A Research Library for a Major University

The Strategic Plan for the
University Libraries of Virginia Tech

Tasks for the year are in bold black. Note that all objectives are not necessarily tasked for this year.

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.

Obtain and maintain the financial resources necessary to acquire information resources in all formats sufficient to sustain a world-class research enterprise, especially in the university's areas of emphasis

> **Submit at least one major grant proposal to an appropriate federal or foundation agency for support to maximize access to special collections of the Digital Library and Archives**
> Continues in 2003-04

Reach out to our users to identify new information resources that would be valued by members of the university community

> **Work with academic units in each College to identify resources not held in the University Libraries which faculty believe are needed to support VT research initiatives and graduate programs.**
> Carried over to 2003-04
> **Once the resources are identified prepare a ranked list of resources that would best further VT's research goals.**
> Carried over to 2003-04

Select and work with information providers to enable all citation-to-full text linkages possible at every point in the evolution of electronic publishing

> **By March 2004, using open URL technology, provide seamless access to journal literature at the article or journal level and inform users of this service by:**
> - **Developing a project plan with timelines and assigned responsibilities**
> - **Identifying, listing, and enabling sources and targets to be linked with the range of sources and targets noted for SFX technologies used as the measure for comparison**
> - **Presenting a testing scheme with assigned responsibilities for assuring that links are enabled**
> - **Communicating information with the university community about open URL services they have available through the library**
> Continues in 2003-04
> **By January 2004 assure that the Ingenta Gateway provides content level access to all those publications we subscribe to for which Ingenta can act as the gateway.**
> Continues in 2003-04

Support interlibrary loan and commercial document delivery as a transparent and cost-effective alternative to local collections

Acquire, organize, and make available scholarly or scientific contributions originating at Virginia Tech

> **As an initial step in addressing one of the research goals in the university strategic plan (*Research 1.2.3 Establish an electronic university press*) identify university partners interested in collaborating with the Libraries**

in preparing a report on the current status of electronic presses in research universities.
Continues in 2003-04
In response to a recommendation in the visiting team's *Report* (May 6, 2002) submitted as part of the Provost's review of the Libraries (Spring 2002) "develop a cohesive plan for acquiring and preserving digital primary resources" created by Virginia Tech scholars.
Continues in 2003-04

Continuously assess library information resources in all formats so as to maintain parity with top-thirty research universities in our ability to support the evolving needs of our community
By December 2003 develop a ranked list of important resources available at peer institutions which are needed in the VT Libraries to support research and learning.
New in 2003-04

Reach out to library users to identify new services that would be valued by members of the university community

> **Work with academic units in each College to identify services not offered by the University Libraries that faculty believe are needed to support VT research and teaching initiatives. Once the resources are identified develop a way to prepare a ranked list of resources that would best further VT's research goals.**
> Carried over to 2003-04

Develop outreach programs to ensure that members of the Virginia Tech community are aware of resources and services to assist them in their research, learning, and outreach efforts

> **Identify audiences which may be underserved in regard to direct library services (e.g., departmental staff, transfer or international students) and determine whether they have special information needs that could be met through seminars or outreach sessions.**
> Continues in 2003-04

> **Partner with other campus programs such as the Faculty Development Institute and the Center for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching to incorporate information management sessions into their programs for faculty and students**
> Continues in 2003-04

> **Promote, on an annual schedule, existing services that are available to extended campus faculty members and students**
> Continues in 2003-04

> **Assess, annually, levels of satisfaction with available services**
> Continues in 2003-04

Provide convenient access to comprehensive reference services and collections in appropriate formats

> **Make major existing resources and alerting services more visible to our users.**
> Continues with modifications in 2003-04

> **Initiate a plan to determine how the dynamic subject pages are used in the period January through June 2004.**
> New for 2003-04

> **Evaluate use of the reference collection, and identify core materials needed, in anticipation of reopening second floor entry. To be completed by end of spring term, 2004.**
> New for 2003-04

Goal 3
Information Literacy
We will support students' learning needs now and provide them with life-long learning skills for living in a knowledge-based society

Collaborate with appropriate university programs and agencies to develop and implement a comprehensive information skills program for all incoming students

Develop a business plan for including an information skills program in the Core Curriculum, and present the plan to the Committee currently reviewing the Core Curriculum
Continues in 2003-04

Determine whether there is an audience for a 1-credit hour (elective) course on research skills, information literacy, and/or using the library.
Continues in 2003-04

Collaborate with faculty to develop the information literacy skills relevant to the disciplinary needs of upper-level undergraduate and graduate students

Develop and market a plan to support the delivery of discipline-specific information-management skills in collaboration with:
- **faculty teaching upper-level undergraduate research methods courses**
- **faculty teaching graduate-level research methods courses**

Continues in 2003-04

Develop, provide, and assess the effectiveness of online modules to provide on-demand opportunities for students to develop information literacy skills.

Determine how the library online instructional modules are used in the period January through May 2004.
New in 2003-04

Develop and implement a preservation plan that uses emerging technologies to preserve intellectual materials of enduring value for Virginia Tech's missions

> **Evaluate possible risks of physical damage to the libraries' various collections and update the libraries' disaster response and recovery plan to guide library personnel in using modern methods and technologies to respond to physical damage that might occur to the collections.**
> Continues in 2003-04

Collaborate with other research libraries to promote and preserve commonly held research assets and selected resources unique to the university or to the region in a manner that assures continuity of content and global access.

> **Participate in the Association of Southeastern Research Libraries identification of monographs in storage for the purpose of identifying some frequently held items that might then be weeded from other collections with the assurance that copy(ies) will still be available in the region.**
> New for 2003-04

Acquire an online library system that meets the university's research needs and can be efficiently managed with modest staff resources

The established library systems team will:
- **develop an RFP for a system**
- **investigate and compare features of existing products in integrated library systems used by other major research libraries in the U.S.**
- **recommend a basic integrated system and appropriate components for VT Libraries with an installation timetable**

Continues in 2003-04

Respond to information-seeking behaviors of the user community when organizing and providing library resources

Identify current research and findings relevant to understanding information-seeking behaviors of library users and share these findings within the LAC meetings as a method to support and encourage data-driven decision making in providing library resources and services.

Continues with modification in 2003-04

Goal 6
Physical Spaces
We will provide the university community with library settings that support the long-recognized needs of our community.

Give students, faculty, and staff library settings that meet their expressed needs for convenient access to collections, places for inquiry and reflection, and inviting environments

Implement the concepts outlined in the Modernization Master Plan for Newman Library
Develop foundation proposal(s) for funding support of Special Collections renovation and expansion.
Continues in 2003-04

Hire additional faculty and staff needed to provide the excellent library resources and services essential to a top-tier research university

Establish the Library Diversity Committee
New in 2003-04

Participate in ASERL/SOLINET conference "Diversity in Libraries" May 2004.
New in 2003-04

Establish and fill Outreach librarian position in the Instruction/Reference unit
New in 2003-04

Establish new learning opportunities for library faculty and staff relevant to personal professional growth in the context of library objectives and operations

Plan, implement and assess a program of training that will support data-driven decision making.
Continues in 2003-04

Plan, implement and assess an orientation program for new employees.
Continues in 2003-04

Identify ways in which the new program of training paths might link to the University's mandatory job dimensions (diversity, safety, teamwork) for classified staff.
Continues in 2003-04

Recognize and reward performance of library faculty and staff commensurate with a major research institution

Implement the library recognition program.
New in 2003-04