

Spring 2013

# Library System News, Spring 2013

VCCS Library Services

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# Library System News

Virginia's Community Colleges

Volume 4 Issue 2 - Spring 2013

## From the Director

Once again spring has caught up with us, however a bit on the cool side. At least the early flowers like the cooler weather and have hung around longer than I remember from past years. Things in the library service area are in many ways cool as well, but cool in the good way for those of us who remember when cool was cool.

It is also worth noting that since the QuickSearch discovery tool became available, ten colleges have adopted it. In addition to being a great leap forward in terms of user experience, QuickSearch is also our first cloud hosting success story.

Most of you are aware that we have made a significant change in the way we operate our primary systems, ALEPH, SFX, and Metalib. They have all been migrated from servers hosted by the VCCS to Ex Li-

bris-managed servers in the cloud. In doing this, we have joined a large number of other enterprises across the spectrum of computing and gained a level of system support and reliability that is well beyond what we could do on our own.

There are many benefits to moving to cloud hosting. Two major examples of the gains I see are that the systems and people monitoring our services 24/7 from different parts of the world are always available to respond to critical problems,

often before we become aware that there is a problem. Second, many routine tasks that would consume a lot of Tara's or my time are now efficiently handled by Ex Libris staff who do this every day for many customers.

On the truly cool side, two VIVA STEM-H e-book projects are proceeding apace. We have already made over 1,870 Springer and Elsevier titles available, and expect to have about 5,000 more STEM-H e-books potentially available in the demand-driven acquisitions pilot (details on page

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## From the Director, continued

4). This pilot is an innovative, user-focused approach to e-book selection and purchase, and I hope this initiative will model new ways for us to consider library e-book purchasing in the VCCS.

Last fall, at the director's meeting, we talked about "thinking like a startup." That was a cool idea, but it needed some direction. One effort that we felt might generate some momentum was to start thinking proactively about how we can empower faculty to use existing library e-resources more effectively.

The discussion last fall highlighted the fact that we can accomplish more cooperatively than alone, so with that in mind, Tara and I have been working on a plan to help create such an environment.

As a first step, we

were able to get a System Office project grant to fund the use of LibGuides for at least one year for all the colleges (more details about this are available on the Lincsite discussion forum).

The next step will be to develop a one-day meeting of interested staff from across the system to develop this resource and to collaboratively identify and remove barriers to use.

Although not quite as cool for us as it is cool for him, Frank Moran has retired from his position as the library director at Blue Ridge Community College. Frank is one of the "old guard" who has been active in our work for many years. He was on the original library automation committee and (you can blame him in part) the search committee that hired me.

From my perspective, some of Frank's key achievements were his

years as a representative on the SCHEV Library Advisory Committee, membership in the original VIVA Steering Committee, as well as his many years on the VIVA "collections committee." Frank joins many of our good friends and colleagues who have felt that call – have a good retirement Frank!

**-Gene Damon**

## Spotlight on Team TOTAL



Dr. Susan Wood congratulates TOTAL Team Lead Juliette Mersiowsky (Germana) and Team Members Donna Levy (J. S. Reynolds), Natalie Clewell (Northern Virginia), Joan Osborne (Northern Virginia), Bob Loser (Northern Virginia), and Crystal Newell (Piedmont Virginia) at New Horizons 2013. Photo: Clem Britt.

The New Horizons Excellence in Education (EIE) Awards acknowledge the enhancement of student success within the VCCS. Most recently, the winning project in *the Innovative Use of Technology in the Face-to-Face and Online Classroom* category was [TOTAL - Topics in Online Teaching and Learning](#).

Two librarians were part of this outstanding team effort: **Natalie Clewell** (Extended

Learning Institute Librarian, NVCC) and **Crystal Newell** (Circulation/Access Librarian, Jessup Library, PVCC) created two workshops on copyright and open education resources (OERs).

The major goal of the Topics in Online Teaching and Learning (TOTAL) project is to provide a flexible, modularized professional development program for VCCS faculty who teach blended or online courses.

TOTAL was created collaboratively by colleagues from 5 VCCS colleges during the 2011-2012 academic year, to address the competencies necessary to support student success in online learning.

[TOTAL Workshop](#) content is available through Blackboard for use by any college in the VCCS. Congratulations to all [2013 Excellence in Education Award Winners!](#)

## VIVA Demand-Driven Acquisitions Pilot Project Update



Demand-driven acquisitions (DDA) is an emerging electronic acquisitions model in which libraries provide access to a selected pool of e-book content that has the potential be used, and the library only pays for on-demand user access.

DDA service allows your library to display pre-selected e-book titles in library catalog search results without purchasing the e-books in advance. DDA users have on-demand access to any title from the pre-selected set that they happen to find, so no one will ever be locked out. A frequently-used DDA e-book triggers itself to be purchased and added to the library's regular collection.

In this way, DDA is cost-effective, providing access to titles as they are needed and reducing the guesswork in library collection development.

VIVA is conducting a 12-month DDA pilot at all member schools - this includes all of Virginia's community college libraries. Ebook [Library](#) (EBL) is the vendor for this pilot project. Negotiations continue, although publishers John Wiley & Sons, Oxford University Press, Jossey-Bass, McGraw-Hill UK, and Wiley-VCH recently agreed to participate in the program.

The projected start date for the pilot program at Virginia's Community College libraries is May 29, 2013. All DDA-related catalog maintenance will be managed by the system office.

In this pilot program, which is exclusively VIVA-funded and limited to STEM-H e-books, VIVA will automatically purchase only high-demand e-books from the pre-selected pool of titles after a specific number of uses is achieved

VIVA-wide for a given title. The pool is limited to roughly 5,000 STEM-H titles that have already been published, and were pre-selected by VIVA based on STEM-H programs available statewide.

This innovative effort will permit community college library users access to the latest STEM-H e-book titles via their home library catalogs, and have VIVA pay only for titles that are used.

At the end of this pilot, outcomes will include: a new set of STEM-H e-books available on demand and available VIVA-wide; e-books which were purchased based on direct evidence of high use; a working model for college libraries that want to pursue individual DDA projects (with EBL or another vendor); and data on acquisition and use patterns, both statewide, VCCS-wide, and on the college level.

## Recent Book Events at Blue Ridge's Houff Library

Houff Library recently hosted two book signings. Retired BRCC employee, Bob Oakes, was the featured author at Houff Library's first ever book signing on September 26, 2012. His book, [Black Crystal](#) (Blue Ridge Publishing, 2011), is the first in a fantasy trilogy Bob has written. This was a long-awaited event for Bob, Houff Library, and BRCC.



BRCC President John Downey, author Bob Oakes, and BRCC Vice President Bob Young .



Clifford Garstang answers questions from Laura Dwyer and Diane Flower, BRCC employees.

[Cliff Garstang](#), one of our adjunct English instructors, gave a short reading during Houff Library's second book signing on February 13, 2013. He has written two books, [In an Uncharted Country](#) (Press 53, 2009) and his newest, [What the Zhang Boys Know](#) (Press 53, 2012).

All of these books are available for checkout from Houff Library.

## New Library at Germanna's Fredericksburg Area Campus



The new library at Germanna Community College is a vital part of the new Science, Engineering and Information Commons Building in Fredericksburg. The three story, 52,000 square foot green building provides laboratories, a state of the art learning commons/library, and a variety of classroom spaces. The new building is a LEED Silver Certified facility. The building puts learning on display which is exemplified by the significant number of windows. It is also a building that provides opportunities to explain engineering concepts through the design of the facility,



including a working wind turbine capable of providing enough power for 15 laptops and to charge 100 cell phones. The building also includes a vegetative roof and a rain water harvesting system, with the pump and cistern located underground, allowing use of captured rain water to flush the toi-

lets. The laboratory's exhausts use an energy recovery system that helps supplement the main HVAC system which achieves significant savings in heating and cooling costs.

The Library's information commons is almost 12,000 square feet. This is a dramatic increase from the former space of approximately 3,500 square feet. The information commons promotes applied learning. Each of the seventy-two new computer stations is loaded with a broad suite of software. This allows Germanna students to access scholarly resources and



## New Library at Germanna, continued

create the content needed for their assignments all in one place. This a significant increase in the number of computer stations for student use. Students may also choose to bring in their own hardware and connect to the campus's wireless network.

The new space has an open design and offers contemporary furnishings, allowing patrons a mix of soft seating as well small group tables. The first floor offers a vibrant and active space where group work is encouraged. This space includes a coffee bar and a space for stu-



dents to eat and relax. Adjacent to this area are computer stations and two rows of stacks that run the length of the library opposite of the floor to ceiling glass windows. Positioned along the windows are tables and lounge chairs. This gives users an abundance of natural light to do their work. The second floor is a des-

ignated quiet study space. This space also has a significant amount of windows and offers a refuge for those that need a quiet space to study. The space houses the current periodicals collection, a small ready reference collection, and the media collections.

Students are encouraged to schedule one of the six new study rooms so that they can work on group projects. These group study rooms have floor to ceiling glass views offering plenty of natural light. The rooms are also loaded with different technology options. Two rooms have Simo-





## New Library at Germanna, continued from p. 7

Tables that allow multiple users to plug-in their devices so they can collaborate on group projects. The remaining rooms have large LCD screens mounted so that students can practice for their presentations.

The library has a 24 seat instruction room with laptops and docking stations that assure users can perform hands-on assign-

ments. This space has is surrounded by floor to ceiling glass that offers both an impressive view and natural light.

Ultimately the overall goal for the new library was to make it the nexus for students and to assure that the space is a vibrant place for people to learn and share information instead of simply a warehouse

for books. Based on the significant amount of use by students in the first few months since opening this facility, the library is well on its way to achieving this goal.



## QuickSearch @ Your Library

The [QuickSearch discovery tool](#) is a single search for library books, articles, and media. Customized to your college, this service replaces and expands the traditional library catalog.

Ten colleges have already completed the tasks associated with customization, so that when their users select the 'Library Services' link in the col-

lege student portal, they will go to QuickSearch.

In April 2013, QuickSearch was upgraded to version 4. In this upgrade, there were a number of improvements made on the administrative side, most notably more flexible options to add a QuickSearch box to a web site. For the end-user, enhanced features in-

clude enhanced options to include or exclude multiple facets to browse results, save an entire page of results at one time (instead of saving search results individually), and to personalize search results by degree type and academic discipline.

## J. S. Reynolds' Downtown Campus Library Gets a Makeover



The Downtown Campus Library at J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College recently opened its doors to students with a whole new look and feel. The renovation included substantial improvements to the layout of the library including a new, contemporary circulation desk greeting patrons as they enter. The circulation desk staff stands ready to direct students, faculty and community users to the services they need.

Gone are the nineties –era shelving and hodgepodge of furniture. Instead, the library has been completely refurbished and transformed with striking cherry wood shelves, study carou-

sels, and 36 matching computer stations. These top of the line computers are a valued resource for students and are in great demand. Availability and access to current computer technology are important to students who often don't have such resources at home. Reference librarians are on hand at the new information desk, conveniently located near the com-



puters, to assist students with technology and research.

Students who like a little elbow room can take a seat at one of the newly added larger tables which provide comfortable seating, or utilize new sleek black lamps for extra lighting. Club chairs and conveniently located outlets allow students to comfortably spread out, plug in, and get things done. The stylish new design of the library is both functional and welcoming. For those wanting a quiet space to work, study carousels can be found at alternate ends of the library.

Another valued resource added to the Downtown Campus library is three private

J. Sargeant Reynolds  
Community College



## J. S. Reynolds Downtown Campus Library, continued

All photos courtesy of [JSRLibrary's Flickr photostream](#)

group study rooms. These rooms provide students with important collaborative workspaces. These collaborative environments support learning communities and encourage the sharing of ideas and the transfer of knowledge among learners – key tenets of the JSRCC Library mission.

The renovation project at the Downtown Campus Library also added an adjacent electronic classroom. This important new asset will be available for library instruction, digital workshops, and provide additional learning opportunities for faculty and students.



The stylish look of the newly renovated library reflects the importance of creating a comfortable learning space to meet students' needs. The renovated Downtown Campus Library continues to support the JSRCC Library mission of providing an intellectual center that ensures access to a variety of tools in order to support lifelong learning. This focus can be seen in the

collaborative spaces which emphasize learning, and new computers that increase access to technology. The availability of comfortable spaces for group and individual work and quiet spaces for uninterrupted study also support lifelong learning.

Come on in and see how we've changed!

Save the Date

- |   |                  |
|---|------------------|
| ALA 2013 Annual Conference: Chicago, IL   | June 27- July 2  |
| <a href="#">ACRL Harvard Leadership Institute for Academic Librarians</a> : Cambridge, MA | July 28 - Aug. 3 |
| New Horizons 2014 Call for Presentations  | Sep. - Oct. 2013 |
| VLA 2013 Conference: Williamsburg, VA   | Sep. 25 - 27     |

Save the Date

## New Titles Available from Oxford Reference

The [Grove Encyclopedia of Medieval Art and Architecture](#) offers unparalleled coverage of all aspects of art and architecture from Medieval Western Europe, from the 6th century to the early 16th century.

The [Oxford Companion to Comparative Politics](#) fills a gap in scholarship on an increasingly important field within Political Science. Comparative Politics, the discipline devoted to the politics of other countries or peoples, has steadily gained prominence, allowing politics to be viewed from a wider foundation than a concentration on domestic affairs alone would permit. The Companion focuses on the major theories, concepts, and conclusions that define the field, analyzing the similarities and differences between political units. Entries cover such topics as failed states,

grand strategies, soft power, capital punishment, gender and politics, and totalitarianism, as well as countries such as China and Afghanistan

The [Oxford Encyclopedia of American Political and Legal History](#) provides comprehensive coverage of political and legal history in the United States, covering for the first time in one reference work the key events, historical actors, presidential elections, court cases, and larger political and legal trends throughout American history.

[Oxford Encyclopedia of American Social History](#): Over the past forty years, social historians have drawn on new sources and methodologies to shift the focus of historical interest to the experiences of ordinary people. The result has been a radical rethinking of the great events and historical transfor-

mations in American history, and The Oxford Encyclopedia of American Social History synthesizes the extraordinary wealth of information uncovered by this inquiry.

### [Oxford Companion to American Politics](#):

This is the first reference work to provide detailed, in-depth coverage of all aspects of American politics. Top scholars have written entries that form the core of the book, covering such topics as climate change, terrorism, welfare policies, nuclear proliferation, voting behavior, and think tanks. Each of these entries includes high-level scrutiny of the literature, history, and future of the topic.



## Vision and Tenacity Built a Beautiful Space at NOVA's Loudoun Campus

### NOVA Libraries



to find the very best furniture and fixtures. The choices and their placement were vital to our vision.”

Lambert, Beltran and committee members understood the design of the space dictates human behavior. At times, they found it challenging to explain the importance of creating spaces that accommodated each learning style.

Upon entering Loudoun’s new library, students are amazed by the panoramic view but, more importantly, students feel comfortable in the library. “I feel drawn in at the library. It almost feels like home,” said Alfred J. Guillen-Escobari, president of Loudoun’s Student Government Association.

This type of vision for design doesn’t just happen. Every decision was intentional. “Collection librarian **Dana Beltran** and I had a vision to create a space that was inspirational yet practical,” said **Tamatha Lambert**, reference librarian. “We spent hours researching, talking to experts and discussing every option in order

“At one point the architect wanted to put a quiet study room in between two group study rooms. I had to explain to him that the noise from the groups would certainly pollute the quiet areas,” said Beltran. “I was determined to have a library where all students could study and research.” All that vision and tenacity paid off.



These are a few of our favorite things, from left to right: power at your feet and in the tables, little miss muppet’s tuffet; display shelves built into the stacks; instructive signs; compact, clear, & clean periodical boxes; seating is part of the view.

## Beautiful Space at NOVA's Loudoun Campus, continued



There hasn't been one sign posted reminding students to be quiet. The librarians no longer say "shhh." And on any given day, you will find students studying and collaborating in all the right places. The interior design of the space is beautiful but the view of the horizon

outplays it.

"The best part of the day is when the sun sets. Students, faculty and staff all stop for a moment and relax as they watch the sun fall behind the Blue Ridge Mountains," said Beltran.

*Written by Jolie Perara (NOVA Loudoun Community Relations), Tamaatha Lambert & Dana Beltran.*

*Photos by Dana Beltran. §*

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Library System News**



Available Online