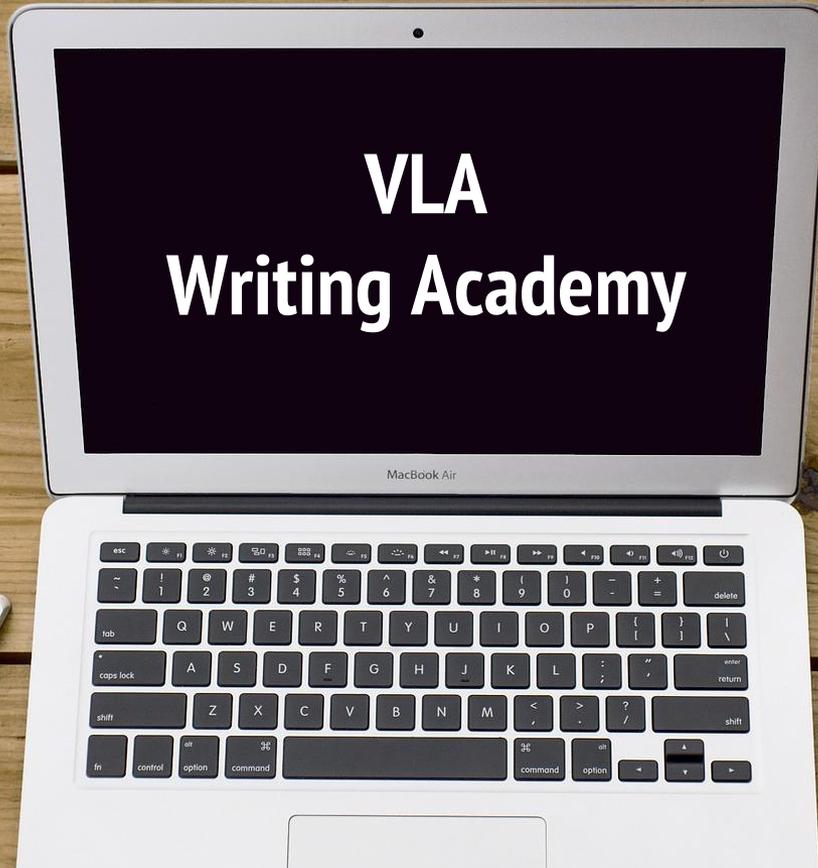


# VLA Writing Academy



**Resources Folder**  
<http://tinyurl.com/WritingAcademy-VLA-2016>

# Your Facilitators

**Virginia Pannabecker**, Health Sciences Research Support Coordinator, Virginia Tech University Libraries

**Brian Burns**, Interim Media & Access Services Librarian, Hampden-Sydney College

**Susan LaParo**, Head of Youth Services, York County Public Library

**Robin Sofge**, Youth Services Manager, Duncan Branch Library

Additional Virginia Libraries Editorial Board members:

**Renee DiPilato**, Deputy Director, Alexandria Library; Renee contributed to planning this preconference

**Luke Vilelle**, University Librarian, Hollins University

# Introductions

- **Your name**
- **Institution / Organization**
- **Experience with Writing**
- **Current Writing Interests**

# Session Plan

- **Planning a Writing Project**
  - Activity - Resources for Writing an Academic Journal Article
- **Choosing a Publication Venue**
  - *Virginia Libraries* journal
  - Activity - Reviewing journal scope, content types, and guidelines
- **Your Writing Project**
  - Working time
  - Feedback
- **Wrap Up & Questions**

# Planning a Writing Project

- **Topic ideas**
- **Type of writing project**
  - Preparation needed, research protocol?
- **Co-Authors**
- **Publication venues**
  - Who is your target audience?
  - What else is important?
  - Access / Copyright / Licensing
- **Target publication guidelines**
- **Previous publications**
  - Examples
  - References

# Planning a \*Literature Review\*

- **Co-Authorship**
- **Project Plan**
- **Key Components**
  - **Purpose / Research Question**
  - **Context**
  - **Approach / Methodology**
  - **Results / Synthesis**
  - **Implications**
  - **Next Stpes**

# Planning a \*Research\* Article

- **Co-Authorship**
- **Study Design**
  - **IRB or other protocol for human subjects**
- **Project (and data management) Plan**
- **Key components**
  - **Introduction / Background (literature and context)**
  - **Participants**
  - **Methodology**
  - **Discussion**
  - **Limitations**
  - **Further Research**
  - **Conclusion**

# Planning a \*Practice\* Article

- **Co-Authorship**
- **Project Plan**
- **Key Components**
  - **Background / Context**
  - **Planning notes**
  - **Implementation**
  - **Assessment Results**
  - **Lessons Learned**
  - **Next Steps**
  - **Implications for Practice**

# Planning a **\*Feature\*** or **\*Column\*** Article

- **Co-Authorship**
- **Project Plan**
- **Key Components**
  - **A unique / stand-out topic**
  - **Identify connections between the topic and libraries / information broadly and in Virginia**
  - **Define subsections**
  - **Consider highlighting key players**
  - **Include tips and details of note**
  - **Point to resources, or contacts for those who would like to know more**

# Planning a \*Book Review\*

- **Project Plan**
- **Key Components**
  - **Decide what you want to review**
  - **Research potential publications**
  - **Query publication**
  - **Read the writer guidelines**
  - **Study the publication**
  - **Write a draft**
  - **Revise**
  - **Submit**

# Writing

- **Abstract**
  - **Journal guidelines**
  - **Include for all abstracts: Major points, clear conclusion, author-supplied keywords**
  - **Research Studies: Write a Structured abstract**
- **Outline and Research**
- **Draft**
- **Final Version**
  - **Find a colleague to provide feedback! → Revise**
  - **Check Formatting, Style, & Submission requirements**
  - **Figures / Images / Supplementary files / Appendices → these can be helpful for readers!**

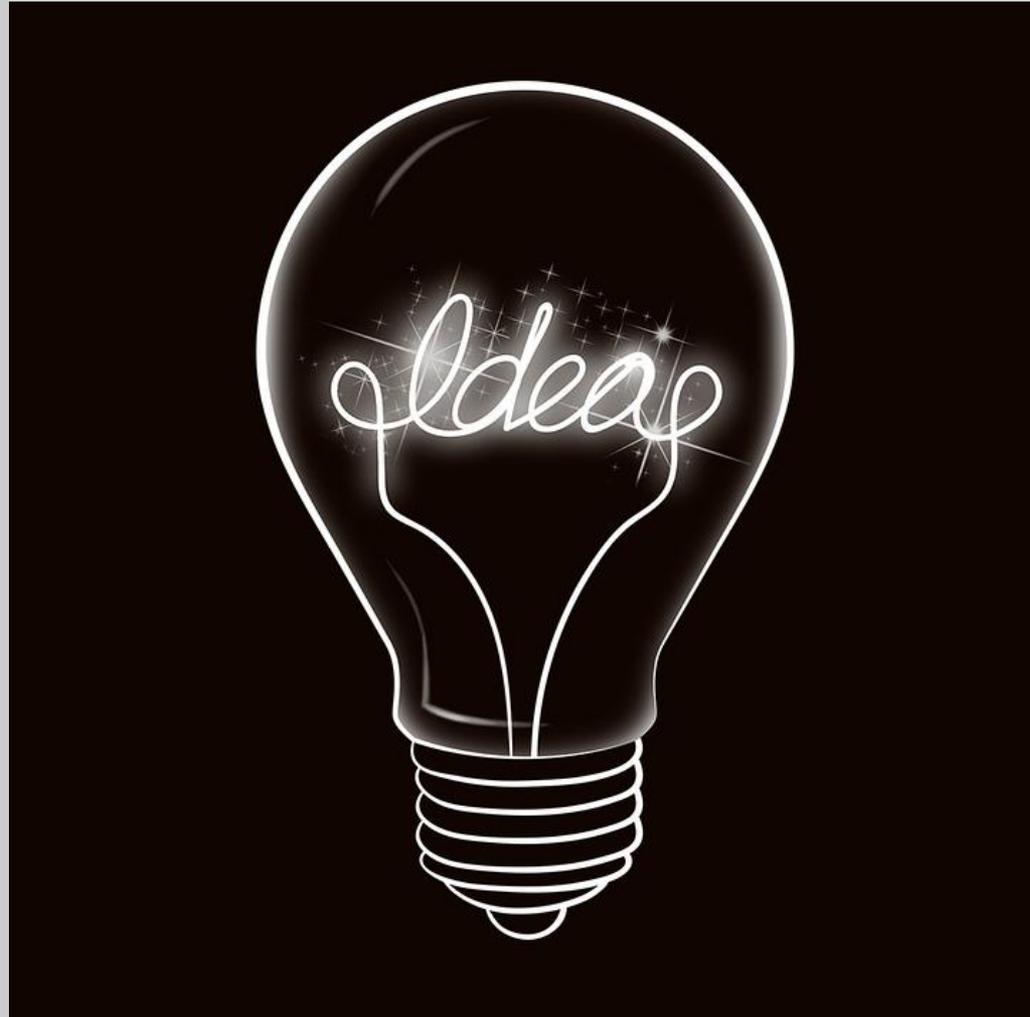
# Resources for Writing an Academic Journal Article

Each Group:

Read the article provided & Discuss:

- What are key points?
- What recommendations would you add?
- What questions do you have?

# Choosing a Topic



# Journal Guidelines

- Consider your publication choice carefully
- About
- Aims / Scope
  - Target area
  - Target Audience
- Author Instructions / Guidelines
- Access / Copyright / Licensing

Let's take a look at Virginia Libraries journal

# **Virginia Libraries Journal Focus/Scope**

**Peer reviewed open access publication by VLA**

**<https://ejournals.lib.vt.edu/valib>**

# Types of Articles

- Research Articles
- Best Practices
- Case Studies
- Essays/Commentary
- Themed Columns

# Research Articles

- Reports on in-depth original scholarly research and analysis or research studies
- Examples include theoretical approaches to topics or issues or describe an issue in-depth
- Submissions 4,500-7,000 words
- All types of libraries

# Best Practices Articles

- Should include solutions to issues that are affecting libraries today
- Examples: Moving to a one-desk reference/circulation service, and creating a digital archive
- Submissions 4,500-7,000 words

# Case Studies

- More detail than Best Practice Articles
- Includes a description of the issue through fictional scenario or example from the field
- Includes references to current trends, theories and published works
- May raise more questions than it answers
- Submissions of 2,000-5,000 words

# Essays/Commentary

- More subjectivity and expression of a position on a topic or issue of interest to libraries or library employees
- References, data and illustrations encouraged
- Submissions may be lengthy (3,000-5,000 words), or somewhat brief (under 2,000 words)

# Themed Columns

- Synthesize brief reports on a topic from libraries across the state
- For detailed information on this submission type for the current year, please contact the Virginia Libraries Editorial Board:  
[virginialibrariesjournal@googlegroups.com](mailto:virginialibrariesjournal@googlegroups.com)

# Style

Chicago Manual of Style - Notes; and Webster's  
Third New International Dictionary, Unabridged

# Editorial Guidelines

- Peer review types articles sent to two reviewers for blind review
- Articles submitted as one of the non-peer review article types will be reviewed by the Virginia Libraries Editorial Board
- Authors of peer review and non-peer review will be notified within 6 weeks of a decision to: accept and publish as submitted (with possible editing for style or clarity), or not accepted with possible recommendations for revisions to re-submit

# Open Access

- The journal does **not** require authors to pay article processing charges
- The journal does **not** charge readers for access

# Author Rights / Open Licensing

- Creative Commons Licenses:

<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/>

- CC BY - Attribution
- CC BY SA - Attribution-ShareAlike
- CC BY-ND - Attribution-NoDerivs
- CC BY-NC - Attribution NonCommercial
- CC BY-NC-SA - Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike
- CC BY-NC-ND - Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivs

CC0 - Public Domain mark - waive *\*all\** rights

## Each Group: Investigate a journal

- Scope / 'Aims and Purpose'
- Article or Content Sections
- Author Instructions or Guidelines
  - Submission requirements
  - Content Section requirements
  - Author Rights / Copyright / Licensing policies
- What questions do you have?
- How long would it take you to prepare a submission?

# Your Writing Project Plan



# Identifying a Topic

- Note:
  - Topics of interest
  - Projects or initiatives you're working on
  - Browse current articles in journals / magazines of interest → What is your take on the topic?
- Consider writing with one or more co-authors - if the topic you want to write about is a team effort; writing with a co-author can help motivate both of you to plan and see the project through
- Investigate journals / publications you're considering as a venue - do their content types or guidelines give you any ideas?
- **Write a paragraph or two summarizing:**
  - **Topic / Project**
  - **Major points you plan to address or discuss**
  - **What you already know**
  - **What you want to research**

# Developing an idea

- **Start with your topic ideas**
- **Consider**
  - **Your project goals: why are you writing?**
  - **Project types: what kind of writing is this?**  
**(research article, practice article, other)**
- **Investigate the market and related publications**

# Expanding from an Outline

- Depending on the article type
  - Develop a hook with the opening paragraph
  - Read through to ensure major subsections are covered
- What are your main points
- Depending on the article type, what are your sources

# Revising a Draft

The digestive systems of bovines is large and marvelous, and capable of a reasonable amount of output, given the size of the animal. As such, the typical playing field is also a large one, maximizing the chance of any one player to reap most of the rewards, cattle having no respect for borders and the arbitrary ~~and~~ divisions of land that man creates. Milky White was no exception. <sup>is normally the rule. In most games on a typical day</sup> ~~Had the game been won by first strike, as it were, then the purse would have gone~~ ~~completely~~ <sup>completely</sup> to the Naslunds. <sup>and normally, during such a game, this is a good indicator of the final winner. This day was not normal but not this day.</sup>

Milky White gave unto the Naslunds that which was the Naslunds, ~~and out~~ <sup>her generosity did not stop there.</sup> She blithely disregarded the borders and continued her rain of terror, fertilizing the adjoining <sup>Naslund territories, and then those beyond.</sup> square -- also Naslund-held -- and then the one beyond that -- not Naslund. <sup>Now she was on a roll, Milky White, and with her</sup> tail held proudly towards heaven, she picked up steam and began to trot, making winners of every square she passed through. <sup>she</sup> Sometimes, ~~detoured~~ <sup>leaped aside for and wide</sup> towards the fence, or <sup>the center of the field,</sup> and then back again. <sup>She covered a lot of ground that day, spreading unexpected wealth and unexpected happiness to many</sup>

Over one hundred people that day. Just when it seemed that she was finished, Milky would defiantly raise her tail against the oppressive laws of physics and digestion and continue. Nobody had seen anything like it, and ~~it~~ though it was not yet clear who the winner had been, it was clear ~~xx~~ who the winner was not that day, ~~as~~ the Naslund's grip on the collective psyche of the fair slipped away with each productive trot of Milky White's dainty feet.

All spectacles eventually draw to a close, of course, and this was no <sup>Finally,</sup> ~~clearly~~ tired.

# Feedback Exchange - Note for Your Partner:

- General comments
- What you find most interesting
- One question
- One recommendation

What are next steps for  
your writing project?

Questions?

(Interest in an online writing group?)

Please complete our short  
evaluation.

Thank you!