Spring 2010

Library System News, Spring 2010

VCCS Library Services

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Welcome to Volume 1, issue 2 of the library system newsletter. As with the first issue, we have some statistics of interest, however, the main theme of the newsletter is a look at some of the exciting new LRC facilities across the system. I know these are but a sample of the changes to library space of the last few years. What is really impressive in this sample and the other library space not represented here is the quality of the space that has been developed.

Attractive, well-designed space reflects well on our colleges and provides a great place for our patrons who, if national trends are to be believed, are making increased use of the library’s facilities. These trends suggest that the academic library has become a focal point of student study, collaboration, and a place of quiet in an otherwise noisy world. It is almost a “back to the future” feeling I get when I see the return of areas in a library that are flagged as “quiet zones.” One of my first jobs as a library student worker was to regularly monitor the Quiet Study Room at the U. of Maine’s Fogler Library to ensure that it was being used as it was intended. By the late 60’s, such areas were considered “old fashioned” and most academic libraries did away with them. I wonder, how much has the cell phone influenced the return of these spaces?

One personal comment may be in order here. You’ll see that Tara has noted the citation that the VLA surprised me with last month. It was a complete surprise and very much appreciated. The citation talks about my 13, now closer to 14, years at the VCCS. There is, however, a problem with what the citation says – it does not recognize the real source of my success. Nothing that I may have accomplished in my time here would have been possible without the tremendous support and hard work of the LRC staff across the system. It is easy to look good when you have such a strong, competent team with which to work. Thanks for all that you do each day. We still have much we can do, and will do, to provide our students with the best possible service.

-Gene Damon

Take a look around these new library spaces:

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Introducing the NetLibrary Career Collection

Job seekers have access to some new online resources thanks to a collaboration between Virginia’s Community Colleges, The Library of Virginia, and LYRASIS, a regional membership organization for libraries and information professionals. These organizations came together to create a customized collection of over 250 NetLibrary eBooks to support job seekers. The collection includes information on different career fields, testing strategies, résumé writing, and related topics. VCCS users can search the NetLibrary Career Collection through the library catalog. Initial access to these eBooks can be gained at Virginia’s community college or public libraries. Users will be prompted to establish a free NetLibrary account that will allow them to access the resources from any computer with internet access.

Virginia’s Community Colleges Workforce Development Services used federal stimulus funding through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to support this effort as a way to provide valuable information for students and job seekers.

Most Popular Career E-Book Titles Since Launch:


Gene Damon Awarded VLA Presidential Citation

At the January 29, 2010, meeting of the Virginia Library Association (VLA) Council, our colleague and friend Gene Damon was awarded a VLA Presidential Citation.

This citation is in recognition of Gene’s 36 years of commitment to libraries and library service, and his exemplary service since 1996 as Director of Library Automation and Learning Resources for Virginia’s Community Colleges. In addition to managing library systems at University of Waterloo, Northeastern University, and Virginia’s Community Colleges, Gene played an important role in the initial years of library systems automation at GEAC, now known as Infor Library and Information Solutions, and at CARL Corporation, now part of The Library Corporation.

Over the last 13 years, Gene has helped acquire and ensure access to a vast array of information resources for Virginia’s Community College libraries, enabling students and staff to easily access and exchange information.

The VLA Presidential Citation is intended to recognize the unsung heroes of librarianship in Virginia. Mr. Moorman intends to present a presidential citation at each meeting of Council during his term as president. 2010 VLA Council Meetings are scheduled for April 9, June 11, and September 10.

Recipients of this honor are long-term leaders who care about the profession and the individuals who work in it. Congratulations, Gene!

Mr. Gene Damon (left) is awarded a citation from VLA President John Moorman at January’s VLA Council Meeting.
Embedded Librarian Program Update: NVCC Annandale Campus

Research has shown that having a librarian attached to an online course can significantly improve the quality of student research. In Spring 2008, Electronic Services Librarian Irene Osterman pioneered our popular Embedded Librarian program, in which librarians collaborate with faculty teaching online courses via BlackBoard.

Embedding a librarian in a course is as simple as adding the librarian as a teaching assistant; the librarian can then create custom tutorials, subject guides, and video demos to support the curriculum and individual needs of the class. The librarian can also participate actively in the online discussion boards which are so vital to these courses.

The amount of integration into the course is highly flexible, based on the needs of the faculty and students. For example, the embedded librarian may create a "Research Toolbox" in a BlackBoard course so that students can easily locate relevant library materials such as subject-specific database links and video demos of how to search the databases. Students experience multiple ways of learning, which reinforce the concepts presented and prepare them for their own hands-on exploration of the databases.

NOVA’s distance learning program, the Extended Learning Institute, quickly embraced the initiative.

With Irene’s retirement at the end of 2009, the program has passed into my hands. Now in its sixth semester, the embedded librarian program has 20 current classes with more on the way!

--Maree L. Watkins
Electronic Services Assistant, NVCC Annandale Library
OverDrive Optimized For Mobile Users

Since 2007, VCCS users have been able to check out and download OverDrive audio books to enjoy on a personal computer or MP3 player.

The VCCS OverDrive download site is available 24/7 from anywhere in the world. Audio books are offered in a variety of subjects, including mystery, romance, science fiction, business and careers, self-improvement, and more.

VCCS Libraries now offer even greater access to the OverDrive download service through a mobile device-optimized website, coupled with software for downloading and listening on the go. This mobile version allows easy browsing, searching, and checkout from your Smartphone, Blackberry®, or other web-enabled device. Windows Mobile (5 or newer) users can wirelessly download audiobooks to their mobile device using OverDrive® Media Console for Windows Mobile. Android™ device owners can install a beta version of OverDrive Media Console to download OverDrive MP3 Audiobooks.

Most Popular Audiobook Titles Since Launch:


2009 Use Statistics Snapshot

**Number of Linker/EZproxy connections:** 829,066. This is a 48% increase over 2008/09.

**OPAC searches:** 620,888. This is a 3% decrease over 2008/09.

**Safari E-Books viewed:** 24,559 (Viewed means one or more pages were displayed).

**Full-text items downloaded:** 790,537.

Full-text downloads for Facts on File (FoF) were not reported last year, and they are not included in the download count above. In this period, 122,663 (FoF) articles were accessed. One interesting observation: Gale’s Opposing Viewpoints Resource Center and Virtual Reference Library collections account for 303,311 of the full text downloads. These are the VCCS licensed databases. To the Gale use count, we can add 80,206 articles, mostly from the Literature Resource Center, that are part of the VIVA license. Gale’s total downloads equal 380,517.

All of the EBSCO databases, together, account for another 375,952. If we include the FoF articles, those three, Gale, EBSCO, and FoF, are the most heavily used databases, accounting for 879,132 full-text downloads. After that, excluding Safari, the next highest use is OVID’s nursing journals at 9,759 downloads.

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**Most Popular E-Journals, Fall 2009:**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nurse Educator</th>
<th>Alcohol Research and Health</th>
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<tr>
<td>Nursing Made Incredibly Easy!</td>
<td>Journal of Infusion Nursing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The American Journal of Nursing</td>
<td>Insomnia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mechanical Engineering</td>
<td>Journal of the American Chemical Society</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YC Young Children</td>
<td>Alcoholism: Clinical and Experimental Research</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Classes began at the brand new Fred W. Beazley Portsmouth Campus of Tidewater Community College (TCC) on January 11, 2010. The new campus consists of four two-story buildings and is located near the intersection of I-264 and Victory Boulevard in an area of the city known as Victory Village.

Located in the heart of its partner city, the new campus reinvents the original "mother campus" on the Suffolk border with the latest in technology and learning-centered design. The new Portsmouth Campus boasts 25 classrooms, 11 instructional computer labs, 20 instructional labs for biology, chemistry, anatomy, welding and HVAC, four state-of-the-art human-patient simulator labs for nursing, 1,000 computers, and a high-tech library information commons.

Library Information Commons Hours

Monday - Thursday
7:30 A.M - 9:00 P.M.
Friday
7:30 P.M. - 7:00 P.M.
Saturday
9:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.

The new Portsmouth Campus library information commons offers students an open computer lab with 96 workstations, and provides instruction sessions in a state-of-the-art library classroom with 24 computers. The library also features the Digital Media Lab with Macs, PCs, and a Master Presentation Station (MPS) that is identical to the MPS in each classroom. Students can reserve the lab to practice presentations with the same equipment they would use in the classroom.

TCC’s library facilities, located on all four campuses and the Visual Arts Center, house nearly 177,000 titles including books, journals, newspapers, magazines, video, and audio recordings.
Thomas Nelson Community College
Historic Triangle Campus Library

Thomas Nelson Community College’s (TNCC) Historic Triangle campus opened in July 2009 and serves the greater Williamsburg community. Fall 2009 opened with an enrollment of over 1,700 students. Campus resources include twenty-five teaching classrooms, seven computer classrooms, five science laboratories, and a nursing laboratory. A dental hygiene clinic will open later this year to support TNCC’s new Dental Hygiene Program. The campus Learning Resource Center includes a library, tutoring and testing areas, and an Academic Computer Lab. The laborative work is emphasized at TNCC, the new library offers 10 study rooms to help students complete team assignments.

Lindsay Kleinow, Head Public Services Librarian for the Historic Triangle campus, started building the print and electronic collection over a year ago. The result is a carefully considered set of resources that are tailored to TNCC’s academic programs. To find out what’s available, stop by the Historic Triangle campus library or email Ms. Kleinow.

-Craig Amos, Public Services and Reference Librarian, TNCC
John Tyler Community College Midlothian Campus Library

The Library on John Tyler Community College’s (JTCC) Midlothian Campus moved into a beautiful space in the new Science Building during the summer of 2009 and opened to students on August 24. The Library occupies 10,500 square feet of the second floor of the 60,000 square foot building. Lovely floor-to-ceiling windows flank both the north and south sides of the Library.

JTCC’s Science Building is the first project in the VCCS to be registered under the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Green Building Rating System. The Library includes green features such as automated interior shades and exterior solar shields that cut glare without obstructing views. The soothing color scheme of white, cream and green is a pleasing backdrop for the life of the library.

The 110 computers, four study rooms and numerous study tables have been well used during the fall semester, as has the comfortable seating adjacent to the periodical and popular reading sections. The book stacks can accommodate 30,000 volumes. Instructors enjoy the Library Lab which has 34 computers, a wall-to-wall whiteboard and a ceiling-mounted projector. Staff enjoy the bright staff room with a huge window, maple furnishings and additional workspace.

Students, staff and faculty have expressed their appreciation for the new library in the way that matters most – they return again and again.

Midlothian Library Hours

Monday – Thursday:
7:30 A.M. – 9:00 P.M.
Friday:
7:30 A.M. – 5:00 P.M.
Saturday:
10 A.M. – 2:00 P.M.
The new Parham Library Learning Commons is located in the Ivor and Maureen Massey Library Technology Center. The Library Learning Commons provides a second home for students, with ample comfortable seating areas for social exchange, areas dedicated to undisturbed quiet study, group study rooms for conducting meetings, consultations, tutoring, and collaborative projects, around-the-clock professional assistance, and a wide range of information and technical resources. Students have access to state-of-the-art equipment including 52 public computer workstations, wireless Internet access, and an electronic classroom with 25 workstations.

Most importantly, students are provided with a wide range of information resources: 35,000 volumes of books, over 200 print journals, magazines, and newspapers, popular DVDs and audiobooks, and over 200 online research databases with access to millions of full-text ebooks and magazine, newspaper, and journal articles.
Central Virginia Community College
Bedford Learning Resource Center

Central Virginia Community College (CVCC) completed a total renovation of the Bedford Learning Resource Center in July 2009. The renovation was made possible by a 4.2 million-dollar appropriation grant by the Virginia General Assembly. Located on the main campus in Lynchburg, the Bedford Learning Resource Center is a state-of-the-art facility.

Students enter this 29,000 square foot building to find a welcoming coffee shop in the front lobby and a comfortable lounge beyond the service area. There are conveniently located study tables, carrels, computers, and the traditional print book collection.

There are six group study rooms and forty-two computers for public use, with a movable glass partition to cordon off nineteen of these computers for library instruction. Original exterior areas between brick columns were glassed in to create a light, open interior. The building is filled with student artwork from four decades of art classes at the college. An elevator and an open stairwell in the lobby give easy access to the second floor of the Learning Center. Upstairs, students will find computer and traditional classrooms as well as the CVCC Distance Education Center. The Distance Education Center delivers interactive television classes and online courses.

The Student Success Testing Center is also located on the second floor, where individual tutoring and academic testing services are offered. The second floor also houses the Center for Advanced Engineering and Research, which offers engineering graduate courses from major Virginia colleges and universities, delivered via interactive television.

Learning Resource Center Hours

Monday - Thursday:
8:00 AM - 9:00 PM
Friday:
8:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Saturday:
9:00 AM - 1:00 PM
MetaLinc’s Popularity Grows

MetaLinc is the libraries’ one-stop subscription database search engine. Use MetaLinc to focus and save time spent searching, take advantage of customized alerts, and create QuickSets of your preferred databases.

Connecting students to MetaLinc from a new Library Services link in the VCCS student portal generated tremendous use in Spring 2009. From Fall 2008 to Spring 2009:

- User sessions increased by 840%
- QuickSet searches increased by 345%
- Single resource searches increased by 140%
- Links to native database interfaces increased by 440%.

High use continued from Spring 2009 to Fall 2009:

- User sessions increased by 24%
- QuickSet searches increased by 76%
- Single resource searches increased by 98%
- Links to native database interfaces increased by 22%.

Try MetaLinc’s updated QuickSets for English, Nursing, Psychology, and Spanish Language research.

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<th>Fall 2008</th>
<th>Spring 2009</th>
<th>Fall 2009</th>
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<tr>
<td>User Sessions</td>
<td>10,744</td>
<td>5,381</td>
<td>125,619</td>
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<tr>
<td>QuickSet Searches</td>
<td>23,867</td>
<td>41,888</td>
<td>84,477</td>
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<tr>
<td>Single Searches</td>
<td>48,736</td>
<td>35,070</td>
<td>166,954</td>
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<td>Links to Native</td>
<td>9,034</td>
<td>9,034</td>
<td>59,661</td>
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