

University Libraries

at Virginia Tech

Annual Report 1999 / 2000



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OVERVIEW

In a celebratory sense this is the year in which we've bridged the gap between the 20th and the 21st century. This makes it very appropriate to use a picture combining Newman Library, the bridge which will house the new university electronic reading room, and the almost completed Advanced Communication and Technology Center building, as our logo for this report.

As we begin this very new century, the Virginia Tech library is responding to, and sometimes leading, transforming initiatives associated with the challenge of change. We know we can't do this in a vacuum. We need to maintain, build, and sometimes even repair, communication bridges with our diverse clientele to ensure that good change happens. As we introduce new technologies we need to assure each constituent group that our university library is still about intellectual content, even as the formats that encapsulate the content expand. More fundamentally, we need to establish collections and promote services that support our very core belief that To Read is the first half of an essential equation whose answer is To Learn.





Teaching and Learning

3.1 In our instructional programs, we will help all students to reach their full potential by providing supportive learning environments in which we strive for both disciplinary competence and education of the whole person.

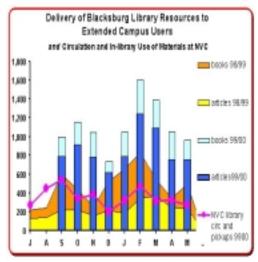
The University Libraries continues to support the teaching and learning mission of the university. Our recent focus on teaching and outreach programs through a more unified organizational effort attests to our commitment to becoming a teaching library. In his installation address President Steger challenged the university community to take on not only the expected tasks of generating and disseminating knowledge, but also to engage themselves with the problems facing our society today. He notes that Virginia Tech "is and will be a university that puts knowledge to work."

The libraries' increasing role in teaching and one-on-one services demonstrates our commitment to assisting faculty and students as they address this goal. In the past year we have improved services, expanded our teaching initiatives, and collaborated with other campus units to put knowledge to work in our academic community in several ways.

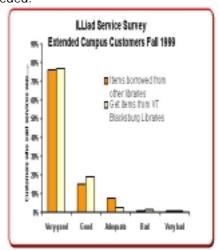
- Established a formal instruction department in the library to work closely with faculty to ensure that students have cumulative learning experiences associated with the development of information skills.
- Provided instruction to remote library users at the university's graduate centers using VTEL, the university's interactive videoconferencing system; VTEL was also used to teach Westlaw to graduate students at the Northern Virginia Graduate Center
- Our extended campus users are much on our mind. This year the interloan unit supported a 94% increase in a specialized service by sending books and articles from the Blacksburg libraries to our extended campus users who were as near as Floyd County and as remote as Alaska or Switzerland. On the average this resulted in almost five items from the VT campus being sent for each of the 2,000 extended campus students noted as enrolled in fall '99.



The total volume of Blacksburg library materials delivered for extended campus users is significant. At almost 10,000 pieces, it is double the number of items that circulate from or are used in the library at the Northern Virginia Center facility



Users are delighted with the service. When surveyed in fall 1999, more than 90% of the respondents indicated that they found the service which delivered items from the Blacksburg libraries to be Good or Very Good. Several said that "Excellent" was the word that was needed.

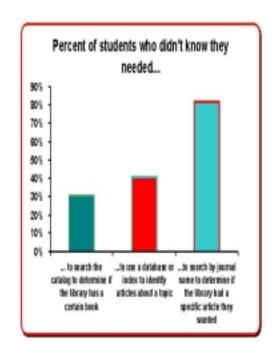


When surveying the ILLiad users we also asked them about traditional interloan services - those where we get books and articles from other libraries. More than 90% of the extended campus users also found this ILLiad service to be Good or Very Good.

- Upgraded 70 public terminals providing faster access to library resources over the Internet
- Applied for and was awarded a Student Success Grant to develop a peer advisor program to introduce freshmen students to the wide array of information resources available for their use in the Virginia Tech Libraries.
- Provided library instruction to 282 freshmen students participating in Virginia Tech's WING program
- Worked with faculty, students and administration at the Northern Virginia Center to develop a proposal for consolidating library and other needed resource services in one location and to increase personal support services through the College Librarian program.
- Installed presentation system equipment in the library Board Room to facilitate small group presentations for student learning and library staff training
- Selected as one of 14 research libraries to participate in the Association of Research Libraries SERVQUAL project, a pilot program to develop rigorous measures appropriate to assessing user perceptions of library services.
- Made it more convenient for library users to return materials to the library by installing a second book return box at the golf course entrance



- Worked with faculty to provide more than 700 information skills classes for almost 10,000 student and faculty groups during 1999/2000. When we surveyed freshmen we found that the need for instructional guidance in using information resources was significant. Many students are unclear about how to identify the important resources they need.
- Consolidated the circulation and reserve functions into one service desk to make these services more accessible to clients and more efficient in the allocation of staff resources.







Research Competitiveness

3.2 To enhance Virginia Tech's status as a major research university and center for graduate education, firmly establishing our position among the top 50 such institutions in terms of research expenditures (top 10 of those without human medical schools)

The President has set a goal for all of us by challenging us to work with him to establish Virginia Tech as one of the top 30 research institutions in America in this decade. More significantly for our clientele, he assured them that to accomplish this "...we must substantially increase our support for our university libraries - the heart of the scholarly enterprise."

This recognition of the centrality of the library to our research initiatives is important. The libraries, through its collections, services, and outreach programs, is playing a key role in assisting the university in maintaining its competitiveness in the area of research. This past year we have accomplished several notable achievements that advance the university's research competitiveness.

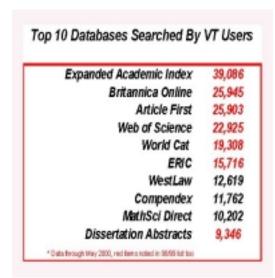
- Expanded the electronic collections by adding JSTOR, a full-text database of scientific journals significant to the research enterprise, providing full text IEEE proceedings and journals, offering online access to recent ERIC documents, replacing the need to consult the microfiche set, and providing more than 100 additional electronic journals from MCM University Press
- Used special funding to catalog almost 1000 titles into Addison so that catalog users can connect directly to the resource after they look up a title
- Received a \$10,000 grant from the national organization, the Online Computer Library Center (OCLC) to create a white paper for national distribution, "ETDS and Libraries"
- Added 700 Civil War titles to the Josh C. Billings Civil War Collection housed in the special collections at Newman Library



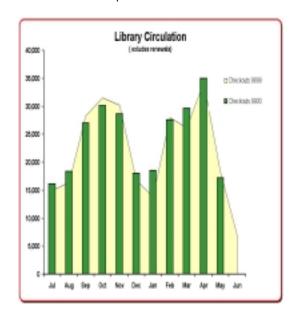
 Delivered at least a quarter of a million full-text electronic articles to users from content databases. Many additional articles were accessed via the library's electronic journal subscriptions but there is no method right now to accurately record use of these materials.

Major Databases	
Infotrac fulltext	188,470
ABI Inform	23,925
JSTOR	15,799
First Search full-text	12,257
Project Muse publications	4,794
American Chemical Society	2,476
TOTAL	247,721

 Noted widespread use of a crossdisciplinary mix of electronic databases by the university community.



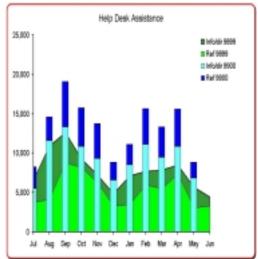
 Continued to see good circulation of traditional library materials, with a quarter of million initial circulations recorded, even as use of electronic resources expanded.



- Completed the barcoding of bound periodicals in both the Geosciences and Art/Architecture branch libraries to provide better access to these research materials
- Reshelved over 336,572 books and journals used internally by faculty and students
- Using ILLIad, the interlibrary loan system, borrowed 25,403 books or journal articles to support the research and scholarly studies of students and faculty
- Recorded 12,353 uses of various printed reference tools to assist users in finding information.



 When they visit the Libraries, our users continue to value the opportunity to work with staff on a personal basis.
 This year we logged more than 150,000 one-to-one help interactions with our users.

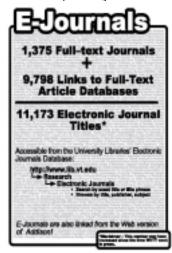


- Provided electronic reference services to users who were remote from the physical library by responding to more than 700 e-mail questions through the library's ASKUS service
- Extended full interlibrary loan services to distant learners and to researchers at remote locations and in August 1999 began shipping borrowed books directly to the library customers' homes and offices regardless of their locations. Previously, distant customers could not obtain books borrowed from other libraries as ILL service to distant customers was limited to photocopied items. Also removed the limit on the number of active ILL requests so that customers may submit as many requests as they need at any time.
- Initiated a new research collection, the Peacock-Harper Culinary Collection (http://spec.lib.vt.edu/culinary/) consisting of 530 titles to date

- Refiled 15,320 pieces of microforms from such research collections as the Library of American Civilization, government documents, and the National Technical Information Service (NTIS).
- Acquired Civil War letters and papers of Judge William M. Harris through the support of the Wallace foundation gift and endowment. http://spec.lib.vt.edu/civwar/Harris/letters1.html



 Let faculty know about specific library resources and services by developing 10 mailings for the popular WIITT? (What is it this time?) library information series





Outreach and Economic Development

3.3 We will position the university as the leading provider of outreach services in the Commonwealth of Virginia by reconceptualizing and restructuring the service component of our land-grant mission

The University Libraries play a unique role in helping the university reach out across the state and nation. We are a major lender of library materials, particularly scientific and technical materials, to other colleges and universities both within the state and across the nation. We have made it easier and more convenient for the university's off-campus students to access major research databases as well as provided them library materials at their doorsteps (or in their mailboxes). Through our collaboration with other doctorate granting institutions such as the University of Virginia and George Mason University, we have purchased major electronic research tools that have greatly benefited our faculty and students. Our efforts this year to bridge to those beyond the Blacksburg campus have included numerous activities that promoted university outreach and economic development.

- Developed and launched a new website, "Biological Control for the Public,"
 (http://www.ento.vt.edu/~kok/Biological_Control/) in collaboration with Virginia Tech's Entomology
 Department and funded by the Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Animal and Plant Inspection Service (APHIS); the information was also published on CD-ROM format and made available for distribution to extension agents and the general public this spring
- The Interlibrary Loan Department contributed to the further development and marketing of ILLiad in cooperation with Virginia Tech Intellectual Properties, Inc. (VTIP) and Atlas Systems, Inc. of Windsor, Virginia.
- Collaborated with faculty in the English Department and the Pamplin College of Business to provide library staff with two well-received workshops on effective writing and conflict resolution



- Activated PIDs for remote users to expand the scope of extended-campus services and made available restricted library resources like databases, electronic journals, and e-reserve; previously, distance education students not taking classes at a graduate center had problems getting their PIDs activated, which locked them out of important resources
- Created and distributed a print and online guide, *Guide to Library Services* for Extended-Campus Users.
- Cooperated with the Christiansburg Institute and Anna Fariell, exhibition curator, in creating the exhibition, "A Century of Contribution: Christiansburg Institute and Educational Change in Virginia"

- In supplying 4,006 books and 9,157 photocopied articles to other Virginia libraries noted a 9% increase in this interloan activity with an aggregate value of \$377,715, to Commonwealth recipients.
- Continued to collaborate through the VIVA project (Virtual Library of Virginia) with other higher education institutions in the state to develop cooperative collection building initiatives, especially electronic resources
- Loaned through the interlibrary loan system 8,214 books and 15,677 photocopies for a total of 23,891 items loaned to more than 1800 libraries



Information Technology

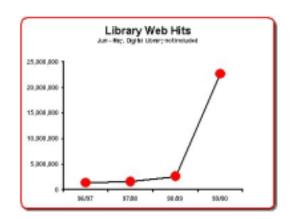
3.4 We will enhance the university's status as one of the leading innovators nationally in instruction, research, outreach, and administrative support through the application of advanced communications and information technologies.

In response to the combined impact of digital and networked technologies, the library has been focusing its information acquisition, navigation, synthesis, and archiving efforts on methods to ensure point-of-need access to networked and other digital multimedia information. To support the university's goal to become one of the leading innovators in advanced communications and information technology for instruction, research, and outreach, the libraries has made notable contributions during the 2000 fiscal year.

- Promoted ILLiad interlibrary loan system through demonstrations to visitors from several academic institutions and 18 institutions licensed the system during the past year
- Implemented and integrated Acquisitions and Continuations Payment History system into University Libraries Financial System (ULFS), including electronic posting of blanket order vendors and payments of subscription invoices
- Added to the Digital Library and Archives several key journals: Virginia Libraries
 (http://scholar.lib.vt.edu/ejournals/VALib/), Journal of the Japanese Society for Technology Education (English Abstracts) (http://scholar.lib.vt.edu/ejournals/JJSTE/) and discussion is underway to add the Journal of Computer Science and Technology and the Journal of Vocational and Educational Research
- Successfully met the Y2K challenge by rewriting and porting databases to newer operating environments. Rewrote programs for a significant number of applications to ensure Y2K readiness of the library's hardware and software systems



- Redesigned and streamlined the Electronic Journals Database that now has 1,389 direct links to full-text electronic journals from over 200 publishers and secondary link connections to more than 10,000 fulltext publications.
- Made available to the public, from the library's GIS and ICPSR server, the Virginia Documents Periodicals List database which contains a list of the periodicals and series received through the Virginia Documents Depository Program
- Implemented Addison automated reserve check-out in the two branch libraries, Art and Architecture and Geosciences
- Redesigned the library web site to provide better user access to resources and to increase efficiency in maintaining subsidiary pages. Library web page access has increased significantly over the last several years.



 Rewrote procedures to upload changes to internal Student Accounts and library Accounts Receivable using VTAIX and rewrote procedures to meet tasks of migrating to BANNER





Internationalizing the University

3.5 We will more fully integrate an international dimension into the university's major programmatic endeavors in order to prepare the entire university community for full participation in the global society of the next century.

With our unique collections, facilities, and programming, we can serve as a catalyst for cross-cultural understanding and community building endeavors on campus and across the state of Virginia. In hosting visits from international colleagues, we shared our technologies and broadened our horizons. More immediately we have active recruitment efforts to hire international students as part of our student assistant support group because we believe that we and they can engage in active learning as we work together. This year we have:

- Participated in the ARL Initiative to Recruit A Diverse Workforce, spearheaded by the Association of Research Libraries (ARL) to recruit talented librarians from under-represented groups and to provide mentoring to these librarians
- Hosted the annual board meeting of the International Archive of Women in Architecture (http://spec.lib.vt.edu/iawa/)
- Hosted a group of librarians from Gothenburg University (Sweden) who visited to learn about the library's use of electronic journals, online databases, digital library technology, and the ILLiad interlibrary loan system
- Continued to moderate the VETLIB-L, a listserv service that fosters cooperation and exchange of ideas among veterinary medical libraries from 35 countries world-wide; through this listserv, medical libraries in new emerging and developing countries are able to benefit from the cutting-edge information resources of North America and other Western European countries
- Hosted a number of international researchers: John Dalton, University of Windsor Library working on a survey of publishers about ETDs; Nuno Fiere from Portugal working on digital library research - Z39.50; Dr. Vitalis Musewe, African Regional Postgraduate Program in Insect Science, Nairobi, Kenya; Dr. Hans Selberg, research librarians, Norwegian University of Science and Technology; Yin-Leng Thing, Middlesex University, working on digital library research.



Interdisciplinary Cooperation

3.6 We will encourage interdisciplinary collaboration within the university to create knowledge that addresses the needs of society; at the same time, we will increase strategic partnerships with schools, other colleges and universities, business, industry, and government to find solutions to problems of the rapidly changing world.

Providing instruction, collections, and information access is paramount to the common good for the academic community, and to this end we see the library as the "heart of the university." The College Librarian Program has been expanded to place more librarians within the academic units to work daily with faculty and students. In 1999/2000 we have had the opportunity to participate in several interdisciplinary efforts.

- Served on the Visual Arts Inventory and Catalog Committee that is inventorying and cataloging art work owned by the university
- Developed a plan to work with the Northern Virginia Center Library and the Center Director to examine new ways and different options for providing optimum library and resource services for students and faculty at the center
- Partnered with Electrical and Computer Engineering
 Department to participate in the IEEE University Partnership
 Program that encourages students to become members of
 the IEEE society, thus decreasing the cost of the IEEE online
 full text products to the 10 participating institutions
- Continued to participate and plan with Instructional Services and the Faculty Development Initiative (FDI)
- Cooperated with several non-VIVA Virginia institutions to pool funding to acquire several key science databases, specifically INSPEC and NTIS
- Managed listservs for VIVA and VIVA's Technical Information Committee
- Migrated Art & Art History WWW Collections Database to new ORACLE server for CRT in VTCRC



AT A GLANCE

Newman Library Improvements

By piggy-backing on some general library work originating in Facilities Management initiatives, we were able to totally remodel a major library service area on the first floor, Circulation/Reserve. Before, users had to go to two separate service desks in order to check out library materials or to use reserve. These two functions were consolidated into one service unit to make it easier and more convenient for library patrons. An attractive desk, large enough to combine the service activities, was installed.

The area around the desk was also improved. New carpet ties the area together with comfortable seating that includes new benches and rocking chairs. New, bold, and attractive signage helps users find the area easily. The renovation of this area connects nicely with the lobby area that was renovated a few years ago. Other major service units, Interlibrary Loan, Photocopy/Cashier Services, Special Services, and CAM are visible from this central area and make finding people and services much easier for our users.



In addition to the renovation of the circulation/reserve area, replacement of the tile floor and lighting continued on the third and fourth floors. This is the third year that we have undergone this type of renovation with the goal of having new lights and flooring for the entire 1954 wing of Newman Library. Users now find it more convenient to use the stack areas for browsing. The final phase of this project, the second and third floors, will be addressed next year.



Rethinking Library Spaces

Special funding in 1999/2000 allowed us to work with the Office of the University Architect in developing a conceptual plan for Newman Library renovation. Issues to be addressed included user services, information technologies, effective traffic flow, security, and storage needs associated with linking Newman to the ACITC bridge and accommodating an on-site and accessible research collection in a confined area.

The firms of Moseley, Harris & McClintock, and Aaron Cohen and Associates were engaged to work with the library. Aaron Cohen made several assessment visits to meet with the administration and staff of the library and with interested members of the university community. His study concluded that there was a need to increase the library's on-site storage capacity, to open up spaces for user interactions with resources and technologies, and to offer attractive areas for quiet and reflection apart from the more public activity spaces.

The concept plan he proposes includes among other ideas: major renovation of the current building to take full advantage of windows and natural light for seating and study; an automated storage/retrieval system linked to the library that would ensure timely and immediate access to a growing research collection; and a larger and more attractive space for welcoming users of special collections and housing the research materials there.

A cornerstone of the proposal is the renovation of the second floor and the reopening of the original mall and drill field entrances. These entrances would become the new focal points for Newman library and would progress to a spacious foyer featuring the original marble staircase and providing easy access to major service points to be relocated on the second floor. Alumni and others who remember using the old entry have indicated great enthusiasm for a plan to *Open the Library Doors*.

If added to the university plan we anticipate that a considerable part of the support for the renovation will need to come from supporters who recognize the value of the library as a physical space and as the "heart" of a research university. This made us especially grateful for the very generous gift of \$100,000 for the library from the Athletics Department, following the Sugar Bowl game. Part of this funding will be used as seed funding for the library renovation.

Jim Weaver, Director of Athletics, Eileen Hitchingham, Dean of Libraries, Peggy Meszaros, Senior Vice President and Provost, outside original Newman Library entry doors





University Library Committee

Regular meetings with the University Library committee continued to provide a valuable opportunity for a two-way dialogue between the community of users at Virginia Tech and the Libraries. As chairperson, Stephen Baehr emphasized library communication with library constituents. Committee members shared information, service requests, and questions received from their constituent communities. The Libraries offered several update sessions and Library Faculty Serials Assessment Project and a demonstration on how to access the libraries' 11,000 full-text electronic publications.

Minutes for the Library Committee are noted at http://intra.vt.edu/govern/cmtlib/lib.html. We are grateful for the good efforts and work of Stephen Baehr, Arts and Sciences, serving as Chairperson of the Library Committee, and all of our 1999/2000 members: Ansar Ahmed, College of Veterinary Medicine; George Graham, Teaching and Learning; Richard Helm, Natural Resources, Douglas Patterson, Business; Raymond Plaut, Engineering; Mark Schneider, Architecture and Urban Studies; Jay Stipes, Agriculture and Life Sciences; Paul Colley, Staff Senate; Tim Copeland, GSA, David Beagle, Library Faculty Association.





Faculty and Staff Achievements

Susan Ariew's essay review, "Education: A Core List of Web Resources for Researchers and Teachers," was published in *Choice*, April 2000. Her article about the Virginia Tech College Librarian Program in the chapter, "Case Studies in Collaboration: Lessons From Five Exemplary Programs," in , *The Collaborative Imperative: Librarians and Faculty Working Together in the Information Universe,* was published by the Association of College and Research Libraries, Spring 2000.

Nicole Auer and **Delores McDowell** were awarded a Student Success Grant for their proposal, "An Information Skills Peer Advisory Project," to hire and train students to assist other students with the research process during the 2000-2001 academic year.

Nicole Auer's web-based bibliography, "Bibliography on Evaluating Internet Resources" was included in a round up of internet history reference sources in the "Reference Books Bulletin" section of the February 1, 2000 issue of *Booklist* magazine.

Wanda Brown and **Clara Stanley** co-chaired the Virginia Library Association's Paraprofessional Forum held on May 22-23, 2000 at the University of Richmond.

Janet Carlton retired in May, 2000, after serving thirty years as a librarian at the University Libraries, Virginia Tech.

Eileen Hitchingham presented, "Why Measure? With Some Examples from Electronic Services," at the ARL Planning Workshop: ARL Project on Usage Measures for Electronic Information Resources, Scottsdale, AZ, February, 2000. Hitchingham also served as co-chair of the VIVA Forum on Access to Electronic Journals, from Aggregator Sources, Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, VA, January, 2000, and made a presentation there entitled "Background Issues, Getting Users to Your Electronic Full-Text Titles from Aggregator Databases and Publishing Agencies," (http://www.viva.lib.va.us/viva/tech/cat/journal_access/)

Tamara Kennelly's article, "Links to Tech Women's History," was published in *Women at Virginia Tech*, Fall 1999.

Vicki Kok was invited to conduct a 3-day workshop on information retrieval and management at the Weizmann Institute of Science, Israel, May 29, 2000. She was also invited to conduct a training workshop at the Kimron Veterinary Institute Library, Israel, June 1, 2000.

Harry Kriz presented, "ILLiad: Customer In-Reach and System Marketing Success," at the 11th annual Association of Collegiate Computing Services workshop held in Harrisonburg, Virginia, March 30-31, 2000.



Charles Litchfield's "counter point" article on electronic cataloging entitled, "Ongoing entities, Modified Model C, and public service to library patrons," was published in *Serials Review*, July 1999.

Gail McMillan

Presentations:

"The Digital Library: Without a Soul Can It Be a Library?" as keynote speaker at Books and Bytes: Technologies for the Hybrid Library, VALA 2000 Conference (Victorian Association for Library Automation) Melbourne, Australia, Feb. 17, 2000; repeated for the Australian National University Library and the Australian Library Association: Canberra, ANU, Feb. 22, 2000. [published in the conference proceedings]

"Electronic Theses and Dissertations at Virginia Tech" with Len Peters, Dean, Graduate School), was given at the Conference on Preservation and Access for Electronic College and University Records (ECURE), Arizona State University, Oct. 7, 1999. [published in the conference proceedings]

"Perspectives on Electronic Theses and Dissertations: Authors, Advisors, Readers," was presented at the New Frontiers in Grey Literature: 4th International Conference, Kellog Center, Gallaudet University, Washington, D.C., Oct. 4, 1999. [published in the conference proceedings]

"Electronic Theses and Dissertations: Eliminating Borders" for the Rare Books and Manuscripts Conference: Border Crossings: Exploring New Territories for Special Collections, Association of College and Research Libraries at McGill University, Montreal, June 22, 1999

"ETDs at the Two Virginias" with John Hagen, WVU, March 17, 2000; Conference Wrapup, March 18, for the 3rd International Symposiums on ETDs; and "Assessing Technology-based Projects for Faculty Evaluations: The Virginia Tech Perspective" for the VT Library Faculty Association, May 11, 2000.

Publications: "Managing Digital Content: The Scholarly Communications Project," a chapter, was published in *The Evolving Virtual Library II: Practical and Philosophical Perspectives*, Medford, NJ: Information Today, 1999: Her article, "Managing electronic theses and dissertations: report from a symposium on electronic theses and dissertations," appeared in *College & Research Libraries News*, vol. 61, no. 5, May 2000.

Grants:

VT member of the VIVA Project Team that was awarded a \$250,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) to create the Virginia Heritage Project, a database of African-American history and culture in the Commonwealth. \$10,000 grant from OCLC (Online Computer Library Center) for white paper: "ETDs and Libraries"



Margaret Merrill and a library team, Nicole Auer, Ellen Krupar and Delores McDowell.

received funding from the Center for Innovation in Learning for their proposal "Information Skills for Life-long Learning: A Collaboration Between the University Libraries, the Biological Sciences Initiative, and the College of Engineering Multimedia Lab."

Paul Metz presented, "Scholarly and Scientific Communications and Higher Education in a Higher and Higher Tech Future," during a forum on Scholarly Communications, Lynchburg College, April 12, 2000. Metz's session, "Post-Tenure Review at Virginia Tech," was presented at the National Association of Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture conference, Blacksburg, VA June 22, 1999.

Larry Thompson was invited by the consorci de Biblioteques Universitaries de Catalunya (University Libraries Consortium of Catalonia) to present a five day workshop on Information Resources for Engineering in May, 2000, for 24 librarians from the Catalonian region of Spain.



Library Annual Picnic