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. Views expressed in Virginia Libraries are not necessarily endorsed by the editors or editorial board.

The Virginia Library Association (VLA) holds the copyright on all articles published in Virginia Libraries whether the articles appear in print or electronic format. Material may be reproduced for informational, educational, or recreational purposes provided the source of the material is cited. The print version of Virginia Libraries is designed by Lamp-Post Publicity in Meherrin, Virginia. The electronic version of Virginia Libraries is created by Virginia Tech’s Digital Library and Archives and is available at http://scholar.lib.vt.edu/ejournals/VALib or as a link from the Virginia Library Association website (http://www.vla.org) and the Directory of Open Access Journals (http://www.doaj.org/). Virginia Libraries is indexed in Library Literature, a database produced by the H.W. Wilson Company.

Items for publication and editorial inquiries should be addressed to the editors. Inquiries regarding membership, subscriptions, advertising, or claims should be directed to VLA, P.O. Box 8277, Norfolk, VA 23503-0277. All personnel happenings and announcements should be sent to the VLA Newsletter, Kevin Tapp, Box 7024 Radford University, Radford, VA 24142, ktapp@radford.edu.

The guidelines for submissions to Virginia Libraries are found on page 12.

COLUMNS
Cy Dillon and Lyn C. A. Gardner
Donna Cote
Sara B. Bearss, Ed.

FEATURES
Lorry Risinger
with Cy Dillon
Lydia Williams
Steven Hartung
Elizabeth Tobey

On the cover: Todd Eastridge, Outstanding Paraprofessional. See page 24.
Designed With Students in Mind

Pursue a Master’s Degree of Library and Information Science Through the University of North Texas at the James Madison University Libraries and online

The University of North Texas School of Library and Information Sciences will bring its ALA accredited Master’s program and popular online format to The Virginias in proud partnership with the Library and Outreach Programs James Madison University Harrisonburg, Virginia

Onsite instruction includes two four-day web institutes with the remainder of the instruction delivered online

Virginia and West Virginia Web Institute Dates
August 17-21, 2008
January, 2009 TBA

For information contact:
University of North Texas
School of Library and Information Sciences
P.O. Box 311068, Denton, TX 76203-1068
Telephone: (940) 565-2445, 1-877-ASK-SLIS . Fax: (940) 565-3101
E-mail: SLIS@unt.edu
Visit: www.unt.edu/slis
OPENERS

Mistakes: Simple and Complex

by Cy Dillon and Lyn C. A. Gardner

Those of us who work in libraries are keenly aware that learning is a lifelong process, and the Virginia Libraries coeditors have recently been reminded in two cases that mistakes are our most effective—if least appreciated—teachers.

The first time Cy mangled a colleague's name in print, as far as he knows, was in his undergraduate literary magazine in 1970. The name was spelled incorrectly—twice—on the contents page. Similarly, Lyn continues to regret misspelling the name of faculty fiction judge M. Evelina Galang (http://www.mevelinagalang.com/) in the 1995 issue of Old Dominion University’s literary magazine, Dominion Review (may she see this heartfelt apology). These are the sorts of mistakes that no good editor tries to brush off with a lame excuse; names are important, and getting them correct is worth the time spent checking them. The error is particularly inexcusable in the case of contributors, colleagues, and faculty participants, where the evidence is easily discovered—even more so in the Internet age.

Thus, we deeply regret our recent error in referring to Lorry Risinger as “Gloria Reisinger” in the report on the Opening Session of the 2007 VLA Annual Conference. Cy has covered many conference sessions over the years, and since he is too stubborn to admit what decades of running large and small engines on the farm have done to his hearing, there are probably other VLA members who have suffered such mistakes in silence. If so, Cy apologizes, as he has to Lorry. Of course, Lorry was gracious in correcting his error, and, in striking up a correspondence, Lyn and Cy were able to talk her into writing a brief article in this issue on one of the VLA activities she has enjoyed. So be warned if you are tempted to remind us of the time your name was misspelled.

This seemed a bit too opportunistic for an association that strives to benefit, rather than profit from, its members.

A second mistake that came to light over the past few months is more subtle. Cy had always assumed that this journal’s copyright policy, granting any and all the privilege to reproduce our articles without charge but with credit to VLA, was completely appropriate for an open access (OA) publication and a participant in the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ). Of course, companies like EBSCO paid royalties to make us available in databases, but those payments were small and the articles downloaded were not identified. Like everyone else, authors were free to reprint their articles, but could never really reclaim the copyright to their work. Lyn tried with limited success to explain to Cy how a professional writer might feel about losing all control over republication, until an incident made the abstract question very concrete.

Thompson Gale contacted us with a request to reprint the excellent Rita Mae Brown interview Janet Justis wrote back in 2004 in a forthcoming volume of Contemporary Literary Criticism. Royalties were involved, and, according to our policy, VLA was the sole copyright owner. This seemed a bit too opportunistic for an association that strives to benefit, rather than profit from, its members. After consulting with Executive Director Linda Hahne and Publications Committee Chair Suzy Szasz Palmer, we decided to split the royalties with the author and to review and revise our policy so that it will protect the rights of our authors to profit from commercial reprints. This is no simple task, as a look at the Creative Commons website (http://creativecommons.org/) indicates. There are many possibilities and many perspectives to consider.

Currently, our submissions guidelines state, “VLA holds the copyright on all articles published in Virginia Libraries. Contributors of articles receive two copies of the issue in which their work appears.” What troubles Lyn is that we’re asking authors to yield all rights whatsoever—to cede them to us permanently, as in work-for-hire—for the sole compensation of two contributor’s copies. This means that authors no longer have the right to
sell that work, whether as a reprint or for any other purpose. Ironically, for-profit operations such as Informatics can include VL content in a search interface they sell to clients as a research tool (http://j-gate.informindia.co.in/). The flip side, as Cy points out, is that having to get permission from an author for a reprint adds a barrier to the free exchange of information. Writers move away, retire, and even die. VLA stays put. However, VL, like most publishers, would still be the first point of contact for most outside reprint requests, at which point we could pass the information along to the author or estate. In either case, we would still be asking that VL be acknowledged as the place of first publication, which is an important standard courtesy.

In all of this, VL is concerned about remaining a part of the open access initiative. In “Alternative Models for Disseminating Scholarship” (http://www.ala.org/ala/acrl/acrlissues/scholarlycomm/scholarlycommunicationtoolkit/faculty/facultyalternatives.cfm), ALA says, in part, “Open access [...] refers to providing free access on the public Internet to works that are created with no expectation of direct monetary return. Most scholarly journal articles fit this definition. Author consent is a necessary condition. Open access does not include materials that authors typically expect to make money on like textbooks, most monographs, music, multimedia, etc. [...] Open access does not mean that peer review is bypassed. Peer review is medium-independent, as necessary for online journals as for print journals.”

Our current guidelines reflect the fact that the scholarly publication model is different from commercial writing; our underlying philosophy has been ease of access to information, rather than protection of intellectual property. However, since author consent is an integral part of open access, perhaps we should make our authors active participants in the project by spelling out their OA inclusion, rather than simply stating that VL acquires all rights. For that matter, which rights do we actually need? Our purposes could be served by requesting First North American Serial Rights (FNASR) for print publication, along with nonexclusive electronic rights and the right to reprint the articles as part of any derivative VL collection or compilation. This would cover both our OA digital archives and our inclusion in electronic databases. If desired, we could specifically state that all works published in VL would be included in DOAJ. All other rights would revert to the author on publication, with the stipulation that we’d be mentioned as the first place of publication. We would still be able to provide complete open access, while allowing authors control over reprinting their own material.

As you can see from Cy’s interviews with Peter Suber and Jonathan Band, we are researching the question, and will, in due time, make a proposal to Suzy and her committee. If you are one of the many VLA members who have written for this publication, or if you have done your own research on the open access movement, we would appreciate hearing from you about your opinion on the author rights/open access question. It may well be that you can help us correct a mistake and further our ongoing education.

In all of this, VL is concerned about remaining a part of the open access initiative.

To Say Thank You to librarians for their continued support

Gumdrop Books™ thru the Fitzgerald Family Trust Offers $20,000.00 in Scholarships

Twenty $1,000 Librarian Scholarships will be awarded.

Two scholarships will be awarded in each of the states of Alabama, Arizona, Colorado, Illinois, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia, to assist librarians/teachers to achieve their master’s degree in Library Science.

For complete details, please visit http://www.gumdropbooks.com/library/Scholarship08-09.pdf. If you have questions, please contact us at 800-651-2580 or email scholarships@gumdropbooks.com
Once upon a time, a roomful of librarians gathered in Richmond and told stories. Legislators listening in that room heard how people used their public library collections in many ways. One man had learned to cope with a life-threatening medical condition. A woman swore that the killer résumé she created using a how-to guide from the library was what landed her the job. “Where else could I get instructions for trimming my goats’ toenails?” asked another. Libraries got full funding that year. Shared stories help funders understand the community role of libraries, be they public, academic, school, or special.

On May 13–14, VLA’s delegation to National Library Legislative Day in Washington joined 400 librarians from across the country to tell stories that might convince federal legislators to VOTE FOR LIBRARIES. ALA/VLA organizers helpfully orchestrated appointments and clarified the issues we want our representatives and senators to address. As we know, most funding for libraries comes from local and state dollars, but federal support is crucial in many ways.

Adequate funding at all levels is especially vital in times of economic duress. “Libraries are not a frill,” Editor-in-Chief Francine Fialkoff urges us to consider in Library Journal’s May issue. “Budget cuts or not, we must continue to make the case for library support.” To acquire the funding we need to help our patrons, libraries need to make very clear—using all the statistical and anecdotal evidence we can muster—the critical contributions we make to strengthen a sagging economy: services to job seekers and small businesses, to workforce development, and to nurturing a literate citizenry.

Looking forward to new opportunities for state-level legislative advocacy in the fall, it is vital that our library users tell their delegates and senators in Richmond the true stories of how their libraries impact their lives. We all believe that libraries change lives, that they are the strong cornerstone of a democratic society. In order to garner support from our governmental representatives, we must urge library users to relate the compelling stories of how libraries have made a difference, proving that libraries are essential, life-changing institutions.

Unfortunately, not everyone understands or appreciates the value and importance of libraries. Our stories could illustrate how libraries are essential institutions in a democratic society because they play a nonpartisan role in providing the information that allows citizens to make informed decisions. Essential for families, libraries are supportive, enriching institutions where families can go together and find something for everyone. The public library is a treasure for children who go to story hours, attend summer reading programs, and do their homework there; for youth researching career options; and for empty-nesters with leisure to pursue whatever their interests might be.

Every librarian knows that libraries are vital partners in creating educated communities because they provide opportunities for self-education, lifelong learning, and self-improvement. Has the word gotten across to our legislative funders?

Our stories should point out
that libraries are essential to the educational process because they support curricula, teach information literacy, and foster critical thinking skills. And our stories should underscore the value of skilled librarians who guide library users to the right information in a form they can use and trust; to the Internet site that has relevant, accurate information; or to a novel that they might like, as well as the one they just finished.

Many a grateful library visitor acknowledges that libraries are essential places of opportunity because they level the playing field, making the world of information available to anyone seeking it; providing Internet access to those who can't afford their own computers; offering literacy and ESL programs and materials; and granting access to electronic databases that provide financial, health, and historical information. Advocacy for library support must include this story.

There are so many voices that should be heard. I urge you to collect and share the wealth of anecdotes from appreciative customers remembering their great library experiences. Libraries change lives, save lives. We need to spread the word.

Notes


---

Serving on the Jefferson Cup Committee: An Honor and a Privilege

by Lorry Risinger

Each one of us can recall defining moments in our careers when we were given a chance to make a difference. One of mine came the day I received a voice mail message telling me that I had been selected to serve on the 2006 Jefferson Cup Committee. Three years later I still have that message. It’s a small treasure locked away in my voice mailbox. Although that may seem unusual, it is a reminder of the thrill I felt that day. While we are given many opportunities to serve our profession, this one continues to stand out in my mind.

Serving on the Jefferson Cup Committee gives us the chance to work closely with other colleagues who not only want to acknowledge and encourage outstanding youth authors, but also to make American history, biography, and nonfiction more appealing to young readers. Each committee is faced with the complex tasks of maintaining the integrity of this prestigious award, and each committee makes its own contribution, which has allowed the award to evolve into something that only gets better each year.

I have been fortunate to serve three years as a voting member, chair, and postchair. Now I turn the future of the Jefferson Cup Award over to you. If you haven't yet served, you might want to consider the honor and privilege.

More information about the award and application may be found at http://www.vla.org/cyart/jefferson_cup/Jeffersoncup_index.html.

Lorry Risinger is youth services library coordinator at Lynchburg Public Library.
More Access, More Impact: Updates on the Open Access Movement from Peter Suber and Jonathan Band

with Cy Dillon

Peter Suber is a research professor of philosophy at Earlham College, visiting fellow at the Information Society Project of Yale Law School, senior researcher at the Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition (SPARC), and open access project director at Public Knowledge. He has a PhD in philosophy and a JD, both from Northwestern University. He writes the Open Access News blog and the SPARC Open Access Newsletter; was the principal drafter of the Budapest Open Access Initiative; and sits on the Advisory Board of the Wikimedia Foundation, the Advisory Board of the European Library, the Steering Committee of the Scientific Information Working Group of the U.N. World Summit on the Information Society, and the boards of several other groups devoted to open access, scholarly communication, and the information commons. He has been active in promoting open access for many years through his research, speaking, and writing. For more information, visit http://www.earlham.edu/~peters/.

VL Some of our readers may not be familiar with the movement toward open access (OA) to research literature. Can you offer a concise explanation for their benefit?

PS Open access literature is digital, online, free of charge, and free of unnecessary copyright and licensing restrictions. It isn’t free to produce, but that doesn’t mean we have to pay the bills by charging readers and erecting access barriers. Traditional broadcast television, for example, isn’t free to produce either, and costs much more to produce than scholarly journals, but it’s free of charge for end users because other stakeholders pay the costs of production.

Any kind of digital content can be OA. But the OA movement focuses on peer-reviewed journal articles because researchers write them for impact and other intangible benefits, not for money. When journals don’t pay royalties, authors can consent to OA without losing revenue, a critical fact that distinguishes OA to research literature from OA to music and movies. In most fields, journals don’t pay editors or referees either, allowing all the participants in peer review to consent to OA without losing revenue. Authors and peer reviewers have worked without direct compensation ever since the birth of the scientific journal in the seventeenth century. Their motivation, of course, was to advance knowledge in their field, and to advance their own careers, not to enrich publishers. So they have everything to gain and nothing to lose, and can better fulfill their own purposes, if they share their work with everyone who can make use of it. The Internet now makes that possible. From this point of view, the OA movement is just an attempt to seize the opportunities created by the Internet.

The economic basis of OA rests on the long-standing willingness of scholars to write journal articles for impact and not for money. The legal basis of OA rests on their resulting willingness to con-
sent to OA. Authors are the copyright holders for their work until or unless they decide to transfer rights to a publisher. When they consent to OA, then OA is authorized by the copyright-holder. The trick is to keep key rights in the hands of those who will use them to authorize OA. When we succeed at that, then OA doesn’t depend on persuading the recalcitrant, let alone on copyright infringement or reform. By the way, this kind of authorization is usually possible without authors having to retain rights or negotiate with publishers. One of the victories of the OA movement has been to persuade about two-thirds of non-OA journals to allow authors to deposit copies of their peer-reviewed manuscripts in OA repositories. At those journals, authors can transfer rights and still insure that OA is authorized by the copyright-holder. The trick after that is to insure that authors act on these permissions and actually make their work OA.

"From your point of view as a prolific writer and active scholar, how will OA improve scholarly communication?"

"It helps scholars both as readers and as authors. It removes price as an access barrier to what readers want to read. It’s like transplanting them from a small library to a large library. It connects authors to readers who can apply, extend, or build on what they’ve written. For readers, it enlarges the library and increases access. For authors, it enlarges the audience and increases impact.

OA removes friction from the system of finding and retrieving relevant work. It overcomes the artificial barrier of institutional wealth, allowing scholars to publish for everyone in their field, and read work by everyone in their field, without regard to the budgets of their own libraries or the budgets of libraries elsewhere.

We’re well into the era in which all serious research is mediated by sophisticated software. All digital literature, free or priced, is machine-readable and supports new and useful kinds of processing. But non-OA digital literature minimizes this opportunity by shrinking the set of inputs to this sophisticated software through access fees, password barriers, copyright restrictions, and software locks. By removing price and permission barriers, OA maximizes this opportunity and fosters an ecosystem of tools for searching, indexing, mining, summarizing, translating, querying, linking, recommending, alerting, and mashing-up. And this leaves out of the account the myriad forms of crunching and connection we can’t even imagine today. One important goal of the OA movement is to give these tools the widest possible scope of operation, and free up the universe of literature and data for all future forms of analysis.

"What do you see as the most important steps in the development of OA as it currently exists?"

"Authors control the rate of OA growth for three reasons. They decide whether to submit their work to OA journals. They decide whether to deposit it in OA repositories. And they decide whether to transfer rights to a publisher, or, in effect, whether to transfer the OA decision to a publisher. Unfortunately every study to date shows that most authors are still unfamiliar with OA and their options for making their own work OA.

"Is the argument that the peer review model in scholarly publishing depends on commercial publishers one you find valid?"

"No. Peer review depends on good editors and referees. At most journals in most fields, journals don’t pay their editors or their referees. The system depends on motivated volunteerism, not on journal revenue, let alone on any particular business model for generating journal revenue. If a first-rate journal converted from a subscription-based business model to OA, its dedicated editors and referees would be just as willing to offer their services as they were before. In fact, many non-OA journals have converted to OA, taking their standards, editors, and referees with them and preserving their readership, reputation, prestige, and quality—and by the way, almost always increasing their citation impact to match the greatly enlarged audience they are then able to reach.

Facilitating peer review by unpaid volunteers does have transaction costs. But they are not out of reach for OA journals. Today, for example, more than 3,400 peer-reviewed OA journals have already found ways to cover them. In any case, the costs are coming down as journal management software—some of it free and open-source—steadily takes over the clerical chores needed to organize peer review."
articles based on funded research, more and more often now they must deposit copies of their peer-reviewed manuscripts in an OA repository. Dozens of universities around the world have adopted similar policies, making OA in effect a condition of employment and the natural extension of “publish or perish” for the age of the Internet.

We need more author education, more funder policies, more university policies, more peer-reviewed OA journals, and more OA repositories. On all five of these fronts, however, the trajectory is up.

2008 seems to be shaping up as the year OA makes news both in the United States and internationally. What do you see as the highlights of the year so far?

Three of the biggest events of 2008 to date are from the U.S.: the NIH adopted an OA mandate in January, the Harvard Faculty of Arts and Sciences adopted an OA mandate in February, and Harvard Law School adopted an OA mandate in May. The two Harvard policies are notable in part because they both arose from unanimous faculty votes.

Outside the U.S., so far in 2008, we’ve also seen OA mandates at the European Research Council; Italy’s Istituto Superiore di Sanità (National Institute of Health); Austria’s Förderung der wissenschaftlichen Forschung (Fund to Promote Scientific Research); the Irish Research Council for Science, Engineering and Technology; Science Foundation Ireland; Charles Sturt University; Stirling University; Queen Margaret University; University of Southampton; University of Zurich. The European University Association recommended that its 791 member institutions mandate OA as well.

We’ve seen policies to encourage OA without requiring it at the Swiss Academy of the Humanities and Social Sciences, Ireland’s Health Research Board, the Science Foundation Ireland, Sweden’s University College of Borås and the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, the University of Helsinki, New Zealand’s Otago Polytechnic, and the University of Oregon.

What serious threats do you see to the future of OA, and are you confident these can be overcome?

The only opponents of OA are publishers, and publishers are not monolithic. Some already provide OA themselves, some are experimenting with it, and some allow authors to provide it. Some are unpersuaded and some are opposed. Those who are opposed slow things down by lobbying against national OA policies, and they do this aggressively.

But the largest barrier is still widespread ignorance and misunderstanding. Some of it is natural. In the big picture, OA is still fairly new, and the stakeholders who most need to know about it—researchers themselves—are overworked, preoccupied, and temperamentally disinclined to act as a bloc. But some of it is the result of publisher lobbying campaigns to perpetuate certain myths about OA—for example, that it violates copyright or bypasses peer review. But good understanding of OA is spreading faster than the harmful myths, and every month influential institutions commit themselves to OA.

Where can our readers access your writing about open access on the Internet?


Besides providing a link to key OA resources, how can librarians promote open access to research literature?

Librarians can launch and maintain OA repositories at their institutions. They can help faculty understand the benefits of OA and the risks of signing away their copyrights to publishers who will not allow OA. They can help faculty deposit their articles into the institutional repository. They can help secure permissions to deposit older work. They can help digitize older work that exists only in print.

At a growing number of institutions, librarians and faculty are working together to publish OA journals. Faculty evaluate and edit submissions, and librarians publish accepted manuscripts to the institutional repository.

Virginia Libraries may adopt the Creative Commons License as a means of protecting our authors’ rights to their work. Would you describe the benefits of this license?

Creative Commons is a family of licenses, not just one. All the CC licenses allow free online sharing of content, and differ only in the rights reserved to the author or the uses permitted to the user. For example, one license requires nothing but proper attribution,
in effect allowing all uses except plagiarism. Another allows all uses except plagiarism and commercial use. Another allows all uses except plagiarism and derivative works. And so on. Each CC license comes in three forms: a human-readable form, telling users what they may and may not do with the content; a lawyer-readable form, using legal precision and enforceable in court; and a machine-readable form, telling search engines how to classify the work on the spectrum on user freedoms. The last allows search engines to filter results based on reuse rights, not just keywords, and both Google and Yahoo now take advantage of it.

The benefits, in short, are that you can share your work widely, retain only the rights you need, preserve a legal basis to enforce those rights, and make your work more useful to everyone by removing needless obstacles to reuse. You don't force users to guess at the boundaries of fair use, slow down to ask permission, take the risk of proceeding without it, or err on the side of nonuse.

You are a member of the Advisory Board of the Wikimedia Foundation, as well as a university professor. Here’s a question we academic librarians have to address regularly: What do you tell students about using Wikipedia as a research tool?

Before I answer, I should make clear that Wikipedia is not the poster child of the OA movement. It’s OA, but it doesn’t use peer review in the scholarly sense, and it deliberately—I think wisely—excludes original research. The OA movement focuses on OA for original, peer-reviewed research, even if it also embraces OA for many secondary kinds of digital content.

Like many other faculty, I find Wikipedia useful for initial orientation but far from sufficient for most topics outside popular culture. It’s a good place to start and a bad place to stop. Jimmy Wales himself says that students shouldn’t limit themselves to Wikipedia. I’ve noticed, however, that when faculty express these attitudes in the press, reporters think they are making some kind of special criticism of Wikipedia, which isn’t fair. Faculty have been saying the same thing about all encyclopedias for generations. I don’t know any faculty anywhere who would accept a research paper based on encyclopedia articles, regardless of the encyclopedia.

... all the errors it identified in Wikipedia had been corrected, while the errors it identified in the Britannica had to wait....

In some respects I have a higher opinion of Wikipedia than most of my colleagues. Faculty with a low opinion of Wikipedia tend to focus on the fact that traditional encyclopedias, like Britannica, make it difficult to insert an error and Wikipedia makes it easy. That’s true, of course. But it’s also true that traditional encyclopedias make it difficult to correct an error and Wikipedia makes it easy. According to a study in Nature a couple of years ago, their error rates are roughly equal. The Britannica model, however, is better at producing good writing and the Wikipedia model is better at scaling up to gigantic size. But what’s most remarkable is that the week after Nature published its study, all the errors it identified in Wikipedia had been corrected, while the errors it identified in the Britannica had to wait until the next edition came out.

In other respects I have a lower opinion of Wikipedia than most faculty. I’ve seen some edit wars close up and they’re not pretty. While error correction in Wikipedia is easy in principle, it’s sometimes—I hope rarely—obstructed in practice by territorial trolls with little relevant knowledge and little respect for the knowledge of others.

Students will use Wikipedia regardless of anyone’s advice, and I have no problem with that provided they also go beyond it. My real advice is for faculty. The most important fact about Wikipedia is that we can make it better. If you have a low opinion of Wikipedia, then don’t let your low opinion become a self-fulfilling prophecy. If you don’t use Wikipedia, then don’t have an opinion about its quality. If you do use it, and find an article to be inaccurate or one-sided, then improve it. You could even make improving Wikipedia articles—within Wikipedia and not just in offline papers—an assignment for students. It would be good education for students and help millions of users at the same time.

Jonathan Band is an attorney specializing in copyright law, particularly as it applies to the Internet. He is a prolific author, a well-known advocate in Congress, a popular presenter at professional conferences, and an influential lawyer in all aspects of the application of intellectual property law to technology. An adjunct professor at the Georgetown University Law Center, Band has worked with the American Library Association to promote educational fair use of copyrighted material (http://www.arl.org/bm-doc/educationalfairusetoday.pdf). We were pleased that he agreed to comment on Peter Suber’s interview and to address our questions about authors’ rights in an open access environment.
How did you become interested in open access publishing issues?

Open access is in the air! With the advent of the Internet, people are experimenting with new models for creating and distributing material. Open source software, Creative Commons licenses, and OA publishing are all part of this much broader movement.

You are one of the most prolific writers on copyright, fair use, the Internet, and intellectual property rights. Where can our readers find examples of your articles online?

All my articles are available on my website, policybandwidth.com. Also, if you query my name in a search engine, you’ll find other places my articles have been posted on the web. (You’ll also find references to an admiral in the British navy who has the same name!)

You have had a chance to read our interview with Peter Suber. In that article, he says that OA “focuses on peer-reviewed journal articles because researchers write them for impact and other intangible benefits, not for money.” Would you elaborate on what “impact” means to a writer or researcher?

There are at least two forms of impact. First, most writers are expressing a point of view they want others to adopt. They write in order to disseminate their ideas—to convince and to educate. The more widely the ideas are distributed, the more likely they are to be adopted. Second, writers often want to enhance their reputation. The broader the exposure, the greater the reputational effect. This, of course, can lead to financial rewards. I make my articles available for free on my website not only because I want to convince people to adopt my perspective on copyright, but also because I want people to retain my services as an attorney. If potential clients see my articles, they will learn about me and my expertise.

Peter also indicates that the real barrier to the growth of OA publishing is educating authors about their options. In a recent article in the American Society for Cell Biology Newsletter, you advise your father, a widely published literature professor, of resources that might help him negotiate with publishers. Would you repeat that recommendation for our readers?

\[ \ldots \text{copyright law gives the author a great deal of control over the use of his work.} \]

I mentioned that the Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition created an Author Addendum, which is a legal instrument that modifies the publisher’s agreement and allows the scholar to retain key rights (www.arl.org/sparc/author/addendum). The key is for the author to identify which rights she wants to retain, and then make sure she doesn’t sign them away to her publisher.

Suppose a writer wants the impact of open access, but also wants to retain rights such as the right to republish the material elsewhere. Is this possible under current copyright law?

Yes—copyright law gives the author a great deal of control over the use of his work. Copyright lawyers refer to copyright as a bundle of rights, and an author can allocate the rights any way he chooses. So, he can license one publisher online distribution rights for free, while licensing hard copy publication rights to another publisher for a standard royalty. This assumes, of course, that the publishers agree to these terms. But it is important to remember that there are lots of publishers clamoring for good content, and authors often have the ability to secure the terms they need to accomplish their objectives.

How might a journal like Virginia Libraries, a member of the Directory of Open Access Journals, assure that it takes no more rights from its contributors than absolutely necessary for OA publishing?

Journals should take a hard look at what they really need to sustain their business models, and ask authors to license only those rights. Journals, like other entities, have a tendency to ask for more than they need because they want to keep their options open in an unpredictable future.

Again referring to the Suber interview, Peter notes that the low cost of Internet distribution of articles is a major factor in the rise of OA publishing. Do authors, or librarians for that matter, need to know about any differences in copyright law between journals like ours that begin in hard copy and journals that are “born digital”?

Copyright law is the same in the analog and digital worlds. To be sure, people behave differently in these different worlds, and the risk of infringement is greater if material is already in digital format (but not much greater, given the prevalence of scanners). The law, however, is the same.

Suppose a college librarian decides to create a repository for articles published by an institution’s faculty members. Do you know of a set of guidelines that librarian could follow to avoid breaking copyright statutes?
I am not aware of an existing set of guidelines the librarian could use. But the librarian needs to look at this from a political, practical, and legal perspective. Since the repository would affect other members of his community, he would want to make sure he had the support of the administration and the faculty before he started gathering the articles and making them available online (assuming that this would be an online repository). He then would need to come up with some mechanism for collecting the articles. And only then would he need to worry about the copyright issues. As many of your readers probably know, the Harvard Faculty of Arts and Sciences recently adopted a policy under which each faculty member granted the university a nonexclusive license in every article she wrote after adoption of the policy, and committed to depositing an electronic copy of each article with the provost.

Finally, please tell us a bit about why you are or are not optimistic about the future of open access publishing.

I am very optimistic about the future of open access publishing. Universities around the world will follow the lead of the Harvard FAS. Likewise, governments and other granting agencies will adopt policies similar to the NIH public access policy. While publishers that add real value to authors will continue to flourish under the existing model, over time open access publishing will gain an increasingly large share of the scholarly communication market.

---

### Guidelines for Submissions to *Virginia Libraries*

1. *Virginia Libraries* seeks to publish articles and reviews of interest to the library community in Virginia. Articles reporting research, library programs and events, and opinion pieces are all considered for publication. Queries are encouraged. Brief announcements and press releases should be directed to the VLA Newsletter.

2. Please submit manuscripts via email as attachments in Microsoft Word, rich text, or plain text format. Articles should be double-spaced with any bibliographic notes occurring at the end of the article. Please avoid using the automatic note creation function provided by some word processing programs.

3. Articles in *Virginia Libraries* conform to the latest edition of the *Chicago Manual of Style* and *Webster’s Third New International Dictionary, Unabridged*. Accepted articles are subject to editing for style and clarity. Authors will be consulted on points of fact.

4. All articles submitted for consideration are reviewed by the editors and may be refereed by the editorial board. Articles that are not selected for publication will be returned within three months.

5. VLA holds the copyright on all articles published in *Virginia Libraries*. Contributors of articles receive two copies of the issue in which their work appears.

6. Illustrations are encouraged and should be submitted whenever appropriate to accompany a manuscript. Hard copy illustrations will be returned if requested in advance. Digital images should have a resolution of at least 300 dpi. Authors are responsible for securing legal permission to publish photographs and other illustrations.

7. Each contributor should provide a brief sketch of professional accomplishments of no more than fifty words that includes current title, affiliation, and email address. Unless specified otherwise, this information will be shared with readers of *Virginia Libraries*. Physical addresses should also be provided for the mailing of contributor’s copies.

8. Articles should generally fall within the range of 750-3,000 words. Please query the editors before submitting any work of greater length.

9. Email manuscripts and queries to Cy Dillon, cdillon@ferrum.edu, and Lyn C. A. Gardner, cgardner@hampton.gov. Please be sure to copy both editors.

10. *Virginia Libraries* is published quarterly. The deadlines for submission are: November 1 for Number 1, January/February/March; February 1 for Number 2, April/May/June; May 1 for Number 3, July/August/September; and August 1 for Number 4, October/November/December.
VLA Paraprofessional Forum 2008 Conference

by Lydia Williams

The 2008 Virginia Library Association Paraprofessional Forum Conference was held May 18-20 at the Holiday Inn Select/Koger South Conference Center in Chesterfield County. With the theme “The Many Faces of Libraries: Fearlessly Evolving to Meet User Needs,” the conference brought together almost three hundred attendees from Virginia, Maryland, New York, New Jersey, North Carolina, and Washington DC. One attendee traveled from the Bahamas to attend the conference. With a large variety of concurrent sessions, an author banquet, a special luncheon, interesting keynote speakers, and many opportunities for networking and professional development, this conference provided quality programming with something for everyone working in the library world.

Cochair Kim Blaylock welcomed everyone to the conference.
SUNDAY, MAY 18

7:00–8:30 p.m.

Author Banquet with Andy Straka

The conference opened with a banquet featuring Virginia author Andy Straka, whose most current novel is the literary thriller *Record of Wrongs*. Straka is the author of three additional thrillers; his books have all received literary awards. He opened by telling us how his love of literature and writing began as a boy when he was fascinated by and drawn into the castle-like building that was his hometown library. He said that the doors into the library provided him with a magical portal by which he could escape to faraway places and experience exciting adventures. Later in life, while he was a student at Williams College, the magical portal opened once again, and as an English major he wrote wild stories and poems. Fifteen years after college, he began to write once again, and after much hard work and a great deal of patience he is now an award-winning author. Straka’s novels are classified as urban, private-eye, crime thrillers into which he has incorporated his own unique twist, the art of falconry. Straka talked about the themes of his books, which lured the room full of book lovers to the book signing that followed the banquet.

— Lydia C. Williams, Longwood University

MONDAY, MAY 19

9:00–10:30 a.m.

Opening General Session

Keynote speaker: Sandra Treadway, Library of Virginia

VLAPF cochairs Kim Blaylock and Chris Dixon provided opening remarks and a welcome for Monday’s general session. VLA President Donna Cote further welcomed the group, encouraging everyone to participate in the Virginia Library Association and inviting them to attend the 2008 VLA Annual Conference in the fall, which will be held in Williamsburg from October 23–24. The theme of this year’s
conference is “Librarians: Champions of Democracy.”

Librarian of Virginia Sandra Treadway was the keynote speaker for the morning session. She shared some recent insights regarding library support staff that she had gathered from reading articles about the history of the VLAPF and by interviewing library support staff working at the Library of Virginia. These exercises increased her awareness of the role library support staff play in the world of libraries in general, as well as in the day-to-day operation of the library. She learned that library support staff members are the ones who meet and greet the customers, setting the tone for the user’s visit. Whether it is helping those in the reading rooms, directing users who have special needs, or assisting users with library technologies, library support staff members are the ones users deal with on their visits to the library. They are also the ones who know what works and what doesn’t work with regard to resources and technologies. Treadway concluded by saying that the role played by support staff is vital in the operation of the library and that they should be included on committees and in planning processes as libraries evolve and change, so that Virginia libraries can successfully meet the needs of users. In closing, Treadway stated that library support staff are indeed at the forefront fearlessly facing the challenges of an ever-changing library.

—Lydia C. Williams, Longwood University

10:45 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

Internet Addiction: Myth or Reality

Presenters: Sharon Albert and Benjamin P. Norris, Radford University

Internet addiction is defined as an impulse-control disorder that does not involve an intoxicant. Some symptoms include preoccupation with Internet use, lying about behavior, etc. Many times these individuals have sleep deprivation, back pain, eye strain, and carpal tunnel. Sites that are surfed most often are ones that relate to pornography, cyber friends, ebay, and/or chat rooms. Clinical psychologists argue that Internet addiction should be included in DSM-V as a disorder. Librarians argue that the Internet is an information highway opening up a virtual world for users. Librarians play a mediating role or act as gatekeepers to this world of virtual reality. This session examined this role and its implication for information exchange and the future of the Internet.

—Naomi E. White, Jefferson-Madison Regional Library

Managing Library Volunteers

Presenter: Kathy Clevenger, Culpeper County Library

After seeing Kathy’s presentation, one can understand why she runs such a successful volunteer program at her library! The information was presented clearly, concisely, and completely. Culpeper
County Library relies on volunteers in many areas. Kathy has compiled job descriptions for the opportunities available and approaches the volunteer positions as she would any other job opening. Kathy offered tips on matching up your volunteer to the best job available, and she had lots of good ideas for showing volunteers that they are appreciated. This was a very thorough overview of what a volunteer program can be!

—Willow Gale, Jefferson-Madison Regional Library

Finding Federal Government Statistics

Presenter: Kathryn Boone, Old Dominion University

Why should we care about statistics? Because they are everywhere and they affect our lives in a variety of ways. How do they impact our lives? Statistics affect funding for public schools, employment/unemployment, and the federal budget and how it impacts international aid relief, the cost of food, and Medicare and Social Security benefits. Schools obtain stats with yearly federal cards to obtain funding, while another organization is continuously recording the hiring and laying off of employees. Walk through your grocery store and there is always someone walking up and down the aisles placing numbers into a calculator. You compare when you shop. Your kids keep baseball or football statistics on their favorite players. Before moving into an area you check out city population, school population, and crime rate. In some form or fashion, we use or view statistics.

For your viewing pleasure, the Federal Government has over 1,000 federal agencies whose main purpose is to collect, analyze, and disseminate this data. Kathryn Boone demonstrated the FedStats page (www.fedstats.gov/), which allows one to access Topics Links, Map-State, Stats in Geography, Agencies, and much more. Our customers and patrons can view data on veterans, ancestry groups in the U.S., and violent crimes. They can see which states have the highest per capita income, how many people speak Spanish in Michigan, or the number of slaves in Virginia in the 1940s. They can visit the Consumer Price Index or the ACCRA Cost of Living Index. When customers or patrons ask for assistance in obtain-
Pat Brice and Kimberly Whaley demonstrated ways to make reading fun for children.
plastic bugs which could be used as props for the reading of the recommended children’s book Bugs! Bugs! Bugs! by Bob Barner.
— M. Teresa Doherty, Virginia Commonwealth University

Room on the Shelf: One Author’s Perspective on the Marketplace
Presenter: Andy Straka, Virginia author

Andy Straka’s presentation included reflections on the book business and news about new and upcoming technologies. He said that library orders are the bread and butter of publishing houses, even more so than the big supermarkets. It was disturbing to hear that millions of unsold softcover books returned to publishers are “pulped” and that there are gizmos coming to a store near you that will print any title on demand for a very small amount of money. Straka talked about the promotion and buzz of the Amazon Kindle, an e-book reader. He remarked that it would be useful for an editor or reviewer who has to read many, many books per week, but for the average reader, the comfort and pleasures of the traditional book are just about impossible to beat. Straka was a personable speaker and very accommodating to those who wished to purchase his books at the end of the session.
— Kathy Judge

1:45–3:00 p.m.
Using Project Management to Change a Problem into an Opportunity
Presenter: Robert Nakles, George Mason University

Those in this session were very interested in trying to find ways to complete projects without the stress, frustration, and barriers that seem to make taking on new projects a hard task. After hearing the definitions of what “project(s)” meant to those attending the session, Bob Nakles shared some insights on the dynamics of successfully completing projects. According to PMI (Project Management Institute), it is a process that focuses entirely on a specific project with the key points being as follows: (1) the project has a beginning and an end, (2) the project team should be allowed to carry out the project within defined parameters (quality, time, cost), (3) the project manager should optimize resources (project team, facilities, tools, equipment, information, systems, techniques, and any needed money), and (4) having all this in place maximizes efficiency and effectiveness. The group appeared to be interested in his ideas for approaching projects. They participated in the discussions and asked focused questions on why some projects are not successful or never reach completion. Nakles outlined basic project
management techniques, supplied the group with good ideas, and allowed everyone to contribute to the discussions and role-playing. Throughout the session, the group was very talkative, active, and participatory, and gave much feedback. This informative session provided an eye-opening approach to taking on new projects.

— Cynthia Bentley, George Mason University

Library Development 101: Development for the Rest of Us

Presenters: Karlene Noel Jennings and Glenda E. Page, College of William and Mary

This session focused on the basic terms and concepts related to raising funds for your library. The presenters mentioned the Donor Bill of Rights and explained the three Rs of fundraising: reading, righting, and relationships. Reading is synonymous with understanding, and is all about knowing your donors. Reading the signs in order to learn what is important to donors and how you can win their confidence and loyalty is essential. Righting has to do with correcting misunderstandings and fulfilling expectations in order to build strong bonds and relationships with patrons. In the end, it is all about the relationships we develop with potential library advocates. The presenters offered a wealth of good suggestions on how to teach and empower staff to provide good customer service. The session was all about good customer service, which in the end will result in friends who will help in achieving success in raising funds for your library.

— Lydia C. Williams, Longwood University

Negotiation: Leaving Your Gremlin at the Door

Presenter: Tracey Pilkerton Cairnie, CoreVision, LLC

Gremlins—when it comes to negotiation, we all have them. In this session, Tracey Pilkerton Cairnie helped participants identify their gremlins or acts of self-sabotage in formal negotiations, whether professional or personal. She introduced the concept of “shadow negotiation,” those actions that are unfolding beneath the surface of the “formal negotiation.” Participants gained an awareness of the different ways women and men approach the process of negotiation. Most important, participants were given strategies and techniques to improve their negotiation skills. This interactive session was certainly an eye-opener for many participants, and left many wanting another session to learn even more strategies and techniques.

— Karen Jacobs, George Mason University
Technical Services Department:
You Have to Love a Mystery

Presenters: Joyce Hall and Carolyn Marrs, Jefferson-Madison Regional Library, Charlottesville

Joyce Hall and Carolyn Marrs offered a broad overview of technical services, plus more detailed information about the Millennium system specifically. They brought samples of labels, book covers, CD and tape cases, and other tools of their trade. Hall, a department supervisor, offered some tips about keeping your staff happy—do their evaluations outside in the park, for example, or keep a dish of candy on your desk. Many of the folks in the audience were also technical services people, which became clear as soon as the questions started! Hall and Marrs were participants in last fall’s miniconference, “Speak Up! The Power of Public Speaking,” and this was their first workshop—but no one
would guess from their calm and informative presentation.
—Willow Gale, Jefferson-Madison Regional Library

3:15–4:30 p.m.

Managing and Manipulating Usage Data
Presenter: Tansy Matthews, VIVA

Tansy Matthews, associate director of VIVA (the Virtual Library of Virginia), spends a lot of her time working with statistics, and she shared her insights on how to use tools at hand, such as Excel’s pivot table tool, to manage them. She explained that because many vendors of electronic resources are now COUNTER-compliant (meaning that they agree to record and report data to libraries in a “consistent, credible, and compatible way,” per the Counting Online Usage of Networked Electronic Resources initiative), it is much easier to analyze usage data over the long term. Admitting that she is not a statistics whiz, Matthews shared a number of useful Excel tricks and recommended a simple and inexpensive software package to help users combine multiple files into worksheets within a single Excel file.
—M. Teresa Doherty, Virginia Commonwealth University

Boomers, GenXers, and Millenials: The Many Generational Faces of Your Library
Presenters: Sylvia Rortvedt, Matt Todd, and Brandee Worsham, Northern Virginia Community College

Some surprising information … and … not. The presenters gave their views on what makes each generation behave the way it does. Whereas Baby Boomers are more likely to hold management positions (because they have been around longer), GenXers might hold more degrees. The GenXers became the “professional students” when jobs were scarce and school loans were plentiful. The Millennial relies on more technology, is least likely to have a landline (home phone), and considers all life experiences worthy to be on a resume, not just employment.

Personality differences are most pronounced at the entry level; where a GenXer wants direct contact to management, a Baby Boomer goes with the chain of command. Baby Boomers will work at their desks; work is measured by face time. GenXers may rebel at face time; work is measured by output—when the job is done, it’s time to go home. Millennials may see no need to be in the office whatsoever, preferring to work at home and multitask. They enjoy more flexibility. Of course, some assumptions aren’t always true, but learning each generation’s habits will make it easier for all of us (at our different ages) to work together in harmony.
—Marcia Cramer, Pamunkey Regional Library

Speak Up! The Power of Public Speaking
Presenter: Lance Snow, Toastmaster, ACB, CL

Lance Snow is the vice president of business development at American...
Adventure Sports. He has been an active Toastmaster for five years. He started the presentation by defining public speaking, and then went on to say that most people rank it as their number one fear. He gave tips and advice on how to overcome this fear, which included learning how to relax, knowing the room in which you are to present, knowing your audience, and being very familiar with your material and the time needed to present it. Other important aspects of public speaking include eye contact with those in the audience, gestures (what to do with your hands), and vocal variety. He said that most of all, you must practice, practice, practice.

—Sharon Albert, Radford University

Preservation: A Role for Everyone

Presenter: Patricia Selinger, Virginia Commonwealth University

Patricia Selinger, the preservation librarian at VCU, stated that the collection is a library’s most valuable asset, and protecting it will only increase the collection’s value and in the end save money. She also said that every department in the library plays a vital part in the preservation of the collection. Selinger guided attendees through the important roles that each department plays in preservation. The library director is responsible for making the preservation plan a part of the library’s mission statement. The building manager develops a relationship with Facilities Management to assist with monitoring the building, developing a pest control program, making sure emergency supplies are always available, and other important aspects of caring for the facility. The role of the Collection and Acquisitions Department is to ensure the development of quality material and needs assessment surveys while handling details such as replacements; repair of damaged or defective copies; monitoring of gifts, new materials, and security devices; and ensuring that the building has a suitable climate at all times for the collection. The role of the Circulation Department is to constantly check returned items, placing them properly on return shelves. This department must have an abundance of open counter space for book returns and have a process for reporting missing or lost items. They must be proactive in protecting the collection, such as by providing waterproof bags to protect items on rainy days. Selinger also provided advice and tips for those managing other areas of the library, including Interlibrary Loan, Reference Services, Media Services, and Special Collections and Archives. She offered some timely advice with regard to the newest trend of having coffee houses and food courts in both public and academic libraries, which is good for our customers and patrons, but opens the doors to insect infestations and mold. Most important, she advised that when we do not have the knowledge or expertise to handle problems, we should turn to the experts for assistance and guidance in the preservation of our library collections.

—Mona Farrow, Perry Library, Old Dominion University

Tools to Enhance and Ignite Your Website

Presenters: Johnnie Gray and Sharon Whitfield, Christopher Newport University

Twitter, Del.icio.us, Flickr, YouTube, PictoBrowser. Sound familiar? Then you enjoyed the presentation by Johnnie Gray and Sharon Whitfield of Christopher Newport University. Learning how to copy codes and paste them into a website put a whole new spin on updating websites. Reviewing Google Custom Search was also a help to many attendees. Key to it all was the idea that with all that is available, you must update your website on a regular basis in order to stay current.

—Kathy Clevenger

Cataloging Web Resources

Presenter: Nathan B. Putnam, George Mason University

A thorough technical, yet readily understandable, presentation on the how and why of cataloging some of the newest forms of web resources (streaming videos, electronic documents, and websites) made for an information-packed evening of socializing and dancing. Even those who didn’t dance enjoyed the music provided by DJ Ron Gilder.

—Lydia C. Williams, Longwood University

7:00–10:00 p.m.

“Roarin’ 20s” Social

The popular Monday evening social took on a festive look with balloons, confetti, and themere-related items decorating tables in the room. Ladies attired in dresses mostly of cataloging employees. Key to it all was the idea that with all that is available, you must update your website on a regular basis in order to stay current.

—Kathy Clevenger

Cataloging Web Resources

Presenter: Nathan B. Putnam, George Mason University

A thorough technical, yet readily understandable, presentation on the how and why of cataloging some of the newest forms of web resources (streaming videos, electronic documents, and websites) made for an information-packed evening of socializing and dancing. Even those who didn’t dance enjoyed the music provided by DJ Ron Gilder.

—Lydia C. Williams, Longwood University

7:00–10:00 p.m.

“Roarin’ 20s” Social

The popular Monday evening social took on a festive look with balloons, confetti, and theme-related items decorating tables in the room. Ladies attired in dresses mostly of cataloging employees. Key to it all was the idea that with all that is available, you must update your website on a regular basis in order to stay current.

—Kathy Clevenger

Cataloging Web Resources

Presenter: Nathan B. Putnam, George Mason University

A thorough technical, yet readily understandable, presentation on the how and why of cataloging some of the newest forms of web resources (streaming videos, electronic documents, and websites) made for an information-packed evening of socializing and dancing. Even those who didn’t dance enjoyed the music provided by DJ Ron Gilder.

—Lydia C. Williams, Longwood University

7:00–10:00 p.m.

“Roarin’ 20s” Social

The popular Monday evening social took on a festive look with balloons, confetti, and themere-related items decorating tables in the room. Ladies attired in dresses mostly of cataloging employees. Key to it all was the idea that with all that is available, you must update your website on a regular basis in order to stay current.

—Kathy Clevenger

Cataloging Web Resources

Presenter: Nathan B. Putnam, George Mason University

A thorough technical, yet readily understandable, presentation on the how and why of cataloging some of the newest forms of web resources (streaming videos, electronic documents, and websites) made for an information-packed evening of socializing and dancing. Even those who didn’t dance enjoyed the music provided by DJ Ron Gilder.

—Lydia C. Williams, Longwood University

7:00–10:00 p.m.

“Roarin’ 20s” Social

The popular Monday evening social took on a festive look with balloons, confetti, and theme-related items decorating tables in the room. Ladies attired in dresses mostly of cataloging employees. Key to it all was the idea that with all that is available, you must update your website on a regular basis in order to stay current.

—Kathy Clevenger

Cataloging Web Resources

Presenter: Nathan B. Putnam, George Mason University

A thorough technical, yet readily understandable, presentation on the how and why of cataloging some of the newest forms of web resources (streaming videos, electronic documents, and websites) made for an information-packed evening of socializing and dancing. Even those who didn’t dance enjoyed the music provided by DJ Ron Gilder.

—Lydia C. Williams, Longwood University

7:00–10:00 p.m.

“Roarin’ 20s” Social

The popular Monday evening social took on a festive look with balloons, confetti, and theme-related items decorating tables in the room. Ladies attired in dresses mostly of cataloging employees. Key to it all was the idea that with all that is available, you must update your website on a regular basis in order to stay current.
Above, Bill Fiege discussed humor in the workplace.

Liz Kocevar-Weidinger and Sue Carroll shared advice on training, motivating, and supervising student workers.

**TUESDAY, MAY 20**

9:00–10:15 a.m.

**Good to Better Questions**

Presenters: Alyce Hackney and Susie Pitts, Pamunkey Regional Library

This session provided helpful information on how to conduct an effective reference interview. The reference interview helps us understand exactly what a person is looking for or concerned about, so that we might help find the answer or resolve the question. Susie Pitts and Alyce Hackney even got the attendees involved with some role-playing, asking those in the group for examples of “open” and “closed” questions in order to discover what the acting patron wanted to research. Session attendees quickly discovered that the original request could suddenly turn into a totally different subject. In the end, we all learned how to set the tone, get the facts, give information, and always follow up—the final stage of a good reference interview.

—Marcia Cramer, Pamunkey Regional Library
Stimulating Readers and Nonreaders with American Folk and Standard Literature

Presenters: O. D. Alexander and Shirley Hughes, Danville Public Library

This session was very invigorating, with all attendees having a role in presenting the music and poetry. O. D. Alexander highlighted well-known writers Paul Laurence Dunbar, Langston Hughes, and Claude McKay, as well as others in the literary field such as Sylvia Olden Lee and Nellie Nella “Nella” Larsen. Alexander demonstrated ways to stimulate a desire for learning and pointed out that libraries play an important role in this endeavor. He provided valuable tips for stimulating readers: get children to interact with you by having them be readers, always have a bonus or reward to encourage success, and use the Internet for researching authors and poets. The hour-and-fifteen-minute session ended too quickly, as participants wished to learn more.

—Deloris Thomas, College of William and Mary

Programs for Seniors: A Look at BiFolkal Kits

Presenter: Willow Gale, Jefferson-Madison Regional Library

Looking for ways to bring the past to life? Willow Gale brought her audience to life, showing them...
how to call up the past through songs, skits, movies, and more. By appealing to all five senses, one can help senior patrons revisit the past and awaken youth to “the good ole days.” BiFolkal kits offer remembrance through visual cues and discussion, along with fun activities. So if you’re looking for ideas for programming for seniors or intergenerational programming, take a look at BiFolkal Kits!

— Kathy Clevenger

**IPods to Go**

Presenters: Carole Conger, Patrick Harner, Chloe Mcclimans, David Morales, and Debra Weiss, College of William and Mary

Keeping in step with current technology and the common use of iPods, the Swem Library at the College of William and Mary launched a circulation project in February 2007 with ten iPods that allow patrons to have access to audiobooks, video, music, film, lectures, library instruction, and recordings of campus events at their convenience.

This session delved into the planning needed to implement this project. Details of the circulation and content management policies and procedures were discussed, including copyright issues, content issues, whether to advertise, how to advertise, and who would ultimately be responsible for the technical assistance needed for the iPods, iTunes, and other equipment needed. The ultimate consensus was that e-SWAT (http://swem.wm.edu/services/e-swat/), Swem’s team of student technical help assistants who work in the library during nights and weekends, has been critical to the current success of the program. For further information regarding this program, see Swem’s website: http://swem.wm.edu/services/ipods.cfm.

— Karen Jacobs, George Mason University

10:30–11:45 a.m.

**“It’s My Dime”: Dealing with Vendors**

Presenter: Marion Eaton, University Libraries, Virginia Tech

These tough economic times demand closer scrutiny of personal financial budgets as one must find ways to stretch dollars even further and make certain to deal with reliable, secure, and reputable sources. The same holds true for local and state agencies. This session explored the acquisitions side, and, more important, the “nuts and bolts” of working with vendors at Virginia Tech’s University Libraries. As an employee...
in the Acquisitions Department for almost nineteen years, Marion Eaton has seen the acquisitions process evolve from typewriters and homemade databases to email and online transactions completed with a few mouse clicks. With humor, extensive knowledge, and enthusiasm, Marion discussed six vendor-related topics: ordering, types of vendors, payment, receiving, claiming, and returns. Session attendees easily shared vendor- and acquisitions-related “war stories,” and the handouts included lots of useful information. Marion concluded with the advice that one should have as much information as possible about the needed material before contacting the vendor. She reminded the attendees that they are the customers.

— Mary Fran Bell Johnson, Greenwood Library, Longwood University

### Writing for Publication

**Presenter:** Jennifer Stevens, George Mason University

Jennifer Stevens offered a wealth of information for those who wish to get published, whether it is in an online or print publication. She suggested that one way to get started is to write articles based on what we know—our job experiences, interests, and hobbies. Another starting point is writing book reviews. She also suggested that before writing down our thoughts and ideas, we think of a question we want to answer and consider the audience being addressed. The presenter shared many great tips and ideas on how to write for publication and how to make the venture into publishing a successful one.

— Lydia C. Williams, Longwood University

### Humor in the Workplace

**Presenter:** Bill Fiege, Germanna Community College, Fredericksburg

For the thirteenth year, Bill Fiege came to the VLAPF Conference to enlighten attendees with antidotes for stress and ways to deal with difficult issues in the one place that we spend many hours a week—the workplace. He stated that work does not have to be stressful, nor does the environment in which we work have to be one that we don’t enjoy coming to each day. We can make our work environments as stress-free as we want them to be.

With the help of YouTube, Fiege explained why humor is so important in the workplace, reducing stress, assisting with productivity, increasing creativity, and bringing people together. For an hour and
a half, Fiege had ninety attendees laughing way too hard at jokes and stories of things that he had done just to make people laugh and feel good about coming to work daily. Although there were times when he had to question himself as to whether or not he should proceed with a plan to “make someone’s day,” he did it anyway—just for fun. Yes, “FUN.” It is okay to have fun at work, as long as it doesn’t stop productivity or offend anyone. For light reading, he suggested *Chicken Soup for the Soul: 301 Ways to Have Fun at Work*. Many of his ideas over the years came from this book. He also said to be careful using email, and be very aware of the recipient, especially if you are using state computers. Fiege was a showstopper, making people laugh and feel good about their work environments and how they interact in those environments; and, most important, he made attendees feel good about themselves.

—Cynthia Bentley, George Mason University

**Movin’ on Up: (R)evolution in a New Library**

Presenters: Alex Reczkowski and Barbara Watkins, Hampden-Sydney College

Alex Reczkowski spoke about his experiences in moving the library on the Hampden-Sydney College campus, and the lessons learned during the event. He stressed the importance of keeping lists, inventories, and schedules and working with volunteers and keeping them busy. Along with answering lots of questions (the same questions all the time) and conducting surveys (men like square tables, women like round), he learned that it’s okay to feel anticlimactic at times. Among some of the recommendations he offered were that every person should have input in the design phase. Also, ruthlessly weed the entire collection from top to bottom before the move, invest in good book-moving crates, and do not use book carts on pavement. Above all, be flexible, be reasonable, be realistic, be clear—and have fun!

—Marcia Cramer, Pamunkey Regional Library

12:00–1:30 p.m.

**Speaker Luncheon/ Closing Session**

Keynote speaker: Kim Weitkamp, storyteller and author

Tuesday’s closing session included a speaker, a banquet luncheon, special recognitions and awards, and
the drawing for the scholarship raffle prizes. Incoming cochairs Willow Gale and Kathy Clevenger facilitated this session, which opened with special recognitions and awards. Delores Thomas and Karen Jacobs were recognized for all their hard work in providing some new and ingenious ways for networking and meeting other conference attendees. Kitty Morris of the Central Rappahannock Library was the winner of the Barnes and Noble gift certificate given away as a part of the networking promotion. Susan Paddock, who is employed at the Central Branch of the Virginia Beach Public Library, was recognized as this year’s recipient of the Clara Stanley Scholarship sponsored by the VLAPF Board. Todd Eastridge, who is employed at the Abingdon Public Library, received the Outstanding Paraprofessional of the Year Award. Kay Buchanan, information services librarian for the University of Virginia Education Center, received the VLAPF 2008 Supporter of Paraprofessionals Award.

Following the awards and recognitions, storyteller Kim Weitkamp entertained the group with several tales that charmed all those listening—and believe me, everyone was listening. Whether it was with verbal illustrations that brought back memories of youth or with the slightly embellished antics of a young girl growing up in the mountains, Weitkamp’s stories captured the attention of all and evoked a variety of emotions that resulted in laughter, giggles, tears, and sighs. With her animated presentation of these wonderful stories, Weitkamp won the hearts of everyone in the audience.

The conference closed with the scholarship raffle. In addition to the many unique and eye-catching baskets provided by the VLAPF Board members, the raffle included a P. Buckley Moss print and a beautiful handmade quilt. The “Simple Star” quilt, handmade by the Virginia Tech Quilters, was given in memory of Clara Stanley, for whom the VLAPF educational scholarship is named. The Moss Society generously donated a P. Buckley Moss print framed by Chris Mason of Christopher’s Fine Art and Framing in Farmville. Janet Bland from Virginia Tech won the quilt, and Dave Hayes of Radford University won the Moss print. With all the wonderful prizes and baskets provided for the raffle, the event was a successful one, earning most of the money needed to fund next year’s scholarship.

—Lydia C. Williams, Longwood University
Survey Results for Emerging Library Leaders

by Steven Hartung

The results are in! Over 300 responders to VLA’s February Leadership Development Survey told the Leadership Development Forum what training programs they would like to see implemented for emerging library leaders.

Technology trends topped the wish list of training programs that survey participants were most interested in, with a 55.4% response. Other areas seen as important for staff development were Planning and needs assessment (48.4%); Managing from the middle (41.7%); Personnel management (31.2%); and Advocacy, public relations, and networking (30.9%).

Good news from the survey is that it seems we are successfully managing our coping skills, since only 21% of responders showed interest in Stress management training. Other training at the low end of the list of recommendations included Facilities and equipment (20.1%) and Mentoring (21%).

According to Elizabeth Hensley, forum cochair, “Survey data will provide us with valuable information in developing a training plan to meet our mission of developing, supporting, and encouraging library leaders on all levels and in all types of libraries in Virginia.”

Survey responses show representation from all library regions: Region 1 (12.7%), Region 2 (7.5%), Region 3 (17.3%), Region 4 (20.8%), Region 5 (22.5%), and Region 6 (18.2%). Public library respondents made up 68.2%, while survey participants from academic libraries accounted for 26.6%.

Full-time staff provided 87.7% of the responses. For these, the educational breakdown was 60.6% holding the MLS and 21.6% with other degrees or some college experience. The breakdown by job titles was Manager other than director (47.1%), Frontline staff (19%), Library director (14.2%), and Other categories (13.9%).

Other important statistics that will also aid the Leadership Development Forum in its planning were the preferences for different learning styles (self-paced, real-time, teleconferencing, etc.) as well as the basics of cost, distance, and length of future workshops. “We plan to have programs that incorporate face-to-face learning along with self-paced activities to maximize the training,” said cochair Connie Gilman.

The wide range of comments from the participants reflected the diverse backgrounds, concerns, and hopes of Virginia library staff: “With so many new directors and many in smaller libraries, some classes on being a one-armed paperhanger would be useful.”

“I would like to see some big advocacy group work that does what ALA can’t seem to do: really get it across to the public who we are and what we do; and get it across to legislatures that we are worthy and necessary.”

“Due to the geography of the commonwealth, we have found many worthwhile training sessions end up being in Richmond, and those of us in Region 1 cannot often attend or send members of staff, as it usually involves a staff member being away two days.”

“Very excited about these possibilities. I definitely feel this kind of program would enhance my experience in the profession. Thanks!”

Regarding plans for the near future, Hensley said, “We are now in the development phase of creating a specific format for the training program and investigating sources of funding to help defray costs for attendees.”

The Leadership Development Forum is looking for persons interested in helping the forum develop and/or present the five training programs highlighted in paragraph two. If you feel qualified either through your experiences or expertise, please contact Jessica Schwab at jschwab@pwcgov.org.

Full results of the survey can be viewed on the Virginia Library Association’s website at www.vla.org under Forums ➔ Leadership Development ➔ VLA Blogs.

Steven Hartung is a member of the Leadership Development Forum and is a technology librarian at the Pamunkey Regional Library. He can be reached at SHartung@pamunkeylibrary.org.
Sitting atop the hill overlooking Washington Street in Middleburg, the Federal-period house at Vine Hill has witnessed more than two hundred years of history. As spring approaches, Vine Hill awaits its transformation into a new museum of sporting art adjacent to the National Sporting Library.

In January, the Board of Directors of the National Sporting Library announced their decision to establish the Museum of Sporting Art at Vine Hill. The announcement is just the first step in a process of planning, construction, and preparation for the opening of the museum in late 2010. “We are very excited about our Vine Hill project,” said NSL Chairman of the Board Manuel H. Johnson. “The NSL board has long envisioned a campus with the natural synergies

Elizabeth Tobey is director of research and communications for the National Sporting Library. She can be reached at etobey@nsl.org.

Architect Hardee Johnston of Scottsville, Virginia, reviews plans in front of the 1804 Federal house that will become the Museum of Sporting Art at Vine Hill.
resulting from our library containing the best literature on field sporting life and art, combined with the best artwork depicting this glorious lifestyle.”

The National Sporting Library, founded in 1954 by George L. Ohrstrom Sr. and Alexander MacKay-Smith, is a research institution committed to the preservation of the literature and art of horse and field sports. Its 16,000 titles trace the history of equestrian sports, including horse racing, steeplechase, foxhunting, eventing, jumping, and dressage, as well as non-equestrian sports such as angling, shooting, and dueling.

The library also has a permanent collection of sporting art and stages two to four temporary exhibitions per year in its two galleries, the Founder’s Room and the Forrest E. Mars Sr. Exhibit Hall. Sixteen sporting and racing paintings by British painter Sir Alfred Munnings, on loan from the Yale Center for British Art in New Haven, Connecticut, drew record attendance and were the topic of the library’s research symposium in February. On June 5, the library will open an exhibition of animal bronzes by the nineteenth-century French sculptor Pierre-Jules Mêne, on loan from the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts in Richmond; and in September, the library will host The Voss Family: Artists of American Sporting Life, organized by the National Museum of Racing and Hall of Fame in Saratoga Springs, New York.

Twelve galleries in the new museum will provide ample space for the permanent collection and for temporary installations and loaned exhibitions, and the library itself will continue to exhibit art on its walls. “The museum at Vine

Edward Troye (American, 1809–1873), Colonel W. R. Johnson’s Fanny with Oaklands Beyond, 1839, oil on canvas, 24 x 29 in., bequest of George L. Ohrstrom Jr.

Below, John Emms (English, 1841–1912), Foxhounds and Terrier in a Stable Interior, 1878, oil on canvas, 39 x 52 in., bequest of anonymous contributor (Virginia).
Hill will offer a wonderful space to exhibit fine art within the setting of a historic house. We want the museum to have a residential, rather than institutional, feeling, much like the National Sporting Library,” explained Nancy H. Parsons, president and CEO. Parsons is coordinating fundraising for the museum for construction, operations, and exhibitions.

Artists represented in the permanent collection include Edward Troye, John Emms, Ben Marshall, Herbert Haseltine, Franklin Voss, John Skeaping, and Tessa Pullen. The library is building the permanent collection from recent donations and bequests, including works by Marshall, Henri DeLattre, John E. Ferneley Sr., Isidore Bonheur, and Henry Barnard Chalon. John Emms’s *Foxhounds and Terrier in a Stable Interior*, a recent bequest, is among the jewels of the recent group of acquisitions. If there is a better painting of hounds and a Jack Russell about, Curator of Fine Arts F. Turner Reuter Jr. is unaware of it. “In size, composition, and color, the artist’s ability is manifest at its highest level,” said Reuter.

Also outstanding are portraits of American racehorses by Edward Troye (1809–1873). Troye’s painting of *Colonel W. R. Johnson’s Fanny with Oaklands Beyond* shows the filly as a fit competitor during her three-year-old season in 1839 during which she won five races. Fanny’s sire was the illustrious American Eclipse, whose portrait by Troye is a part of the permanent collection at the National Sporting Library.

The library selected Vine Hill due in part to the historical significance of the house. Built in 1804, Vine Hill served as a private residence until it was sold to George L. Ohrstrom Jr. in 1968 to house the National Sporting Library and *The Chronicle of the Horse*. The name “Vine Hill” derives from the vineyard of four thousand grapevines cultivated on the property in the nineteenth century along with an orchard of peach, apple, and pear trees. Commenting on the suitability of Vine Hill to house the museum, architect Hardee Johnston of Scottsville, Virginia, explained, “The National Sporting Art Museum [Vine Hill] will be an important cultural site and so deserves an ‘icon’ building to be identified with it. The Vine Hill Mansion is an appropriate icon in the area.”

Johnston has provided a detailed feasibility study and has drawn preliminary plans for the conversion and expansion of Vine Hill into an art museum. Since the building is a historic structure, its facade will not be modified. Johnston’s plans preserve the integrity of the exterior of the original building. He is designing an addition on the west side to house the entrance foyer, galleries, storage, and work spaces. “The addition will maintain the original telescoping form of the Federal-style mansion by using a clean architectural break so the old and new structures will not be confused,” said Johnston. “The architectural style is a simple Federal interpretation so the two structures will read as a single institution and will fit comfortably into the context of Middleburg.”

The renovation of Vine Hill and the construction of the addition will commence early in 2009, and the opening of the museum is scheduled for late 2010. Vine Hill’s transformation into an art museum ensures that this splendid building will continue to be a part of the cultural and historical ambience of Middleburg for years to come.

---

**Virginia Libraries 2.0**

Join the editors of *Virginia Libraries* at the 2008 Annual Conference on Thursday, October 23, from 12:00–1:00 p.m. Help us brainstorm for special themes for upcoming issues of VLA’s professional journal. If you’ve ever thought about writing for *Virginia Libraries*, this is your chance to learn firsthand how to develop and prepare your ideas and what it takes to be published in this indexed, peer-reviewed journal.
Virginia Reviews

Reviews prepared by staff members of the Library of Virginia
Sara B. Bearss, Editor


Eighteenth-century Virginia is best known for its planter elites who resided in their stylish country houses and directed the work of their enslaved laborers on their tobacco plantations. More than has been realized, many of those planters and members of their families were engaged in commerce of various kinds and in mining and manufacturing on a significant and profitable scale. This well-documented study of John Tayloe (1687–1747), his namesake son (1721–1779), and his namesake grandson (1771–1828) demonstrates that one of the most famous, influential, and wealthy of the tobacco-planting families at the lower end of the rich Northern Neck prospered in part because of the iron manufacturing and ship-building in which it engaged during the eighteenth century and the investment capitalism into which the family had moved by the time of the death of the third John Tayloe, who then resided in the city of Washington rather than in the family mansion in Richmond County.

The Tayloe family was well connected politically and financially, and it increased its wealth and its ownership of slaves in part as a consequence of its diversification into commerce and manufacturing. The institution of slavery turned out to be well suited for industrial work if properly managed, and the three John Tayloes were nothing if not good managers and successful businessmen, even though the latter term would have been one that the first two men might not have recognized.

Laura Croghan Kamoie’s *Irons in the Fire* is a very important corrective to the old literature of Southern economic history that discounted the importance of commerce and manufacturing and suggested that slavery and industrial development were more-or-less incompatible. It is also a valuable addition to the new literature of industrial slavery and the emergence of American finance capitalism.

—reviewed by Brent Tarter, editor, Dictionary of Virginia Biography


Susan Dunn’s *Dominion of Memories: Jefferson, Madison, and the Decline of Virginia* endeavors to explain how Virginia, which provided leadership during the American Revolution and provided four of the first five United States presidents, rapidly declined in political influence early in the nineteenth century. Central to her tale are Thomas Jefferson, author of the Declaration of Independence and third president, and James Madison, architect of the Constitution and fourth president. Both men proved either unwilling or unable to influence a generation of Virginians who gazed back to Virginia’s past and seemed to ignore Virginia’s future.

Jefferson’s retirement to Monticello led to his eventual embrace of the parochialism that dominated Virginia’s political leadership late in the 1810s and the 1820s. Like Spencer Roane and John Taylor of Caroline, Jefferson came to believe that the national government was the great threat to Virginia’s well-being. Madison, conversely, was dismayed by this attitude and grew alarmed as Virginia briefly teetered toward supporting nullification.

Sara B. Bearss is senior editor of the Dictionary of Virginia Biography, published by the Library of Virginia.
in 1832. Neither man encouraged Virginia to look to the future, however, and to reconsider issues such as slavery or industrialization.

While Dunn is surefooted in her treatment of post-presidential Jefferson and Madison, she is far more unsteady traversing the Virginia landscape beyond Monticello and Montpelier, and she makes errors. John [Rogers] Cooke was never a United States congressman (p. 156), and in the index he is merged with his son, the writer John Esten Cooke (p. 294). Mark Alexander, a member of the 1829–1830 Virginia Constitutional Convention, was neither a westerner nor a reformer (p. 169). A quotation from a letter written by John Tyler Sr. (1747–1813) is misattributed to his son John Tyler (1790–1862), the future president. Dunn visited the Virginia Historical Society, the University of Virginia, and the Library of Virginia but did not capitalize on their exceptional manuscript collections to strengthen her analysis of Virginia’s decline. Dominion of Memories provides a useful examination of Jefferson and Madison in their retirement years but falls short in satisfactorily answering the question of Virginia’s decline from prominence.

—reviewed by Trenton E. Hizer, senior finding aids archivist


The creation and settlement of the Republic of Liberia are topics long overdue for serious examination. In An African Republic: Black and White Virginians in the Making of Liberia, Marie Tyler-McGraw traces the western African republic’s story throughout the nineteenth century by centering on the role Virginians had in Liberia’s development. She expertly sketches out the complex political, social, and intellectual contexts surrounding the debates over colonization and discusses the parallel story of the American Society for Colonizing the Free People of Color of the United States, popularly known as the American Colonization Society (ACS).

Formed by whites late in 1816, the ACS sought to establish an African republic populated by free blacks who would enjoy political autonomy and citizenship, Christianize Africans, and create commercial opportunities for the United States. At home the removal of free blacks would demonstrate their abilities, lead to increased slave emancipation, and strengthen slavery in the South. Sectional controversies killed federal funding, and the task of sponsoring emigration fell predominantly to state and local organizations. The ACS unevenly supervised Liberia in the face of fragmenting authority and finances.

From 1820 through 1865 more than eleven thousand free blacks and manumitted slaves emigrated from the United States to Liberia. About sixty colonization societies in Virginia sponsored the most emigrants, almost a third of the total, and filled the republic’s leadership positions for its first fifteen years. During the early years settlers encountered an unhealthy environment, hostile indigenous peoples, and high death rates from disease. The ACS and local auxiliaries had difficulty sustaining emigrants following their arrival, and many suffered from a lack of basic provisions. Literate urban free blacks with skills were much more successful than newly emancipated slaves or those from rural areas.

Attracting new settlers from Virginia and elsewhere proved difficult, especially in the North, where black leaders criticized colonization efforts as a means to strengthen slavery in the South and remained adamant that they could achieve full citizenship in America. Following the Civil War emigrants came mostly from states in the Deep South rather than Virginia, where freedmen, if only for a brief time, enjoyed expanded political and economic opportunities, or could more easily relocate to northern or western states.

Antebellum Virginia emigrants to Liberia sought to establish their own personal, cultural, and social identities, as well as economic, religious, and political institutions. They did not do so in an African context, but rather in terms of internalized Virginian and American values. This manifested itself in a hierarchical social system in which native Africans were marginalized in Liberian society because they could not achieve certain cultural benchmarks. While this social system established an early Liberian identity, by the later nineteenth century it had also created a static society that was not able to modernize and was reflective of an outdated antebellum America.

Tyler-McGraw concludes that while Liberians had survived countless obstacles for more than a hundred years, they could not achieve the almost impossible task of westernizing and Christianizing the native Africans or become a respected member of the world community. She argues persuasively that although the ACS and local colonization societies could...
not cultivate substantial Liberian emigration, the movement did play a significant role in the debate over race and citizenship throughout the nineteenth century.

Woven throughout Tyler-McGraw’s extensively researched work are a host of Virginians instrumental in Liberian settlement, including Lott Cary, George Washington Parke Custis, Charles Fenton Mercer, Joseph Jenkins Roberts, and Bushrod Washington. Complementing An African Republic is an online database, available via the Virginia Center for Digital History at http://www.vcdh.virginia.edu/liberia/, of Virginia emigrants, which includes such information as age, place of origin, family members, occupation, skills, level of literacy, the ships on which they sailed, and time of arrival at Liberia.

—reviewed by John G. Deal, editor, Dictionary of Virginia Biography


The newest addition to the Great Campaigns of the Civil War catalog, Counter-Thrust continues the series’ goal of providing readers with a synthesis of recent scholarship by extending the storyline beyond battlefield narratives and studies in command to develop nonmilitary themes. Documenting the effect of the fighting on ordinary citizens through letters and diaries, and focusing on women and slaves as well as rank-and-file soldiers, Benjamin Franklin Cooling surveys a wide range of Civil War literature not only to explain what happened and why, but also to reveal the war’s larger effect when viewed within the wider political, economic, and social implications.

This volume takes for its subject the events that transpired between mid-July 1862, when Union general George B. McClellan had retreated with his defeated brigades from the gates of Richmond to Harrison’s Landing on the James River, from which he soon steamed north, and early November, when the ill-starred general once again took up positions in Virginia opposite Robert E. Lee’s divisions.

The Union defeat during the Seven Days’ battles around Richmond not only rescued the Confederate capital from capture and led to McClellan’s demotion as the North’s principal commander in the east, but also resulted in Lee’s powerful counterthrust northward. The intervening months witnessed some of the war’s most dramatic battles. In August a resurgent Confederacy redeemed parts of northern Virginia in battles at Cedar Mountain and at Second Manassas against McClellan’s successor, John Pope, and in September Lee invaded Maryland, clashing at South Mountain with federal forces under McClellan, who had superseded Pope on the eve of Antietam, the bloodiest single day of fighting of the war.

It was a period of transformation. The pressure that Lee brought to bear on Northern arms applied stress to the Union command structure and led to Pope’s appointment, considered to be one of President Abraham Lincoln’s salient miscalculations. The war took on a different nature after the Seven Days, becoming less restrained, more determined. As personal testimonies make clear, the effects were soon felt on the home front as prospects of a protracted struggle emerged. Soon the problem of what to do with fleeing slaves manifested itself and, in the wake of Northern setbacks, prompted criticism of Lincoln’s policies that, in the view of some, placed needless burdens on Union troops.

The outlook was even bleaker for federal arms following Second Manassas. For the first time ordinary soldiers began to wonder if theirs was a losing effort, doomed by inferior leadership. In the aftermath of Pope’s defeat, McClellan wrote home that he expected to be called on by those who had sacked him to march once more into the breach. Summoned back into service, he fashioned a fighting force out of two defeated armies, Pope’s driven regiments and his own Army of the Potomac, and it was these troops, their confidence renewed, that bloodied Lee’s veterans at Antietam and provided the opening for Lincoln to issue the preliminary Emancipation Proclamation.

Once a quarrel over politics and economics, the war, from the Northern point of view, began to take on the aspect of a crusade, a quest for dignity and freedom from which there was no turning back. Some reacted with concern that Lincoln’s declaration would solidify Southern unity and prolong the conflict. Others, particularly abolitionists, welcomed the ideas embedded in the proclamation that would provide the moral underpinning for the total war that was to come. The campaigns of the summer of 1862 were a transitional phase between a “soft” war, which many believed would be of short duration, and the harsh measures that frequently failed to distinguish between combatants and unarmed civilians, between battlefield and town square.

A substantive assessment of a complex period in which the course of the war was redefined and redirected, Cooling’s well-written volume covers a good deal of territory. Civil War enthusiasts in particular will relish the long march.

—reviewed by Donald W. Gunter, editor, Dictionary of Virginia Biography

The development of Lost Cause ideology in the post-Civil War South has recently attracted a good deal of scholarly attention, but this book is the first to highlight the crucial contributions of the elite white women who began forming ladies’ memorial associations in the immediate aftermath of Appomattox. During the war, women had banded together to sew uniforms and tents, care for wounded soldiers, and perform funeral rites for the dead. When hostilities ended, the ladies’ devotion to the Confederacy did not, and they channeled their enduring patriotism into efforts to memorialize the vanquished nation and its fallen heroes. Because Northern and Southern men alike understood female mourning to be a legitimate part of the apolitical, domestic sphere to which they relegated women, the ladies were able to lament the passing of the Confederacy in overt ways while largely escaping the cries of treason that would have rained down from the North had Southern men initiated the same activities. Women were uniquely situated to perform the important ideological work of keeping Confederate identity alive during the early years of Reconstruction.

At the center of this study are the ladies’ memorial associations of Fredericksburg, Lynchburg, Petersburg, Richmond, and Winchester. Members directed the recovery of dead Confederates’ remains, provided proper burials, decorated the graves, and organized Memorial Days, during which hundreds or even thousands of citizens marched to a cemetery and listened to orations by male speakers. The ladies raised money for their reburial projects from across the South, tapping into and reinforcing a cultural sense of Confederate nationalism that outlived the political nation. In the absence of government agencies equipped to perform such tasks, women stepped in and became more actively involved in civic life.

In the immediate postwar years, most Southern men were content to let women take charge of memorialization efforts. With the end of Reconstruction in Virginia, however, the political climate no longer required female leadership, and men began to seek control. Robert E. Lee’s death in 1870 gave rise to conflicts between men’s and women’s groups over how best to honor him. The ladies refused to become mere auxiliaries to male-dominated organizations, and they went on to orchestrate such large-scale projects as the removal of Confederate dead from Gettysburg and the establishment of a museum in Richmond to house war relics from throughout the South. In the process they helped redefine white Southern femininity.

A period of declining interest in Confederate memorials late in the 1870s gave way to reinvigoration in the mid-1880s, when cooperation between genders prevailed. Fear of rapid social change generated a more elaborate articulation of white solidarity that relied in part on the construction of myths about the harmony of race relations in the Old South. The ladies’ associations, along with the new United Daughters of the Confederacy (1894), sought to perpetuate the spirit of the Confederacy by teaching children to revere the memory of Southern heroes and the cause for which they had fought. The popularity of the UDC rendered the original associations almost obsolete by the beginning of the twentieth century, but the first generation of female memorialists had made a lasting mark by sustaining Confederate culture in the days after defeat and by serving as the forebears of the vibrant women’s social organizations that took root late in the nineteenth century.

Despite some repetition and choppy organization, this work will be of use to scholars and general readers who seek a more complete understanding of the Lost Cause ideology and its origins.
—reviewed by Jennifer R. Loux, assistant editor, Dictionary of Virginia Biography

In the process they helped redefine white Southern femininity.

JANNEY REVIEW

Local Bookshelf

To celebrate the 400th anniversary of the founding of Jamestown, the citizens of Onancock, with the assistance of a grant from the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities, produced A Voyage through Time: Onancock, Virginia, 1607–2007 (Onancock: Eastern Shore of Virginia Historical Society, Inc., 2006. viii + 104 pp. ISBN-13: 978-0-9791475-0-0. $15.00 [softcover]). Anne Nock edited ten essays covering “Our Harbor,” geography, Indians, wars, politics and government, economics, religion, education, entertainment, and the environment and contributed her own whimsical limericks that take the reader on an alphabetical tour of Onancock and its history. The booklet concludes with a four-page chronological overview of the town and an index.