Library Support for Liberal Arts Data

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Data is not neutral.

How it is collected, arranged, described, curated, structured, managed, and displayed affects interpretation.

You have data.

The objects of your study (texts, images, audio, video, etc.) are data or can be treated as such.

The library preserves, provides access to, and, increasingly, designs, curates, manages, and creates humanities data.

If there is a humanities method, it could conceivably consist of this: a person, alone, reading. Not conducting experiments or studies: just reading. And then, writing. Philosophy, history, and the study of any language's literature all see this as their archetypal method, I think, though not archaeology (which, yes, was classified as belonging to the humanities by no less than the National Endowment for the Humanities in 1965, the year of its founding). That is why it is a truism and cliché to say that the library is the humanities laboratory.

Amanda French, "In Praise of Humanities Data," Re:Humanities Conference, Bryn Mawr, PA, May 2011.

This is not a perfect analogy, but imagine that someone called your family photograph album a dataset. It's not *inaccurate* per se, but it suggests that this person just fundamentally doesn't understand why you value this artifact. And it's the same with humanists. With a source, like a film or a work of literature, you're not extracting features in order to analyze them; you're trying to dive into it, like a pool, and understand it from within.

Miriam Posner, "Humanities Data: A Necessary Contradiction," *Miriam Posner's Blog*, July 15, 2015.

nderstanding Lambda Horizon's curr
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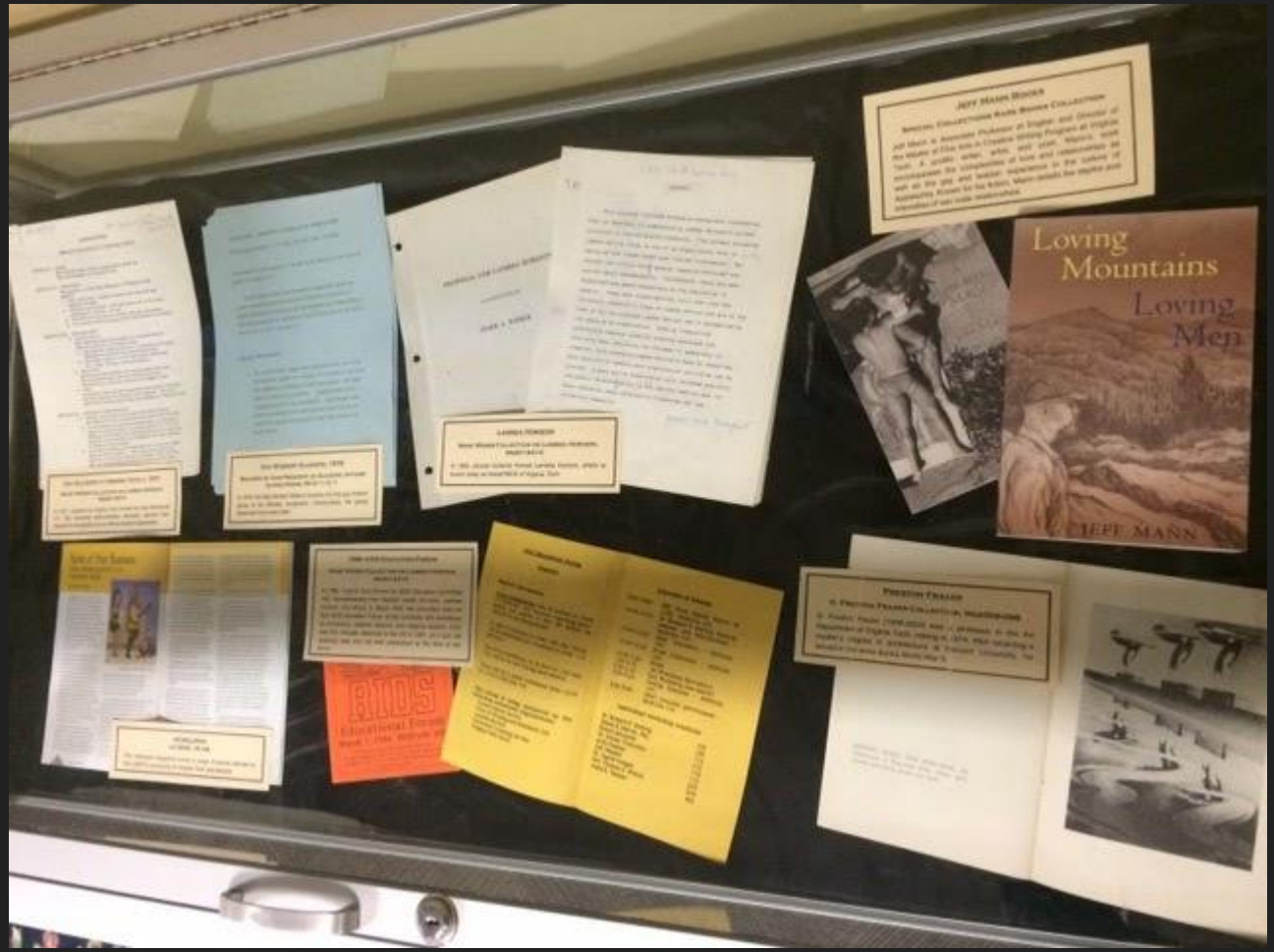
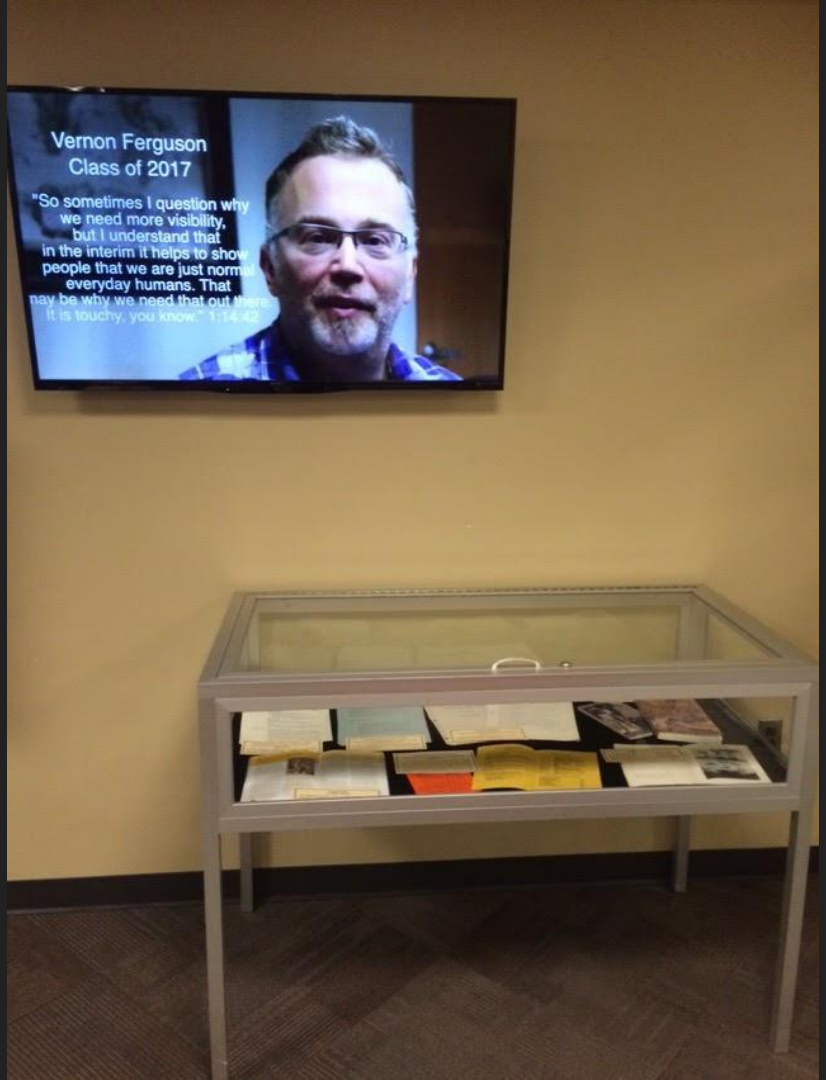
on, an increase in membership is


Loving Mountains Loving Men
JEFF MANN
AIDS

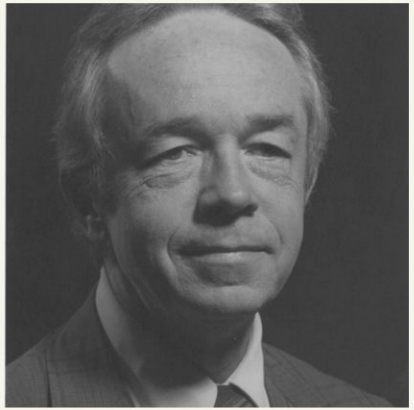

Vernon Ferguson
Class of 2017
"So sometimes I question why
we need more visibility,
but I understand that
in the interim it helps to show
people that we are just norm
everyday humans. That
may be why we need that out there.
It is touchy, you know." 1:14:42

LGBTQ ORAL HISTORIES

Beginning in the fall of 2014, faculty and students in the Virginia Tech History Department, along with colleagues in the University Libraries' Special Collections and campus partners including HokiePRIDE, the LGBT Faculty/Staff Caucus, and the Ex Lapide Society (the LGBTQ alumni network at VT) began collecting oral histories to document the history of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer life in the 20th century American South and specifically at Virginia Tech. This collection consists of oral history interviews with influential members of the LGBTQ community at Virginia Tech, both past and present. Interviews were conducted by Tamara Kennelly, University Archivist, and students of Professor David Cline's Oral History class.

KATHERINE ALLEN

Katherine Allen is a professor of Human Development at Virginia Tech. In her oral history, Katherine Allen discusses her activism, her relationships and personal identity, her experiences as part of a 'lesbian poster family' and as an 'out' faculty member at Virginia Tech.



LUTHER BRICE, INTERVIEW 1

Luther Kennedy Brice, Jr. was a professor of chemistry at Virginia Tech from 1954 to 1986. In this first oral history, Brice discusses how one had to be underground about being gay during his student years and through much of his time as a professor at Virginia Tech.

LUTHER BRICE, INTERVIEW 2

In this second oral history, Professor Brice discusses his approach to and ideas about teaching. He also explains some aspects of his chemical magic show.

TOM BROBSON

Tom Brobson graduated from Virginia Tech in 1982 and returned to work for Tech in 1989 in the Department of University Relations. In his oral history, Brobson discusses his life as an out gay undergraduate student in the late 70s and early 80s as well as his activism while an employee.

EXIT

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SERIAL
SET
Unpublished
U. S. Senate
Committee
Hearings
NACA
National
Advisory
Committee for
Aeronautics
NASA
National
Aeronautics and
Space
Administration
CAUTION
Open only one
drawer at a time

Examinations of rivers and harbors. XIII
No. 12520 Fiche 12
No. 12517 Fiche 14
Labor Statistics Bureau bulletins 1306, 1309, 1311, 1317-18, 1321, 1323-24, 1327-29, 1333, 1337, 1341, 1343, 1349
87th Cong. 2d sess. H.Docs. v. 42, n. 281–612, with gaps
No. 12500 Fiche
1st image: n.374, p.2
CIS US SERIAL SET

Services and systems we currently provide:

- Open Conference Systems
- Open Journal Systems
- VTechWorks
- Some scanning, mostly of our own Special Collections
- Some online delivery of digital primary source collections
- Some project support (Mapping the Fourth, VTArtWorks, etc.)
- Some consulting services and special software support, especially in PORT, the Digital Research Commons

Services and systems we plan to provide:

- VTechData
- Better on-demand scanning
- Better online delivery of digital primary sources
- Better and more sustainable project support
- Contribution of digital content to international initiatives and platforms (HathiTrust, DPLA, etc.)
- Skills training and workshops
- Events and exhibits

Thanks!

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