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Virginia Libraries is a quarterly journal published by the Virginia Library Association whose purpose is to develop, promote, and improve library and information services and the profession of librarianship in order to advance literacy and learning and to ensure access to information in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

The journal, distributed to the membership, is used as a vehicle for members to exchange information, ideas, and solutions to mutual problems in professional articles on current topics in the library and information field.

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The guidelines for submissions to *Virginia Libraries* are found on the inside back cover.

OPENERS

An Interview with Alyson Hagy

by Cy Dillon

Alyson Hagy, a native of Franklin County, Virginia, will publish her third collection of short stories and her first novel during the coming year. She teaches writing at the University of Wyoming.

VL How did growing up on the edge of the mountains in Virginia affect your development as a storyteller? Isn't your father something of the old-time country doctor?

AH Growing up on the edge of the Blue Ridge mountains, just at the intersection of Appalachian and Piedmont cultures, had a great effect on me as a writer. I was raised on a farm just outside of Rocky Mount, Virginia, so the richness of the rural landscape — the large vegetable garden, the ancient barns, the hay fields, the murky Blackwater river — fed my imagination, though I wasn't consciously aware of that fact. Southerners are grand storytellers, so I think being raised in a tale-telling culture also influenced my imagination. My father, who was a general practitioner in Franklin County until I was 15 (he still practices as a family doctor in Roanoke), is a great talker, and he collected anecdotes and tales from his colleagues and patients, often bringing them home to share with us. I also think that traveling on house calls with my father (which we often did) deepened my appreciation for a wide range of people,



black and white, poor and poorer, since I often saw families on the edge of grief. I was also welcomed onto the porches of those families and became familiar with the careful, hard-working rhythms of their lives. Even now, after years away from Virginia, I am still drawn to rural areas, to places that are often beautiful (as the Virginia mountains are) but difficult to live in.

VL Why do you think you set so many of your stories in extreme landscapes? The Outer Banks and the Upper Peninsula are quite different from western Virginia.

AH I wasn't aware of my predilection for "extreme landscapes" until I was deep into my collection of stories about the Outer Banks of

North Carolina. My guess is that I'm intrigued by survivors, by people who work on land or water where their livelihoods are affected by natural forces far beyond their control. Why would anyone want to live on a barrier island or in a mountain hollow? Because it's beautiful and challenging, and because independence and a high level of solitude are often desirable. I don't think that everyone should live in such places; I don't think most of us would want to do so. But people who live on our American margins — geographically, economically, culturally — deeply intrigue me, perhaps because they are always in "conflict" with weather or economic success as we usually define it.

I cannot tell which landscapes will trigger my imagination. I've recently completed a novel set on a racetrack in Kentucky, which is not a project I would have predicted for myself. I think I was drawn to the track because it harbored a rich microcosm of American dreamers, but I'm not absolutely sure.

VL You have a knack for capturing the language of different characters and narrators. Do you have a method for absorbing the idiom, or does it come naturally?

AH I suppose I've become a trained listener. I wasn't conscious of this tendency, either. The only conscious "training" I did as a

young person was read, and I read because I loved it, not because I dreamed of being a writer. I dreamed of being a veterinarian. Or an archaeologist. Or an equestrienne.

My parents are both excellent singers, so maybe the ability to hear idiom comes from some half-buried musical ability. I wish I could sing. I wish I could make people's skin prickle at the sound of my voice the way the great singers do. Maybe I'm a writer...one with an interest in sound and rhythm...because I can't sing. Not well enough to go beyond the church choir, in any case.

VL You have said that you are "right in the middle of the realist tradition." Do academic critics accept this of you, or do you get the feeling they'd rather see you go in a different direction?

AH It's hard to say what the critics think of me. I haven't made much of an appearance on the critical scene though I am occasionally contacted by a graduate student interested in my Appalachian or Southern roots. I suppose some critics won't find me "Southern" enough, but I *feel* deeply Southern. It's simply been my path to take my rural roots out into wider America.

What I mean when I say I'm "in the middle of the realist tradition" is that I'm not a particularly post-modern writer. My stories (and my novel) are traditional in structure and focus; they have beginnings, middles, and ends. About half of the important American writers are still realists; it's an abiding strain in our literature. Yet I am interested in what the experimenters are doing with language and form. I try to keep up (to some degree) with *avant garde* fiction on the internet, for instance. I just haven't found a way to use my interest in the new to fuel my own work. Not yet. So for now critics

are likely to connect me to the realistic tradition of Eudora Welty, Carson McCullers, etc. Which is not a bad place to be.

VL You say that your sister Melchora is your ideal reader. Do you use the reactions of readers in writing and revising your stories, or do you keep them to yourself until they are in final form?

AH When I've done all I can with a story (after many, many drafts), I'll try it out on a tough reader or two. Even after 20 years of experience, I'm not always my own best editor. Skilled readers are very important to me. My sister is not a writer, but she is a devoted reader of all sorts of books. She's a great one to test fiction on.

VL Your story "Sharking" is narrated from the point of view of a character who is almost the polar opposite of you. He is a disillusioned loner who reveals human compassion almost begrudgingly. Why did you select such a character to inhabit?

AH Tough question. I remember seeing this heavy, tattooed, eccentric guy at the end of Frisco Pier on Hatteras Island once. I never forgot him — the way he looked, the way his equipment was arrayed around him. Something began to hum when I saw him...and the hum didn't go away for years. Finally I was able to imagine a voice to go with his body and his obvious passion for shark fishing. Many of my stories begin like that — with a tableau, or a couple of sentences of dialogue. I seem to store those fragments until I can use them.

I also feel more challenged when I write "away" from myself. I think other folks are much more interesting than I am. I'm a born chronicler, I guess.

VL After three short story collections and a new novel, what

writing goals do you have for yourself in the next few years?

AH I'd like to get to work on a new novel, perhaps something set in Wyoming where we have plenty of intriguing extremes. And I'm always writing stories...about lots of different places and characters. There is probably at least one more Virginia book in me, as well. I'm regularly haunted (in a good way) by some half-formed, Blue Ridge-type characters in my imagination.

VL Do you find that teaching creative writing at a university helps or hinders your own writing? Have you had students who are successful writers themselves?

AH I can still teach effectively and get my own writing done, but it seems to get harder and harder. Writing becomes more demanding the better you get at it, so it can become difficult to share your best wisdom with your students when that wisdom is so hard-earned and more difficult to define. Right now, I still love teaching. It's a thrill...and a chance for me to learn. There's also the desire to "give something back" to eager young writers. I've had some truly great teachers in my day — George Garrett (now at UVa) is one of the most brilliant, generous artists I'll ever know. I also learned some vital lessons from Richard Ford, Janet Kauffman, and Charles Baxter.

I've had the privilege of working with many students who have gone on to publish and publish well. I don't take credit for their work, however. I may have helped them solve a short-term problem or two, but success in writing has more to do with what you learn than what you are taught. And, most of that learning occurs from reading (no surprise there) and putting pen to paper. Persistence and passion. Those are the keys. ■

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Committees Fuel the VLA Fire

by *Sandra Heinemann*

When asked to serve on a committee, most of us inwardly groan. We want to know "How much time is it going to take?" "What are we supposed to do?" "When do we have to have it done?" and so forth. We assume that a committee is being formed because there is a problem to be solved, a task to be completed, or a study to be undertaken; and we have a talent, skill, interest, or past experience that will get the job done. It is flattering to be asked, but most committees have a downside — they demand a lot of work. The upside is an opportunity to exercise intellectual skills, change a situation for the better, and interact with others with similar concerns or interests. On balance, shouldn't we say "yes"?

Fortunately, many competent people have said "yes" to the Virginia Library Association. The Association runs on the energy, commitment, and time of its volunteers. The appointed committees and their chairs address issues of importance to the VLA membership and to the profession. At present, VLA has ten standing committees and one ad hoc committee. A total of 120 members participate in these committees, approximately 10 percent of the membership. The work they do is vital to the organization.

Without VLA's Legislative Committee, we would not have secured the support of members of the

General Assembly in sponsoring and passing legislation to provide \$2.8 million to increase state aid to public libraries in 2000 and \$500,000 to fund the technology plan, Infopowering the Commonwealth. This was the result of a focused, organized effort on the part of committee members under the leadership of Janis Augustine and Linda Krantz with the advice

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and counsel and efforts of VLA's legislative liaison. This same group influenced the direction of Internet use legislation that resulted in passage of HB1043 which provided for local control of Internet use in Virginia's public libraries.

Without VLA's Continuing Education Committee, the Association would not have sponsored a plethora of continuing education and training programs for the membership. C. E. opportunities are always among the top three services that members expect from the Association. Louveller Luster, 1998/99 Chairperson, and her committee members annually plan a continuing education training workshop

for forum and section chairs which generates program ideas and guidelines for successful meetings. They monitor continuing education programs through a liaison system which provides additional support for the program planners.

Without VLA's Conference Committee, there would not be a stimulating, challenging annual conference. Hours of planning, telephoning, negotiating, and soliciting are needed to develop a conference with appeal to a broad spectrum of interests, to secure first-rate speakers, and to develop worthwhile programs. With the assistance of the Executive Director and Chairperson Mary Mayer-Hennelly, committee members also plan social events, determine schedules, contact vendors, and decide on program brochures. All of this serves to attract people to the conference and support the needs of members to network and learn in a stimulating environment.

Without the efforts of the Publications Committee, VLA would not have state-of-the-art communication tools for use by the membership. During the past few years, a web site was developed and a list-serv begun. These two services complement the *VLA Newsletter* and *Virginia Libraries*, insuring that we have an informed, involved membership. This year, co-chairs Barbie Selby and Sue Trask and their committee have worked to secure revenue to support publica-

Publications Committee members convene at Barbie Selby's home this spring.



tions through advertising. Other VLA committees monitor intellectual freedom issues, select individuals and groups to receive recognition and awards, choose VLA scholarship recipients, and develop organization manuals. Committees form the underpinning of VLA. They provide an opportunity for individuals to develop leadership skills which will be needed in the future. Professionals, paraprofessionals, and other library supporters are able to work together and learn from one another. VLA emphasizes inclusiveness and regional participation within all committees so that people from all areas of the Commonwealth can contribute. Members who work on committees are often the unsung heroes of the association. They all deserve a round of applause for their contributions to strengthening the association and the profession in Virginia. ■

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Anatomy of the *Internet Reference Resources* Web Page: a UVA Library Experiment

by *Scott Silet*

This just in: The number of Web sites surpasses 53 gazillion worldwide — number of reference librarians experiencing information meltdown attributed to the number of web sites at an all-time high. While this isn't an actual headline (yet), I suspect many of us feel as though we read it every week. Keeping up with the deluge of information available on the Internet is a full-time job. Indeed, organizations like Yahoo, The Scout Report, and the Internet Public Library have sizable staffs whose sole responsibility is to survey the farthest reaches of the virtual universe and keep the rest of us informed about what is new and interesting on the web. As the number of resources available over the Internet has grown, many reference librarians around the state have responded by establishing their own virtual collections of reference resources. For samples of such collections see Virginia Tech's <http://www.lib.vt.edu/research/resources/>, "General Reference Resources," William & Mary's <http://www.swem.vm.edu/Gateway/ref.html>, "Reference Resources," Fairfax County's <http://www.co.fairfax.va.us/library/internet/ref.htm>, "Reference Bookshelf," and Rockbridge Regional Library's [\[rang.gen.va.us/Infofldr/departs/reference/Index.htm\]\(http://www.lib.virginia.edu/reference\), "Index of WWW Resources." The University of Virginia also maintains a collection called <http://www.lib.virginia.edu/reference>, "Internet Reference Resources" \(IRR\), which has existed in one form or another since the spring of 1995. The following arti-](http://www.lib.</p></div><div data-bbox=)

Keeping up with the deluge of information available on the Internet is a full-time job.

cle is a brief history of that reference page, a discussion of how it is currently maintained and administered, and a listing of issues and challenges that face it and similar collections in the future.

Background

As is the case with many such pages at other libraries, the IRR essentially started out as a series of handy web sites which University of Virginia reference librarians found and bookmarked on their office or reference desk computers.

As the number of these resources grew, we found they became increasingly useful in our work answering reference questions. In response to this trend, many of us created lists of Internet-accessible resources on our library's reference pages. Unfortunately for our users, most were difficult to find and poorly organized — indicating, perhaps, that they were designed primarily for ourselves and not our library users. Lacking any standards of style or development, the quality of pages varied widely. Some used a straight alphabetic listing while others attempted to annotate each site or to group items by subject, but what these lists gained in organization they frequently lost in comprehensiveness. The pages grew independently of one another over the next two years, a fact reinforced by the lack of communication between librarians who maintained them.

As the web grew, the time needed to maintain these pages increased as well. Realizing that the task of maintaining this collection was better handled by a centralized effort, I proposed in the spring of 1997 that we consolidate our efforts and create a single page that would serve all UVA libraries. An Advisory Committee made up

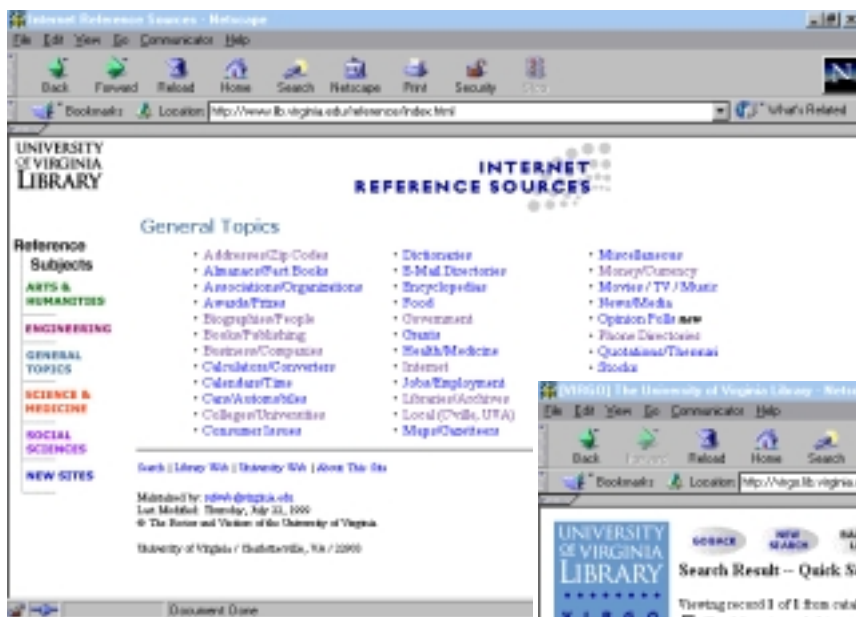
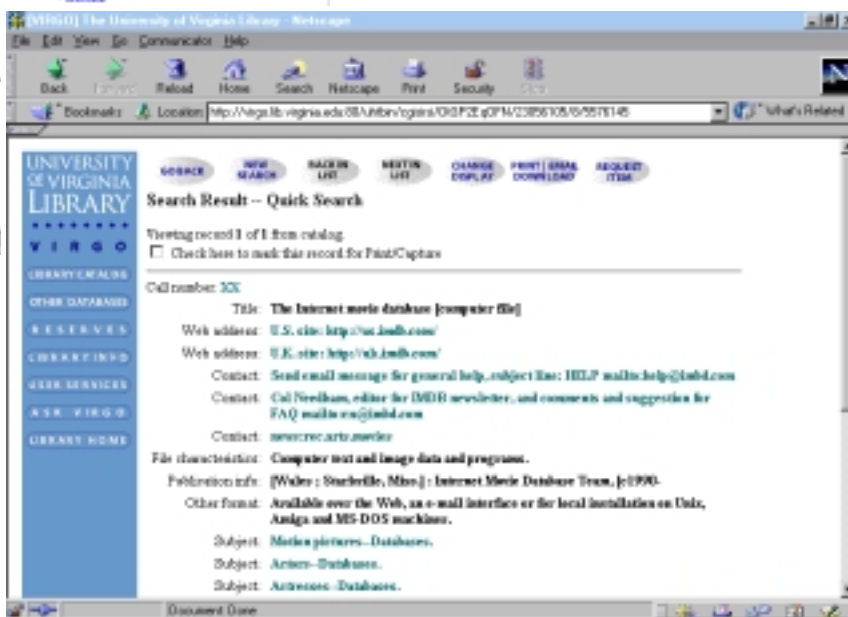


Image 1, left, the Internet Reference Resources homepage.

Image 2, below, is an example of catalogued resource.



of six reference librarians (many of whose pages were integrated to make IRR) was established to coordinate the creation, design, and maintenance of IRR which officially went public in the fall of 1997.

Page Design

What's in a Name?: One of the first tricky issues the Advisory Group had to resolve was what to name the page — a seemingly simple task which ultimately proved to be somewhat problematic. Many variations on a theme for reference pages existed already: *Virtual Reference Desk*, *Electronic Reference Shelf*, *On-line Reference Works*, *Reference Sources on the Internet*, etc. (See <http://www.lib.virginia.edu/reference/new/univrefpages.html> for the variety of names used at other university libraries.) We all felt that no one name adequately described the unique nature of the collection, specifically how it differed from the Library's primary (fee-based) collections of resources accessible on the web, including *InfoTrac*, *Lexis-Nexis*, and *Encyclopedia Britannica*. After much debate, we

settled on Internet Reference Resources — our thinking being that that name would best represent a collection of resources which had come from “out there” on the Internet and not owned by (i.e. from within) the Library.

Categories: The Advisory Group wrestled with several items related to the organization of the page, starting with establishing a coherent and logical subject hierarchy (see image #1). We settled on five main categories and concluded that the top-level page should display general resources sources — materials which would most likely be of interest to users in all libraries. We chose four other subject-specific categories (Arts & Human-

ities, Engineering, Science & Medicine, and Social Sciences) to reflect the major areas of study at the University. The five categories, six if you consider the “New” category which was added later, were color-coded to give users a sense of location within the complex IRR structure. We then divided each category into a series of subcategories (topics).

Topics: We created the list of topics for the General category after looking at our existing resources as well as by looking at those topics used by other college and university reference pages. Topics for the four subject-specific areas, on the other hand, relate directly to the fields of study at the University

and are named primarily after academic departments. Several fields have a large number of resources (government / foreign affairs - 64, business-58, travel-43, and books-32) so we chose to further subdivide these topics into logical and useful groupings (e.g., geographical, chronological, material type, etc.). Once topics have been created and subdivided, items are then organized according to their usefulness or popularity relative to the grouping. Here, we rely on our own experience using the page to determine the most beneficial order of entries which does, it should be noted, change from time to time, particularly with time-sensitive materials. Entries may be cross-listed between categories and/or topics, if appropriate. If a source lends itself well to more than two topics within the same category, it is placed in a special "general/disciplinary" topic heading.

Annotations: Annotations in IRR describe the content and evaluate the usefulness of a resource. As a general rule, annotations should alert the user to the authority, comprehensiveness, currency, and ease of use of an item as well other things like the existence of search engine or index. They should also highlight any additional resources such as glossaries, source lists, or advanced searching forms which might prove helpful when using the page. Equally as important, annotations serve as words which are indexed by the IRR's internal search engine; therefore the selector/annotator needs to use words which users might employ to describe and find that item.

Layout: We were fortunate to have a number of talented individuals within the Library to assist with the graphical and mechanical design of the IRR. Our Publications Office helped with the design of

the left-hand frame and category/topic headers. I should add that it was only after some discussion that the Advisory Group accepted frames as the best way to organize the IRR, and we haven't looked back since. This Office also provides us with a regular report of broken, orphaned, and redirected URLs using LinkBot. We have a graduate student assistant fix out-

**It is important to have
guidelines governing
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materials, and web
reference sources are
no exception.**

dated links on a monthly basis. PERL-meister Patrick Yott, director of our Geo-Statistical Center, also assisted us by writing a series of complex scripts to update the graphical, navigational, and functional changes required by each of the dozens of HTML files that make up the IRR.

Collection Development

It is important to have guidelines governing the selection of library materials, and web reference sources are no exception. Some institutions, like the University of Oregon, have established collection development policies specifically for Internet resources (see <http://darkwing.uoregon.edu/~chadwelf/intesele.htm>). While UVa has not gone to these lengths, selectors contributing to IRR use many of the same guidelines for inclusion that govern our print reference materials. These include, but are not limited to:

Purpose/Audience: With few exceptions, sites included in IRR support the instructional and research programs of the University. If the resource is general or basic in nature, then it will be included if it is perceived by the selector to be of interest to our faculty, students, and staff. If there is some doubt as to the appropriateness of a resource to the collection then the determining scenario is "Might someone within the University community ask us a question which this source would help answer?"

Scope: The resources included must serve to answer a factual or quick reference question, just as if it were a title added to our print ready reference collection. The relatively narrow scope of the IRR is what differentiates it from other library or commercial reference pages. It generally differs from its colleagues in one of two ways: those sites only include general, not subject-specific, resources or they include sites that would not be considered ready reference in nature by our selection criteria. The site at <http://www.indiana.edu/~librcsd/internet/>, created by Jian Liu and now maintained by Anne Graham, is an excellent example of the former and <http://sunsite.berkeley.edu/InternetIndex/>, The Librarian's Index to the Internet, is an equally good example of the latter. I survey both regularly to supplement our collection.

Access: In order to be included in IRR, it is necessary that reference resources either be freely-accessible or free with a simple registration. No detailed registrations or ones that require personal information are included because it is not the intention of the IRR to profile our users for web capitalists any more than browser cookies already do. Resources appearing to be free for

limited time are included at the discretion of the selector and noted in the site's annotation. Only in a few instances do we list subscription-based web databases, another characteristic that distinguishes our page from those of many other libraries. There are many reasons for doing this. Even now, the majority of the Library's databases cannot directly be linked because they are part of a suite of databases that are (IP) authenticated at the collection level, and this can be quite confusing. Additionally, more than half of our users are not affiliated with UVa, and the Advisory Group considers it bad form to include resources to which not all have access. Lastly, we decided that keeping up with what was available "outside" the Library provided us with a sufficient amount of work for now.

Authority/Accuracy: Whenever possible, we verify information within a reference web site against print sources to verify the accuracy of the data. Authorship, if known or not apparent from the URL, is typically included in the annotation.

Currency: Ideally, sites for inclusion are regularly updated. Exceptions to this rule include resources such as historical works (biographies, bibliographies, etc.). Notes on currency, if known, are added to the site's annotation.

Arrangement/Ease of Use: The content of resources included in IRR should be organized to allow the user to easily extract needed information. Poorly designed sites, in spite of the utility of the information they contain, are regularly excluded. One of the keys to a good site is the availability of a good index or search engine. When linking to a site, we try to lead users directly to a search engine or index screen, rather than placing the onus of finding the

resources on them. As a general rule, we do not include resources that are produced and viewed with Adobe Acrobat (.pdf) since these files are typically large with no logical or apparent means of internal navigation other than a search tool. Additionally it's not possible to link to a specific item such as a table or an appendix within a .pdf file, and this also limits utility.

One of the keys to a good site is the availability of a good index or search engine.

Access & Use of IRR

One of the perpetual challenges we face with the IRR is promoting the wide variety of resources contained in it — whether they be a popular resource of local interest like the *Charlottesville Movie Guide* or a nationally-known scholarly resource like the *Handbook of Latin American Studies*. Since it came into being two years ago, the IRR has benefited greatly from its location on the top-level of the Library's homepage (serendipity continues to play a role in our Library's collections). Many patrons also learn about IRR when we use it to help answer their questions at the reference desk. Additionally, whenever appropriate, we use it in classes taught through the Library's instruction programs.

Another source of user awareness comes from Virgo, our on-line catalog. Each of the resources in IRR is cataloged, many of them courtesy of Jackie Shieh — a former member of our Cataloging Department (see image #2). We have no data as yet indicating how many people find and use these

resources while searching our library catalog, but it might prove useful to look into this.

Use Statistics: Currently the top-level IRR page receives roughly 5,000 hits per month (up nearly 500% since July 1997), approximately 40% of which come from within the University. The top eleven most frequently accessed areas during April, 1999 were:

- 1). General-Phone (816)
- 2). Arts & Humanities (651) - the most popular topic within this category was English Language & Literature (229)
- 3). General-Encyclopedias (603)
- 4). General-Style Manuals/ Grammar (496),
- 5). General-People/Biographies (371)
- 6). General-Books/Publishers (345)
- 7). General-Libraries/Archives (339)
- 8). Humanities-Popular Culture (movies, television, music) (334)
- 8). Social Sciences (334) - the most popular topic within this category was Government & Foreign Affairs (212)
- 10). General-Dictionaries (323)
- 11). General-Local (C'ville, UVa, Virginia) (284)

General topics get substantially more use, we presume, because their scope is useful to a broader range of users and because these topics are also what the user sees first after connecting to the page. We use a software program called *NetTracker* to compile a series of use statistics including number of views by month and day, average time viewing a page, plus the user's two and three-digit domain name extensions (i.e. .edu, .uk), browser, and platform. This data is useful in determining who comprises our user base, what resource areas they are using, and, more

generally, where we should be focusing our efforts in the future.

For those users who do not want to browse the subject hierarchy for a resource, we offer a moderately useful search engine, *Webinator*, which indexes every word in the site and is updated weekly by our Library systems department. Unfortunately, this search engine is not entirely sufficient for our needs because it retrieves only the name of topics, not individual items, which contain the user's search term. This forces users to search that topic page to find the specific resource. We are currently investigating using a more sophisticated mark-up language (SGML) which would allow for much more effective user search and retrieval. SGML will also allow us to track which individual resources are being used.

Administration & Maintenance: While suggestions for resources come from many different areas of the library, updates to the IRR are done primarily by two reference librarians, one covering the Sciences, Medicine, and Engineering and one covering the rest. We are currently working on a web-based form generated by a complex PERL script which would allow users and librarians to suggest resources for inclusion on-line. Entries to IRR are added on an as-find/have-time basis (generally 2-4 times a month). We added a "New" category about a year ago to highlight recent entries. The IRR's custodians themselves find these categories particularly useful when scanning comprehensive reference sites like the "New This Week" section of <http://sunsite.berkeley.edu/InternetIndex/> (Librarian's Index to the Internet), and, at the same time, to provide our Cataloging Department with a current list of resources to be

added to the library catalog.

Immediate/Long-term Challenges

User awareness is, arguably, the key to the success or failure of reference web pages which, in turn, justifies the amount of effort that goes into building and maintaining them. Awareness of these resources starts at home. It is

**Another challenge for
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important that UVA reference librarians regularly scan newly added resources to IRR, just as we do to keep up with new print and subscription-based electronic resources. We must also continue our efforts to publicize throughout the library those new resources which are of interest to us all.

Keeping up with the deluge is a problem that will most likely persist for IRR selectors indefinitely. One response is to continue to identify high-quality current awareness resources like the Scout Report and the Librarians Index to the Internet to assist in this discovery and selection process. Another is to investigate building consortial collections which would enable librarians from peer institutions to contribute to a shared resource or, at the very least, develop a mechanism by which we share our discoveries with each other. These could take

the form of a collective web page or a current awareness list-serv to highlight new reference resources.

Another challenge for reference librarians is to use our unique knowledge of the web to compile or create new web reference sources. For example, we received a reference question a few months ago from someone who needed to know the individual companies that made up several major stock indexes. We could not find a source (print or electronic) that compiled this data, but in the process of searching we found that many individual indexes had this information available on their web sites. We then brought these lists together in one resource on the IRR called Stock Index Directories (<http://www.lib.virginia.edu/reference> —> Social Sciences —> Business —> Stocks - #20).

As the beginning of the 21st century approaches, we find that nearly everything related to the library and its collections are in a state of flux. Here are a few things that will characterize that state: users will be increasingly defined by who comes in through our homepages rather than our doors, the number of reference resources on the web will be inversely proportional to the amount of time our users have to find them as well as our ability to collect, organize, and make it all accessible, and resource management in the dawn of the information age must take place concurrently with the building of electronic collections and not be an afterthought. Resources like the *Internet Reference Resources* page are poised to make a valuable and lasting contribution to a library's reference collection, but we must meet these challenges head-on in order to ensure our continued success.

Washingtonpost.com Publisher Marc Teren Links Future of Libraries and Media

by Patricia C. Bangs

As “information navigators,” both libraries and the news media are successfully reinventing themselves to stay relevant in the digital age, explained Marc Teren, president and publisher of *Washingtonpost.Newsweek Interactive*, in a recent speech to the Fairfax County Public Library staff.

“We are similar in many ways,” remarked Teren in a keynote address at the Library’s annual Staff Day, a half-day in-service event that hosted almost 500 Library staff on the Fairfax campus of George Mason University. “Unfortunately that means we are seen by some as relics of an analog era. Soon to be replaced by ubiquitous access to a global pool of information open 24 hours a day and available in a den or office near you. Accused of being unnecessary or irrelevant, we are being asked to reinvent ourselves to secure our future in a digital world.”

Teren, who took the helm at *Washingtonpost.com* in December 1996, readily admits that his experience in the information business is relatively new. Previously in charge of developing interactive entertainment services for The



Marc Teren addresses the Fairfax County Public Library staff on the common future of libraries and the news media in the electronic era.

Walt Disney Company, Teren brings a businessman’s acumen (and an M.B.A. from Harvard) to the dissemination of information in the digital age. But he understands the key role of the “information navigator,” whether a librarian or newspaper reporter, in the electronic era.

Referring to an image familiar to librarians of the Internet as a library with all its books strewn on the floor, Teren explained, “The ability to make sense of information is a skill even more in demand in the age of the Internet. Searching for authoritative information online is like setting sail in a hurricane. Most of us sailors will get swamped before we reach our destination. People need help navigating the swelling sea of information to be found on the Internet. That is where we come in. That is why I believe our role is more important now than ever.”

Citing statistics that 77 percent of Fairfax County residents own library cards and 82 percent of the County population uses the library, Teren feels the Fairfax County Public Library is successfully involving the community in their local libraries — a key to staying relevant in the information age.

Just as *Washingtonpost.com* wants to be an extension of what its community of users perceive *The Washington Post* to be, libraries want their consumers to use the library as an extension of their home and the larger community

in which they live, Teren believes. "Once at the library you can connect them to a world of information and a range of services that meet their growing information needs. And those needs are growing. And they will continue to grow," he explained.

Teren highlighted a fact familiar to librarians, that the public library is the number one alternative point for accessing the Internet outside of home, work, or school. Teren suggests that since the number of individuals using the library as an alternate access point to the Internet continues to increase, "The Internet is likely to grow rather than shrink your audience. As always you are the access point for individuals of all economic backgrounds.... For many, and particularly for those for whom the playing field is not always equal, you are the access to the web and as such the gateway to knowledge, information and exploration. Seems to me that your position in the community is more important than ever."

Teren also talked about the viability of print in an age of rapidly developing electronic formats. Noting that annual paper consumption rose from 86.8 to 99 million tons from 1990 to 1998, according to recent statistics from the American Forest and Paper Association, Teren gave Mark Twain's well-known witticism a new twist: "Predictions of a paperless society have been greatly exaggerated." He continued, "Despite the popularity of the Internet, it appears we have not yet lost interest in reading text on paper. As a matter of fact, thanks to Amazon.com, interest and access to books has never been higher. Based upon their 20-plus billion-

dollar valuation, I'd say the markets are betting that print on paper still has quite a future."

But, it is in the new electronic medium that traditional information disseminators must be most creative. Teren described a new partnership between *Washingtonpost.com* and *Encyclopedia Britannica* that provides individuals with in-depth access to the encyclopedia's resources as it relates to current news.

**"Seems to me that
your position in the
community is more
important than ever."**

He concluded his remarks by congratulating the library profession on being "early-adapters" to the information age. "You are one of the first professions to become expert at making sense of the Internet. And I read that librarians have been in the information-dissemination business for 6,000 years. For you, this Internet thing is just one more format to master."

Serving the community by evaluating and organizing the wealth of information available on the Internet is the key to staying relevant in this new medium, Teren emphasized. "Whether it is print or online, the value of perspective and understanding can not be underestimated. The key is to go out there each day and prove our value to the constituencies we serve."

Many in the audience found Teren's remarks perceptive and

enlightening. "I found Marc Teren's business approach to information access, his emphasis on the need to identify the customer, in the case of public libraries, the needs of the community, enlightening," said one anonymous staff member on a Staff Day evaluation form.

The head of the Library's new Information Central service, which provides research services to Fairfax County government staff, saw Teren's remarks on the future of libraries and librarians as reassuring. "He effectively linked librarians and journalists, seeing each as a 'knowledge portal' in an expanding world of information," Mary-Ann Sheehan explained.

Training Coordinator Fran Millhouser agreed. "He broadened my perspectives on what information services libraries can provide. If the *Post* can partner with *Encyclopedia Britannica* to provide in-depth information to online newspaper readers, libraries can continue to explore the many information partnerships the Internet can provide."

Teren's final words mirrored both libraries' and newspapers' need to seek creative approaches to preserve our expertise in an electronic era. "Every day that we spend defining our craft for this new medium, we carve a bigger place for it in the New World order What we face each day isn't easy. We must reinvent our institutions for the future so that our children and our children's children can reap the reward of their continued existence. Ours is important work. We must stay focused, stay true, and know that we are not alone." ■

Hollins University's New Wyndham Robertson Library

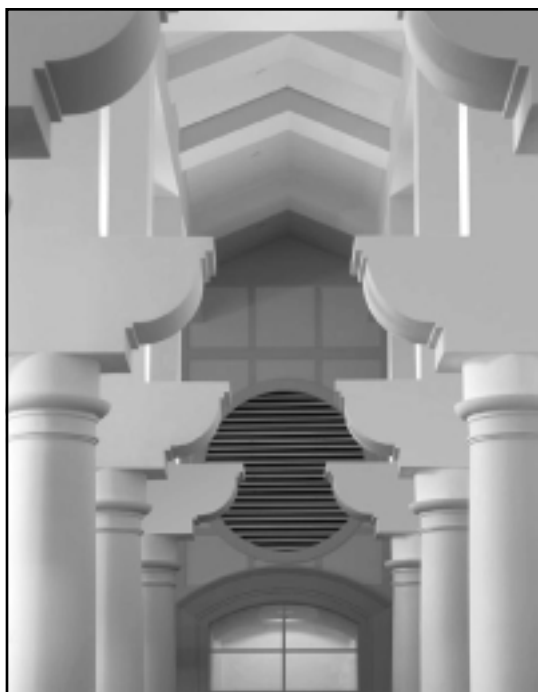
by Marna Hostetler

Hollins University's new Wyndham Robertson Library opened to the public March 30, 1999 and was formally dedicated two weeks later as part of an entire weekend honoring the school's literary tradition. After a five-year fundraising effort and three years of construction, the Hollins community welcomed the new building with enthusiasm.

Funding

Beginning with the 1995 announcement of plans to build a new library, the building was the cornerstone of the Capital Campaign for Hollins. The Campaign eventually raised over \$47 million, with \$14 million earmarked for the library.

The library is named for Wyndham Robertson, current chair of the Hollins University Board of Trustees and member of the class of 1958. Ms. Robertson's brother Julian Robertson and his wife Josie made a \$3 million gift to name the building in Wyndham's honor. Other named areas in the building include: the third floor, named in honor of former Hollins Board of Trustees Chair Jane Bassett Spilman, class of 1953; The Hollins Room, given to honor former Dean Mary Phelgar Smith; the first



Graceful columns adorn the building.

floor, named in memory of Pela Plummer Hundley and Thomas Johnston Hundley; the children's literature wing, named in memory of Elizabeth Moss Hall, class of 1902; the Reference Wing, named in memory of Harry S. Frazier, Jr.; the Friendship Colonnade, named in memory of Mina Hohenberg Darden, class of 1959; and the Lewis Reading Room, named in memory of Frances McNulty Lewis, class of 1928.

Features

The 56,620-square-foot library was designed with student input and has many exciting features. The building has seating for almost 300 patrons, and each seat has a network connection, allowing patrons to bring in their personal laptops and connect comfortably. The entry level houses the Circulation Wing, the Frazier Reference Wing, the Government Documents Collection, and the Lewis Reading Room with two-story windows. There is also a fully networked, Viennese-styled coffee commons with an adjoining reading porch.

The lower level is home to the bound periodicals and microform collections, as well as the Jessup Media Commons. The Media Commons includes a television studio and control room, video editing and production equipment, and a multimedia development center for faculty and students. The Jackson Screening Room seats 40 people and can accommodate film screenings, bibliographic instruction, small conferences, computer training, and interactive media presentations. The Media Library contains approximately 3,000 items and is serviced by the Media Circulation Desk.

Marna Hostetler, formerly Public Services Librarian at Wyndham Robertson Library of Hollins University, now works at the University of South Carolina.



The setting for the library is quiet and majestic, both outside and in.



The second level accommodates a fully networked, 25-seat bibliographic instruction room, Technical Services, and Administrative Offices. The Boney Reading Room with its beautiful view of the Hollins landscape is also on this level.

The third level features the Ashworth Rare Books Room, the McVitty-Niederer Archives Room, and the Hollins Room. The Hollins Room, when complete, will hold all works by and about Hollins faculty and alumnae/i. This level also houses the McDonnell-Hall Children's Literature Wing, which includes the 1,400-volume Francesca Butler Collection. Butler was a well-known children's literature scholar. Each level has individual study carrels, and the upper three levels have both private study rooms and open group study space.

Dedication Weekend

Although the library opened to patrons March 30, it was not formally dedicated until April 10, 1999. The dedication coincided with a Literary Festival and a Creative Writing Program reunion, which made for three days of exciting literary activities and events.

The weekend's festivities offi-

cially began Friday, April 9 with a keynote address given by Dr. Vartan Gregorian, president of the Carnegie Corporation and past president of Brown University and New York Public Library. In his address, Dr. Gregorian said that dedicating a library is an event of "paramount importance in the life of a society, in the life of a community, in the life of a city, in the life of Hollins University and in the annals of American philanthropy." Dr. Gregorian also pointed out that the Robertson Library dedication was actually "a rededication to learning and knowledge, understanding, education, to the future. In dedicating a library we are also celebrating the human spirit, the human dignity, the human potential. We note with pride that we human beings are

not mere actualities, that we are potentialities, that we are not mere socio-economic, entertainment and consumer units, that we are rational, moral, spiritual beings endowed with reason, imagination and dreams."

Gregorian's impassioned speech, "In Praise of Libraries," earned him a standing ovation from the crowd of 800 and was an adaptation of an essay he planned to publish later in the spring.

Tours of the library were offered at this time, and library staff members were posted at key points throughout the building to answer any questions. A wine and cheese reception in the library foyer set the mood for a festive black-tie gala held later in the evening.

Despite clouds and the threat of rain, more than 900 spectators

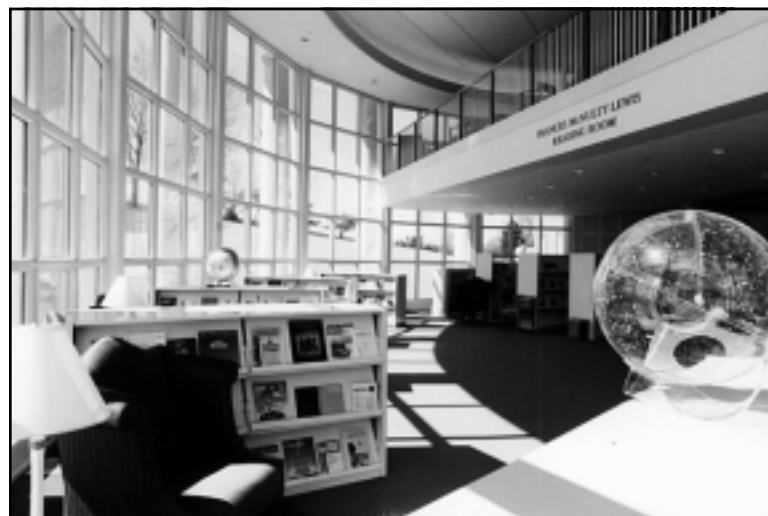
gathered for the dedication ceremony on Saturday, April 10. To commemorate the fact that the school's first library collection was seeded by student donations, thirteen students and one faculty member each carried an item in a ceremonial book passing from the Cocke building, the school's original library, to the new Robertson Library. Items passed included: *Good Night Moon*, by Margaret Wise Brown, class of 1932; *Morocco*, by Mary Cross, class of 1957; *Pilgrim at Tinker Creek*, by Annie Dillard, class of 1967, M.A. 1968; *The Last Day the Dogbushes Bloomed*, by Lee Smith, class of 1967; *The Flying Change*, by Henry Taylor, M.A. 1966; "Buffalo Girls," a CBS miniseries coproduced by Sandra Saxon Brice, class of 1973; and *Hollins College: An Illustrated History*, by Frances J. Niederer.

Following the book passing, Wyndham Robertson welcomed the crowd from the steps of the new library. After remarks from Hollins President Janet E. Rasmussen and a dedication prayer by Chaplain Jan Fuller Carruthers, class of 1978, a surprise announcement was made. In honor of the longstanding literary tradition at Hollins, the Friends of Libraries, USA designated the library a national Literary Landmark. The library is one of only thirty-six such designations nationwide and is the first in the Commonwealth of Virginia. The Virginia Center for the Book at the Library of Virginia provided a commemorative building plaque, which has since been mounted near the front doors of the building.

After these announcements and closing remarks, Library Director Diane Graves and Wyndham Robertson opened the library doors, welcoming visitors to the new building. Tours were again offered, including an "engineer's tour" of the building's many mechanical and electrical components.

In conjunction with the Literary Festival and the Library Dedication, a book signing and reading session were held by published Hollins alumnae/i and Brendan Galvin, the 1999 Wyndham Robertson Writer-in-Residence. This session was well-received by the 300 attendees and provided a wonderful forum for interaction with the authors.

The events of the library dedication weekend were a pleasure for all who participated, and the new building is warm and welcoming. As we settle into our new space, the staff of the Wyndham Robertson Library would like to invite Virginia librarians to stop by any time. ❧



'Teen Read Week' Sparks Regional Cooperation in Metropolitan Richmond, Virginia

by Pat McKay and Janet Baumgardner

Read for the fun of it! The theme of the first national celebration of "Teen Read Week" October 17-23, 1998, provided the catalyst for three neighboring public library systems to join forces in a cooperative promotional effort designed to motivate teens to read for pleasure. This effort included the lure of TV stardom, as well as chances to win free tickets to a "Widespread Panic" concert and the opportunity to meet that popular rock group behind the scenes after their performance. How did these non-literary incentives connect to teen literacy? As usual, librarians had the answer.

When the American Library Association, the Young Adult Library Services Association, and the National Education Association announced "Teen Read Week" last summer, Janet Baumgardner, the Program Coordinator with Chesterfield County Public Library, was immediately interested. In their media releases, the sponsoring organizations had stressed cooperation among schools and public libraries. Ms. Baumgardner took this suggestion a step further by inviting representatives of neighboring Richmond and Henrico Public Library systems to a brainstorming session that included the

marketing coordinator from FOX 35, a local television station. The group's charge was to develop a highly visible, community-wide collaborative project that would appeal to middle and high school students. Since Teen Read Week was scheduled for the third week in October, timing was also important. The project, as developed, included the following three components:

- The involvement of FOX TV was crucial. They agreed to co-sponsor a contest that enabled local teens to win the opportunity to appear in seven prime time TV public service announcements focusing on "Reading for the Fun of It." As part of the publicity for this contest, posters were placed in public and private schools in the three localities, and school officials were asked to assist with promotion. However, *teens had to actually come to their public library to enter the contest.* This age group is often seen as one in which a large number of those who can read choose not to and one in which television, not reading, is the entertainment of choice. Janet Baumgardner, along with Pat McKay from Richmond Public Library and Lisa Blouch from Henrico County Public Library, knew that many teens

would jump at the chance to star in their own TV commercial, even one extolling the joys of reading. And that was the hook; that was the connection they needed.

From the hundreds of entries received, seven teens from each library system were picked and notified. Release forms and "talking points" were sent to each winner in preparation for the taping. Luckily, Chesterfield County Library was closed on Columbus Day, so the selection of the date and site for taping was an easy one. The production was expertly done by the FOX 35 staff who turned Bon Air Library into a TV studio and transformed nervous teens into acting pros in one evening. The "actors" chatted about books and reading as if they had known each other forever. At the pizza party afterwards (provided by FOX 35), they exchanged phone numbers and enjoyed an adrenaline high, far different from the subdued young adults who had arrived at the taping session. The producer was excited by the quality of the tape made by the teens, from which the public service announcements were edited. In fact, FOX personnel were so pleased that they ran the PSA's beyond Teen Read Week and are considering running them nationally.



Winners of "Teen Read Week" in Chesterfield (left) and Richmond (below) enjoy the filming of their commercials.



- The popular musical group Widespread Panic's generous offer of five sets of free tickets and an invitation backstage after their Richmond performance on November 7 (coordinated through the American Library Association) was the second component to the regional promotion of Teen Read Week by the three library systems. Local college radio station WVCU, from Virginia Commonwealth University, was enthusiastic about the chance to offer something this exciting to their listeners and readily agreed to give away the tickets to callers who named their favorite books. Widespread Panic fans named *Grapes of Wrath*, *Where the Sidewalk Ends*, *Lord of the Rings* trilogy, *Be Here Now* and *Hero With a Thousand Faces* as their favorites.

- Q 94, one of the most listened to local teen radio stations in the Richmond metropolitan area, offered to devote an early morning talk show to Teen Read Week. Pat McKay from Richmond and Janet Baumgardner from Chesterfield County Public Library found that talking about what they believe in so strongly — reading, books for teens and getting information from the library — made the taping session fly by. Host Sheila

Belle proved to be an ardent library and literacy supporter and plans were made with her to reconnect on other promotional activities.

The above segments combined to form a successful first annual Teen Read Week celebration in Chesterfield, Henrico, and Richmond, Virginia. The partnership also strengthened the bond among the three library systems and paved the way for further cooperative programs.

We are looking forward to future Teen Read Week celebrations and have agreed that earlier planning will result in greater community awareness. In fact, we plan to begin publicity in the summer, while teens have fewer constraints on their time and might be visiting the library for pleasure. School cooperation was definitely a valuable component in publicizing last year's FOX 35 contest. This can and will be built upon. Expanded

pre-publicity in the two local publications aimed at teens, or having teen readership — *Tab* and *Style Weekly* — will also be pursued. We hope to continue our partnership with the local FOX 35 TV station. Lessons learned in dealing with TV include the importance of written, step-by-step guidelines, rather than simply having a conceptual agreement with the television station, and the necessity of a release form to be sent to the parents of the teens to sign well ahead of the taping session. This mailing should include the time and location of the taping, directions and other pertinent information.

Our experience proved that Teen Read Week is a valuable opportunity to reach an important segment of our population. Time spent in celebrating teens and calling their attention to reading for fun is time well spent. ■

The VLA Paraprofessional Forum's 1999 Conference

PHOTOGRAPHS BY PIERRE COURTOIS

The Paraprofessional Forum of the Virginia Library Association held its seventh annual two-day conference on May 17-18, 1999, at the University of Richmond. Four hundred and twenty-five library personnel from 10 states and the District of Columbia attended the conference that centered on the theme, *Mastering the Challenges of the 21st Century*. The conference offered three keynote speakers, twenty-four sessions, and seven roundtables. A picnic was an option for those arriving on Sunday evening. The picnic's Hawaiian theme was a popular one, and the door prizes with a tropical flare were crowd pleasers. The Monday evening social was another time for people to get together and enjoy themselves. Ronnie Gilder from Richmond was the D. J. for the event, and his smooth style and musical selections resulted in a fun-filled evening.

Monday's Opening Session

The conference opened with words of welcome from the VLAPF Co-chairs, Suzanne Leacy and Don Socia, and two special guests. James R. Rettig, Director of the Boatwright Library at the University of Richmond, and Carolyn Barkley, VLA Vice President/President Elect, both offered greetings to conference attendees.

We were fortunate to have Dr. Dale Henry as the keynote speaker on Monday morning. Dr. Henry is President of Your Best Unlimited, a company based in Knoxville, Tennessee, and it is his business to



train professionals and executives to be the very best they can be. He challenged conference attendees to evaluate themselves with his speech, *Do You Sizzle or Fizzle?* He presented sound advice on how to succeed in the workplace. His presentation was filled with words such as *prioritize, individualize, energize*, and phrases such as *discover your gifts, take aim, hit the target, and become the prize*. Dr. Henry not only presented a message that inspired attendees to excel, but a message that made everyone laugh as well.

Tuesday's Opening Session

Harriett Edmunds, Special Events and Volunteer Programs Coordinator at The Library of Virginia, was the Tuesday morning keynote speaker. Once again, the audience was privileged enough to hear a speaker whose words were truly motivational. She took the Conference theme, *Mastering the Challenges of the 21st Century*, and

shared some wonderful words of advice on how to do just that. She focused on how we can turn challenges into opportunities and in so doing enhance our lives. She offered some suggestions on how to become successful in the workplace. Ms. Edmunds presented a message that encouraged us to return to the workplace excited about the new challenges that face us each day and about those that we know will come our way during the 21st Century.

Lydia C. Williams
Longwood College Library

Highlights from Several Sessions

Dave Paddock, President of DG Paddock Financial, was the presenter for *Financial Planning with What?* He presented an overview of the basics of financial planning for the long term. Topics included dollar cost averting, compound interest, and IRAs. Mr. Paddock also stressed the need for invest-

ments in addition to employer-sponsored retirement plans, and the importance of working with a financial professional who will address your personal financial goals, needs, and situation.

Susan Paddock
Virginia Beach Central Library

Kristi Thomas Beavin and Lynn Sawyer, both with the Arlington County Department of Libraries, presented *Children's Advisory: Knowing and Promoting Children's Print and Non-Print Collections*. This was a very informative session filled with excellent tips on print and non-print materials and included handouts of web sites, book lists, and titles of helpful articles. Ms. Sawyer discussed book selection for different age levels and shared some of her favorite authors and titles with the group. Ms. Beavin shared her insight into non-print collections such as audio books, and gave advice on how to select the best products. She also offered advice on how to get children interested in listening to audio books. This was a session that appealed to the parent as well as those who work with children in the library setting.

Caressa Talley
Sweet Briar College Library

Sherrie Waddill, owner of Sherrie's Storytelling on the Go, presented *Reading Brings Families Together*. She shared how she makes books come to life by dressing as a book character and by using props and cutouts. She demonstrated her secrets by reading several books in which she used props, and even got the audience involved in making cutouts for one of the stories. Ms. Waddill provided each attendee with a packet filled with great books to read including patterns for cutouts. Ms. Waddill's enthusiastic presentation was packed with useful information.

Caressa Talley

Lew Belfont of Gaithersburg Regional Library in Maryland presented *Values Based Circulation System*. She believes in creating a service philosophy that will allow your customers to become your partners. She believes if you let the patrons know that you need their help to do well, and they in turn know they need your help to do well, you will satisfy your customers' needs and be successful. Belfont stated that we should know our institution's goals and become familiar with its policy, and know how to execute the policy. The goal of values-based service is to create and employ a fully developed service philosophy that states that each customer is unique and that the employee's relationship with each customer should be characterized by trust and respect.

Joan Taylor
Washington County Public Library

Sharon Garrett, owner of Image 101 in Richmond, presented a session entitled *Putting Your Best Foot Forward: Projecting a Professional Image*. Ms. Garrett shared tips on how to dress



Keynote speakers Harriett Edmunds (top), Dale Henry (above), and Connie Elliot motivated their audiences with their outstanding messages.



Above, the Monday evening social was a hit.



Left, the winners of the straw hats given as door prizes during the Sunday evening picnic pose for Pierre Courtois, conference photographer.

Below, raffle prize winners left on Tuesday with some unique items.



for success in the workplace. She covered fashion personality, body type, wardrobe, and how to accessorize. She demonstrated how one can turn 10 pieces of clothing into 25 outfits and gave many helpful tips on how to accentuate outfits with scarves, jewelry, and the right handbag. Ms. Garrett packed a wealth of helpful and interesting information into this session.

Lydia C. Williams

Alice Phillips of Continental Health in Richmond presented *Time Management on the Homefront*. Ms. Phillips offered tips for achieving a healthy balance in our lives focusing on the body, mind, and spirit. She gave a *Timeout Test* so that each of us could rate ourselves to see where we fall short in meeting the goal of a healthy life style. She suggested that we evaluate how we spend our time in order to make better use of the 168 hours we have in each week. Ms. Phillips offered many helpful ideas for

managing our time in order to make it possible for each of us to achieve a healthy balance in our lives.

Lydia C. Williams

Dr. Frank Howe of Longwood College presented *Taming the Troublesome Patron*. Dr. Howe reminded us that we serve the public — ALL the public. Some of our patrons may make us uneasy by their behavior. A patron may present special concerns because of mental illness, an altered state, or strange behavior that creates a potentially threatening situation. Dr. Howe emphasized that each agency should have a safety plan and that each employee should be familiar with

the plan before danger occurs. He stated that each employee should have training in following their institution's safety guidelines. In addition, the employee should maintain a professional attitude and commitment to continued growth, develop good listening skills including reading non-verbal communication, and maintain a positive communication style. One should understand the differences in learning skills, previous knowledge, interests, and the need for recognition or anonymity of the patron. One should learn to disengage courteously but firmly when dealing with the aggressive patron. Dr. Howe gave helpful examples to maintain personal safety when



Suzanne Leacy and Don Socia, VLAPF Co-Chairs, welcomed conference attendees on Monday and Tuesday mornings.



The Conference sessions and roundtables kept conference attendees busy.



dealing with the troublesome or aggressive patron.

*Ruth Turner
Retiree of Fairfax County
Public Library*

Deborah Hocutt, Executive Director of the Virginia Center for the Book, gave a wonderful presentation on Virginia authors and the Center for the Book. The focus for the Center for the Book is on the literary heritage of Virginia. The Virginia Authors' Room at The Library of Virginia has over 7,000 titles ranging from William Bradford, a colonial writer, to Patricia Cornwell. Ms. Hocutt stated that The Center sponsors numerous events around Virginia to promote books and reading, including the Charlottesville Festival for the Book. This year's festival will focus on poetry. The Center for the Book will help any library find an appro-

appropriate author to speak to their patrons. They have numerous free handouts and materials for use in libraries. The center is working on a project entitled *Virginia Reads* that will result in posters of Virginia celebrities posing with their favorite books. The information provided by Ms. Hocutt was both interesting and useful.

*Sue McFaden
Fairfax County Public Library*

Carolyn Barkley, Central Librarian at the Virginia Beach Public Library and an active member of many genealogical associations, gave an enthusiastic talk on *Serving the Genealogist in the Library*. Her advice to all who deal with patrons searching their genealogy was to learn your library's collection, educate yourself on local resources, focus the patron on his/her question, and always document infor-

mation. It was a lively session with many questions and answers. Ms. Barkley distributed some excellent handouts about genealogy and examples of print and online services.

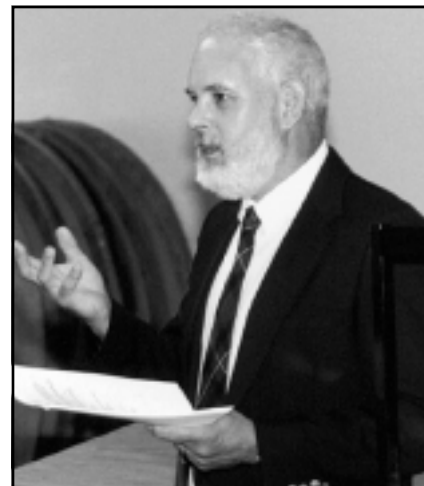
*E. A. Mayo
Eggleston Library
Hampten Sydney College*

Kelly McBride, Assistant Director for Public Services at Clinch Valley College, and Matthew Peltier, a student in the School of Library and Information Science at the University of Kentucky in Lexington, made presentations about their visits to libraries in the Republic of Ireland and in Ghana, West Africa, respectively. They both found many similarities between libraries in the United States and those they visited abroad, but also found the cultures of the countries impacted on the libraries. Their travelogues and their varied experiences made us all want to visit foreign libraries.

E. A. Mayo



Left, Mr. Bill Fiege of Longwood College presented two sessions dealing with how we present ourselves verbally. Below, Dr. Andrew Ferguson of the University of Richmond speaks on "Marketing Yourself — Resume Style." Right, Dr. Ed DeRegibus of the Farmville Chiropractic Center addresses attendees on "Musculoskeletal Disorders and the Computer Workstation."

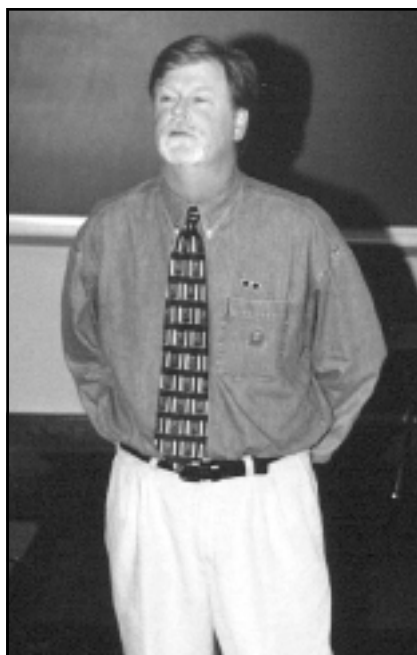


Tuesday's Extraordinary Afternoon

The conference ended with several special events including an elegant buffet luncheon and the scholarship raffle. The highlight of the afternoon was the keynote speaker, Connie Elliott. Ms. Elliott is the Director of Tourism for Anderson County, Tennessee. As a Certified Meeting Professional, Ms. Elliott is President of Ideal Events, which provides the finest speakers and meeting management services. Her motto is "If it ain't fun, I'm not interested!" and her motto rang true as she addressed the group. She used humorous and heart-warming stories to get her message across, and that message is for each of us to get excited about self-improvement. She encouraged us to be persistent and to work diligently at making our dreams come true. Ms. Elliott made the audience laugh, and she made a few of us cry as she closed out the conference with her challenge to each of us to go out and master the challenges of the 21st Century.

Awards

The Paraprofessional Forum presented two special awards during this year's conference. Nancy P. Bell, who has worked at the Longwood College Library for 30 years, received the VLAPF Award. The



award provided Ms. Bell with the opportunity of attending the conference by providing funds that paid all conference expenses. She received a special framed commemorative certificate during the Monday opening session. Patricia White, who works at the Annandale Campus Library of the Northern Virginia Community College, was awarded the Outstanding Paraprofessional of the Year Award. She was recognized during the Tuesday opening session, and was awarded a special plaque in honor of her accomplishments in the library field.

The Scholarship Raffle

Unique prizes on display at the registration desk sparked an inter-

est in the VLAPF scholarship raffle. Raymond Edwards of the Montgomery County Public Library was the winner of the framed P. Buckley Moss print entitled *The Barter Theatre*. The print was donated by the P. Buckley Moss Society of Staunton, Virginia, and was framed compliments of Christopher's Fine Arts and Framing of Farmville, Virginia. Arlene Randolph of the Richmond Public Library won the CD/tape player and six popular CDs donated by the WAL-MART Supercenter of Farmville, Virginia. Other lucky winners left with a Winnie the Pooh hat box filled with Pooh-related surprises, a cooking basket filled with baking items, a window box filled with gardening items, a basket shaped like Virginia filled with made-in-Virginia products, and one of several Beanie Baby baskets. Alex Matthews donated a collection of her signed first editions to be given as a raffle prize. This variety of outstanding prizes resulted in a very successful raffle.

The 2000 conference theme is *Reaching for the Stars: Success, Recognition, Professionalism*. Mark your calendar for May 22-23, and make plans to join us at the University of Richmond for the VLA Paraprofessional Forum's eighth annual two-day conference.

Lydia C. Williams VL

Accessing Virginia Statistics on the Internet

by Mary Dessypris

Trying to find the right site for statistics on the Internet can be a frustrating experience. It may also turn out to be time-consuming, even when using search engines. The search becomes easy, efficient, and quick when one knows the web site that provides the information sought. This article is intended to point to the Internet sites with helpful statistics, which may be useful to small or branch libraries that do not have access to many printed sources. To access most of these files the *Acrobat Reader* software should be installed. This software allows the reader to view files in Portable Document Format (pdf). This software is free and available on the Internet. Sites which maintain their data in pdf format usually provide a link to access Acrobat Reader.

Quick Overviews

Quick overviews on Virginia figures:

Virginia Economic Development Partnership

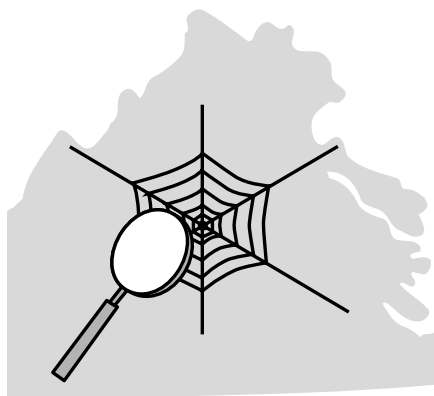
<http://www.YesVirginia.org/index2.html>

Click on: *The Facts* and *Regional Views*.

Dismal Scientist

<http://www.dismalscientist.com>

Even though this is a commercial



site, it is a very useful resource because it gives pertinent economic and demographics information by zip code. This is a free site.

In-Depth

For in-depth information on Virginia statistics on a variety of subjects check:

Cooper Center for Public Service

<http://www.virginia.edu/coopercenter/vastat/>

This is the most important web site for business, demographics, and economics in Virginia. **Va-Stats**, as the site is known, is a web page developed and maintained by the Business and Economics Section of the Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service at the University of Virginia. The Center publishes *The Virginia Statistical Abstract* and

makes available online some of the information included in this publication. With a click on a subject, a menu of choices appears. The information displayed consists of tables developed by the Center or links to federal and/or state sites that compile the information.

Virginia Profiles

<http://www.census.gov/datamap/www/51.html>

Available from the Bureau of Census, this page provides for each community the following data:

- Coordinates for each county and city,
- Access to the Tiger Map file,
- Population, demographic, and housing information from the 1990 U.S. Census,
- Population estimates for all counties in Virginia,
- Income and poverty data,
- Economic Census (1992),
- County Business Patterns Economic Profile: 1993-1996,
- USA Counties General Profile 1994-1996,
- State Abstract,
- Government Finances (1996).

As new statistical information is compiled it is made available on the Internet.

In addition to the above sites, a number of other agencies provide statistics on specific topics, as listed on the next two pages.

Economy

Labor Market Information

<http://www.vec.state.va.us/lbrmkt/lmi.htm>

This site is maintained by the **Virginia Employment Commission**. The data displayed are produced by the Economic Information Services Division in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The State Data Center, another division of VEC, works closely with the Bureau of Census and develops Virginia's population projections:

- Monthly Unemployment Press Release,
- Monthly Nonfarm Employment Press Release,
- Labor Force Components,
- Annual Average Unemployment Rates,
- Latest Occupational Employment Statistics,
- Population Estimates,
- Virginia Economic Indicators.

Monthly Revenue Data

<http://www.state.va.us/sfin/revrep.htm>

The Office of the Secretary of Finance makes available on the Internet the official monthly communication of the Secretary to the Governor on revenue figures and provides a description of the economic status of the Commonwealth.

Virginia Outlook

<http://business.wm.edu/bbr/bbrotlk.html>

Virginia Outlook is a publication of the Bureau of Business Research at the College of William and Mary School of Business Administration. The school maintains the most recent issues in an electronic version. *Virginia Outlook* forecasts new trends and provides an in-depth analysis of the economic status of the state and the six largest metropolitan areas.

Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond / Monetary Policy and Business Conditions

<http://www.rich.frb.org/monetarypol/busconditions.html>

The Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond provides crucial economic information on the fifth district, which includes Virginia. This page links to the quarterly *Region Focus*, manufacturing and service sector surveys, and the *Beige Book* which provides overviews of economic conditions on the national and regional level.

The University of Virginia maintains the following databases with national and Virginia statistics:

Geospatial and Statistical Data Center

<http://fisher.lib.virginia.edu/>

The Geospatial and Statistical (Geostat) Data Center was formed in 1998 with the merger of the Social Sciences Data and Geographic Information Centers. Click on "*Interactive Data*" on the left navigational bar to access a wealth of statistical data divided in four categories:

- Social, Demographic and Political Data,
- Domestic Economic Data,
- International Economic Data,
- Education and Health Data.

Regional Economic Information System

<http://fisher.lib.virginia.edu/reis/index.html>

The REIS database, produced by the Bureau of Economic Analysis and accessible from the above *Domestic and Economic Data* category, provides local area economic data for states, counties, and metropolitan areas for 1969-1996. Summaries are provided for each area as well as detailed statistics on personal income and earnings, full- and part-time employment, transfer payments, and farm income and expenses.

Elections

The Election Results Index

<http://www.sbe.state.va.us/Election/results/Index.htm>

Available from the Virginia Board of Elections, the information covers the years 1996-1998.

U.S. and Virginia Election Data

<http://fisher.lib.virginia.edu/elections/>

This site contains current and historic data available from the University of Virginia. Two files are available: *Virginia Election Data 1984-1996* and *US Election Data 1788-1900*.

The Virginia file permits the user to get detailed data to the precinct level for the election returns of the following offices: President, Senator, Representative, Governor, Lt. Governor, Attorney General, and General Assembly (Senate and House). The file on U. S. Elections includes the election returns for over 90% of the elections for President, Governor, and United States Representative from 1824-1990, as well as United States Senator from 1912-1990. In addition, the records for approximately two-thirds of the returns for federal and gubernatorial elections from 1788-1823 are included.

Historic Demographics

United States Historical Census Data Browser 1790-1970

<http://fisher.lib.virginia.edu/census/>

This database was originally created by the Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR) in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Now available for browsing through the University of Virginia, it "describes the people and the economy of the United States on the state and county level from 1790 to 1970." After selecting the year, variables must be chosen from the different categories of data that were collected in each given year, and then one is given the choice of viewing the data by state or county level.

Education

The Virginia Department of Education Data

<http://www.pen.k12.va.us/VDOE/Publications/>

The Department makes available on the Internet detailed statistical data about Virginia's elementary and secondary education system.

They are:

- Fall Membership (1993-1998) (includes state summary and data by grade and ethnicity),
- Report of Graduates (1996/7-1997/8),
- Report of Dropouts (1996/7-1997/8),
- Annual School Report. Statistical (1996/7-1997/8),
- Triennial Census. 1999 School Census,
- Assessment Reports.

The State Council of Higher Education of Virginia/Facts and Figures

<http://www.schev.edu/wuresrch/index.html>

The Department maintains online files that describe the status of Higher Education in Virginia. They are:

- The Statistical Summaries (enrollment in Virginia's public and private colleges and universities),
- Academic Performance Characteristics (describes the performances of freshmen in the public and private colleges and universities),
- Admissions,
- Completions (degrees awarded),
- Degrees Inventories (by institutions, by program areas and historic information),
- Enrollment Summaries (On/Off campus, Full/Part Time, In/Out State, Race, Age Groups, and Student Level),
- Finances (Tuition Fees and Room and Board).

Politics

Virginia Public Access Project

<http://www.opensecrets.org/vpap/>

This is a non-profit, non-partisan web site that makes available to the public campaign contributions to Virginia politicians. It can be searched by the candidate's or contributor's name.

Virginia Voter Net

<http://www.pilotonline.com/voter/>

This site is maintained by the newspaper *Virginian-Pilot*. It is a constantly evolving site. Even though the focus of the site is the Hampton-Roads area, it is a great resource during elections time with ample information on candidates and final results. The 1997 archive is still available.

Miscellaneous

The Virginia Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC)

makes available a Fact Sheet with figures on alcohol-related facts and accidents:

Virginia Crash Facts in Brief

<http://www.abc.state.va.us/facts/crash.html>

and a file on **Beverage Sales**

<http://www.abc.state.va.us/admin/abcsale98.htm>

Crash Statistics for Virginia

<http://www.dmv.state.va.us/webdoc/safety/qfmenu.htm>

The Department of Motor Vehicles maintains a searchable database on accident statistics in Virginia. The database includes figures for 1995-1997 so far, and may be searched by city, county, town, or by DMV district.

Health Statistics

<http://www.vdh.state.va.us/stats/index.html>

The Virginia Center for Health Statistics provides a number of files with statistics on births and deaths. Marriage figures are not available.

The Virginia Uniform Crime Reporting Program

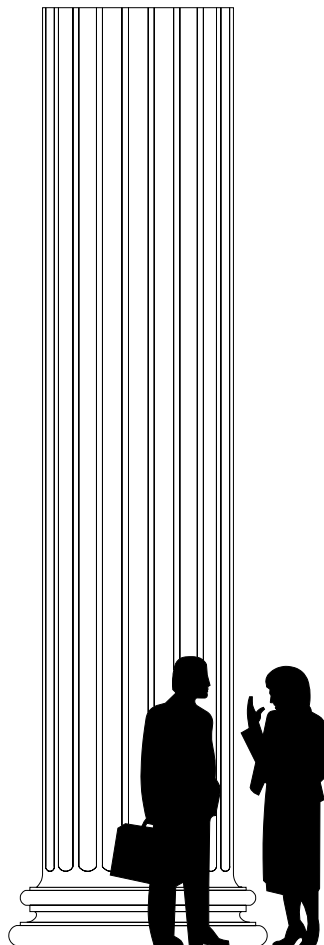
<http://www.vsp.state.va.us/vsp.html>

The Virginia State Police makes available the most recent edition of **Crime In Virginia** on its web site. This publication reports facts and trends of crimes in the Commonwealth. To access it scroll down on the left navigational bar and click on *Crime in Virginia*.

The Uniform Crime Reports

<http://fisher.lib.virginia.edu/crime/Data> for Virginia and the U.S. (1990-1995) are available through the University of Virginia.

Addresses were verified as of August 1999. ■



University of Virginia's Alderman Café Earns High Marks from Faculty, Students, and Customer Survey

by Anne Lawrence and Melissa Norris

When patrons first enter Alderman Library at the University of Virginia they are greeted by vaulted ceilings, chandeliers, an impressive Roman numeral clock, the smell of coffee brewing and the whirl of a cappuccino machine. Soon after opening in September 1998, the Alderman Café, located in the Library's Memorial Hall, quickly became a popular meeting place for students, faculty, and staff. The café recently placed second out of 512 college and university dining facilities serviced by ARAMARK, Inc., a national food service provider. This impressive ranking, the result of a spring customer satisfaction survey, improves upon the fifth place ranking the café received in the fall survey.

Café Supervisor Diane McLellan attributes the shop's success to the relaxed attitude of its patrons. "It doesn't matter whether someone's an undergraduate student, a tenured professor, or the Dean of Students. In here, they're a 'tall latte,' an 'iced chai,' or a 'grande mocha,'" she said. "The laid back atmosphere really helps to break down barriers."

Providing "common grounds" where faculty and students can get together is one of the main objec-

tives of the Alderman Café. According to Deputy University Librarian Kendon Stubbs, members of the Faculty Senate noticed the popularity of on-campus coffeehouses at other institutions and were eager to bring the concept home to UVA. "I thought it odd that our University, centered around the concept of the Academical Village, should have been so deficient in this regard. The ongoing exchange of ideas inside and beyond the classroom is precisely what UVA strives to foster," said former Faculty Senate Chairman Jahan Ramazani, another proponent of the café.

While members of the Faculty Senate saw the coffee shop as a means to enrich UVA's intellectual community, members of the Library's Student Advisory Committee and Library Fees Committee focused on other benefits such as increasing patron comfort and generating revenue. Reference and Information Services Director Linda Lester said that students had been asking the Library to make food and beverages available for a long time: "It's much more pleasant to study when you can sip a cup of coffee without having to worry that the 'food police' are going to come get you. I think that's why

bookstores with similar cafés have become so popular." Lester added: "They work hard to make you feel at home."

The Library Fees Committee acknowledged the success of area coffee shops and hoped that establishing a similarly relaxed, congenial environment in Alderman's main hall would attract more students and heighten attention to the Library. The café's popularity has succeeded in increasing Library patronage, and the Library will also benefit from a renovation of Memorial Hall scheduled to take place this fall. Renovation plans include the addition of more tables and chairs to accommodate an ever-growing number of café patrons, as well as additional computer stations and lounge furniture for the other Library users.

Lester was quick to add, however, that this expansion "does not mean we're becoming the University of Virginia Alderman Café and Library." While the café will maintain the seating area, the renovations are concurrent with the Library's goal of providing comfortable study facilities for its patrons. "We used to have several large tables in Memorial Hall where people could read or work on group projects, but those had

Melissa Norris is Public Relations Specialist for Alderman Library of the University of Virginia. Anne Lawrence was an intern for the Communications and Publications Department and has since completed her degree.



to go when we put in the coffee shop," she remarked. "Now we're simply relocating a few offices to give the students that space back."

In the spring of 1998 plans to establish the Alderman Café became a group effort. By late February, members of the Library Student Advisory Committee, the Library Fees Committee, and the Faculty Senate had consulted with Director of University Dining Services Ed Gtuskas about the pros, cons, and logistics of opening a coffee shop in the Library. "Ed thought it would be a good idea to put us in touch with one another," said Library Communications and Publications Department Director Ken Jensen. "We each brought a different perspective to the project."

The united efforts of students, Library officials, and the Faculty Senate enabled the Alderman Café to be established in just a few months, illustrating the potential success of faculty-student collaboration. In this way, it could be said that the coffee shop has already fulfilled its mission of bringing faculty and students together. "[The opening of the café] is a wonderful example of how the University can work together perfectly," said Faculty

Senate Chairman-elect David Gies, former President of the Senate's Research and Scholarship Committee. "The University identified a need and met it in a very elegant way."

Faculty Senate members and University Library officials believed locating the coffee shop in an academic setting would foster interaction and contribute to the growth of an intellectual community at UVa. "The Alderman Café has become even more of a success than we had thought possible," said Faculty Senate Chairman Ed Ayers. "To see it busy all day long with students and professors and librarians talking with one another is very gratifying." McLellan concurred, remarking that "students often come here to meet with study groups or to talk to professors. I can tell they're doing work because of the books they leave behind." Humorously, Ayers remarked, "I'd like to think that the additional caffeine has increased the productivity of the Library patrons!"

Third year student John Duval said that he usually stops by the café in between classes. "I would probably not come [to Alderman Library] otherwise, but because of

the café, I think it's a great place to relax and catch up on reading." First year student Kara Hurston takes advantage of the opportunity to meet with her instructors in a neutral setting. "It's a lot less intimidating to come up to professors here rather than after class. They seem like regular people and have more time to answer my questions."

The café once again proved its popularity among students during final exams week when 1,134 customers patronized the shop in one day. On a more typical day, the café averages 600 customers.

McLellan's advice to anyone considering a similar venture is simply to be prepared for success. "This really is the students' café. They've made it what it is today and will ensure its successful future."

The Alderman Café is open weekdays during the school year from 8:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. and again from 7 p.m. until 10 p.m. The café extends its hours during exams, remaining open until midnight. To accommodate summer patrons and visitors to the Library, the café is open June through August, Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. ■

Virginia Books

Reviews prepared by the staff of the Division of Publications
and Educational Services of the Library of Virginia

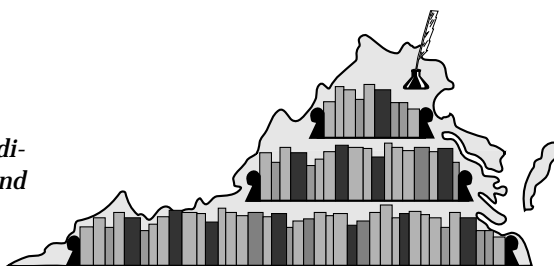
Julie A. Campbell, Editor



Charles Joyner, *Shared Traditions: Southern History and Folk Culture*. Urbana and Chicago: University of Illinois Press, 1999. xiii + 361 pp. \$19.95 (softcover), \$49.95 (hardcover).

Historian and folklorist Charles Joyner won the National University Press Book Award for his 1984 publication, *Down by the Riverside: A South Carolina Slave Community*, a study of the rice plantations of the low country. Joyner repeats his success with this new volume of essays, which asks "large questions in small places" and develops his examination of the folk culture that distinguishes the South.

Joyner defines folk culture as what is unforgettable. It "embodies in its traditional chain of transmission the visions and values of the folk themselves." Although the elements of folk culture appear uncomplicated, in fact they constitute an intricately woven fabric of considerable complexity. Joyner rightly reminds readers that, from the beginning, "Europeans of various ethnic backgrounds converged with Africans of various ethnic backgrounds and with Native Americans of various ethnic backgrounds." The result is a rich mix of traditions that have stimulated and modified each other. He also



correctly points out that the equating of "folk" with "rural" is narrow and inaccurate.

Joyner divides his volume into five sections. The first two examine the interrelationship between

**The result is a rich mix
of traditions that have
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history and the study of folk culture, including three essays commenting on the approaches David Potter, David Hackett Fischer, and Henry Glassie have taken to southern history. The third section offers looks at the persistence of folk culture in the New South, with essays on the Jewish population in Georgetown, South Carolina, southern musical traditions, and the role of folk tradition on the civil-rights movement. The

fourth section suggests ways in which history can enhance our understanding of folk culture, as a balance to the previous essays, which examine the importance of folk culture in understanding history. Joyner closes with an essay on the impact of resort development on the folk culture of the Carolina sea islands and concludes that, although the folk culture may be endangered, it is hardy and will, as always, adapt and modify.

Joyner is an unfussy writer who tackles the subject with gusto and insight. Much of the book concerns the low country of South Carolina as well as Appalachia. He includes a fascinating essay on "the passion" of John Brown in which he places Brown's actions at Harper's Ferry and his execution at Charleston within the context of social drama, an anthropological method of analyzing events in other cultures. Nevertheless, Joyner's emphasis on examining the folk culture of the South fits well with the growth of social history. "Folklorists," he writes, "need history to help them understand the process of change in folk culture; social historians need folklore to help them understand the role of the folk in history."

—reviewed by Barbara Batson,
Exhibits Coordinator

Julie A. Campbell is editor of *Virginia Cavalcade* magazine. She works in the Publications and Educational Services Division at the Library of Virginia. Staff members from other divisions of the Library occasionally contribute to "Virginia Books" and are so noted in their bylines.



John Saillant, ed., *Afro-Virginian History and Culture*. New York: Garland Publishing, 1999. x + 252 pp. \$55.00.

On summer mornings for the past dozen years, a small exodus of researchers from the Library of Virginia occurs about an hour after the reading room opens. The departing patrons are historians whose innovative research projects on Virginia topics and scholarly promise earned them Andrew Mellon Research Fellowships at the Virginia Historical Society, where the reading room opens an hour after the Library's. This collection of nine essays, most by younger scholars with important books in their future, is testimony to how the fellowships are energizing the study of Virginia's past. I know just about all the contributors, and one of them, Gregg Kimball, is an esteemed colleague at the Library. Even if they were complete strangers, however, I would still recommend the book to libraries with Virginia collections and to anyone interested in an exciting new look at Virginia's past.

Editor John Saillant asked each contributor to stimulate further research, and Mark M. Smith's fascinating exploration of the evolution of work discipline on Virginia plantations, which seems to parallel developments in the factory system, is a fine example of that approach. Some themes emerge, too. The opening essay, by Douglas B. Chambers, on the slave trade to Virginia in the eighteenth century, argues that Virginia's debt-ridden tobacco planters were of marginal importance in the Atlantic economy, and, therefore, relatively few slaves came to Virginia. Of those who did (usually directly from Africa), a larger portion than in other slave markets were women and children. As a consequence of this brutally calculated demographic pattern, Afro-

Virginians were quick to form families and to create communities.

Kinship, friendship, and community figure prominently in all the essays. Gail S. Terry shows how slaves maintained bonds of kinship as Virginia planters moved west across the Appalachian Mountains, and John J. Zaborney investigates the practice of slave hiring and its consequences for families. Gregg Kimball shows how the congregation (largely slaves) of Richmond's First African Baptist Church communicated with former members in the free states, took up collections for missions in Liberia, and, on the whole, displayed a cosmopolitan awareness of the world outside Virginia. The black church is an equally impor-

This collection of nine essays...is testimony to how the fellowships are energizing the study of Virginia's past.

tant institution in Harold S. Forsythe's superb recreation of politics in Mecklenburg County during the 1880s, an example of local history at its best.

Other essays demonstrate the important roles of women. Michelle A. Krowl looks at the actions of African American women during the Civil War, and Barbara Bair highlights the roles that they played in the nationalist Garveyite movement of the 1920s. Both essays take subjects previously presented in male-oriented terms of self-assertion and independence and add illuminating complications. Philip J. Schwarz's essay, "The Gilliams' Dilemma,"

falls midway in the collection and is a sort of keystone. He tells of a free black family who had acquired property in Virginia, but who migrated north for greater opportunity and there successfully passed for white. All the virtues of this collection are present: careful research, a passion for understanding, and stories about human beings that will stick with you. This slim book is a very large monument to the success of the Virginia Historical Society's fellowship program.

—reviewed by John T. Kneebone,
Director, Publications and Educational Services Division



Mary Louise Clifford, *From Slavery to Freetown: Black Loyalists After the American Revolution*. Jefferson, North Carolina: McFarland & Company, 1999. viii + 251 pp. \$48.50.

Thousands of enslaved African Americans responded to British promises of freedom during the American Revolution, leaving their masters and homes to cross military lines. With the defeat of British forces and the Treaty of Paris, these ex-slaves became people without a country. Clifford's book focuses on those people who colonized first in Nova Scotia and then in Sierra Leone on Africa's west coast. In both places the expatriates carved out a difficult existence. In Nova Scotia the migrants faced poverty and racism; in Africa, life was complicated by colonial rivalries and politics, economic hardship, and conflict with native Africans. Despite these troubles, settlers created viable communities with religious and educational institutions.

Clifford's book sketches the overall history of the ex-slaves' experiences, relying mainly on secondary sources. But the author's primary focus is on the lives of a small group of black loyalists,

among them Virginians Mary Perth, Moses Wilkinson, and David George. Early chapters introduce these central figures, describing their experiences under slavery and their initial bids for freedom. Each then reappears throughout the main narrative, which roughly spans the period from the American Revolution to the first decade of the nineteenth century. The use of the settlers' lives as a central narrative thread and the short, descriptive chapters should make the book accessible to a broad audience, but the sparse endnotes and minimal context and analysis may also limit understanding of the settlers' world.

—reviewed by Gregg Kimball,
Assistant Director, Publications and
Educational Services Division



Patricia West, *Domesticating History: The Political Origins of America's House Museums*. Washington, D.C.: Smithsonian Institution Press, 1999. xiii + 241 pp. \$40.00 (hardcover), \$17.95 (soft cover).

This book examines four historic sites: Mount Vernon, Orchard House, Monticello, and the Booker T. Washington National Monument, all but one of which (Orchard House) are in Virginia. House museums, West argues, are "products as well as purveyors of history." The founders of these institutions had varied and often complex motives. Some meant to memorialize a person, others intended to inculcate American values in recent immigrants, and most sought to advance political motives. Museums are not founded in vacuums, West writes, and they do not operate in one. Furniture, docents, and interpretation all reflect the climate of the times just as much (or more than) they reflect the past.

West begins her study with Mount Vernon, examining the

role of antebellum women's associations in benevolence. Without the vote, women had only their moral influence to change the world around them. In the turbulent 1850s, the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association of the Union converted George Washington's home into a shrine, raising funds by selling bouquets and postcards to visitors while attempting to bring together women from the North and South. After the war, women transferred the energies they had used in relief work to creating memorials, and house

**Museums are not
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museums became model American homes.

Orchard House, the Concord, Massachusetts, home of writer Louisa May Alcott, was restored by women who set aside Alcott's pro-suffrage views and her father's transcendentalism for a more traditional "Little Women" house. The establishment of Monticello as a museum in the 1920s marked a turning point in the movement, when college-educated male professionals supplanted voluntary female organizations. Booker T. Washington's Franklin County birthplace, with its reconstructed cabin, received congressional support in the midst of the civil-rights movement, helping curators explore a very different type of history.

Historic house museums, West concludes, "were manufactured out of human needs bound by time and place." Founded in politically charged environments, house

museums often attempted to present a carefully tailored, sanitized version of the past. In reality, the issues and conflicts of their times shaped the institutions. *Domesticating History* explores how and why these museums were founded, and thoughtfully considers their role in preserving America's past. Meaty endnotes and a handy index round out the illustrated volume.

—reviewed by Jennifer Davis
McDaid, Assistant Editor, Virginia
Cavalcade



John Gilman Kolp, *Gentlemen and Freeholders: Electoral Politics in Colonial Virginia*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1998. xi + 249 pp. \$46.00.

Challenging Charles Sydnor's interpretation of colonial Virginia as a hierarchical, oligarchic society dominated by a handful of local elites, John Gilman Kolp argues that a variety of factors including geography, county formation, and local issues affected local elections for the House of Burgesses, leading to diverse political experiences for the colony's voters and officeholders. While long-established Tidewater counties with a stable gentry had few real electoral contests in the eighteenth century, newer Piedmont counties, particularly those lacking an established clique of gentry leaders, were far more likely to experience highly competitive elections, long and costly campaigns, ... and voter independence at the polls. The difference in interpretation, Kolp suggests, derives from the evidence historians use; while the letters and diaries of the gentry portray the ideal of an ordered political arrangement, existing pollbooks and reports of contested elections in the records of the House of Burgesses reveal that democracy, not oligarchy, ruled.

After looking in Part 1 at colonial law and issues from the local through the imperial level that affected elections, Kolp uses case studies of established eastern and newly formed frontier counties in Part 2 to demonstrate the variety of political cultures possible within the single political community of Virginia.

Kolp emphasizes the role of the small leaseholder in colonial politics. On average, about fifty percent of adult white Virginia males owned enough land to vote, while another twenty percent held life leases giving them the privilege. Kolp has found that tenants able to vote did so in significant numbers, forming as much as one half of the electorate, and making election results particularly difficult to predict. A divided or absent gentry only exacerbated the volatility of elections. Thus, Halifax County, a frontier community lacking an easily identifiable economic elite, experienced a combative style of politics resulting in frequent officeholder turnover as well as high political interest and awareness among voters.


Local issues, however, could also bring electoral volatility to established communities. Thus, in Accomack County, controversy over the need to seat a new church led to political squabbles lasting for decades. As tensions with Great Britain rose from the 1750s through the 1770s, however, Virginians in many counties experienced fewer competitive elections. Instead, voters were more likely to return incumbents to office, sending to Whitehall a message of colonial support for the House of Burgesses.

Kolp is an associate professor of history at the U.S. Naval Academy. He used Virginia diaries, letters, newspapers, pollbooks, county histories, lists of tithables, and other rich sources to craft his political study, which is part of the "Early

America: History, Context, Culture" series of the Johns Hopkins University Press.

—reviewed by *Mary Carroll Johansen, Research Associate, Dictionary of Virginia Biography*


Virginia Bookends


 The Virginia Foundation for the Humanities and Public Pol-


...existing pollbooks and reports of contested elections in the records of the House of Burgesses reveal that democracy, not oligarchy, ruled.

icy makes a strong contribution to political study with its publication of the third edition of David Beringer, ed., *The Bill of Rights, The Courts, and the Law* (Charlottesville: 1999, xx + 396 pp., \$21.95 soft cover). The first two editions came out in 1987 and 1991. The current volume, which contains abridgements of fifty-five cases of the U.S. Supreme Court, features new material on property rights, federalism, assisted suicide, and (of special interest to librarians) the Internet and free speech. The six expert commentators all hail from Virginia institutions: University of Virginia, University of Richmond, Marshall-Wythe School of Law, Virginia Commonwealth University, and Sweet Briar College. The VFH and the Friends of Virginia Libraries have generously donated a copy to main-branch public


libraries across the state, for which they deserve hearty thanks.


 Researchers interested in Hanover County and African American history will want to see *Black Hanoverians: An Enlightened Past* (Rockville, Virginia: ITS Inc., 1999, 212 pp., \$29.95 hardcover), by Dr. Vonita W. Foster, which includes interviews with black residents of Hanover County as well as photographs and a look at historical documents. It is the first in a projected three-part series, which will also cover "homes and communities" and "growth and pursuits." To order the book, send a check or purchase order for \$29.95 to ITS Inc., P.O. Box 302, Rockville, VA 23146-0302.

 Genealogists will be happy to learn of the publication of the newest volume of the ever-popular *Cavaliers and Pioneers: Abstracts of Virginia Land Patents and Grants, Volume 7, 1762-1776* (Richmond: Virginia Genealogical Society, 1999, \$40) edited by Dennis R. Hudgins. The useful, information-packed book includes references to adjacent landowners and to earlier patentees who failed to pay quitrents. Historian John M. Hemphill II writes the introduction. To order, contact the VGS at 5001 W. Broad St., #115, Richmond, Virginia 23230.


 *Loudoun County: 250 Years of Towns and Villages*, by Mary Fishback and the Thomas Balch Library Commission, is part of the "Images of America" series from Arcadia Publishing, 2 Cumberland St., Charleston, South Carolina 29401. Packed into 127 pages of this attractive little book (\$18.99 softcover) are more than 200 black-and-white photographs of historic homes, churches, schools, businesses, and other county institutions. Happily, many of the places are alive and well, but the

caption of a ca. 1880 photo of the George Washington Hummer family says that their farm "is now the site of the new Holiday Inn on Route 28, near Dulles Airport."


 The University of North Carolina Press has issued a soft cover reprint of Rhys Isaac's book, *The Transformation of Virginia, 1740-1790* (Chapel Hill: 1999, xl + 451 pp., \$16.95). Dr. Isaac, who teaches at the College of William and Mary, contributes a new preface to his important study, which won the Pulitzer Prize and the National Historical Society Book Prize in 1983. The *Times Literary Supplement* calls it "one of the best — and most provocative — books written on colonial Anglo-America."

 Another soft cover reprint of interest comes during the 200th anniversary of George Washington's death: *The Invention of George Washington*, by Paul K. Longmore (Charlottesville: University Press of Virginia, 1999, x + 337 pp., \$16.95). First published in 1988, the book studies how Washington himself shaped his image. The "well-written and thoroughly researched work explains George Washington's career in terms of his lifelong ambition for public recognition," writes *Choice*.

Civil War Bookends


 From the University of South Carolina Press comes *The Civil War Letters of Alexander Campbell, 79th New York Infantry Regiment, and James Campbell, 1st South Carolina Battalion*, edited by Terry A. Johnston Jr. (xx + 190 pp., \$24.95

hardcover). The Campbells were Scottish immigrants who chose to fight on opposite sides of the war. Alexander wrote to his wife, Jane, in October of 1861 from "Camp of the big chesnut Va": "You must bear in mind that a Letter from home is thought a great deal of out here. Just consider yourself away in the wilds of Virginia and Living the way I am."


 White Mane Publishing Company, of Shippensburg, Penn-


**George Washington
Hummer family says
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sylvania, and its imprints White Mane Books and Burd Street Press, have five new titles. First is Ben F. Fordney, *Stoneman at Chancellorsville: The Coming of Age of Union Cavalry* (White Mane Books: 1999, ix + 77 pp., \$7.95 soft cover). The author, who teaches at James Madison University, wrote the book due to his conviction that George Stoneman "was a significant figure, who has received little recognition from historians, despite both his role in several crucial campaigns and his postwar service."

 Virginian John Tyler anchors one chapter of Walter Brian Cisco, *Taking a Stand: Portraits from*

the Southern Secession Movement (White Mane Books: 1999, viii + 141 pp., \$24.95 hardcover). Cisco examines the motives of five secessionists. "I hope that my approach," he writes in the preface, "particularly in allowing these diverse but representative individuals to speak for themselves, will contribute to a fuller and fairer understanding of them and their cause."

 In December 1863, Union forces attacked Salem, Virginia. That event is the focus of Darrell L. Collins, *General William Averell's Salem Raid: Breaking the Knoxville Supply Line* (Burd Street Press: 1999, ix + 174 pp., \$24.95 hardcover). Collins calls Averell's feat "one of the most daring and remarkable" of its kind.

 A famous battle gets a new treatment at the hands of JoAnna M. McDonald, *"We Shall Meet Again": The First Battle of Manassas (Bull Run), July 18-21, 1861* (White Mane Books: 1999, xii + 230 pp., \$27.95 hardcover). The publisher says it "is the first book on this subject to include forty-five maps and over 200 photographs of the individual soldiers."

 And finally comes a study of the development of the Confederate navy by R. Thomas Campbell, *Academy on the James: The Confederate Naval School* (Burd Street Press: 1999, xii + 283 pp., \$39.95 hardcover). The Confederacy needed a navy and it needed to train its sailors, and thus was born the naval school. The classroom was not in a building somewhere in Richmond but afloat on the James River and onboard the *CSS Patrick Henry*. ■