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Annual Report 2005-2006

University Libraries



Virginia Tech
Blacksburg, VA

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From the Dean

If someone says “connectivity” pictures that come to mind might include lattes and laptops in the local wireless café, apartment signs touting Ethernet and cable, or a symphony of ringing cell phones. That vision of connectivity is important for libraries too.

But the Library has also been working on other kinds of connectivity.

All of our users, students, staff, and faculty are pressed for time. We have been working hard this year to provide services that connect our users more quickly and intuitively to the information they need for learning and to “invent the future” through research. The border on the cover of this report features logos for two services— **Get VText** and **LibX**— that we were very pleased to be able to introduce to our community. This report will let you know why we think they are important and will also note other library services and resources that enhance the user’s information experience.

The cover picture of the electronic reading room on the Torgersen Bridge suggests another kind of connectivity that is important for our users. We continue to cross bridges, to travel outside the physical confines of Newman or the branches, to connect with and collaborate with other Virginia Tech units and other libraries. These kind of connections - partnerships- create a richer information environment for our user than would be possible working alone. I will mention some of these collaborations too.

Our guide for connecting users with library services and resources is the updated strategic plan for the University. As a service organization the library is guided by the overall needs generated through the plan. Our major areas of contribution are to the learning and discovery domains.

Our goal is to be a user-centric library, one that works to stay connected to its user base. As always; I welcome your comments and thoughts as you review the accomplishments of the University Libraries.

Eileen E. Hitchingham

Dean, University Libraries hitch@vt.edu



University Libraries at Virginia Tech

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.

Learning

The Library enriches the undergraduate experience through its collaboration with faculty in initial and capstone experiences for information discovery, and participates in the transformative activities of the Graduate School to prepare scholars for a professional life where knowledge must be constantly renewed.

Graduate and Undergraduate Education

- Graduate Information Course:** In collaboration with the Graduate School the Library developed and introduced a one credit course **Library Research Skills** (GRAD 5984) in spring 2006. The goal of the Library Research Skills course is to familiarize graduate students with library services and resources, to enhance their information retrieval skills with hands-on sessions on searching databases germane to their research areas, and to use database management programs (such as EndNote) to manage their information and research data. Although initiated with little advance publicity the course drew 24 registrants. In evaluating the course most of the students gave it an enthusiastic endorsement.
- Library Classes, Tours Presentations:** More than 815 library instruction sessions, tours and other presentations were provided by library faculty and staff in 2005/06.
- Class Grants to Faculty:** With joint funding from

the Library and the College for Liberal Arts and Human Sciences (CLAHS) a pilot project was initiated to provide grants for faculty in the College to work in partnership with library faculty on developing information intensive core courses for undergraduate students.

These courses were designed to expose students to the processes involved with identifying, evaluating, and managing information for their curricular needs. Five Library/CLAHS teams worked with classes in 2005/2006. Their projects ranged from a class-wide examination of murders in Virginia in the late 19th to early 20th century (**HIST 4004**), to web pages created as guides to studies in Literature for Children (**ENGL 3524**). The Library is grateful to have been able to support the project through its *Preston and Jane Andrews Library Endowment* and gifts to the *Library Excellence Fund*

Title	Southern uncomfot : homicide in the Old Dominion, 1878-1937 : essays by the students in HIST 4004, Murder in Virginia, fall 2005.		
Publication info.	[Blacksburg, Va.] : Dept. of History, Virginia Tech, c2005.		
Call no.	LD5655.A562 H5 2005		
Persistent link to this record			
Location	Call No.		Status
Newman 3rd Floor	LD5655.A562 H5 2005	c.2	AVAILABLE
Spec VT General	LD5655.A562 H5 2005		SPEC USE ONLY
Description	1 v. (various pagings) ; 28 cm.		
Note	Cover title "Instructo		
Bibliography	Includes t		
Contents	Race, jur, and the t of cold-blooded slaughter : the Addison-Garland duel / Bryan		

Catalog record in Addison for the manuscript created by students of HIST 4004

eLearning and Information Systems

- **Online modules:** Over the last few years the Library has developed several online modules to reach those students who may not be able to participate in a on-site class with library visitations. The modules include a Research Project Scheduler, TILT, the Tech Information Literacy Tutorial, and other resources. There has been an almost 300% increase in site visits to use these resources in 2005/06. Many of the referring sites are Blackboard class sites of VT faculty which we believe is an indication of a successful outreach effort to make these resources more visible.
- **Interloan Collaboration Explored:** Several libraries on the I-81 corridor use the same system, Innovative Interface, as does VT for the new catalog interface. We met with staff from the Innovative company, and colleagues from Washington and Lee, James Madison, Hollins, Radford, and Roanoke College to consider the cost-benefits that might be possible if we all purchased an interloan product called In-Reach. This product would allow users at each college to place a request against any of the resources in any other college or university. In looking at the issue we determined that our present mechanism for sharing resources through VIVA was satisfying most of our users and the added complexity of putting an additional system in place for handling some requests but not all, and the attendant costs, did not justify going forward with the idea.
- **VT Libraries' Luna Insight Project Expands:** Luna Insight provides tools for accessing web-based digital image collections. The software allows you to search image collections, manipulate selected images using a "digital lightbox", and create image-based presentations for classroom and professional use. In 2005/06 under the leadership of staff at the Libraries' Art & Architecture branch
 - * 3,200 slides from the Libraries collection (Frank Lloyd Wright, Carlo Scarpa, Louis Kahn and contemporary Berlin) were scanned for Luna access.
 - * Several FDI sessions on Luna were arranged for faculty for in Spring 2006 and Summer 2006
 - * Luna capabilities were demonstrated for the Information Technology unit in the College of Veterinary Medicine
 - * 300 images were added and cataloged for Professor Bailey Van Hooks class *Art Since 1900*.
 - * Library staff worked with Professor Day of the Department of Entomology to determine how Luna high resolution images might be part of a grant proposal.



4,000 athletic department images in Imagebase were converted to Luna format

National Architecture Accrediting Board Visit: As part of the NAAB five year accreditation review, the library was assessed for its ability to support programs of the College of Architecture and Urban Studies. The report was favorable in regard to library support, noting that library holdings are generous and amply fill the requirements of the program. It was especially noted that “digital image collections are *increasingly accessible to students and faculty at all locations.*”

Educating the Whole Student

Undergraduate and graduate students are a very important part of the clientele served by the University Libraries. Collectively they account for 67% of the circulation and renewal activity for library materials. We want to promote a good quality of life as they work with the library staff and use our spaces and resources, and we offer an excellent learning environment for strengthening cross-cultural understanding.

International Students Reception: The Library Diversity Committee hosted its third annual reception for international students on January 11, 2006. The event gives graduate students a chance to meet library faculty and staff who can help them make the best use of library resources that are important for their programs. It gives library staff an excellent opportunity to learn about the many interesting backgrounds that our students bring to Virginia Tech.



Good to the last drop: In addition to extending library hours during Finals Week in spring 2006, the library perked up students during this stressful time with the service of free coffee in the Newman lobby for four nights. This area is designated to become a student study café as internal renovations of Newman progress.

Gate counts of patrons entering the library also increased each of the four nights of free coffee service, indicating more students were taking advantage of the library's inviting spaces for studying. Compared to the same nights during Finals in spring 2005, entrance counts were up by 33 to 50%.

Building Spaces that Work for Library Users: A recent study reported in the *Chronicle of Higher Education* notes that prospective students put the campus library high on the list when they rank campus facilities that are important in making their choice to attend a particular college or university. The results from this survey echo what we have been hearing from undergraduate students for the last several years in our Lib-QUAL+ surveys.

What the library looks like and how it works for students is important, before they come, and when they get here.

The original Newman Library is now 50 years old, and the “new” addition was opened almost 25 years ago. Library renovation and creating additional space for materials through the building of an automated retrieval facility linked to Newman, is on the University’s Six Year Building Plan, but not yet funded. We are pleased that in 2005/06, through special support from the *Parents Fund*, the *Library Excellence Fund*, and some general fund resources, we have begun making inroads into improving our spaces.

WHAT STUDENTS LOOK FOR IN PICKING A COLLEGE

A new study by the Association of Higher Education Facilities Officers shows the extent to which students are concerned about campus facilities and their upkeep. Following are facilities that the survey’s respondents, polled in the spring of 2005, deemed “extremely important” or “very important” when they were selecting a college:

Facilities for major	73.6%
Library	53.6%
Sophisticated technology	50.9%
Classrooms	49.8%
Residence halls	42.2%
Exercise facilities	35.6%
Bookstore	34.6%

From: Chronicle of Higher Education 6/9/06

This year we were able to complete the first phase of the Special Collections expansion which provides additional storage for special materials, a public reading room, a small meeting room, and some staff offices and workspace. We have also been able to complete four group study rooms and two special reading areas for our students. These attractive and comfortable spaces have scored with our users right from the start.



Discovery

The ability to discover and create new scholarly works is dependent on having the means to build upon what is already known and what researchers have done before.

Through collection enhancement projects and by offering useful outreach services the Libraries enriched the core of resources that researchers can turn to, and made them easier to use. Some accomplishments in support of Discovery Scholarship in the University's Strategic Plan include:

Addison : The new Addison— the library catalog— went live on August 1, 2006, just five months after the contract for the system was signed. VT staff successfully brought up one of the speediest implementations in the product's history.

Addison serves as one of the major portals to access more than 2,000,000 traditional library holdings; to find government

Just wanted to say I absolutely love the new system, particularly the way it lets me manage my "patron record" and select books to renew on line. Wonderful improvement. (Graduate student)

documents in electronic and print format; to access Virginia Tech's theses and dissertations; and to connect to more than 30,000 electronic books.

Added features provide users with cover pages and summaries for books added to the Libraries and new book listings to keep them informed about new publications. Circulation jumped by 39% with the introduction of the new Addison system in 2005/06.



Celebrating Switch on Addison Day—8/1/2005

Complex Addison Switching Technology

Let them eat catalog cake...



SOUND AND ELECTRICITY.

LECTURE BY PROF. ALEXANDER GRAHAM BELL—AN EXHIBITION OF THE SPEAKING TELEPHONE.

At Chickering Hall last evening, before about 300 persons, Prof. Alexander Graham Bell lectured on "Sound and Electricity," and gave an exhibition of the speaking telephone. The address was mainly devoted to an explanation of the different qualities of sound produced, as the speaker expressed it, by different shades of vibration. He then went into an exhaustive discussion of the transmission of sound by electricity and a history of the telephone, illustrated by a number of complex and not very intelligible figures cast upon a prepared background by means of a stereopticon. At the end of the lecture Prof. Bell stated that he had intended to give a lecture which he believed would have been

THE GREAT FIRE.

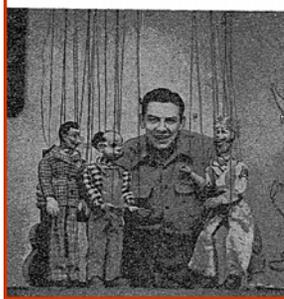
Continuation of the Investigation by the Board of Police.

Mrs. O'Leary, the Owner of the Cow, Etc., Examined.

Testimony of Foremen of Steamers, and Citizens.

The Board of Police, yesterday, resumed the investigation of the origin and progress of the fire. Commissioners Brown, Sheridan, and Chadwick, and Marshal Williams and Assistant Marshals Walters and Bremer were present.

TELEVISION'S "HOWDY DOODY"



LUSITANIA A TOTAL WRECK.

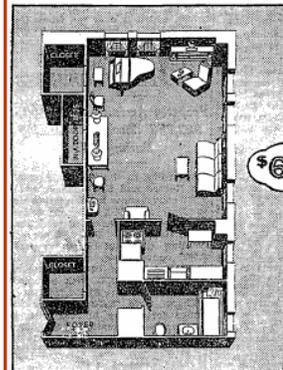
Ran on Rocks With Hundreds Aboard.

Passengers Fight Madly for Lifeboats.

Crew Conquers Thugs and Lands Every Person Safely. Terrible Suffering.

BY THE NEW ASSOCIATED PRESS. ST. JOHNS (N. F.) June 26.—The Orient Steam Navigation Company's steamer Lusitania, Capt. McNay, from Liverpool, June 18, for Montreal, having 300 passengers on board, was wrecked last night off Cape Ballard. The Lusitania was bound round Cape Race for Montreal, with a large cargo and a shipload of passengers. She mistook her course in a dense fog and went ashore near Renev's, twenty miles north of Cape Race, before day-break. The ship ran over a reef and

This 1-room Corner Suite



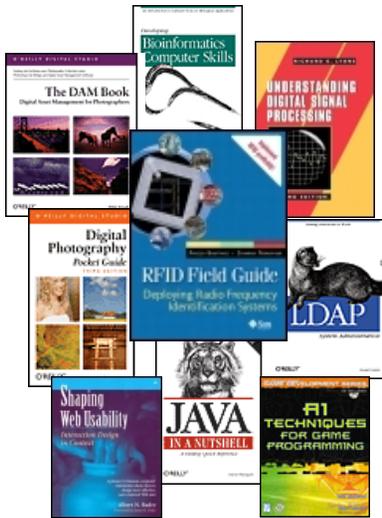
for space, sunshine, fresh air

with free gas and refrigeration

They're hard to find, because builders usually think corners are too valuable for one-room apartments. The living room gives you cross ventilation through five double casement windows... plenty of sunshine, and a marvellous feeling of space. You can get all this furniture in comfortably... and more if

FREE PRIVILEGES: Ace Garden Swimming Pool Marine Deck Children's Sun Terrace Gymnasium

- **History as a Current Event—A Click Away** : Earlier interviews with research faculty in the humanities and social sciences about their collection needs informed the Library's decision to enrich its collections of primary source materials in an electronic format. Notable additions this year include 125,000 items in the *Early English Books* collection, which includes titles published in English in Great Britain and the Americas from 1473 to 1700. These early books are searchable in Addison and the content can be read by clicking through from the catalog. Reading about historical events as they were reported at the time they occurred has been made possible by addition of digital archives of *The London Times*, *The New York Times*, *The Chicago Tribune*, and *the Los Angeles Times*.



- **Safari Books Online Expanded:** In fall 2005 the response to a trial run to access the Safari Tech Books Online database was so great that a subscription to 900 of the Safari titles was initiated. Safari books include output from technical publishers like O'Reilly, Microsoft Press, Prentice Hall, and Addison Wesley. In combination with the NetLibrary electronic books added to the collections a few years ago, all of our electronic books experienced more that 90,000 visits from VT users in 2005/06.

- **More Older Journals Online:** For years many of our LibQUAL+ respondents have noted their preference for online access to journals. They like the current materials but also want to see older materials accessible in a similar manner. This is particularly important for our faculty and students working from non-Blacksburg sites. In 2005/06 we were able to purchase backfiles of 561 Elsevier journals from volume 1. We also acquired three new JSTOR sets of core older journals in the

From LibQUAL+ (spring 2005):

Electronic articles are incomplete: often the year I need is just below the availability cutoff

I get frustrated by how often I have to request older journals from storage

- **EndNote for Everyone:** EndNote is a citation tracking tool that allows users to find a citation in a database and automatically save and reformat it in the way that meets their requirements when they later use it in a dissertation, journal article, or report. For example, a citation from the Factiva database could be saved in formats of the American Psychological Association (APA), the Chicago Manual of Style, or the journal *Genomics*. When we introduced the software last year in a partnership with the Graduate School and the Research Office we had a limited subscription for faculty and graduate students. The software has been so popular that we have expanded our subscription base so everyone at Virginia Tech has access to the software



FACULTY AUTHORS RECOGNITION DAY
APRIL 29, 2006 • 10AM - NOON • SECOND FLOOR, NEWMAN LIBRARY



- K. ALLEN • ROBIN M. ANDREWS • MICHAEL BADAWY • JOSEPH BALL • ROMESH BATRA • JULIA BEAMISH • RANDALL BILLINGSLEY • JACQUELINE EYRING • BIXLER • BENJAMIN BLANCHARD • ATHAM BOUGUETTAVA • D. BOWMAN • KEVIN J. BOYLE • CRAIG L. BRIANS • JOHN CAIRNS JR. • K. CENNA MO • A. T. COBB • MARY L. CONNELLEY • SEAN G. CORCORAN • JOHN K. COSTAIN • ELOISE COUPEY • HARRY DANKOWICZ • LUIZ DASILVA • WILLIAM C. DAMS • ROBERT E. DENTON • KAREN DEPALW • A. ROGER EKIRCH • JOANN EMMEL • E. THOMAS EWING • EDWARD FALCO • ANTONIO A. FERNANDEZ VAZQUEZ • MARSHALL FISHWICK • EDWARD FOX • V. R. FU • DAVID GAO • THOMAS GARDNER • RAYMOND GEOR • GLENDA GILLASPY • MEDOUNE GUEYE • DONG HA • COLETTE HARRIS • JAMES R. HEFLIN • BOB HOOK • KAREN M. HULT • MICHAEL HYER • DANIEL INMAN • PUSHRIN KACHROO • ARTHUR KEOWN • DORIS H. KINCADE • PAUL L. KNOX • WERNER E. KOHLER • NOEL R. KRIEG • ROLAND LAZENBY • B. LEPCZYK • JOHN M. LEVY • LUVU LIRESCU • RUTH H. LYTON • S.G. MAGUIARO • JEFF MANN • DJORDJE MINIC • JOEL A. NACHLAS • AU NAVFEH • CHRISTOPHER P. NECK • AMY NELSON • WILLIAM E. NEWTON • GEORGE W. NORTON • THOMAS OLLENDICK • DAVID ORDEN • TERRY PAPILLON • KATHY PARROTT • EVERETT B. PETERSON • FRED PIERCY • DUNCAN M. PORTER • STEPHEN PRINCE • JEFFREY H. REED • MICHAEL RENARDY • RICHARD C. RICH • BONHAM C. RICHARDSON • JAMES I. ROBERTSON JR. • CAROLYN D. RUDE • JOSEPH SCARFACI • DANIEL SCHNECK • JOAO CARLOS SETUBAL • JON M. SHEPARD • PETER K. SHIRES • JUDITH SHRUM • JILL C. SIBLE • VIJAY SINGAL • M. JOSEPH SROF • ALAN WALTER STEISS • YIANNIS A. STIVACHTIS • WARREN H. STROTHER • TATSU TAKEUCHI • BERNARD TAYLOR • WILLIAM H. TRANTER • JOSEPH TRONT • JUSTO ULLÓA • CHARLES E. WALCOTT • RICHARD A. WALKER • PETER W. ALLEN • STEIN • L. WATSON • RICHARD WOKUTCH • ERIC A. WONG



Sponsored by the Office of the Provost, the Office of the VP for Research, and the University Libraries

Faculty Authors Recognition Day

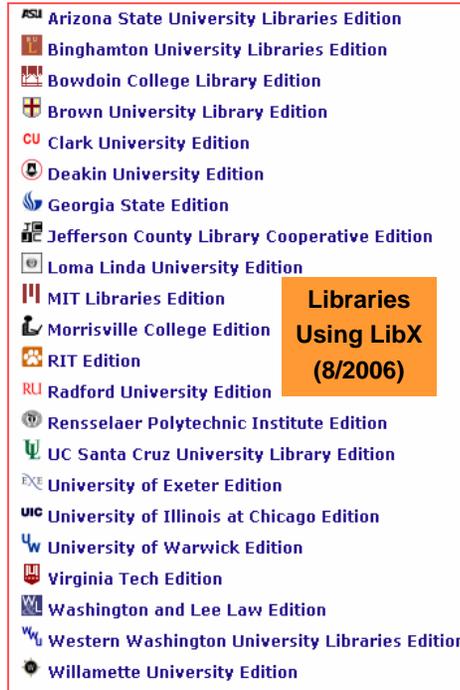
Virginia Tech Faculty Authors were honored at a Library reception during Ut Prosim weekend, on April 29, 2006. This event, the first of an annual celebration of faculty authors, was sponsored by the University Libraries as part of its celebration of Newman Library's 50th birthday. The Office of the Provost and the Office of the Vice-President for Research were co-sponsors for the recognition.

The subjects explored in the publications of the 102 authors celebrated at the event covered a gamut that ranged from poetry, to pirates, to pest management.

LibX : LibX is a locally developed research tool that puts the connection to library resources where our users are—searching the web with an internet browser. The open source extension for the Firefox browser was developed by Annette Bailey of VT's University Libraries and Godmar Back of VT's Department of Computer Science. The team is currently working on an adaptation of the tool for the Internet Explorer browser.

LibX makes it easier for users to connect to their library catalog when they are searching for information, without having to leave the browser environment that they are working in. The user first downloads LibX so it is available on the Firefox Toolbar and is marked with a logo. Then, if she is in Amazon looking up a book to buy, she could highlight the title, drop it in the LibX box already on the toolbar, and by right clicking the mouse, complete a search in Addison. This would let her know that the library has the book she is interested in, and it is not checked out.

LibX can also be used for doing a contextual search in Google Scholar—again without having to go through the Library's webpage— and show the LibX logo next to those resources in Scholar that are accessible to VT students. It also supports



access to the Libraries openURL server provider which makes quick work of getting to online articles subscribed to by the Libraries.

A testimony to the usefulness of LibX is the speed with which it has been adapted by other libraries. In less than a year adaptation of LibX in libraries has ranged across the country (MIT, Chicago, Arizona State, Santa Cruz) and around the world (Exeter, Deakin University).

Get VText - Library Branding for the

Good Stuff: We are learning that our students, and students everywhere, don't want to go through a lot of steps to get to the things they need, and that they may not be able to distinguish scholarly materials from others on the Web. With the development of the **Get VText** logo by the Library Marketing Team, we have accomplished two goals. We use the logo in those databases and journals that can employ openURL technologies. When our users see the logo they can click on it and immediately connect to content if we have the article through an electronic subscription. If we don't, they can choose to initiate a request through ILLiad—and have most of the information for the form filled in automatically. Users also learn that seeing the **Get**

VText logo means that they are connecting to the kinds of scholarly materials that their professors expect to see in their papers and projects.



Engagement

University Library Committee and the Strategic

Plan: The University Library Committee, which includes representatives from each College and other university agencies, proposed and carried through an active program to bring the need for adequate library support to the attention of the university team revising the University's Strategic Plan. The Committee prepared a letter for the President and the Provost indicating that a university with aspirations to move to top tier status for research needed to assure that the materials, staff, and spaces made available in the library, to the university community, were adequate for supporting that ambition. As a benchmark aspiration they proposed that the Libraries be funded at the 30th percentile of the average of its peers by 2012, and that progress be made to this goal each year.

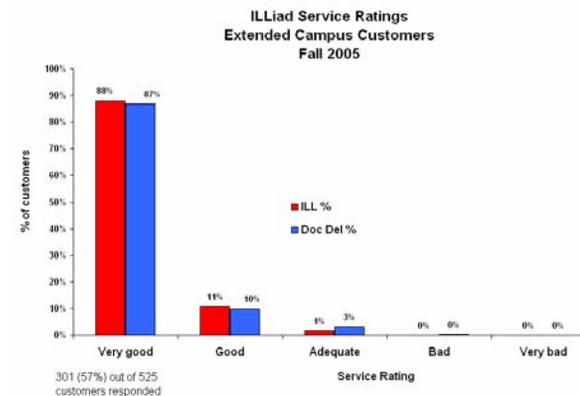
Student fees for Library Support: Several research institutions— Texas A&M, NC State University—use student fees as one of the methods of ensuring adequate continuing support for their libraries. The undergraduate representative to the University Library Committee was instrumental in including a question about willingness to support a fee structure for the Libraries in a survey conducted in late spring 2006. The results will be available in fall 2006.

Graduate students on the Commission on Graduate Studies and Policies were sympathetic to the need to increase library funding, in a manner that would ensure access to research resources and services of a top tier research institution, but they felt that students were already at the limit of

fees for graduate work. They indicated adequate support as a university responsibility that should be handled centrally, not by graduate student fees.

University Libraries, Not Just Blacksburg: The Library is always aware that not every VT student or faculty member is in a near-Blacksburg environment. For this reason it is active in addressing authentication issues so all students are represented in university ID systems, it schedules regular visits to university sites from Abingdon to Northern Virginia, and it invests in people and courier resources so that needed materials are delivered quickly and conveniently to externally-sited library users.

The annual ILLiad survey, which determines user satisfaction with our ability to deliver materials from the Library in



Blacksburg, and from those other libraries that we borrow from, shows that more than 90% of our users find these services to be good to very good.

Ingenta Registrants Increased by 21%:

Ingenta is a major library research service that we have made available to the VT community for several years. It allows the user to search titles and abstracts of more than 25,000 journals; set up table of contents or subject alerting services for particular journals or user defined searches; connect to electronic titles if the library has a subscription; and if the library doesn't have the publication, to purchase the article and get an electronic or fax delivery. This service is seen as a major source for expanding the ability of VT's researchers to stay current with the content of their discipline. The Research and Instructional Services unit has been active this year in offering more workshops on Ingenta capabilities and developing an online workbook to support new users. Registration to use the Ingenta service saw a 21% increase this year, following this active outreach program.

Grant Proposals: Alone and with colleagues at other regional research libraries, the Digital Library and Archive has initiated an active grant proposal plan for support for digital materials and collections. Six proposals were submitted, one proposal for the National Digital Information and Infrastructure Preservation Program, with VT, Emory, Auburn, Florida State, Georgia Tech, and the University of Louisville, is still pending.

LOCKSS—Lots of Copies Keep Stuff Safe:

LOCKSS technology involves the systematic caching of electronic documents on many machines, so that if a particular online publisher fails, or a server for a special service like electronic theses fails, other colleagues can assist in recovering the materials. Participation in LOCKSS is one of the Libraries' mechanisms for exploring preservation capabilities associated with the online environment. The Digital Library and Archives unit of the Library has partnered with other schools to use LOCKSS for the MetaArchive of Southern Digital Culture, and with Association of Southeastern Research Libraries (ASERL) members to preserve theses and dissertations.

Other Library Areas

Consulting Team for Digital Library and Ar-

chives: In 1995 we combined the Library's Scholarly Communications Project with the Special Collections unit (including University Archives). We did this because we anticipated a future that would see a much broader involvement of all aca-



demically Special Collections units with digital materials. The combined unit is now known as the Digital Library and Archives.

The hybrid formed here was extremely productive, and in the forefront of much of the digital library expansion that occurred in the last decade, especially with electronic theses and dissertations. The unit has had significant accomplishments, and it is widely known and respected. For the last several years the unit has been very active in grant seeking and has received support for several initiatives.

However, in the past decade the responsibilities and activities

of the combined unit have broadened, and it now seemed appropriate to reexamine the mission and capabilities of the unit, its organizational structure, and the scope of what it can accomplish when balanced against the resources that are likely to be available for the next several years.

For this reason a consulting team – Merrily Taylor, Director Washington and Lee University Library (previously Director at Brown University Library) and Barbara Jones, Director, Wesleyan University Library (previously Special Collections at University of Illinois) – was invited to visit Virginia Tech, meet with DLA staff and other university staff who work closely with DLA, and to develop recommendations regarding how best to shape our organization and to address the collections and work that are currently handled through the Digital Library and Archives. The team had an on-campus visit February 8-10, 2006.

The team was highly complimentary of DLA staff and their dedication, hard work, and commitment to library users. While recognizing the significant accomplishments of the DLA over the last decade, it suggested that the Special Collections unit could be best strengthened by including a Director level position for the unit to develop an identification and preservation agenda and to carry through with this. Several other useful recommendations resulted from the visit.

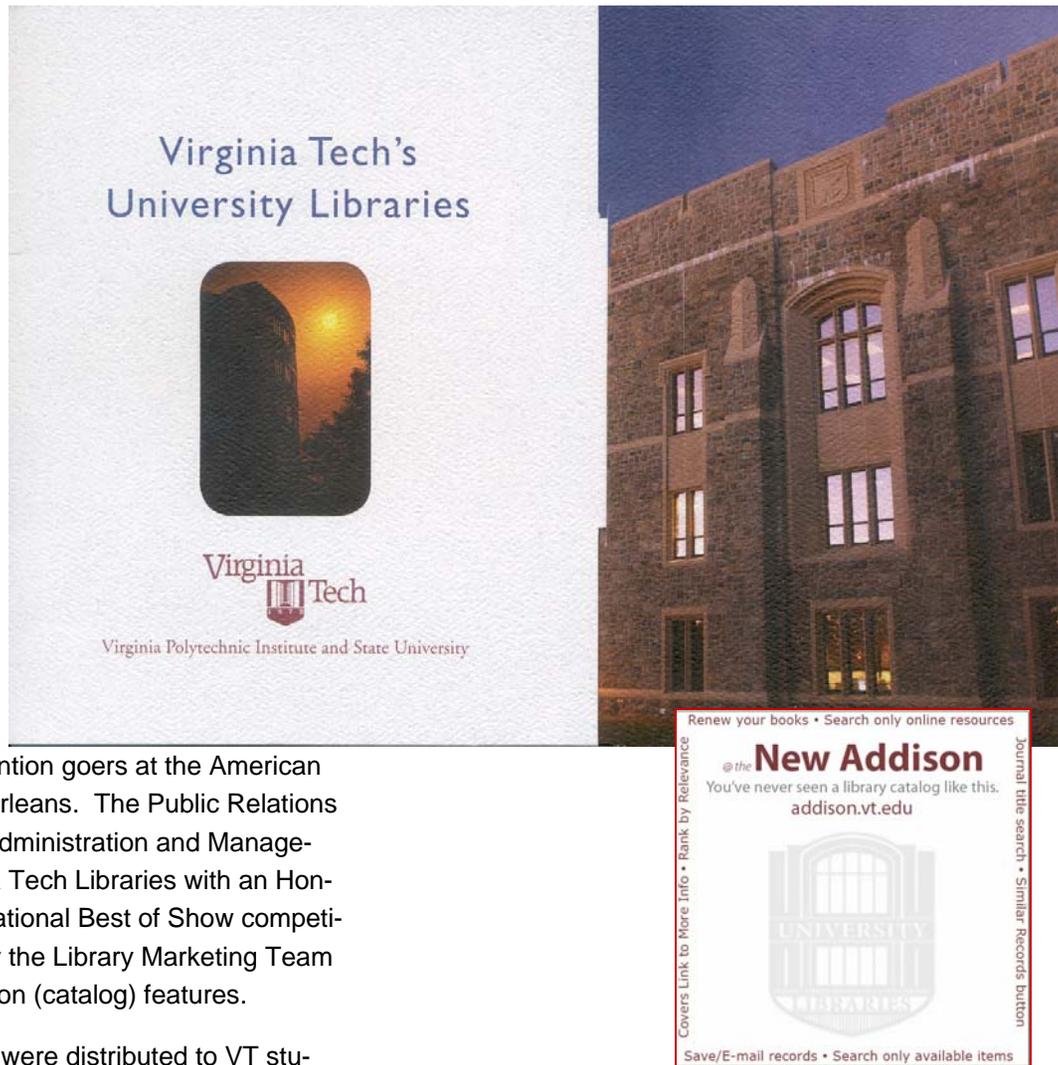
DLA will be divided into two separate but closely collaborative units in 2006/07 and a search for a Director for Special Collections will be initiated.

Winning Designs

Virginia Tech's University Libraries, a development brochure for contacting donors, won first place in the four-color-brochure category in the National Federation of Press Women (NFPW) Communications Contest. The attractive, fold-out brochure focuses on how the library is involved in sharing the power of knowledge. The award will be officially announced at NFPW's annual conference in Denver in September 2006. The brochure was submitted to the national competition by the Virginia Press Women (VPW) after it took first place in VPW's state competition. At the national level, it competed solely with first-place winners from other states. It was written and designed by the University Publications unit of University Relations.

Sticky notes for the Library's new Addison system caught the attention of convention goers at the American Library Association Conference in New Orleans. The Public Relations and Marketing Section of ALA's Library Administration and Management Association recognized the Virginia Tech Libraries with an Honorable Mention award in its annual international Best of Show competition. The sticky notes were developed by the Library Marketing Team to let library users know about new Addison (catalog) features.

More than 2000 of the Addison notepads were distributed to VT students, faculty and staff in fall 2005.



Publications and Other Scholarly Work of Library Faculty and Staff

BALL, Heather

Core Competencies and Core Curricula for the Art Library and Visual Resources Professions, editor. Occasional Paper of the Art Libraries Society of North America no. 15, 2006, Editor. Series is peer-reviewed.

ARLIS/NA Core Competencies for Art Information Professionals, with Sara Harrington and members of the ARLIS/NA Professional Development and Core Competencies Subcommittees, in Core Competencies and Core Curricula for the Art Library and Visual Resources Professions. Occasional Paper of the Art Libraries Society of North America no.15, 2006: 7-18.

Competency Issues in the Library Profession: An Annotated Bibliography, in Core Competencies and Core Curricula for the Art Library and Visual Resources Professions. Occasional Paper of the Art Libraries Society of North America no. 15, 2006: 19-34.

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