

Finding Virginia Authors

Looking for local authors for programs or to improve your collection of Virginia writers? Here are a few good places to start.

- Virginia Commission for the Arts, Directory of Writers in Virginia: <http://www.arts.state.va.us/directories/writers/search.asp>.
- The Virginia Writers Club, Inc.: <http://www.virginiawritersclub.org/>. Member websites, publications, and events. View writing clubs by region: <http://www.virginiawritersclub.org/chapters.html>.
- The Poetry Society of Virginia: <http://www.poetrysocietyofvirginia.org/sys-tmpl/door/>. Includes member websites and publications, workshops and readings, "Meet Virginia's Poets," and more.
- James River Writers: <http://www.jamesriverwriters.com/>. Richmond-based group that hosts conferences, contests, and literary events. Remember to find out if your area hosts a local writers group!
- Mystery Writers of America, Mid-Atlantic Chapter: <http://www.mwa-ma.org/>. There's a librarian membership category for those who wish to keep up with publications, events, and authors through listservs, newsletters, and invitations to local events.
- Sisters in Crime, Virginia Chapter: <http://www.sistersincrim.org/chapters.html#VA>
- Romance Writers of America: <http://www.rwanational.org/>. Search the Speakers Bureau by author, state, or genre: http://www.rwanational.org/cs/speakers_bureau. There are librarian memberships, a library-oriented webpage, and a list of author websites.
- Poets & Writers: Connect with Others, By Area, Virginia: <http://www.pw.org/connect/state/va>. Directory of Writers: <http://www.pw.org/directory/featured>.

Don't forget the bookstores in your area. Chain stores

may have a section of local interest. The independent stores often have robust sections devoted to local writers, many of them online (check out Richmond's Fountain Bookstore: <http://www.fountainbookstore.com/NASApp/store/IndexJsp;jsessionid=abclCMNchvRz1f9CLEeBr?s=localauthors>). University bookstores provide sections by faculty and alumni, many of them Virginia writers. Browse websites of local colleges (particularly the English department) for faculty, literary magazines, and events. Library staff who are alumni of local universities can check newsletters for publication announcements.

Remember to check your newspaper for literary events and awards. There are many literary events at local bookstores, as well as other libraries (some have email announcement lists). Pay attention to local and state literary awards like the Library of Virginia Literary Awards (<http://www.lva.virginia.gov/whatwedo/awards/>), VLA's own Jefferson Cup Awards (http://www.vla.org/cyart/jefferson_cup/Jeffersoncup_index.html), or the York County Public Library Annual Literary Competition (http://www.yorkcounty.gov/library/literary_contest/literarycompetition.htm). (Look to judges and finalists as well as winners.) Attend local conferences and festivals, like the ODU Literary Festival (<http://www.lib.odu.edu/litfest/30th/index.htm>), the CNU Writers' Conference (<http://writers.cnu.edu/>), or the Chesapeake Poetry Festival (see p. 49; <http://www.chesapeake.lib.va.us/>). Check out Virginia arts organizations like the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities (<http://www.virginiafoundation.org/>), including their Center for the Book (see p. 14; <http://www.virginiafoundation.org/bookcenter/>). Finally, sites like BookTour (<http://booktour.com/readers/search>) can be searched by state for writers and literary events. ■