of the space and to consolidate services to offer a one stop location for assistance to those coming in the new main entry.

The fourth floor has an assistance desk too. Much of the science and technology collection is located on the fourth and fifth floors, and the site is on a major entry path for users coming across the Torgersen Bridge. Staff here will be able to help with using some of the specialized science and technology resources—in print and online—and also assist any users with questions about library locations and general services.

A Graduate Study Room was also opened on the fourth floor in January, with minimal publicity and fanfare. Even so, there were more than 5,500 visits noted for this popular location from January through June 2008. The space provides super views of Alumni Mall and the War Memorial Chapel.

Future gift support will allow us to turn these functional areas into even more attractive sites.
Computer Upgrades Encourage Student Inquiry

Much happens behind the scenes in the library to ensure that users have positive, productive experiences. Using web resources, accessing databases, checking out books, and virtual reference queries all rely upon a strong and efficient support system to provide excellent user access.

To enrich our technical support systems we need to know what users do and how they work. In last year’s survey of students (spring 2007) we asked the respondents to indicate what programs it might be useful to add to the more than 60 public user computers in Newman. At the time of the survey, most of the computers had local library programs that allowed Addison and database use and offered internet access. From the survey we learned that both graduate and undergraduate students would find it helpful to have word processing, presentation, and spreadsheet software available as they worked with the libraries information resources. We used this information about student needs to develop a successful proposal for the Parents Fund to add Microsoft products to our machines. Now students can interact more productively as they work with databases and article content—synthesizing the information they find and incorporating it into their papers and presentations.

Students Learn on the Job

Students are a very important part of the Library workforce. More than 178 students work at the Libraries over the course of a year. Their work hours equate to 34-36 FTE employees. You may see our excellent student staff at public information desks, helping you check out an item, reshelving materials, or assisting in library instruction classes. Some students get even more specialized experience while doing web work or programming with the Digital Library and Archives unit or learning preservation techniques for rare books in Special Collections.
**Into the Second Decade with ILLiad– the Interlibrary Loan Software Invented in the Virginia Tech Libraries**

Interlibrary Loan is a process by which libraries lend and borrow materials to and from each other to so that their users have access to a wider pool of information resources than those that are held locally. Since no library has all the materials that a researcher may need, it is an extremely important method for ensuring that Virginia Tech can carry out its research initiatives.

Virginia Tech’s Interlibrary Loan unit is recognized nationally as a leading innovator in the application of information technology to improve library services. The unit developed software (ILLiad) to improve the interloan process in 1997. ILLiad was wildly successful— not only here at VT but in libraries across the US and around the world. More than 75% of the members libraries in the Association of Research Libraries are ILLiad users. Today, 1,046 libraries across the globe process their interloans by using ILLiad to improve services to their users.

The local VT community continues to benefit from the invention of ILLiad. Each year the interloan unit surveys the Virginia Tech users who have requested that we get materials for them. Previous surveys have focused on our extended campus users—i.e., Virginia Tech faculty, students or staff who live outside the counties of Montgomery, Giles, or Pulaski. This year the unit also surveyed VT interloan customers who reside more locally. Both groups— near or far—give good grades to the ILLiad service, with 99% of the extended campus respondents saying that the ILLiad service was good or excellent, and 98% of our local users saying they found the service to be good or excellent.

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**Discovery**

**Doing the Numbers for Interlibrary Loan in 2007/2008**

| 1,168 The number of libraries VT borrowed from, in the US and abroad |
| 1,685 The number of libraries that VT sent materials to (23 US states, Canada, France, and Switzerland) |

**Virginia Tech Interloan borrowed items for:**
- 667 Faculty
- 1,766 Graduate Students
- 575 Undergraduates

| 20,393 Items borrowed for VT users |
| 20,740 Items provided by VT for other libraries |

**What we delivered to our extended campus users who can’t get to the Blacksburg libraries:**
- 3,922 Books from VT's Blacksburg libraries
- 2,243 Books borrowed from other libraries
- 2,904 Articles from VT's Blacksburg libraries

| 2,641 Articles obtained from other libraries |
| 11,710 Total for extended campus. (Extended campus users also get direct access to the online resources of the Library) |
Charles Minor’s Civil War Diary Now in Special Collections

A diary kept by the university’s first president, Charles Landon Carter Minor, is a new addition to Special collections. During the Civil War Minor served as a captain for the Confederacy, and this diary served as his account book from November 1860 to May 1864. In addition to his detailed expense log, he also made a list of his wife’s wedding presents and lists many cavalry expenses such as those for a sword belt, gun sling, and horse-shoeing.

On May 25th, 1864, the diary was acquired by Union soldier and musician Edward P. Harmon, who inscribed “Taken from the trunk of at Rebel Captain at Hewlett’s Station on the Virginia Central Railroad, May 25th 1864”. Harmon then used the diary as his own record book writing about his experiences at the Battle of the Wilderness, Spotsylvania, North Anna River, and Cold Harbor.

Records from Minor’s presidency at Virginia Tech were destroyed in a fire, so this diary serves as a major link to the university’s first leader. It is also a remarkable specimen of Civil War history from both the Confederate and Union perspectives. We are able to enrich our Civil War materials in Special Collections through the support of endowed gifts from bequests (Josh Billings) and private foundations (George R. Wallace Foundation)

In November of 2007 we welcomed Dr. Aaron Purcell to the University Libraries to serve as Director of Special Collections. For several years Special Collections has been part of the Digital Library and Archives. With this year we have organized the two as separate but closely affiliated units, since the work of 21st century special collections units in research libraries now involves a good mix of traditional and digital representations of sources to make them more accessible to a worldwide scholarly community.
Discovery

Preserving the Legacy of Women Who Designed Our World

One of the Libraries’ major collections, the Archives of the International Archive of Women in Architecture, was featured in a special publication of the Association of Research Libraries, *Celebrating Research: Rare and Special Collections from the Membership of the Association of Research Libraries*. The IAWA is a shared partnership between the IAWA Center in the School of Architecture of the College of Architecture and Urban Studies and the Special Collections of the University Libraries.

Established in 1985, the purpose of the IAWA is to document the history of women's involvement in architecture by acquiring, preserving, storing, and making available to researchers the professional papers of women architects, landscape architects, designers, architectural historians and critics, urban planners, and the records of women's architectural organizations. The Libraries IAWA collections include more than 1200 cubic feet of materials. Many of the resources are visually available to scholars from around the world via the Imagebase (http://imagebase.lib.vt.edu/) established and maintained by the Libraries’ Digital Library and Archives unit.

Left: Alford residence (later purchased by Richard M. Nixon), Eleanore Pettersen; Center: Bay Club at Yerba Buena Gardens, Beverley A. Willis; Right: Amagansett House, Susana Torre
Off the Shelf and Onto the Screen: Earlier Bound Theses and Dissertations are Digitized

Virginia Tech was the first university to require that all theses and dissertations be submitted in an electronic format. Since 1997 more than 10,000 electronic theses or dissertations have been made available by the Libraries Digital Library and Archives (DLA) unit and the Graduate School.

As the graph here notes, more than 6000 of these materials are accessible to anyone from around the world (Blue line). Some materials are accessible to the VT community only (Red line). Some authors sequester their documents for a period of time and then may make them accessible later (Green line). A few documents have parts that are accessible and parts that are not (Yellow line). Most of the sequestering occurs because of patent or publishing stipulations.

Access to Virginia Tech’s research publications enhances the University’s global reputation. DLA is now going back and digitizing earlier materials as they are requested and used in hard-copy. More than 1000 of these older items are available now in digital format on the Virginia Tech network for VT users. In the May 2008 issue of the VT Magazine Virginia Tech alumni were urged to contact the library if they wished to have their thesis or dissertation added to the digitization queue.
Faculty Development Institute for Library Faculty

The ability to adapt to change is a constant when you want to stay on top of providing good library services. Keeping up with new technologies and new teaching methods allows the library staff to offer new services and new ways to access information.

This year we were extremely pleased to be included as participants in the university’s award winning Faculty Development Institute (FDI). Initiated in 1993 FDI is a program to provide a systematic approach to the effective integration of current trends and technologies into teaching, learning, and research at Virginia Tech. The FDI component centers on teaching faculty how to effectively and efficiently integrate technology into their teaching and research activities.

Over a period of three months eight library faculty—Annette Bailey, Ellen Krupar, Ed Lener, Carolyn Meier, Lesley Moyo, Bruce Pencek, Connie Stovall, Philip Young—immersed themselves in courses that updated their skills or provided an opportunity to develop new ones. Taking a mix of required and elective sessions, the participating librarians now have a better understanding of areas such as:

- Campus Instructional Resources
- Computer Security
- How things look on the other side of the podium—(student panel discussion)
- Copyright and Open Access
- Media Repositories
- Podcasting
- Second Life

Upon “graduation” from the courses each participant was given an updated laptop so they can put what they learned to practice. We look forward to continuing this collaboration, and over the period of four years will be able to rotate all library faculty through the program, and then begin the cycle again, with the original participants.
**Notable New Databases for the Year**

*Safari Books Online*—Technically this isn’t really a new database. Last year we had approximately 900 Safari books online and they were extremely popular. This year, through the joint purchase of our VIVA consortium (virtual Library of Virginia) all of the Virginia Tech community has access to almost 6,000 books from Safari. Content includes things like graphic design, Linux, programming, and the always popular *...for Dummies* series.

On another note you can check out the *Classical Music Library*—You don’t have to be a music major to love this new database. It provides online listening access to thousands of classical music recordings, from the earliest Gregorian chant to modern works.

**Faculty Honored at 3rd Annual Faculty Authors Day**

One of our most anticipated events in the library year is the Faculty Authors Day, which is sponsored by the Libraries, the Office of Research, and the Provost’s Office. Discovery and *dissemination* of new knowledge is central to the university’s mission. On February 28, 2008 we celebrated the successes of those faculty who put the reality behind the university's mission statement by disseminating their research through the publication of a book in 2006 or 2007. We like to think that the Libraries have played some small part in assisting them in their work.
Engagement

New Students and Their Parents

The library has been part of the orientation sessions offered each summer for students who will begin as freshmen in the fall. Part of the engagement process is to have some useful handouts that will catch the eye, and remain visible. For several years the library has developed calendars to paste on laptops or monitors.

For students we hand out calendars to let them know about our ?Ask a Librarian service which provides live chat access so the student can get help wherever she is located.

For parents we have even more important information. Their calendar blocks off the holidays during the term so parents can know when to “clear the washer and stock the pantry”.

Outstanding Colleagues in the Libraries: Recognition Award Recipients for 2007-2008

Each year the library seeks nominations to recognize staff and faculty for their contributions to the workplace. Whether behind the scenes or at the front lines and desks of service delivery, each person plays an integral role in helping the library fulfill its mission.

The staff named for the awards this year have very different responsibilities, but all share the qualities of independence, leadership, creativity, and innovation.

Congratulations to :Annette Bailey, Digital Assets Librarian; Ed Brooks, Maps and Geographic Information Systems Assistant; and Gail Dalton, Head of Serials.
April 16th Archive of Condolences Moving to Special Collections

The library’s April 16th Archive is a representative selection of the materials—cards, letters, posters, banners and other artifacts - that people from around the world sent to the university as condolence messages after the April 16th shootings. Some materials sent to campus departments are also included. They will move from their initial work location at the Corporate Research Center to the space vacated by Circulation’s move to the second floor. This space is next to Special Collections on the lower level, and it will allow storage and continuing the work of cataloging and digitizing materials.

Although the digital representations so far has been hosted on a computer at Rutgers University, the library will be establishing a local site for the digital materials in the future.

Tamara Kennelly, Associate Professor in Special Collections has coordinated much of the initial work of selecting, sorting, and organizing. As the collection moves into the Special Collections unit in Newman there is still a significant amount of processing to be carried out. These responsibilities will be shared across Special Collections staff.

Above: More than 60,000 paper cranes were sent as consolation messages.
Art Meets Function at the Art and Architecture Library

The newest work of art at the recently relocated Art & Architecture Library is not hanging on the wall or sitting on a pedestal—it’s the Circulation desk. Designed and built by Tim Castine, VT alumnus and former instructor in the School of Architecture, the desk is a true labor of love and the result of thousands of hours of work. It is constructed from Douglas fir, maple, sycamore, poured concrete, leather and steel.

Materials for the desk were purchased with funds from the Library’s Preston H. and Jane P. Andrews Endowment.

The workflow of a circulation desk is unique and specific. Castine took the time to design an artful desk and one that truly suits the needs of the library. For example, to cushion the books coming back in the concrete book drop, a leather sling for catching returned items was incorporated into the plan.

Castine was assisted by students Mark Delissio, Scott Dansereau, David Smith, Obi Elechi, and Jeff Franklin.
Helping to Invent the Future

For the last several years we have had regular increments of state funds for the Library. However, our growth rate is not yet great enough to move our budget to the goal stated for the Libraries in the University’s Strategic Plan. The Plan notes a performance measure for the Library of funding at the 30th percentile of the Virginia State Council for Higher Education (SCHEV) peers.

The SCHEV peers include a list of 24 schools which have been negotiated between the university and SCHEV as a peer group. There is a goal to raise Virginia Tech faculty salaries to the 60th percentile of the peers. The goal for the Library is much more modest– to see Library funding at the 30th percentile of peers.

From the chart it can be seen that the library still has significant ground to cover in order to reach that goal. Yet, despite the challenge, we deliver more than 2 million information items to our users each year, are upgrading our facilities, enhancing our collections, and preserving our past in special collections.

An excellent university needs the support of an excellent library, and our progress to date has made this much clear -- an excellent library can only grow with private support. The Campaign for Virginia Tech: Invent the Future can make that possible.

To support the Library you can contact Doug Seaman, Library Development Officer at dwseaman@vt.edu OR 540-231-1886

or use the form at the Campaign for Virginia Tech site  https://webapps.banner.vt.edu/giving/academic_index.jsp
ASCHMANN, Althea

BAILEY, Annette


DUBNJAKOVIC, Ana

EATON, Marion
**FINN, Mary**


**GENDRON, Heather**

Gendron, H. (2008, May) *We have e-journals too!* Poster presentation at the meeting of the Art Libraries Society of North America, Denver, CO.

**GOLDBECK, Kyrille**


HOVER, Paul L.


KENNELLY, Tamara

KOK, Victoria T.

KRIZ, Harry M.

KRUPAR, Ellen

Krupar E. (2007, May). They are phishing for your data. Presentation at the annual meeting of the Virginia Library Association Paraprofessional Forum, Richmond, VA.

LENER, Ed

MCMILLAN, Gail


MEIER, Carolyn


MERRILL, Margaret

PENCEK, Bruce


PURCELL, Aaron D.


STOVALL, Connie


YOUNG, Philip


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