

Key Accomplishments

University Libraries at Virginia Tech continued its commitment to advancing the university's mission through research, teaching, and engagement. Guided by our 2020–2025 Strategic Plan and aligned with the Virginia Tech Advantage and Virginia Tech Global Distinction presidential priorities, we have reduced barriers for students through affordability and experiential learning, and elevated Virginia Tech's global reputation through impactful research, scholarship, and partnerships. The following report summarizes University Libraries' activities, accomplishments, and future goals aligned with our strategic objectives.

Goal 1: Advance Regional, National, and Global Impact

1.1 Strengthen Collaborative and Multidisciplinary Research

University Libraries expanded its research and scholarship collaborations across the university and beyond.

Data Services openly published 306 research datasets, a 34 percent increase from last year, making scholarship more widely available. Users downloaded openly published datasets more than 152,000 times, showing strong national and international interest in Virginia Tech research.

High-profile projects such as the [NSF COMPASS Center](#) (\$18M), the [NEH Dangerous Harbors project](#) (\$350K), the Centaurus Project with Pacific Northwest National Labs, and the Center for Sustainable Engagement in the Arctic showcased the team's expertise in data curation, data management, open data publishing, and multi-institutional collaborative scholarship.

The **Research Impact & Intelligence (RII)** team provided intelligence and analytical reports to seven Destination Area 2.0 proposal teams, increasing support by 29 percent. These reports highlighted funding opportunities, competitor benchmarking, and potential collaborators, giving Virginia Tech researchers actionable insights to secure external funding and elevate the university's research reputation. The team published a peer-reviewed conference proceeding on this innovative service.

Evidence Synthesis Services increased consultations by 250 percent, from 150+ in FY24 to 388 in FY25, demonstrating growing demand. The team co-authored [international guidelines on systematic review methods](#) and contributed to 22 in-progress systematic reviews. Their global collaborations with institutions in the U.S., Canada, the United Kingdom, and Nigeria underscore University Libraries' leadership in this field.

Special Collections and University Archives (SCUA) added 176 new collections, including the historically significant [Wharton-Radford Papers \(1783–1906\)](#) and correspondence from poet Nikki Giovanni. Digital donations rose by 130 percent, increasing access to rare and unique materials.

1.2 Strengthen Teaching and Learning

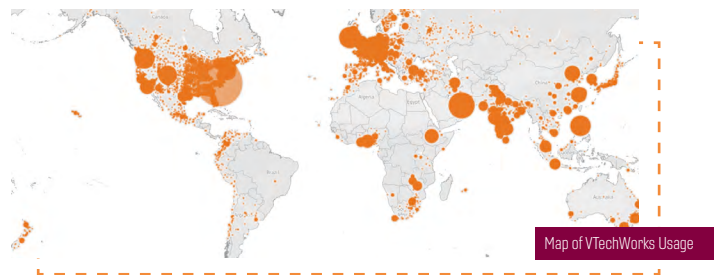
Libraries faculty partnered with instructors across the university to integrate [open educational resources \(OER\)](#) into their curriculum. The [Open Education Initiative](#) saved students \$1.18 million in textbook costs this year, with 71 courses adopting OER and benefiting 13,497 students. The work of the library's Open Education Initiative represents the library's commitment to affordability and access.

The **Collections Department** supported student learning by selecting 91 perpetual access e-books aligned with course syllabi, saving students an additional \$92,308. These materials remain available for future cohorts, ensuring lasting impact.

Teaching & Learning Engagement (T&LE) reached more than 5,000 students through digital literacy activities. The [EDUCAUSE Horizon Report](#) highlighted the library's pop-up sessions on AI literacy, digital privacy, and fact-checking as models of excellence for preparing students for the digital age.

The **Undergraduate Research Initiatives program** embedded Advanced Research Skills workshops into 14 courses and programs, reaching 211 students. In addition, the team piloted a new UNIV 2984 course for First-Generation students, providing transcriptable experiential learning and tailored research training.

1.3 Strengthen Support to Increase Institutional Impact and Visibility



University Libraries played a pivotal role in raising the visibility of Virginia Tech's scholarship. [VTechWorks](#), the institutional repository, added 15,400 items and received more than 2.5 million views, expanding the reach of Virginia Tech research to global audiences.

The Research Impact team advanced accuracy in Virginia Tech research faculty profiles by reconciling Scopus IDs, ensuring complete capture of faculty publications. This work supports university rankings and increases the university's standing in major evaluative systems.

University Libraries maintained 19 Read & Publish agreements, enabling faculty to publish openly at reduced or no cost. Although the Open Access Subvention Fund closed, University Libraries redirected resources to more sustainable models that continue to support faculty scholarship.

**VIRGINIA TECH
PUBLISHING**

 **VIRGINIA TECH
PRESS**

Virginia Tech Publishing announced its expansion to Virginia Tech Publishing & Press. University Libraries became an affiliate member of the [Association of University Presses](#). The application underwent a three-part review, including the standards committee, the board of directors, and the members at large. This affiliate membership in AUPresses represented a critical step toward establishing Virginia Tech Press.

Goal 2: Elevate the Ut Prosim (That I May Serve) Difference

2.1 Increase Access and Inclusion to Nurture Learning and Growth

The Library deepened its commitment to the university's [Principles of Community](#) in collections and services.

The Collections Department expanded Spanish-language and Indigenous resources, hosted an Indigenous Book Fair, and added Latino Book Review to its holdings. These initiatives enriched cultural representation and provided broader access to different perspectives.

Teaching & Learning Engagement hosted its [4th APIDA Book Fair](#) for the Virginia Tech community, blending nostalgic elements of elementary school fairs with cultural representation. Attended by 95 participants, the event fostered community connections and promoted learning.

2.2 Support Access to Resources and Programs

Accessibility remained a core priority. The University Libraries achieved 100 percent ADA §508 compliance for Open Educational Resources and VTechWorks videos, ensuring all students and scholars can engage with materials regardless of ability. Faculty across the library served on university-wide accessibility working groups to ensure access to resources for all.

Goal 3: Be a Destination for Talent

3.1 Attract, Retain, and Develop Library Faculty and Staff

Faculty and staff actively pursued professional development and recognition this year. Across divisions, 99 professional development activities were completed, including leadership training, Association of Research Libraries (ARL) workshops, Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition (SPARC) advocacy, and global conferences.

Individual achievements highlight University Libraries' talent. For example, Inga Haugen was inducted into the Bouchet Graduate Honor Society for her research excellence, and Wen Nie Ng received the CALA President's Recognition Award for service to the Chinese American Librarians Association.

3.2 Provide State-of-the-art Collections, Spaces, Learning Opportunities, and Research Expertise

University Libraries introduced new spaces that empower student learning. The Library opened the [Gaming Studio](#), a creative environment where students explore game design and industry connections. The [branch library in Academic Building One, Alexandria, Virginia](#), began serving students in the Washington, D.C. metro area, ensuring their access to all University Libraries' resources and services while providing collaborative spaces for study and teamwork.

Special Collections and University Archives launched new internships in Exhibits, Oral History, Digital Forensics, and Design Records, offering students professional training experiences that prepare them for careers in archives and libraries.

The Studios and Prototyping Lab supported 2,729 student projects this year and managed 13,529 technology loans, from virtual reality headsets to sewing machines. These spaces provided critical hands-on learning opportunities and fostered innovation.

Goal 4: Ensure Institutional Excellence

4.1 Optimize Organizational Efficiency and Effectiveness

University Libraries' modernized infrastructure and streamlined workflows. The successful migration to Alma/Primo provided a unified library services platform that improves discovery and efficiency.

Information Technology Operations completed a major infrastructure shift, migrating 52 servers from VMware to Hyper-V, saving costs and improving resilience. University Libraries acquired access to CELUS Plus to manage usage statistics. This platform enabled data-driven assessment of collections, helping guide licensing negotiations and ensuring value in subscriptions.

4.2 Strengthen Strategic Initiatives and Partnerships

University Libraries expanded its local and global partnerships. Collaborations included agricultural engagement with USAID, 3D modeling with the Bechtler Museum of Modern Art, and expanded services with Children's National Hospital in Washington, D.C.

Evidence Synthesis Services co-founded the international Library Evidence Synthesis Services Symposium (LESSS), positioning Virginia Tech as a global leader.

Faculty in Academic and Creative Engagement engaged in immersive environments research in Belgium and France, building international networks for storytelling and cultural preservation.

4.3 Improve Processes and Communications

The Virginia Tech Experts portal was refreshed with new visuals and improved navigation, increasing faculty engagement and visibility.

Outreach events, such as the Vendor Visit Series and the Connecting the Open Forums, brought together university-wide faculty and staff to learn about open access, publishing, and resource discovery.

University Libraries launched a Research Services monthly newsletter to share information about library workshops, expertise, programs, and services with Virginia Tech faculty, researchers, and graduate students. The audience of this subscription-based newsletter increased from 250 recipients in August 2024 to 460 in July 2025 and continues to grow.

Looking Ahead to FY26

Looking forward, the University Libraries will continue its commitment to student success and its work toward raising the global profile of Virginia Tech through:

- **Publish** the first book title under the new Virginia Tech Press imprint
- **Expand** AI-driven services, including pilots in Alma/Primo (the online library catalog) and digital library text-extraction workflows
- **Enhance** affordability initiatives, targeting \$1 million in annual student savings through Open Educational Resources
- **Grow** experiential learning, with expanded internships, library studio incubator programs, and new undergraduate research credentials
- **Strengthen** partnerships, building collaborations in evidence synthesis, immersive environments research, and AI literacy

Resource Reinvestment/Reallocation Plans for FY26

Health Sciences Libraries

- **Reallocation of staff position** line to expand services at the Fralin Biomedical Research Institute and Health Sciences & Technology Library.
- **Global Distinction:** Increased research services capacity for labs and health sciences collaborations.
- **Virginia Tech Advantage:** Expansion of affordable services like poster printing and improved access to resources for students and postdocs.

Evidence Synthesis Services

- **Reallocation of two faculty position lines** to expand capacity for evidence synthesis services.
- **Global Distinction:** Builds capacity to meet international demand for co-authorship and high-impact reviews.
- **Virginia Tech Advantage:** Supports student experiential learning with mentored roles in systematic review projects.

Systems and Infrastructure

- **Migration from VMware to Hyper-V** and development of new on-premises storage solutions as VMware licensing becomes unsustainable.
- **Global Distinction:** Ensures high-performance and secure infrastructure for research data and AI projects.
- **Virginia Tech Advantage:** Cost savings will be used to enhance student technology access and support library operations.

Student Employee Initiatives

- **Conversion of student jobs into higher-level internships/fellowships.**
- **Virginia Tech Advantage:** Provides structured, transcriptable experiential learning, research training, and career-readiness skill development.



IN CONCLUSION

In FY25, University Libraries reduced barriers to education, expanded experiential learning opportunities, and empowered faculty and students to achieve their goals. University Libraries strengthened the university's global reputation with research support, open access publishing, research impact support, international partnerships, and innovative infrastructure.

As we embark on fulfilling our goals that align with university priorities and our newly written 2025-2030 strategic plan, University Libraries will continue its work as a university partner for affordability, innovation, accessibility, and global impact.

2024-2025

BY THE NUMBERS

Scholarly Communications and Collections

	FY24	FY25	PERCENTAGE
LIBRARY COLLECTIONS USAGE (JUL-DEC):	8,179,318	9,598,650	+17.3%
STUDENT SAVINGS FROM OER:	\$928,000	\$1,188,965	+28.1%
PERPETUAL ACCESS E-BOOK SAVINGS:	\$68,626	\$92,308	+34.5%
OER COURSE ADOPTIONS:	62	71	+14.5%
STUDENTS USING OER:	12,250	13,497	+10.2%
REPOSITORY DEPOSITS (VTW):	5,238	15,400	+194%
INSTRUCTIONAL SESSIONS:	185	209	+13%
INSTRUCTIONAL ATTENDEES:	3,950	4,439	+12%
RESEARCH CONSULTATIONS:	1,422	1,677	+18%
REFERENCE QUESTIONS:	2,060	2,238	+9%
WORKS OF SCHOLARSHIP:	27	33	+22%
GRANT PROPOSALS SUBMITTED:	3	4	+33%
GRANT AWARDS:	4 (\$65,000)	5 (\$79,288)	+25%
WORKSHOPS/CLASSES:	86 (1,540 attendees)	94 (1,769 attendees)	+9%
RESEARCH CONSULTATIONS:	780	879	+13%
REFERENCE REQUESTS:	1,210	1,354	+12%

Archives & Technology Services (ATS)

*Special Collections and University Archives (SCUA)

	FY24	FY25	PERCENTAGE
DIGITAL LIBRARY ITEMS INGESTED:	3,844	19,227	+399%
SCUA ONLINE ITEMS ADDED	5,200	17,520	+237%
SCUA VISITORS:	330	473	+43%
SCUA ITEMS CHECKED OUT:	1,257	1,808	+44%
SCUA SCANS FOR RESEARCHERS:	8,800	10,187	+16%
EXTERNAL FUNDING (SCUA):	\$100,500	\$188,337	+87%
SCUA EXHIBITS:	9	12	+33%

Data Services

	FY24	FY25	PERCENTAGE
RESEARCH DATASETS PUBLISHED:	288	306	+34%
DATASET DOWNLOADS:	113,432	152,000	+34%
CONSULTATIONS:	~400	~500	+25%
WORKSHOPS OFFERED:	28	36	+29%
LEARNERS IN WORKSHOPS:	510	628	+23%

Research Collaboration & Engagement (RCE)

	FY24	FY25	PERCENTAGE
EVIDENCE SYNTHESIS CONSULTATIONS:	150	388	+159%
EVIDENCE SYNTHESIS PUBLICATIONS:	6	7	+17%
IN-PROGRESS ES REVIEWS:	16	22	+38%
UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH (ARS STUDENTS):	101	211	+109%
UREP GRADUATION CORDS:	19	23	+21%
UR EXCELLENCE AWARDS:	2	3	+50%
STUDENTS AT UR EVENTS:	280	374	+34%
STUDENT PRESENTATIONS AT CONFERENCES:	120	191	+59%

Academic and Creative Engagement (ACE)

	FY24	FY25	PERCENTAGE
TECHNOLOGY LOANS (STUDIOS):	12,289	13,529	+10.1%
GROUP STUDY BOOKINGS:	25,860	28,786	+11.3%
PROTOTYPING PROJECTS:	2,621	2,729	+4.1%
WORKSHOPS IN STUDIOS:	16	21	+31.2%
GRADUATE STUDENT WORKSHOP ATTENDEES:	400	491	+22.8%
DIGITAL LITERACY ENGAGEMENTS:	4,200	5,000	+19%
OVERLEAF USERS:	2,300	2,725	+18.5%
OVERLEAF PROJECTS:	58,000	69,000	+19%
STUDENT JOURNALS PUBLISHED:	3	5	+67%
STUDENT BOOK PROJECTS PUBLISHED:	1	2	+100%
FACULTY BOOKS PUBLISHED:	3	5	+67%