The variety of community and institutional needs addressed by the projects our writers describe is an indication that the expectations society has for libraries continue to increase in intensity and scope as we seize advantage of the information sources we provide. That is, the better we are, the better we have to become. The words and syntax are simple, but they are not meant to be comforting. Dedication, optimism, and creativity all require the kind of effort that comes only with a commitment to serve and the faith that service matters. We hope these examples of success will help you muster that faith as you respond to the needs of your community.

VLA President Connie Gilman also addresses possibilities in her first President’s Column. The Strategic Plan that she includes in her article is a challenging set of objectives for our association and for us as individual members. Just as the information environment has evolved, the challenges facing us as the voice of libraries in Virginia have become ever more numerous and difficult. Knowing what we want to accomplish and the steps required for those accomplishments is essential. With the plan in place, it is time, as Connie says, to “roll up our sleeves and make our strategic goals a reality.”

It is difficult to say goodbye. I have loved every aspect of this work. I will miss working with our writers and having this chance to share ideas with colleagues. I’m shy by nature and in addition to everything else, Virginia Libraries provided a wonderful opening for conversation and correspondence. Most of all, I will miss this chance to contribute to VLA in the best way I know how, using skills it has been a pleasure to exercise on your behalf. Thank you for giving me this chance, and best wishes to all of you as we make our way into the future.

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### Guidelines for Submissions to *Virginia Libraries*

1. *Virginia Libraries* seeks to publish articles and reviews of interest to the library community in Virginia. Articles and interviews reporting research, library programs and events, information of particular interest to librarians in Virginia, and opinion pieces are all considered for publication. Queries are encouraged. Brief announcements and press releases should be distributed via the VLA listservs and blog (www.vla.org).

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

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

5. Reviews should consider works produced by Virginia creators or concerning Virginia subjects that have been published within the last two years. The reviewed works can appeal to any age or audience or appear in any format or area of the arts, sciences, and humanities. Reviews generally fall within the range of 500–1,500 words and must include a bibliographic citation in Chicago style and an evaluative statement supported by evidence from the text. Please query the editors before writing or submitting a review.

6. All work submitted for consideration will be reviewed by the editors and may be refereed by the editorial board. Material not selected for publication will be returned within three months.

7. VLA holds the copyright on all material published in *Virginia Libraries*. Contributors receive one copy of the issue in which their work appears.

8. 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.

9. 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 contributors’ copies.

10. Email manuscripts and queries to both Beth DeFrancis Sun, defrancb@georgetown.edu, and John Connolly, jpconnolly@crimson.ua.edu. Please be sure to include both editors.

11. *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.