July 4, 2004

Annual Report 2003/2004 for the **Digital Library and Archives**

Incomplete

*photography by Gene Dalton, Roanoke Times*
Random Highlights from 2003/2004 for the Digital Library and Archives

Accessions
Special Collections added 1239 cu. ft. of manuscript and archival collections, not including 800 cu. ft. mining maps yet to arrive. (see attached)

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Processing Collections
Processed: 470 cubic feet of manuscript and archival collections (see attached)

Rare Books
Cataloged: 1672 titles, added 1971 volumes

Joyce Nester worked 300 hours cataloging and processing the Bailey-Law Collection that was transferred from the Virginia Tech Museum of Natural History. She added approximately 605 new titles to Addison for the Rare Book Room; 20 more titles need original cataloging.

We also received 2 cu. ft. of manuscript materials and a wooden crate of plates for at least one of Harold Bailey’s books. Eight of the fourteen colored plates for Bailey’s *Birds of Virginia* were included in the collection. These were framed at Miller Off Main and are on exhibit with books from the Bailey-Law Collection in the gallery windows.

This collection is a tremendously rich source of original material that would be ideal for future note cards, bookmarks, posters, etc. The artists who created most of the illustrations for the Bailey books are very well known in the history of the discipline. We have a unique trove of art from these famous illustrators and can capitalize on that on a Web site. Many of the ornithologists represented in the collection’s manuscript material are pioneers in that world and their letters would be of interest. There is also a unique autograph collection and many folded maps.

VT Foundation Funds
Special Collections now houses an additional $14,785.08 worth of materials documenting the American Civil War funded by the Wallace Foundation donation.

- 1864 map, “Battles of the Crater and of June 22” [Petersburg] $4,000
  Currently exhibited along with images of Civil War railroad scenes

- CALL NUMBER: RT51 N68 1860b $650
  Author: Nightingale, Florence, 1820-1910.
  Title: Notes on nursing: what it is, and what it is not. By Florence Nightingale.
  Description: 140 p. 21 cm.

- Biographical Roster of the Immortal 600 $5,750
  John Cason’s diary written during his imprisonment. Signatures and notes written by 600 prisoners of war.

See also accompanying page about the Culinary History Collection.
Special Collections had $1175.00 remaining from the German Club donation of $2500 received in FY2003. After evaluating our options, Miller Off Main was selected to frame eight ornithology prints from the recent addition to the Bailey-Law Collection. These paintings are on display in the lobby cubicles. The frames truly enhance the paintings and they are well protected by light protective glass and acid-free papers. We also had the Diversity Banner framed.

We also purchased a VCR and some audiovisual cables so that patrons could use Special Collections materials in the secure Reading Room. Previously we had to allow them to take AV materials into other, less well monitored areas of the library. A researcher is currently using this equipment to view oral histories made in the New River Valley.

New logo for the Digital Library and Archives. Revised layouts will follow the IAWA model.

http://scholar.lib.vt.edu/ejournals/nreview/

Publishing Ejournals (more than 150 articles were tagged with HTML)

- Electronic Antiquity  
  vol. 7, no. 1 
- Journal of Career and Technical Education  
  vol. 19 no. 1 - vol. 20, no. 1 
- Journal of Design Communication  
  issue 5 
- Journal of Industrial Teacher Education  
  vol. 38 no. 2 - vol. 40 no. 3 
- Journal of Pesticide Safety Education  
  vol. 5-6 
- Journal of Technology Education  
  vol. 14 no. 2 
- Journal of Technology Studies  
  vol. 28 no. 1 - vol. 29 no. 2 
- Journal of Vocational Education Research  
  vol. 28 no. 1-3 
- Techné  
  vol. 7, no. 1-2 
- Virginia Libraries  
  vol. 49 no. 1-4, vol. 50 no. 1 
- Willa  
  vol. 11 

Publishing the News

- Spectrum: 24 issues, Conductor 4 issues, e-Learning 1 issue 
- WDBJ7 started archiving weather reports 

Exhibits in Newman Library include

- Love & [Civil] War 
- Eastern Woodland Indians 
- Fashion in the 20s 
- IAWA ASPIRES Grant 
- Historical Culinary Cookbooks 
- Fabric Publications from the Rare Book Room 
- Lord of the Rings 
- Civil War 
- Bailey/Law: Art and Publications
Exhibits elsewhere include
- Department of Animal and Poultry Science centennial celebration
- Women of Virginia Tech Project (University Relations/University Development campaign)
- Hillcrest Reunion display (Alumni Association)
- www.archmuse.com/mw2004finalProgra.DFT.pdf Kennelly demonstration, April 3, p. 28
- “Digital Exhibitions from the University Libraries’ Special Collections at Virginia Tech” Enter the web pages of Virginia Tech’s Special collections and stroll through historic Blacksburg, the Civil War letters of a homesick drummer boy, or view sites from Leopold Bloom’s odyssey in James Joyce’s Ulysses.

Tours, Information Sessions
- Agricultural Economics Reference Organization 10/16/03
- Mr. And Mrs. William Atkinson 3/22/04
- UT Prosim Open House 4/23-24/04
- Mr. and Mrs. Tom Clark 5/14/04
- Andreas Degkwitz, CIO, Technical University of Cottbus, Germany 4/22/04
- Ramesh C. Gaur, Fulbright Scholar Librarian from Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Mumba, India, fall semester
- Melemadom Sreekumar, Librarian and Head, Center for Development of Digital Libraries, Indian Institute of Management Kozhikode, Calcutta
- Andrew Trealor, Monash University (Australia)

Instructional Sessions
FDI, “Scanning and Digital Library Archives,” Kennelly, Worley, July 11
FDI, “Digitizing for Access and Preservation,” Kennelly, Worley, Pratt, May 23
Dr. Jim McKenna
- HIST 3124, Agricultural History, Kennelly, Merrill, Pencek, Oct. 1
- “Applying Copyright in Scholarship and Instruction” (McMillan)
  - FDI Summer, presented six session after developing presentation with and for college librarians
  - FDI Fall, presented two sessions (Oct. 14, Oct. 29)
Dr. Crandle Shifflet (McMillan, copyright)
- HIST/GEOG 5144, The Transatlantic World: A Research Seminar, Oct. 17
Dr. Karen DePauw (McMillan, copyright)
- Copyright for the Future Professoriate, Graduate Education Week at VT, March 24.
Delores McDowell (McMillan)
- ETDs: for Newman Library’s graduate assistants, Jan. 14
Dr. Shellie Fowler “The Information Cycle,” McMillan and Seamans
- GRAD 5984 Teaching & Learning in Contemporary Contexts,
Dr. Dean O’Donnell (Nester)
- HIST 2004, Historical Methods
  - Primary sources and tools for finding them, Oct. 28
  - Secondary sources and their tools, Nov. 4
The Culinary History web is currently undergoing a redesign. In the meantime, DLA published the latest issue of the popular *Virginia Culinary Thymes*.

Several important publications were purchased with Foundation funds for the Culinary History Collection. Among them were:

**CALL NUMBER: HQ1201 K52 1789**
Author: Kenrick, W. (William), 1725?-1779.
Title: *The whole duty of woman.*
Description: 106 p. ; 11 cm. (8vo)
Note: REFERENCES - Evans 3948

*Brief essays on marriage, education, religion, and reputation:* "Sport not with thy good name, nor run it heedlessly into danger; for the consciousness of thine own innocence, will not protect thee from reproach."

**CALL NUMBER: RA778 D3 1878b**
Author: De La Banta.
Title: De La Banta's Advice to ladies concerning beauty: development of the figure, etiquette, the art of pleasing, dress, etc.: also his valuable collection of oriental mysteries of the toilet / by Professor De La Banta.
Imprint: Chicago : H.A. Sumner, 1878.
Description: 377 p. : ill. ; 22 cm.
Subject: Women -- Health and hygiene.
Subject: Beauty, Personal.

Culinary History continues to be a popular web destination, as evidenced by the log reports for the last four fiscal years.
### Availability of VT ETDs June 2000

- **Withheld**: 19%
- **Mixed**: 3%
- **VT-only**: 24%
- **Worldwide**: 54%

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### Availability of VT ETDs June 2004

- **Withheld**: 10%
- **Mixed**: 2%
- **VT-only**: 23%
- **Worldwide**: 65%

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Special Collections benefited tremendously when Digital Imaging stopped charging per image scanning fees in July 2003. The VT ImageBase grew with images from a variety of units, including 4,183 color images from University Relations (compared to 501 on 6/10/03). Patrons requested 569 TIFF copies.

In addition to scanning, Digital Imaging combines appropriate image files into user-friendly PDF publications. Our popular university yearbooks are now available at http://spec.lib.vt.edu/archives/bugle/, including 43 Bugles from 1900 to 1930 and some from 1940-1961. That’s 13,743 individual page images!

Welcome to the University Archives digitized version of Virginia Tech’s yearbook, The Bugle. The Bugle was first published in 1895. Our archive represents two series of digitized Bugles. The earliest yearbooks (1895-1900) have each page presented separately. The later issues are available by year as PDF files. Decades linked represent the periods we have the Bugle(s) available in digitized form.

The Tin Horn
From 1925-1931, women students at Virginia Tech were not allowed to be part of The Bugle. Women students published their own yearbook named the Tin Horn. This yearbook was published for four years (1925, 1929, 1930 and 1931.) For more information.....
Patron use of the Special Collections Reading Room has remained steady over the last three years. However, they are using an increasing number of materials. In FY2002, on average, patrons requested 5 items each. In FY2004, each patron requested 7 items.

While Reading Room and telephone reference queries dropped considerably, online queries have more than made up this decline.
Goal 1  
Collections  
We will acquire, develop, and provide timely access to research-level information resources in support of research and scholarship at the university.

Obtain and maintain the financial resources necessary to acquire information resources in all formats sufficient to sustain a world-class research enterprise, especially in the university’s areas of emphasis.

Submit at least one major grant proposal to an appropriate federal or foundation agency for support to maximize access to special collections of the Digital Library and Archives.

The library submitted two grant applications to the Library of Congress for its National Digital Information Infrastructure and Preservation Program: (1) Partnering with Emory, Auburn, Florida State University, and Georgia Tech, we requested total (3-year) funding of $1,385,000 (VT: $328,000) to create the Meta-Archive of Southern Cultural Heritage: A Preservation Network for Critical At-Risk Digital Content of Southern Culture and History. (2) With the University of Tennessee, VT requested $1,067,353 (VT: $514,000) for ICAP: Informed Creation AIDS Preservation, which would have contributed to Dean DePauw’s Transformative Graduate Education initiative. The library also submitted two preliminary requests for funding ($60,000 each) to the Getty Grant Program and the Gladys Kriible Delmas Foundation to support the IAWA’s Eleanore Pettersen Collection.

Acquire, organize, and make available scholarly or scientific contributions originating at Virginia Tech.

As an initial step in addressing one of the research goals in the university strategic plan (Research 1.2.3 Establish an electronic university press) identify university partners interested in collaborating with the Libraries in preparing a report on the current status of electronic presses in research universities.

With a real life situation at hand, representatives of the library (McMillan) and Information Systems (Anne Moore, Tom Head, John Moore, Shellie Fowler), and the Center for Digital Discourse and Culture (Tim Luke), communicated and met frequently to discuss assuming publication of Technology Source, which Michigan Virtual University planned to stop supporting. In our discussions we proposed assuming all the traditional publishing activities (e.g., editorial, marketing, etc.) and evolving this peer—reviewed ejournal into a multilingual publication with more research based articles as well as opinion and philosophical pieces. MVU ultimately decided to discontinue this journal altogether.

DLA repeated the epress survey of SCHEV and Top 30 institutions that was conducted in 2002 and found that nothing had changed in two years. [Since a community service student did most of the data collection, we’re spot checking to verify the situation. GMc 6/22/4]

In response to a recommendation in the visiting team’s Report (May 6, 2002) submitted as part of the Provost’s review of the Libraries (Spring 2002) “develop a cohesive plan for acquiring and preserving digital primary resources” created by Virginia Tech scholars.

The Digital Image Repository Task Force reviewed four products currently on the market to manage and present online images. After perusing the literature, conferring with colleagues at other institutions, and testing four software packages, DIRTF recommended that the library purchase Luna Insight. In March DIRTF accepted the Dean’s challenge to supplement her commitment of 50% funding with support from other deans. Dean Knox/ Architecture has agreed to cost-share, and DIRTF has met with Vet Med and has an appointment to meet with Engineering.
More information technology is coming for

- Teaching: digital materials for use in the classroom
- Scholarship: works will be created that are meant to be primarily online

Therefore, libraries will be well positioned by continually expanding their services and resources. However, I believe we should take up the mantra

**Law of Convenience**: let’s give users what some would say is the impossible:

- Deep and reliable library collections
- that are
- easy to find on the web
- through
- sophisticated systems that are functionally complex and intelligent

The Law of Convenience would allow users to decide how much time to invest in search and retrieval.


Working in this direction through the library’s Strategic Plan, my department, the Digital Library and Archives, will foster the Law of Convenience and expand the ways information technology (IT) supports teaching and scholarship at Virginia Tech, but of course this also means global access.
DLA and the UL Strategic Plan

**Goal 1: Collections.** DLA will improve them in various ways such as
- *Financial support* from grants and donations, both: corporate and personal
- *Functionally,* for example when we collaborate with other university units to purchase a new and much improved image management and presentation system.
- *Administratively* as we research what will become infrastructure such as: learning object repositories

**Goal 2: Services**
- Publishing: journals meant to be online
- *Reduce compromises scholars make to fit their work onto paper*

**Goal 3: Information Literacy**
- *Copyright education* will continue to be important for use throughout our lives

**Goal 4: Digital Preservation as well as conservation of special collections**
- *Digital preservation: canNOT separate from access, make collections known*
- *Not just a library responsibility; university-wide responsibility*

**Goal 5: Systems**
- Upgrades constantly on our minds, such as the ImageBase >> Luna, ETD, DOR (digital object repository) research

**Goal 6: Physical Spaces**
- Renovations to Spec
  - Bring DLA staff and resources together
  - Integrate technology in the Reading Room for scholars and staff; multimedia resources and services

**Goal 7: Staff**
- Develop our skills so we can manage the new info resources: Information Literacy
- Cloning

The real heroes of the digital revolution in higher education are [library workers]; they are the people who have seen the farthest, done the most, accepted the hardest challenges, and demonstrated most clearly the benefits of digital information. In the process, they have turned their own field upside down and have revolutionized their own professional training. It is a testimony to their success that we take their achievement for granted.

“Why IT Has Not Paid Off as We Hoped (Yet)” in *EDUCAUSE review*, Nov./Dec. 2003: 43.
By UVa: Ed Ayers is Dean of the College and Graduate School of Arts and Sciences; Charles Grisham is its Chief Technology Officer and Professor Chemistry

**QUESTIONS:**

What do you think about the law of convenience?

What can you do in your department to improve library resources and make them easier for users to find?
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4/16/04 culinary artifacts / 2004-036 sewing box, mold, 1.5 cf \ jj yes add to Ms 2001-004
4/27/04 Lelia Reitzel Vand 2004-037 letters (some C.W .2cf \ jr no donated by Pam and John S
4/28/04 Brett Blackwell 2004-038 26x32 framed print of portrait\no donated through JIR to CFC
5/3/04 Reardon letters/C 2004-039 approx. 121 CW l0.0 cf \ jr no donated through JIR to CFC
5/5/04 Dana R. Spencer 2004-040 2 v. bound volume? \ jr no donated by author
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| Ms2004-005  | 5/17/04 Burchard material 2004-062 | materials relating 1.1 cu ft. | Y | yes | Burchard may be appropriate for addition to Strother papers; integrate Hahn materials into earlier accession processing. |
| 5/17/04 class ring material 2004-063 | class ring premier 1 cu ft. | Y | yes | integrate into existing collection. |
| 5/17/04 VT ephemera/VT 2004-065 | VT pubs and ephemera 1 cu ft. | Y | yes | weed and add to RGs or catalog. |

2004-072_dicarlo
2004-073_billings
2004-074_lain
2004-075_moss
2004-076_sclater
2004-077_us colored troops
2004-078_hawkins
2004-079_chaille
2004-080_reynolds
2004-081_topo. map
Special Collections Manuscripts Processing July - May 2003/04

469.8 cubic feet newly processed manuscript materials

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>cu. ft.</th>
<th>Collectors</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>Angle, L. C.</td>
<td>Appalachian Oral History (reg)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.25</td>
<td>Babcock</td>
<td>Appalachian Oral History (reg)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.8</td>
<td>Bailey</td>
<td>Biochemistry, Dept. of, Oral History Collection (VT)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.4</td>
<td>Baker</td>
<td>Blacksburg Post Office Record Books (reg)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Briggs</td>
<td>Blacksburg Woman's Club (reg)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>Campbell</td>
<td>Buckhorn Coal Company (reg)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Charlton</td>
<td>Carneal and Johnston Architectural Drawings (reg)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.2</td>
<td>Charlton</td>
<td>Cassell (reg)</td>
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<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Compton</td>
<td>Collins, Michael. (AAEA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>Currency</td>
<td>Collins, Michael. James Dean (AAEA)</td>
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<tr>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>Duncan</td>
<td>Croy (reg)</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Evans</td>
<td>Duncombe (IAWA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Garrett</td>
<td>Edgemont Farm (reg)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>Hart</td>
<td>Espegel Alonso (IAWA) (of .5 cu ft)</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Hayes</td>
<td>Gottlieb (IAWA) (of 17 cu ft)</td>
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<tr>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>Hayes</td>
<td>Gray (reg)</td>
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<tr>
<td>0.1</td>
<td>Hilton</td>
<td>Hardin Jr. (reg.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Hilton</td>
<td>Hastings (IAWA)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>Holcombe</td>
<td>Hoge (reg)</td>
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<tr>
<td>132</td>
<td>Houck</td>
<td>Hotel Roanoke (780 kept from 1600) (reg)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.4</td>
<td>McKinnis</td>
<td>Hussey, Robert. (VT)</td>
</tr>
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<td>Poetry</td>
<td>Jansone (IAWA)</td>
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<td>Prillman</td>
<td>Johnson, James (VT)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Shreve</td>
<td>Mingoue Rowland (VT)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Turner</td>
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<td>1.2</td>
<td>Walther</td>
<td>Montgomery Co. Historical Sites Survey (reg)</td>
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<tr>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>Walther</td>
<td>Montgomery Film Society (reg)</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
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<td>Mullens (RR)</td>
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<td>98.5</td>
<td></td>
<td>Pettersen (of 365 cu ft) (IAWA)</td>
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<tr>
<td>0.1</td>
<td></td>
<td>Pittenger (CW)</td>
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<tr>
<td>100</td>
<td></td>
<td>Pocahontas Mines Collection (f 900 cu ft)</td>
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<tr>
<td>0.7</td>
<td></td>
<td>Price, Anne Hayden (reg)</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>0.5</td>
<td></td>
<td>Shepherd, Harvey E. (VT)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1.5</td>
<td></td>
<td>Skala (IAWA)</td>
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<tr>
<td>0.2</td>
<td></td>
<td>Sutton-Martin-Mason (reg)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.5</td>
<td></td>
<td>Theater Scrapbooks</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td>Torre (IAWA) (of 10 cu ft addition)</td>
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<tr>
<td>3.4</td>
<td></td>
<td>United Daughters of the Confederacy (reg)</td>
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<tr>
<td>0.1</td>
<td></td>
<td>VAMC Board of Visitor (VT)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.4</td>
<td></td>
<td>VT Rescue Squad (reg)</td>
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<tr>
<td>45</td>
<td></td>
<td>Wilson (IAWA) (of 80 cu ft)</td>
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<td>1.75</td>
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<td>Woodward (IAWA)</td>
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<td>0.7</td>
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<td>Yates (reg)</td>
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<tr>
<td>0.7</td>
<td></td>
<td>Young (reg)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
<td>Zimbler (IAWA)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

key:
- AAEE: Aerospace
- CW: Civil War
- IAWA: IAWA
- reg: regional/local
- RR: railroad
- VT: Virginia Tech
Democratizing Access to Archives
Developing the Digital Library for the South Atlantic Humanities Center

Executive Summary
Virginia Tech Digital Library and Archives is using the Internet to provide researchers user-centric access to the historical collections of archives of the south Atlantic region. Funding from ASPIRES has removed the technical and human resources obstacles to build a federated search system that will serve researchers worldwide. We have researched, designed, and prototyped the federated search and archival finding aid presentation system available at http://aspires.lib.vt.edu/, and have created the “Arcade” generic middleware component that is ready for beta testing. The resulting architecture, retrieval system, and protocol will soon benefit humanities researchers through virtually integrated online collections.

ASPIRES has given Virginia Tech Digital Library and Archives a competitive advantage and enhanced its reputation as a leader in computing for the humanities and digital library technology. As a result, students and researchers will have increased and more usable access to archives. Library and archives staff will reduce time and frustration dealing with current EAD tools. Partner institutions will receive software that will leverage their collections beyond the confines of their own institutions.

Goals and Strategic Objectives
“Scholars ... encounter difficulties in accessing the rich collections that exist in numerous private, public, governmental, and corporate archives in the five states and two territories comprising [the South Atlantic] region.” – original proposal text

Promoting humanities research and to meet educational needs, Virginia Tech Digital Library and Archives (VT-DLA) is pioneering new Internet technologies that will permit researchers throughout the world to access and search the combined contents of the south Atlantic archives. This digital library initiative involves the creation of (1) digital preservation and publishing software, (2) a federated (distributed) search engine, (3) authoring tools, and (4) an inter-archive Internet protocol that makes researching the archival guides held at many different institutions possible for the first time. The heterogeneous nature of non-book collections plagues the construction of search tools, but the open standards strategy (XML, EAD, etc.) of this initiative will unite the various data types into a homogeneous, searchable, and usable corpus. Distributing the maintenance responsibility for the collection also disperses financial responsibilities and affords all participating sites the flexibility to store and present its materials as they see fit.

The testbed for this software and federated collection is the South Atlantic Humanities Center (SAHC) Digital Library, which combined has hundreds of finding aids for thousands of cubic feet of archives stored in Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Puerto Rico, and U.S. Virgin Islands. Scholars worldwide will have new access to these materials, participating institutions will receive state-of-the-art digital library software, and Virginia Tech Digital Library and Archives will reinforce its leadership in developing and applying Internet technologies to research and education.

VT-DLA has already made significant progress toward achieving its goals. A prototype federated search server is now available (http://aspires.lib.vt.edu/) that provides a full-text index of 79 EAD finding
aids from the Virginia Tech Special Collections. The middleware for the federated search server, called “Arcade,” is ready for beta testing at SAHC participating institutions. A prototype publishing system for EADs is also available. We have written several training materials (Appendix A) to aid the understanding of the EAD standard. We are currently preparing survey instruments for external reviewers to evaluate site utility. Additionally, we are planning the Electronic Archive Data Modeling summit, currently scheduled for spring 2004, at which we will demonstrate the system prototypes that will incorporate the external reviewers’ input, collect feedback from on-site users and focus groups, and work with the experts in attendance to finalize the deployment of the Arcade software to participating SAHC institutions.

Obstacles Removed

ASPIRES made it possible for Virginia Tech Digital Library and Archives to design, develop, and deliver the software necessary to bring this ambitious undertaking to fruition. Primarily this funding provided dedicated technical infrastructure and human resources necessary. Prior to ASPIRES’ funding, VT-DLA was operating at full capacity with its Electronic Thesis and Dissertation (ETD), Imagebase, archival preservation, and faculty support initiatives. However, with the added ASPIRES funding, VT-DLA purchased a 30-gigabyte Linux server (aspires.lib.vt.edu) dedicated to hosting its south Atlantic electronic metadata and finding aids adhering to the national standard, Encoded Archival Description (EAD). ASPIRES also enabled VT-DLA to retain Neill A. Kipp, a Sigma Xi researcher and professional software architect with experience in application design and development, digital library technologies, and usability engineering.

Secondly, because of the added resource, the director and staff members of VT-DLA are now able to see farther ahead and plan new efforts to ensure Virginia Tech's continued leadership in computing for the humanities.

Thirdly, after a number of archives have adopted the ASPIRES-funded software, researchers will be able to do broad historical studies that were never before imaginable, possible, or affordable. They will reveal new insights about our past and be able to tie events together because of the detailed finding aids that the results of this project can provide them.

Therefore, the ASPIRES award has removed obstacles—to the infrastructure and staff of DLA, to the director of DLA, and eventually to scholars everywhere.

Activities Made Possible

Research. EAD is a robust and useful standard for encoding archival metadata. However, EAD it is complex and therefore has not been successfully adopted broadly. Our usability analysis of EAD and its associated publishing tools yielded an insight into how EAD elements could be documented and how EAD documents could be published for the target researcher to provide a system useful and usable with a nonthreatening presentation of technology in a humanities milieu. The result is a tab-based interface for the EAD document that replaces the tree-based left navigation common at other sites.

Design. Following system architecture analysis, we created a generic “Arcade” digital archive system for indexing and presenting archival metadata. The Arcade system includes a federated searching component built on the industry-leading Web services architecture—an open, standards-based architecture popularized and promoted by HP, Microsoft, Sun Microsystems, the Worldwide Web Consortium, and others. The Arcade middleware also has an intuitive relevance ranking metric that does not depend on the term frequency within the entire federated collection, nor the state of the collection at the local site.

Prototype. The system—as it is currently prototyped—is available for review at http://aspires.lib.vt.edu/. The source code (footprint) for the prototype is a very efficient 60 kilobytes and the full-text index (database) is a very compact 600 kilobytes for 79 documents.

Three major activities remain: external review by regional and EAD experts, the summit, and the distribution of the software to the participant sites. We don’t anticipate any problems and are excited to continue this work.
Scholarship Growth

Architecture. The federated search architecture is the first of its kind and the Arcade system, with its reusable middleware is the first digital library system ever demonstrated that follows this distributed architecture.

Retrieval systems. The Web has always provided separate page presentation systems, relying on Google and other centralized search engines to integrate the content to make the Web easier to use. We have prototyped a distributed search system that could revolutionize the way multiple digital libraries can make their contents easier to use. Also, relevance ranking across federated archives has not been explored fully—and never in the humanities. This project will allow digital library researchers to test Arcade's relevance ranking algorithm and postulate new ones based on their results.

Protocol. The Arcade system includes a protocol for the fastest and most robust inter-archive communication possible, which will be useful for digital libraries and archives anywhere on the Internet.

Competitive Advantage

Virginia Tech Digital Library and Archives should receive a significant boost in competitiveness with the distribution of the software and conference presentations and journal publications that may result. Possible venues include ACM/IEEE Joint Conference on Digital Libraries (JCDL 2004), American Archivist, and DLib Magazine.

The most notable competitive advantage is in providing a record of success for future grants. Currently in draft with others in the south Atlantic is the Library of Congress call for the National Digital Information Infrastructure and Preservation Program. Other potential funding agencies include Department of Education (FIPSE) and National Science Foundation (for digital libraries)

Future Benefits

Logical extensions of this work will benefit numerous constituencies, including student and professional researchers who will have increased access to user-friendly archives and digital libraries for integrated studies never before possible or feasible.

Library, archive, and museum staff will benefit from a simplified and usable EAD standard and supporting toolsets that will reduce their time and frustration recording and publishing metadata. Having a critical mass of online finding aids will renew interest in historical study in ways that we cannot foresee.

Similarly, our partner institutions in the south Atlantic and beyond can receive, encode, and publish a critical mass of materials available to the federated search system without an otherwise prohibitive resource allocation. Less history will be lost and scholarship can grow as a result.

Appendix A: Links

- Main site: http://aspires.lib.vt.edu/
- Sample query results: http://aspires.lib.vt.edu/cgi-bin/getResults.cgi?q=railroad
- EAD elements by publishing type: http://aspires.lib.vt.edu/doc/elementsByType.htm
- EAD DTD decomposed (tag name documentation): http://aspires.lib.vt.edu/doc/eaddtd.htm

Appendix B: Budget

**ASPIRES 232513 Expenditures as of Oct. 31, 2002: $25,342.47**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<td>Equipment</td>
<td>$6,946.80</td>
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<tr>
<td>Software, Supplies</td>
<td>$ 498.79</td>
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</table>
The 2003 ASPIRES Small-Grant funded

1. Over 1500 hours of research leading to significantly increasing the number of women from the South Atlantic in the IAWA Biographical Database
2. Over 500 hours of programming to improve the functionality and architecture of the Database
3. Participation in two national conferences

Without ASPIRES funding

- Virginia Tech would not have contributed to fulfilling its commitment to the NEH-funded South Atlantic Humanities Center Digital Library.
- The International Archive of Women in Architecture would not be the most important single source of information about women in the South Atlantic region.
- Virginia Tech would not have drawn the attention of the other regional humanities centers for its commitment to gathering, preserving, and making accessible the historical records of women in architecture and related design fields.

This special funding resulted in 181 additional women representing the South Atlantic in the International Archive of Women in Architecture [Biographical Database]. There were just 24 women in the Database prior to the grant. The Database is also easier for researchers to use due to programming improvements as well as design enhancements. Programming changes made the data more easily entered, indexed, and searched in the database, also brought the database into compliance with national standards for interoperability.

Research: Uncovering Women in Architecture in the South Atlantic

It was not possible to follow the original plan to hire one graduate student to work 1500 hours at $10 throughout the year. In spite of my working with several CAUS faculty, none were available. I hired several undergraduates and reassigned two part-time DLA wage staff who worked during the 2003 summer. The undergraduates were paid $8 an hour, while the wage staff earned $10.50 and $11.50 and assisted with training, supervising, and had more extensive research assignments. All conducted research and entered information into biographical database. In all, they worked 1254 hours, adding 182 women from the South Atlantic, at a cost of $12,449.

While the wage hires were very computer-research oriented, my research focused heavily on uncovering historical women working in architecture and its related fields. My research included historic preservationists who documented the influence of women on design. I also researched regional women who were active in the Better Homes movement, thereby extending the information about their early influence on urban planning not previously available through the IAWA Biographical Database. In addition to using locally available resources, I also conducted research at the Fine Arts Library at UVa at the Savannah School of Design, and the American Institute of Architects when I was in these locals for various meetings and presentations. These trips were charged to the ASPIRES grant.

With matching library funds, I purchased a Powerbook G4 with a 15” monitor and power adapter, totaling $2160. I also spent $324 to purchase appropriate software (MS Office, Acrobat) and one publication,
Minority and Women Doctoral Directory (LD2386 M56 2002). The researchers used the laptop while working at the Art/Architecture Library.

**Programming: Improving the IAWA Biographical Database**

A Computer Science graduate student programmer required almost twice as many hours to make the necessary changes and improvements to the IAWA Biographical Database, working 576 hours at $12.85 an hour ($7040). As a result, data is more easily entered, indexed, and searched, and it is more user-friendly for staff and researchers alike. It also conforms to national standards and is adaptable to other special collections.

Programming improvements to the website user interface include:

- Searches takes one-fourth of the time it took prior to the ASPIRES funded programming.
- More complex searches are now possible.
- Tabs enable topical browsing within a women’s record
- Improved data entry for staff
- IAWA colors, red and white, adopted to display all information

Programming improvements to the architecture of the database:

- Upgraded to current versions of PHP and MySQL
- Redundancy removed by eliminating data tables
- Classes added to code to enable generalization and object oriented programming
- Added reviewer information and comments for internal auditing
- Dynamic generation of country, profession, and US reports for internal auditing

**Presentations**

Prior to completing my research, I was invited to make a presentation about my project at the Association of College and Research Libraries biannual conference in Charlotte, North Carolina. ASPIRES funded one-fourth of the expenses, $158, and the library’s Travel and Research Committee (TREC) covered the remaining three-fourths, $427.


In November 2003 I participated in the first Regionalism in the Humanities conference at the University of Nebraska. This was the inaugural conference for the NEH-funded regional centers and I was one of seven invited speakers representing the South Atlantic Regional Humanities Center, one of three representing Virginia Tech. My presentation included slide illustrations of seven recovered women and their designs. ASPIRES funded one-fourth of the expenses, $243; and TREC funded three-fourths, $672.

Participating in Regionalism in the Humanities also gave me the opportunity to inform a national audience about Virginia Tech’s International Archive of Women in Architecture and to encourage each center to gather the work of women in architecture and related design professions in their regions.

Last winter Virginia Tech hosted a lecture series open to the university and advertised in Spectrum. It featured to each representative to the Lincoln conference from the South Atlantic Humanities Center (Dr. Sally Johnson, Dr. Michael Saffle, and myself) and the SAHC director, Dr. Pablo Davis. I gave the first lecture on Feb. 13, 2004.

Publications

The fall 2003 IAWA Newsletter (p. 7) carried a brief article about the ASPIRES grant and research goals. The fall 2004 Newsletter will publish “A Regional Perspective on Women with T-Squares,” a report on five particular women added to the IAWA Biographical Database. (http://spec.lib.vt.edu/IAWA/news/)

At the Regionalism in the Humanities conference, I met the editor of the Encyclopedia of Southern Culture, Dr. William Ferris. He encouraged me to send information about my discoveries for inclusion in the next and online editions of the Encyclopedia.

National Endowment for the Humanities Grant

Jennifer Meehan, DLA Manuscripts Archivist, and I will meet the July 15, 2004; deadline to submit an NEH Preservation and Access grant. “20th Century American Women in Architecture” requests $250,000 to process nine collections in the IAWA, including several women who worked in the South Atlantic Region. We are requesting two-year funding to support Meehan, two graduate student assistants, and Digital Imaging staff. In addition, we are requesting funding for preservation supplies for the approximately 500 cubic feet of materials in these collections and equipment to store 2800 digital images for Information Systems.

Before we know if our NEH grant application is successful, we will use the work done preparing that grant to meet the October 15, 2004, deadline for a National Historic Publications and Records Commission grant. Among the necessary modifications will be eliminating the digitizing, which NHPRC does not fund.

Researching, coordinating, and supervising consumed more than the two-hours-weekly (5%) of my time that was promised in the grant application. The DLA Technical Director also devoted some of her time to improving the design of the IAWA website, including the Biographical Database.