

## Digital Library and Archives 2006/07

### Highlights for the Virginia Tech Strategic Plan

#### The Scholarship Domains: Learning, Discovery, Engagement

##### Learning

###### Undergraduate Education

- Developed plan for mainstreaming Special Collections and greatly expanding first-hand experience of undergraduates with unique and rare university resources.

###### Graduate and Professional Education

- Graduate students honed electronic publishing skills by submitting 1,018 new ETDs to the library database of theses and dissertations (T=9.799) using DLA-developed software
- Scholarly ejournals published by DLA are freely available to the VT graduate community, including 278 separate web pages and 187 articles added in 2006/07. DLA ejournals were accessed 7.7 mil. times in 2006; 8% from US .edu sites.

###### eLearning and Information Systems

- Collaborated with Digital Imaging to provide open and free online access to 241 bound VT theses and dissertations.
- Collaborated with Digital Imaging to digitize 11,709 additional pages of the university's unique and rare Special Collections resources in sound archival formats.
- Special Collections, for the first time in its history, documented collection use and Reading Room patrons through Addison, the library's online catalog.

###### Educating the Whole Student

- DLA student workers expanded their knowledge of HTML and CSS (web markup languages), image manipulation, and accessibility. Students are very interested in learning these skills because they understand that this experience is useful to their majors.

##### Discovery

###### Social and Individual Transformation

- Provided digital images for research and publishing, among many others, to
  - Museums such as Smithsonian Institution's Roots of Virginia Culture
  - University of Tennessee exhibition about the Battle of Fort Sanders
  - Authors for publication of books and articles in periodicals such as *The Arrow* (railroad periodical)
  - Film makers for use in videos and educational movies about Black History Month, Lane Stadium, Civil War, and other topics
- History Prof. Marian Mollin's online educational module entitled "Student Protest in the Sixties: The Politics of Dissent at Virginia Tech," part of the Digital History Reader funded through an exemplary education grant from the NEH, is based on the University Archive's "Campus Unrest at Virginia Tech" site: <http://spec.lib.vt.edu/archives/unrest/intro.htm>

###### Health, Food, and Nutrition

- Food Curriculum made available at [http://scholar.lib.vt.edu/faculty\\_archives/hertzler/#food](http://scholar.lib.vt.edu/faculty_archives/hertzler/#food) by technology transfer of Dr. Hertzler's slides and script files

### Innovative Technologies and Complex Systems

- Adapted video conferencing technologies in DLA for multi-institutional digital preservation grant collaboration: MetaArchive

### Engagement

#### Economic Vitality (Research support)

- Provided town government officials access to images of businesses, government buildings, and landmarks of historical importance such as the Odd Fellows Hall.
- Well-established VT ImageBase is attractive to users such as university professors and students, to people across the world, and to donors such as Ann Hertzler and members of the Peacock-Harper Friends who recognize VT as a reliable resource for digital materials. Added 5,378 new images to Luna, with an additional 117 images from VT41607Archive. Metadata information: 439 images identified in VT41607Archive; 1,300 new images cataloged and identified; 40,000 old metadata entries edited to conform to new database.
- Advised Christiansburg Institute on conservation budget

#### International Education and Research

- DLA's web presence supported international education and research worldwide in 2006. 28% (>13 mil.) of the web accesses to <http://scholar.lib.vt.edu> came from international domains in 2006. 39% (>6.5 mil.) of ETD accesses and 9% (>1 mil.) of the online accesses to the Special Collections came from international locations.

#### Student Engagement

- "What's in Special Collections," at Kentland Farm, Nov. 10, 2006, for VT students and community members
- National History Day Presentation, for Blacksburg Middle School students, July 12, 2006

## Foundation Strategies: Organizational Development; Campus Infrastructure

### Organizational Development

#### Development of the Organization: A High Quality Diverse and Inclusive Academic Environment

- Addressed accessibility standards, thus fostering diversity: Applied focused HTML markup to data tables in DLA's ejournal publications, to images throughout the website, and to sound file transcripts. Over 7.5 million visitors to DLA's ejournals alone accessed HTML versions that comply with the W3C's Web Accessibility Initiative (WAI), 508, and the University's new Standards for Web Accessibility.
- Exhibition at the Inn at VT for the Black Alumni Reunion, "Student Empowerment: Black Students at Virginia Tech," March 16-18, 2006.

### Investment in the Campus Infrastructure

- Initiated and maintained an archive of the "Staff Employee of the Week" that provides sustainable recognition of the achievements of outstanding staff members and fosters a high quality academic environment.
- Developed and maintained electronic archives for University Relations and Virginia Cooperative Extension digital archives, including transferring 80.71 GB of images and data from university photographer, Rick Griffiths
- Added 488 cu. ft. of unique and rare resources to Special Collections: Archives of American Aerospace Engineering: 7 cu.ft., American Civil War: 2.7 cu.ft., Faculty: 36 cu.ft., International Archive of Women in Architecture: 10 cu.ft., Local History: 377 cu.ft., Literature: 3.5 cu.ft., VT History: 52 cu.ft.

## Digital Library and Archives 2006/07

### Highlights for the UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES STRATEGIC PLAN

#### Collections

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

DLA acquires, migrates, and makes available unique VT scholarship and scientific works.

- Current e-journals include: *Electronic Antiquity*, *Journal of Pesticide Safety Education*, and *Journal of Technology Education*
- 9,799 VT ETDs as of 6/29/07.
  - 4.5 million pages and 136,000 files requested from <http://scholar.lib.vt.edu/theses>
  - 241 bound VT theses and dissertations added to ETD database through partnership with Digital Imaging (T=1,379 scanned)
- Faculty Archives added 2006/07
  - *Food Curriculum*, a digital presentation DLA adapted from Dr. Hertzler's slides and script files: [http://scholar.lib.vt.edu/faculty\\_archives/hertzler/#food](http://scholar.lib.vt.edu/faculty_archives/hertzler/#food)
  - *Mapping the Blues Genes* by Ray Dessy, a web site exploring the development of Blues Music in the United States: [http://scholar.lib.vt.edu/faculty\\_archives/blues\\_mount/index.html](http://scholar.lib.vt.edu/faculty_archives/blues_mount/index.html)
  - *Southern Laboring Women* by Dr. Wilma Dunaway, a web site focusing on the women's roles from 1700-1860: [http://scholar.lib.vt.edu/faculty\\_archives/appalachian\\_women/](http://scholar.lib.vt.edu/faculty_archives/appalachian_women/)
- 488 cu.ft. of unique and rare resources added to Special Collections, including
  - Marshall Fishwick Collection, founder of popular culture studies
  - James Dean Collection, art director for NASA

#### Services

##### 2.1. 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

- Circle of Excellence Presentation, July 2006
- Special Collections Ribbon Cutting event, displays, tours, November 15
- Dr. Jim McKenna, Nov. 14, HIST 3124, History of American Agriculture (30-40 students)
- Dr. Nancy Metz, Nov. 30, ENGL 4405, Victorian Literature (20 students)
- Dr. Mollin, Feb. 15, HIST 2004, Historical Methods (20 students)
- Tour and discussion with 6 architecture students (Feb. 28) interested in becoming more involved with the IAWA collections
- Preliminary discussions: with Dr. Mollin about culinary history graduate class next year, with Dr. Van Hook about class on Audubon, and with Dr. Burge about working with a doctoral candidate interested in doing research for the Black Women's History Project
- Barbara Egen, VT faculty: home for Industrial Design oral history project and equipment for capturing and archiving oral history
- Jerry Palmer, VT Records Management, and Kim O'Rourke, President's Office: digitizing and access to the BOV minutes and papers
- Bryan Clark Green, architectural historian working with VT architect's office: researching The Grove for the Historic Structures Report
- Assistance to external colleagues and special projects
  - Longwood Archivist, Lydia Williams: copyright

- Christine de Catanzaro, Georgia Tech: name authority
- Emory University Doctoral students: T. Marshall Hahn research
- Robert Lalka, Duke University: Conflict '68
- Exhibitions
  - Family Day, November. 4, display
  - Dec. 4, 2006—Football display for Lou Merritt, director of development of Athletics, and other development staff
- Worked with community volunteers: Bruce and Chris Parker processing Phycological Society of America collection; Dennis Smith identifying VT Historical Photograph collection, and Cyndi Bertleson working on the Culinary Collection

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

- Worked closely with Digital Imaging to provide educational materials to students, graduate students, and the entire university community: bound theses and dissertations, historical photographs, science fiction publications, and unique and rare primary source materials.
- Interacted with local and state libraries regarding web pages, digital images, and ETDs, providing information, technical support, or PDF documents.
- Migrated educational materials such as Hertzler's presentation on food and nutrition to web access for teachers, nutritionists, and students.
- Educated and supported the university community use of the VT ImageBase, including mounting images and digital archiving.
- Collaborated with staff, students, and faculty to enrich, promote, and sustain academic standards through copyright consulting.
- Staff from Development used DLA's expertise and resources to enrich their presentations and publications.

## **Preservation**

### **4.1.1 Participate in the VIVA IMLS grant application process for a VIVA digital repository**

- Collaborated with universities statewide to apply for an Institute of Museum and Library Services grant entitled "National Leadership Grants For Libraries / Building Digital Resources," requesting \$64,403 for Virginia Tech. Award decision date: September 2007. This grant would provide support for digitizing the primary sources in 5,500 collections held at VIVA institutions that pertain to "America's Struggles for Freedom." Digital Imaging and DLA would partner to create images from Special Collections, create the metadata to describe the images, offer training and services to staff at participating institutions, and VT's Information Technology would host the archival digital masters for the Commonwealth.

### **4.1.2 Develop a report of the outcomes to date on LOCKSS program and VT**

DLA participated in digital preservation collaborations through the Library of Congress award to the MetaArchive of Southern Digital Culture. As a result 24 Special Collections (including rare books and publications) and Faculty Archives from Virginia Tech are archivally preserved at five distributed universities (Auburn, Emory, Florida State, Georgia Tech, Louisville). DLA provides similar services for their special and digital collections. This year the MetaArchive prepared a "Cooperative Agreement" which will enable the formal addition of new institutional members and financial support beyond current funding, and we developed EDUCOPIA, a nonprofit organization, to provide administrative services and to address the needs of cultural memory institutions for shared digital preservation infrastructure. The MetaArchive also designed and held our first to two-and-a-half day workshop (May 30-June 1) to provide information and training for institutions seeking to build or join distributed digital preservation networks based on our modifications to the LOCKSS software. In addition to weekly hour-long conference calls, the co-PIs held semi-annual

meetings in Atlanta in which McMillan participated, and they made numerous nationwide presentations with McMillan leading the Dec. 4 CNI presentation in Washington, DC. Since DLA was without a Systems Administrator most of the year, its staff did not participate as planned in the Network disaster and recovery testing. While Congress rescinded three years of additional funding that was to be awarded to the MetaArchive Cooperative, the Library of Congress still found funding to continue to support our endeavors for another 18 months through February 2009.

## **Systems**

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

- See “Increasing Accessibility to Heritage and Research Resources” in *IT Connection*, Spring 2007, p. 2.
- Worked with Dr. Moore, formerly of Anaerobe Lab, to remove restricted status from materials.
- Continued development of a shared, web-based, interface for Special Collections staff to search, add, and edit important accession and manuscript records for the inventory process, and to improve client services. Added and/or modified records for 216 items.

## **Physical Spaces**

### **6.1 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**

- Monitored temperature and humidity throughout Special Collections, especially areas housing rare books, manuscripts, and accessions. Readings are documented around the clock. Compiled reports every two weeks, and collaborated with Chris Peters to apply this information to library-wide climate reports.
- Added wall monitor to Reading Room. Public in the Newman lobby as well as the Special Collections Reading Room can easily view the revolving survey of unique resources available through the Digital Library and Archives.

## **Staff**

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

- Created and maintained an archive of the “Staff Employee of the Week” recipients that provides sustainable recognition of the achievements of outstanding staff members and fosters a high quality academic environment.
- Participated in the Recognition Awards Committee (RAC) to complete the first step in streamlining the process of nominating qualified staff and faculty members for the awards. Processed all of last year’s nominations, and presented awards to both staff and faculty. Joyce Nester and Kimberli Weeks both served, Nester in the capacity of chair.