

## WHO WE ARE

The Digital Library and Archives (DLA) is a consolidation of the University Libraries' Scholarly Communications Project and Special Collections Department. For more than a dozen years, DLA has tested new forms of scholarly communications and digitized, preserved, and provided access to primary historical research materials. Successful experiments have transformed traditional library resources and services.

## STAFF AND CLIENTS

Professional librarians, archivists, and experienced staff work directly with the local and extended university community, as well as researchers worldwide.

## DISTINCTIONS

- Since 2004, digital preservation efforts have benefited from Library of Congress funding.
- In 1997, Virginia Tech became the first university to require that graduate students submit electronic theses and dissertations (ETDs). Since then, more than 200 institutions have established local initiatives.
- DLA is one of the earliest providers of online course material through EReserve, beginning in 1995.
- Since 1989, DLA has worked with faculty editors of academic journals to make them publicly available online.

## RESULTS

- More than 8,500 ETDs
- 25 electronic journals and five titles mirrored locally for other publishers
- More than 50,000 digitized images, including many from the Norfolk & Southern Railroad and private collections
- Original documents and rare publications document the history of the university and the region, and many specialized topics, such as space exploration, women in architecture, the Civil War, and culinary history.
- Faculty Archives hosts nine online projects.

# Digital Library and Archives

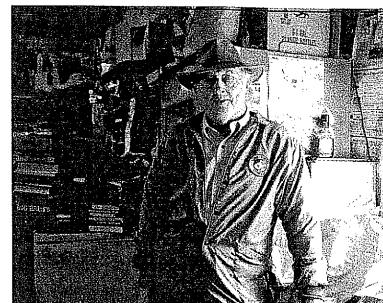
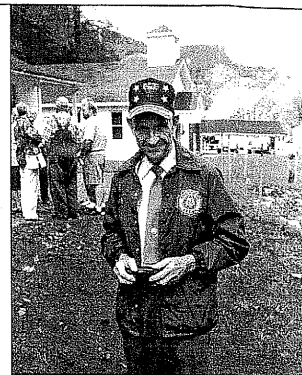
## WHAT WE DO

DLA advances scholarly communications and library services through a variety of activities, including collaborations with faculty members and students to preserve and provide access to their born-digital works. Since 1995, DLA has collaborated with Digital Imaging to make historic and unique primary resources in Special Collections available online. DLA adapts to the changing landscape of the digital world and impacts the university's intellectual life.

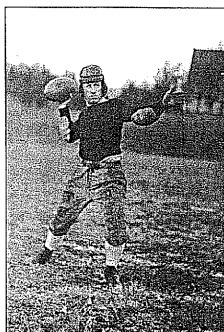
**Research** — Grants have contributed to several advances in scholarly communications. For example, in 2004 the Library of Congress began supporting the MetaArchive of Southern Digital Culture with \$1.4 million. This collaborative preservation initiative with five other southeastern research universities is part of the National Digital Information Infrastructure and Preservation Program. The collaborative developed a conspectus of the partners' at-risk digital content, harvested this content, and replicated it for a dark archive through its unique, distributed, private preservation network based on LOCKSS (Stanford) software. In 2000, NEH awarded \$250,000 to a collaborative effort that includes the University of Virginia and other statewide research libraries' special collections. They established Virginia Heritage, an online database of detailed guides to unique primary source materials in their libraries. In 1997, the Department of Education awarded Virginia Tech \$208,000 to establish the Networked Digital Library of Theses and Dissertations (NDLTD). This joint effort of the Graduate School, the library, and computing led to dispersing the university's expertise in ETDs. There are more than 200 university members of the NDLTD with ETD initiatives.

**Education** — The Special Collections Reading Room in Newman Library hosts classes where students are surrounded by unique primary materials and the technology to collaborate, locate, and produce additional resources. DLA librarians and staff also share their knowledge about rare books, archives, and manuscripts, as well as its growing digital resources through one-on-one interactions and online.

**Facilities** — DLA, including the Special Collections Reading Room, is housed in Newman Library's newly renovated first floor. The Rare Book Room and manuscripts and archives areas have special temperature and humidity control, facilitating long-term preservation.



Photos by Ken Hassell of Elon College were featured in Nantahala Review, the online arts magazine of photography, poetry, fiction, and nonfiction connected with the Southern Appalachian region.



1920s VPI football player



Women with quilts from Earl Palmer collection

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