I. INTRODUCTION
Both units of this department focused on improving user access to unique materials or publications otherwise only available in paper. This lead not only to increased interaction with external library users, but also to better access for the library’s walk-in clients. Special Collections accessioned, processed, and prepared guides to collections; participated in collection development for the rare book, reference, and manuscript/archival collections; staffed the Reference Desk and answered questions from telephone, fax, mail, and e-mail; created and maintained, edited and made significant changes to the guides to special collections and contributed to new digital image resources, moving the prototype ImageBase to a production-scale resource for worldwide, networked access; created exhibitions of unique library resources to inform and attract users; and preserved the rare book, manuscript and archival collections for the future.

The Scholarly Communications Project’s growing national reputation led to new scholarly online publications and formalization of experimental procedures such as digitizing and identifying images and archiving electronic theses and dissertations. ETD processing was scaled up, resulting in approximately 200 new titles being network-accessible in 1996/97. Eight new journal editors contact SCP during this reporting period, resulting in the online publication of four new journals, with at least two nearly ready for publication.

II. SPECIAL PROJECTS
November 21, 1996 kicked-off the fundraising campaign for University Libraries and Special Collections staff created both online and German Club exhibitions. Both the online exhibitions that were presented on large display screens at the German Club during the pre-dinner mixer and the traditional, glass-enclosed memorabilia, manuscript letters, and publications attracted very positive comments from all in attendance. Exhibitions, around campus and online enhance the interest donors have in the library as well as serve as a reminder to researchers of the wealth of unique resources available at Virginia Tech.

SCP installed the OpenText LiveLink search engine in January 1997, providing faster and more accurate results than did the previous freeWAIS (Internet shareware) search programs. Throughout this fiscal year, the continually growing collection of ETDs was reindexed to enhance user access and to serve as a model for other libraries and universities considering participation in the Networked Digital Library of Theses and Dissertations. Subsequently, SCP provided search access to its electronic journals. 1997/98 will see all of Web-accessible special collections materials similarly accessible. This world of unique resources will be open to scholars and researchers, both local and remote.

Scholarly Communications and Special Collections staff cooperated with PhotoGraphic Services to advance the prototyped “digital image database” and scale it up to a production-oriented ImageBase with nearly 3000 fully identified images. The time lag between digitizing and identification is minimal with a cadre of student workers. All digital images are described using the near-standard Dublin Core metadata tags. Without VIVA support, digitizing would have been severely limited, but now the library can provide access to images including those from the Norfolk & Western (2250), local history (475), Earl Palmer’s Appalachia (150), and VPI Women (75).

III. ACHIEVEMENTS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS
Special Collections attempted to return the Reading Room to its former attractive and pleasant state, but much is still to be done. The major step taken was to move over 600 cu. ft. of manuscripts, archives, books, and artifacts to the offsite storage facility. In 1997/98 we hope to further enhance the Reading Room atmosphere and to improve the behind-the-scenes working environment for staff and students.
NEW NETWORKED PUBLICATIONS AND RESOURCES

WILLA Society for Philosophy and Technology Journal of Contemporary Neurology Studies in Nonlinear Dynamics and Econometrics

ETDs available grew to nearly 200
access enhanced through purchase of OpenText LiveLink, Dec. 1996
improved ETD submission and workflow processing

INTERNATIONAL NEWSPAPERS

An Nahar, began almost daily online publication in June 1997
The European, began weekly online publication in April 1997
Le Monde, began daily online publication in March 1997 (plus supplements)

ImageBase expanded with VIVA support to 3000 identified digital images
improved definitions of fields
shared online archiving of TIFFS (archival quality images) with Computing Center

INTERNET HIGHLIGHTS FROM SPECIAL COLLECTIONS’ NEWLY ORGANIZED COLLECTIONS

VPI presidents T. Marshall Hahn and Joseph Dupuy Eggleston, and vice president William E. Lavery (circa 125 cu. ft.); Carpenter transcripts; Levisieur; Greeley; watercolors of mold; Montgomery County; the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities, Montgomery County branch, records; the Harry Temple photograph collection; the Charles Worley architectural drawings; three additional women architects as part of the International Archive of Women in Architecture; distinguished faculty papers, slides from Media Services; and Faculty Senate papers.

EXHIBITIONS (in NEWMAN LIBRARY unless otherwise noted)

1996 summer Women at Virginia Tech in Squires
Sept.-March Class Reunions in Johnston Student Center lounge
Nov. Helene Koller-Buchwieser and the IAWA
Nov. 21 Civil War Love Letters, Heraldry Collection, Women in the Civil War
Dec.-Jan. History of Football at Virginia Tech in Squires

1997 Jan.-Feb. rare ornithology books with hand colored prints
Jan.-Feb. Col. Temple’s contributions to the history of the Corps and heraldry
http://scholar2.lib.vt.edu/spec/images/sfpicts/lifemars.gif
March 2 at Explore Park, Roanoke, VA
March Recent additions to the Civil War collection
March-Aug. 125th Celebration (Squires)
April Photos from the Eleanor Stover McEver collection at Solitude
April Early Student Life at Virginia Tech in the Johnston Student Center
April-May National Endangered Plants and Wild Beauty at Museum of Natural History
May Virginia Academy of Science materials at the CEC
June 125 Years of University History (in Special Collections and Squires)

EXHIBITIONS ONLINE

http://scholar2.lib.vt.edu/spec/bwhp/bwhproj.htm

"A Timeline of Black History at Virginia Tech”
publicized with a cover article in the Roanoke Times
http://scholar2.lib.vt.edu/spec/arc/bltime/intro.htm

“Campus Unrest at Virginia Tech-1970”
from President Hahn's papers and the Special Collections Photograph Collection.
http://scholar2.lib.vt.edu/spec/arc/unrest/intro.htm
EXHIBITIONS ONLINE (continued)

“Pre-World War II Thanksgiving at V. P. I.”
Electronic publication of Col. Harry Temple's
http://scholar2.lib.vt.edu/spec/arc/vpitg/vpitg1.htm
“A Gallery of Bloomsday Cards”
http://scholar2.lib.vt.edu/spec/specgen/blooms/bloom.htm
“Tremendous Poetry by Ms. Strager’s Fourth Grade Class”
http://scholar2.lib.vt.edu/spec/bburg/kipps/strager.htm
“V.P.I. in the Spanish American War”
http://scholar2.lib.vt.edu/spec/arc/spanamer/spamwar1.htm

VIRTUAL TOURS OF THE SCHOLARLY COMMUNICATIONS PROJECT FOR CAMPUS VISITORS

Marian Bate, principal librarian, University of New South Wales, June 2, 1997
Oklahoma Higher Education Administrators and Faculty, April 23, 1997
Group Study Exchange Team from Korea, March 4, 1997
Landmark Communication Executives, December 16, 1996
Paul Torgersen, October 4, 1996
NASA Langley Library Staff, July 31, 1996
Longwood College Faculty

IV. DEPARTMENTAL PUBLICATIONS

PUBLICATIONS

McMillan, Gail, "Electronic Theses and Dissertations: Merging Perspectives," invited chapter in
Electronic Resources: Selection and Bibliographic Control, Pattie, Ling-yuh W. (Miko), and
Cataloging and Classification Quarterly, 22(3/4)] Draft at
http://scholar.lib.vt.edu/theses/GailsCCQarticle.html

McMillan, Gail, “National Digital Library of Theses and Dissertations: A Scaleable and
Fox, et al. at http://www.dlib.org/dlib/september96/theses/09fox.html

Kennelly, Tamara, “Merchants of Thought Meet the Many-Headed Hydra of Speculative
Kennelly, Tamara, “Personalizing Membership Appeals: The Key Contact Program,” Archival
Kennelly, Tamara, “Restoring the Cracked Mirror,” Northeast Document Center News 6, no. 2

PRESENTATIONS

Ackermann, Eric, “Archives: How to Prepare for Them and What to Expect,” one in a series of
workshops on research methods organized by Gary Downey, Center for the Study of Science
in Society, Fall 1996.
Ackermann, Eric, “Special Collections” for the Faculty Women’s Club Book Group, March
1997.
Kennelley, Tamara, "Presenting Oral History Interviews in Cyberspace“ presentation and
organized roundtable for the fall 1997 Oral History Association annual meeting,
Philadelphia.
Kennelley, Tamara, "Exhibitions from the University Archive” as part of panel in "Archives on
Line: A Showcase of Projects in the Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference (MARAC)
Region," May 2, 1997, Charlottesville, VA.
McMillan, Gail, "Archives Online: Regional Projects” organized panel and lead session at Mid-
Atlantic Regional Archives Conference annual meeting, May 2, 1997, Charlottesville, VA.
PRESENTATIONS (continued)
Nester, Joyce, “Technological Information Available in Mid-Late 1800s,” for the Director of Education’s program for museum curators and librarians, March 2, 1997.
Smith, Laura Katz, “Recent Additions to the International Archives of Women in Architecture” for the international executive board’s annual meeting, Nov. 5, 1996.
Smith, Laura Katz. Several presentations about the departmental and library collections to reference librarians and the reference graduate assistants, August 1996 (with Kennelly); freshman English students about the Appalachian literature and manuscript materials, April 1997; about Special Collections and genealogy materials to the Montgomery County Chapter of the New River Historical Society at the Montgomery Museum in Christiansburg, in April 1997.

PUBLICATIONS: IN-HOUSE

FLIERS, BROCHURES, PRESENTATIONS IN PDF ON THE WEB
“Electronic Theses and Dissertations at Virginia Tech” http://scholar.lib.vt.edu/theses/ETDflier.pdf
“ETDs: Library Issues and Responsibilities” http://scholar.lib.vt.edu/theses/ETDs_Library_Issues.pdf
“Copyright: Is It Fair Use or Is It Criminal Use?” http://scholar.lib.vt.edu/theses/cright.pdf

NEW WORLD WIDE WEB SITES
International Newspapers http://scholar.lib.vt.edu/InterNews/InterNewshp.html
EReserve homepage at http://reserve.lib.vt.edu (major redesign January 1997)
support pages also redesigned for faculty and student handouts
VTOline: homepage for all classes with any online component; early drafts
Civil War Online at University Libraries’ Special Collections for the Development Fund Campaign for the University Libraries held at the German Club, Nov. 22, 1996
Guidelines for Editors of Electronic Journals http://scholar.lib.vt.edu/staff/gailmac/ejguide.html
V. NEW SERVICES

Elaine Carter interview--continue transcription and electronic preparation of series of three interviews with oldest black student at Tech. Interviews explore experience of growing up black in the New River Valley as the grandchild of a slave. Includes information on local school system.
Conducted series of three oral history interviews with honorary distinguished professor Dr. Marjorie Grene. Project instigated at the suggestion of the Department of Philosophy.

International Newspapers: Le Monde, The European, and An Nahar

Bookmark accompanied Agricultural Artifacts exhibition (Joyce Nester)
Friends Book Sale (Joyce Nester managed all aspects)
generated $800 to be spent appropriately by Special Collections
Guide to manuscript collections with pre-1800 materials (Laura Katz Smith)

VI. PERSONNEL

The excellent staff of Special Collections require little daily supervision due to their outstanding work ethic and devotion to customer service. Losing Liz Ackermann did change the dynamics of the department, but the addition of Kathy Knowles allowed the department to focus on new responsibilities such as digital imaging and efforts in support of the VIVA Special Collections Committee. The addition of a graduate student staffing the Reading Room Reference Desk (January-July 1997) allowed others to focus on collection processing and access.
The staff in Special Collections were also called on to support librarywide initiatives. Joyce Nester assumed additional responsibilities, assisting the Friends of University Libraries with their spring book sale and writing articles for the Friends’ newsletter. [In 1997/98 she assumed the editorship.] Laura Katz Smith contributed to the weeding project by evaluating the Virginia history materials in Newman Library.
The loss of Peter Haggerty fall semester 1996 and then James Powell in December, left Scholarly Communications heavily dependent on the good will of Library Automation for computer support. The upgrade of the technical assistant’s position to that of a programmer, meant the welcome addition of Tony Atkins (by way of North Carolina with a Bachelor of Fine Arts from the University of Southern California) in April 1996. He has already noticeably improved displays on the Web and scripting for ejournals, VA News, and ETDs. Assuming James Powell’s position as Technical Director, Valeri Poltavstev, joined the SCP staff in May 1997. His first accomplishment improved computer access security both in SCP and Special Collections. While still reeling from the backlog of to-do’s and wish-list items, the new staff accepts every challenge with good humor and serious effort.

Through travel, conference presentations, and teleconferences, Gail McMillan devoted much of 1996/97 to enhancing library access to ETDs and recruitment of additional university libraries to the Networked Digital Library of Theses and Dissertations. She also informed hundreds of VT faculty about ETD policies, procedures, and access through the Faculty Development Initiative, in addition to her brief presentations about Electronic Reserve.

VII. OUTLOOK FOR NEXT FISCAL YEAR

Scholarly Communications and Special Collections will use technology to promote access to information resources at Virginia Tech and the University Libraries. Emphasizing collaborative strategies that respond to and anticipate the needs of the university community and the public at large, we will extend access to scholarly electronic publications and to one-of-a-kind resources. Additionally, we will vastly improve access to Special Collections by indexing all of the Web sites so that local and remote library users can discover the unique materials through the OpenText search engine. By imbedding metadata into appropriate homepages, we will also greatly enhance access to electronic publications, especially through Internet search engines. We would like to improve ejournal support by offering our editors additional editorial board networking capabilities and more timely use statistics. We would also like to more directly address archival issues by developing recommended long-term digital storage practices, first employing them ourselves and perhaps extending them to campus Webmasters. If funds are available, we would like to purchase a new image server to improve
the current ImageBase (http://scholar.lib.vt.edu/imagebase/) (more fields, more access points, and faster network delivery) and grow it into a multimedia image server (for example expanding VA News from WDBJ7 to include video clips).

**NEW ELECTRONIC JOURNALS TO BE PUBLISHED IN 1997/98**

*Journal of Pesticide Safety Education*, Dr. Michael Weaver, editor, Virginia Tech

*Electronic Antiquities*, Dr. Terry Papillion, editor, Virginia Tech

**NEW WEB SITES AVAILABLE IN 1997/98:**

- Blacksburg Bicentennial --collaborative project with the Department of Architecture
- Celebration of 125 Years of Virginia Tech (incorporating VPI presidents’ sites)
- Sherwood Anderson Collection, including annotated bibliography of 146 titles in Special Collections
- Copyright: Guidelines, Policies, and Information for the University
  - first draft: http://scholar.lib.vt.edu/copyright/copyrigh.html
- Annual Report 1996/97 for Scholarly Communications and Special Collections
  - http://scholar.lib.vt.edu/about/AR199697.pdf (with active links to Web references)
- About the Scholarly Communications Project http://scholar.lib.vt.edu/about/

**PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS IN 1997/98**

- McMillan, Gail, “Electronic Journals from a Scholarly Communications Point of View,” at the annual conference of the American Association of Law Librarians, Baltimore, July 1997

**VIII. STATISTICS**

- Reference Desk and other Services
  - 715 new titles cataloged for OCLC and VTLS
  - University of Oregon librarian Sheila Klos spent three days in the department in April 1996 doing research for the “Index to American Women Architects, 1945-95.”
  - 444 responses to inquiries by phone, e-mail. and letter (50% increase from the last fiscal year, mostly due to the access of the guides on the WWW and direct e-mail links
  - Reference questions 2013
  - Walk-in clients 1416
  - Info/Direcions 362

- Storage: circa 600 cu. ft moved out of Special Collections
  - archives: 215
  - manuscripts: 128
  - books: 35
  - artifacts: 215

- Digitizing images: circa 2955
  - Photographs reproduced and preserved, drawn largely from the Special Collections: Norfolk & Western, local history, IAWA, Appalachia, and VPI women. Images were scanned either by staff and student assistants or by PhotoGraphic Services with VIVA or departmental funds. All images have descriptive data (metadata) linked to them and are searchable by title, creator, and subject. In 1997/98 would like to expand search to all fields with OpenText.

Additional statistical summaries are being compiled from http://java.lib.vt.edu/www_stats/