

Spring 2011

Library System News, Spring 2011

VCCS Library Services

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Library System News

Virginia's Community Colleges

Volume 2 Issue 2 - Spring 2011

From the Director

Welcome to the fourth issue of the Library System News. From the system support point of view, Fall 2010 was very busy, and that trend continues as Spring 2011 gets underway.

We put in place, tested and then implemented a new version of ALEPH (release 20) and we are in the final stages of testing a new version of SFX (release 4). Both of these projects included the obvious software changes as well as migrating both applications to new hardware.

In this issue of our newsletter, you will see that our e-resource services continue to change and evolve. A quick look at the first six months' (July - December 2010) statistics highlights three indicators of growing use. If we were to maintain the same level of use from January through June 2011 as seen in

July through December 2010, we would observe:

- Overall e-resource use increase of roughly 4.8% (based on linker/EZproxy session data);
- EBSCOHost database use increase of over 30% (use measured in full-text articles downloaded);
- Safari E-books database use increase of over 70% (use measured in documents viewed).

These sample statistics would

suggest that not only is the general rate of access to the e-resources increasing (session increase of almost 5%), but that once a user engages with a given database, the amount of use is also increasing. For example, while the EBSCOhost session count is projected to increase by about 8.5% the article download total is projected to increase by 37%.

I hope all have a good productive term, and stay warm!

-Gene Damon

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Introducing ProQuest Dissertations and Theses: Full-text



Introducing the official digital dissertations archive for the Library of Congress and the database of record for graduate research, **ProQuest Dissertations and Theses: Full-text.**

This database includes 2.7 million searchable citations to dissertations and theses from around the world from 1861 to the present day. Of that number, 1.2 million full

text dissertations are available for download in PDF format. The



database offers full text for most of the dissertations added since 1997 and strong retrospective full text coverage for older graduate works.

Each dissertation published since July 1980 includes a 350-word

abstract written by the author. Master's theses published since 1988 include 150-word abstracts. Simple bibliographic citations are available for dissertations dating from 1637.

VCCS access to Dissertations and Theses FT is sponsored by VIVA, the Virtual Library of Virginia.

Save the Date

Computers in Libraries, Washington DC	MAR 21-23, 2011
National Library Week	APR 10-16, 2011
VCCS New Horizons, Roanoke VA	APR 13-15, 2011
ALA Annual Conference, New Orleans LA	JUN 23-28, 2011
VLA Conference, Portsmouth VA	OCT 27-28, 2011

Save the Date

Progress on VIVA Wiley/Blackwell Negotiation

As you know, VIVA had a subscription to the Blackwell Synergy e-journal collection for several years. About two years ago, that collection was sold to [Wiley Online](#). In the initial renewal negotiations with Wiley, the structure of Wiley's offer resulted in a price that VIVA did not believe it could support. The expectation was that VIVA would have to cancel that subscription.

When VIVA plans to cancel any product, some VIVA institutions may find it necessary to pick up part or all of the content that is part of the planned cancellation. In this situation it is of primary importance to ensure that the resulting total cost to the State will not be greater than the initial quote for the State-wide VIVA contract under review.

Once the recommendation to cancel the Wiley/Blackwell sub-

scription was made, a review was carried out to detail how various VIVA institutions would respond to the cancellation. The result of that review indicated that there was a strong chance that the total cost would come close to equaling, or possibly exceeding, the cost in the initial quote.



In light of this review, VIVA re-opened the negotiations with Wiley and that has resulted in an agreement to acquire the Wiley e-journal collection. This purchase, however, includes more than just the Blackwell content within Wiley. In addition to the Blackwell content, the new agreement will include most of the Wiley Online e-journal collection, a larger collection of journals compared to the old Blackwell agreement.

Beyond the availability of a larger collection for the VCCS, the major implication of this purchase is that the VCCS costs will increase.

In addition to what the VCCS has been paying for the Wiley/Blackwell content, the VCCS will be charged for all of the non-Blackwell Wiley titles to which various colleges currently subscribe. These negotiations are still in process. Stay tuned to the [VCCS Lincsite](#) discussion for more information as it becomes available.

The current VIVA/VCCS [Wiley](#) subscription provides access to articles from 1,500 journals, including peer-reviewed primary research and survey journals in all subject areas.

23 Things Program Continues at VCCS Libraries

Thing 01: Blogging
 Thing 02: Web 2.0 Concepts
 Thing 03: RSS Feeds
 Thing 04: Social & Professional Networking
 Thing 05: Wikis
 Thing 06: Chat
 Thing 07: Sharing Slide Presentations
 Thing 08: Screencasting
 Thing 09: Photos and Image Generators
 Thing 10: Twitter
 Thing 11: URL Shorteners
 Thing 12: Cloud Computing
 Thing 13: Document Sharing
 Thing 14: Online Surveys
 Thing 15: Creative Commons
 Thing 16: E-books
 Thing 17: Social Cataloging
 Thing 18: Audiobooks
 Thing 19: Multimedia
 Thing 20: Tagging and Social Bookmarking
 Thing 21: Mashups
 Thing 22: Podcasts
 Thing 23: The end?

Launched at VCCS Libraries in April 2010, [23 Things](#) is an online program designed to guide library staff as they expand their knowledge of popular tools that are freely available online.



This discovery learning program was created by Helene

Blowers. Her original program has been replicated by over 700 organizations in 15 countries. Helene Blowers is currently Director of Digital Strategy at Columbus Metropolitan Library (OH).



The goal of [23 Things](#) is to encourage our staff

to learn about the technologies that have reshaped communication and the context of information on the Internet today by providing a risk-free sandbox to play and experiment in. Participants

become familiar with new ways to connect with other librarians, communicate, instruct, collaborate, and share information.



Participants start the program by establishing a blog to share their experiences and document participation as they work through the program at their own pace, generating blog posts for each new "Thing" they learn about. Each "Thing" introduces some kind of Web tool with an overview, a discovery task, and optional advanced tasks or further information.

Those who complete all 23 things receive a certificate of comple



tion and a prize provided by one of our e-resource vendors.

Congratulations to the Class of 2010!

This group successfully completed the program and was recognized at the Library Peer Group Meeting in October 2010:

Elizabeth Dellavedova
(NoVa)

KC Frankenburger
(Germannan)

Barbara Grether
(Danville)

Amanda Hartman
(JS Reynolds)

Christine Kush
(John Tyler)

Susan Lawlor
(Thomas Nelson)

Dana Roggenbaum
(NoVa)

Suzanne Sherry
(John Tyler)

Erin Stevenson
(Lord Fairfax)

Karen Wisecarver
(Lord Fairfax)

Library staff are welcome to start this self-paced program anytime! Visit <https://sites.google.com/a/email.vccs.edu/23things/> to register.

Mobile Tagging With QR Codes

Barcoding library material introduced us to images that link a physical item to an electronic record. QR or Quick Response

codes function similarly, but they are not limited to library books and the library catalog.

Originally developed in Japan to track auto parts throughout the manufacturing process,

these codes convey complex information instantly. QR codes can be placed just about anywhere to connect mobile users with encoded text, online content, or a phone/SMS number.

To interpret QR codes, you'll need a mobile phone with camera and a code scanner

application installed. The scanner app uses the camera to automatically detect and scan a QR code.

Tagging with QR codes is free. Anyone can create QR codes with free online generators such as Delivr, GoQR.me, and Kaywa.

There are free and low-cost QR scanner apps available for most mobile devices, including the Android, Blackberry, and iPhone.

Imagine the ways QR codes could benefit library users with mobile phones. For

example, QR codes can connect the physical stacks with ebooks and ejournals, or link physical library spaces with the corresponding online reservation systems.

For more information, see "[7 Things You Should Know about QR Codes](#)," *ELI* 2/2009.



If you scanned this QR code with your phone, where would it take you?

When the camera takes a picture of a QR code, the scanner app interprets the data contained within the code image and translates for the user. The data could be anything: text to display, linked online content, or a phone number to save the trouble of dialing.

QR codes connect the physical world and the online world.

A library guide to QR codes is available from Boise State University:

<http://guides.boisestate.edu/QRcodes>

Systems Update



Over the last few months, we have been working on major upgrades on two of our library services, ALEPH and SFX.

ALEPH

On December 28, 2010, after almost three months of testing, ALEPH was switched to Release 20. This is the third



release we have used since the implementation of ALEPH in 2004 (R16.2, R18, and now R20.01).

There are three areas of significant change with this release:

- The course reserves module has been completely re-written and greatly simplified from a system support point of view;
- Task manager and all of its associated functions have

been re-written as a separate module within each of the main applications;

- The staff permissions management module has been expanded and re-structured to provide additional security controls and to simplify the various management tasks.

Over all, the transition to the new release has gone well. There are a few remaining tasks associated with this upgrade, the most significant being an implementation of a test/backup server running the same release level as production.

SFX

We are in the final stages of testing the

SFX

new release of SFX, release 4. With one exception (bX), end

users should see very little change from this upgrade.

Most of the enhancements in this release have been targeted at two areas:

- Improving the administrative module;
- Structural changes to the database design to improve efficiency and to provide a base for future developments.

bX Article Recommendation Service

bX recommendations are a new SFX service that users will see on the SFX menu. bX is a facility that links SFX to a central database, maintained by ExLibris, which tracks the relationship between various journal articles.

How does it work? If a VCCS user looks at an initial article or citation



and clicks the LincIT button, bX will show references for suggested articles, if any.

bX suggests additional related articles that other SFX users worldwide browsed in the same session during which they selected the same article as the VCCS user.

This is a function similar to the Amazon.com service that indicates additional titles that other users browsed or purchased when you browse details for

a book on the Amazon site. bX adds value in two significant ways :

1. If the user clicks on the LincIT button in any of our databases where full-text is **not available** for that article, bX will suggest other articles that may be of interest and display suggestions on the SFX display page. It may be that some of the bX suggestions are available to the user in full-text format.
2. If the user clicks on the LincIT button in any of our databases where full-text **is available** for that article, bX will still suggest other articles that may be of interest. To see the suggestions in this case, the user would need to click the Advanced Menu link on the SFX display page.

bX will go live with the new version of SFX , anticipated to go into production in early February 2011. §