

SCHEV -- LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Shenandoah University
Byrd Board Room – Henkel Hall
Winchester, Virginia

September 22, 2006
9:00 a.m.

MINUTES (Final revision)

ATTENDANCE: Ralph Alberico (James Madison University), Christopher Bean (Shenandoah University), Tom Camden for Nolan Yelich (Library of Virginia), Gene Damon (Virginia Community College System), Elaine Day (Averett University), Tracie Elliott (Rappahannock Community College), Wally Grotophorst for John Zenelis (George Mason University), David Hayes (Radford University), Craig Herndon (SCHEV), John Jaffe (Sweet Briar College), Mark Linker for Wendell Barbour (Longwood University), Connie McCarthy (The College of William and Mary), Mary Mayer-Hennelly (Tidewater Community College), Virginia O'Herron (Old Dominion University), Jane Edmister Penner for Karin Wittenborg (University of Virginia), Kathy Perry (VIVA), Don Samdahl (Virginia Military Institute), Aileen Schweitzer (Thomas Nelson Community College), Carol Sinwell (Northern Virginia Community College), LeRoy Strohl (University of Mary Washington)

Guest: Dan Cohen

CALL TO ORDER: Don Samdahl, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M.

INTRODUCTIONS AND PRELIMINARY COMMENTS:

Don Samdahl thanked Christopher Bean for hosting the LAC meeting and dinner. Chris Bean welcomed the group to Shenandoah University.

Dr. Tracy Fitzsimmons, Vice President for Academic Affairs at Shenandoah University, also extended a warm welcome, stressing the contributions of library and media services to the college mission and the significant role that librarians play in all aspects of academic life. Dr. Fitzsimmons noted Christopher Bean's outstanding leadership in many capacities at Shenandoah University.

The minutes of the July 14, 2006 meeting were approved as distributed.

VIVA REPORTS:

Connie McCarthy, Chair, Steering Committee, VIVA

1. Connie announced the recent appointment of Tansy Matthews, the VIVA Associate Director.
2. The Advocacy Committee has been actively dialoging with the State Council of Higher Education of Virginia. Gene Damon, John Ulmschneider, Kathy Perry and Connie McCarthy met with Fran Bradford on August 3rd ; John Ulmschneider, Kathy Perry and Connie McCarthy met

with Susan Magill, newly appointed SCHEV member on September 25th. The committee will continue to meet with new members in the upcoming months.

3. Responding to the issue of rising college textbook costs, the Advocacy Committee developed a proposal for a specialized ebooks package and shared the proposal with SCHEV Executive Director Daniel J. LaVista. Connie and Kathy have been invited back to SCHEV to address the electronic textbooks concept. During the next few months Gene Damon and the Resources for Users Committee will survey VIVA institutions to gather more information about current ebook collections and practices.

Kathy Perry, VIVA Project Director

1. The Steering Committee renewed the following VIVA resources by e-vote on August 18, 2006: a. ACM Journals; b Factiva; c. Gale – GaleNet; d .Gale – Literature Resource Center access; e. Nature Journals; f. Ovid – LWW Journals; g. Ovid – Nursing Journals
2. The Steering Committee approved VIVA's endorsement of Portico (<http://www.portico.org>), a permanent archive of electronic scholarly journals. Each VIVA institution must make its own decision about joining Portico, however, VIVA's Letter of Understanding (announced 11-21-06) will allow members to receive the maximum consortial discount.
3. The Steering Committee approved the allocation of the EBSCO refund for collections, preferably a one-time acquisition appropriate for a majority of member institutions.
4. Kathy provided a handout listing the *ILL Document Delivery Allocations, 2006-07, Based on Lending of Originals to other VIVA Libraries in 2005-2006*.
5. Kathy noted that she is continuing efforts to reduce eVA expenses for VIVA contracts.
6. The VIVA Users Group will meet Nov. 9th, 5:00 – 6:00 p.m. at the Virginia Library Association conference in Williamsburg

VIVA Resources for Users Committee: Gene Damon, Chair

Gene Damon disseminated the "VIVA Resources for Users Committee Report to the Steering Committee, September 21, 2006," summarized the Committee's recommendations for renewals and reported the Steering Committee's actions on other matters:

1. The VIVA Steering Committee approved these renewals: a. American Chemical Society journals; b. American Mathematical Society journals; c. CIAO; d. CRC/EngNETBase; e. LN Congressional; f. AMS MathSciNet.
2. The Steering Committee approved the addition of Gale Academic OneFile for all VIVA public members and all VIVA private members participating in the Pooled Funds Program. Gene distributed handouts outlining the contents and features of Academic OneFile.
3. Gene reviewed the RUC's recommendation for the shared purchase of Blackwell's Synergy Collection and reemphasized the added value of this e-journal collection. Gene also distributed a spreadsheet showing cost sharing projections for Synergy for the next 5 years.

The Steering Committee approved the Blackwell cost-sharing recommendation. Gene Damon and Kathy Perry will prepare and send letters to each library director outlining the details of the arrangements. A commitment from each participant is requested by October 16, 2006.

4. Gene noted that the RUC is investigating other high value collections for cost-sharing, including the ACS Archives and the IEEE ASPP package.

Virginia Heritage Project: Dave Hayes, Chair

Dave reported that the Virginia Heritage Proposal Task Force has made good progress over the course of several meetings and has developed a second draft of the grant proposal. Archivists and special collections librarians from the original Task Force will be invited to a meeting on October 19 for a presentation of the proposal and a question-and-answer session.

VIVA Task Force on Multimedia Collections: Ralph Alberico, Chair

Ralph distributed the "VIVA Task Force on Multimedia Collections Report to the Steering Committee, September 21, 2006, which summarized recent task force activities:

1. Several IT departments of VIVA institutions have already volunteered to test the Shibboleth service and will install Shibboleth Origin software on their campuses and join the InCommon federation: JMU, UVa, VCU and UMW. Responses are pending from GMU and W&M. Iris Moubrey has reviewed the UVa contract with InCommon and recommends that each school duplicate the language in that contract.
2. The Task Force anticipates a September 2006 completion date for finalizing encoding standards for high and low bandwidth distribution at bit rates of 300 and 800 kbps and viewable with the free QuickTime player. Due to the time-consuming process of encoding the video files, the Task Force explored the possibility of outsourcing this work and received preliminary estimates from a service bureau for transcoding the collection. Due to the relatively low cost of the service and the more expedient turnaround time, the VIVA Steering Committee approved funds to outsource the encoding of the PBS video files for online distribution.
3. Quality assurance for streamed video is one of the biggest issues to resolve and will involve testing of the files produced as well as testing from the end user's perspective. The Task Force is proposing a testing construct known as a Hypothetical Reference Circuit (HRC) that will allow testing of the variables within the delivery system, such as the desktop capabilities in each institutional environment. The goal is to make streaming video as workable as possible for all users, including those with relatively low bandwidth networks.
4. Next steps include:
 - Finalize initial participants in Shibboleth experiment; join InCommon
 - Build Shibboleth/Darwin connector
 - Install Shibboleth Origin at test institutions
 - Encode a test set of files and mount them on a server at UVA
 - Begin testing files on different circuits

- Finalize mass encoding strategy
- Develop a plan for distributing encoded files
- Begin developing a strategy for cataloging, file system and user interface to the collection
- Begin developing a strategy for user support

5. Ralph demonstrated one of the PBS videos being streamed from the JMU server. Discussion followed regarding network and bandwidth issues at each campus. One member suggested that the VIVA streaming video project could make a stronger case for increasing college bandwidth.

Resource Sharing Committee: Kathy Perry for Eileen Hitchingham, Chair

1. The Interlibrary Loan Community Forum held on July 21, 2006, at Sweet Briar College was an outstanding success.
2. Eileen Hitchingham attended the “Moving Mountains” conference on courier services in Denver, Colorado on September 13 – 14, 2006. Information gleaned from the conference will inform the committee’s investigation of ways to provide quality interlibrary loan services in the most cost-effective manner.
3. Don Samdahl contacted OCLC and obtained preliminary cost estimates for the ILLiad Resource Sharing Management Software as a local option service for VIVA members. The VIVA Steering Committee referred this item to the Resource Sharing Committee for additional investigation.

VIVA Outreach Committee: Kathy Perry for John Ulmschneider, Chair

1. Kathy distributed the “VIVA Outreach Committee Quarterly Report, 9-21-06” that noted the committee’s meetings by conference call on August 25, 2006, and in person on September 18, 2006.
2. The Outreach Committee continues its focus on creating a clearinghouse/repository for training, promotion and publicity materials related to VIVA products. Rather than incorporating the actual materials, the clearinghouse will catalog and organize descriptive information about available materials created by VIVA institutions. The identified materials will be accessible via the web. Technical support for the clearinghouse is being developed by the Committee in collaboration with VIVA institutions.

3. The Committee is planning a meeting with representatives from VIVA institutions who create instructional and promotional materials for VIVA resources and who will demonstrate the products they have created. The original meeting date of October 23 has been postponed and will be rescheduled.

SCHEV Update: Craig Herndon

Craig provided the following report on recent developments at the state level:

1. Budget Requests

- Given that this is the second year of a biennial budget, agencies are encouraged not to submit budget requests for funds for new initiatives.
- Tuition Assistance Grants (TAG) are a priority of the State Council and have been approved as a budget recommendation
 - Council is recommending an \$11 million increase to the program resulting in \$3,500 maximum annual awards for undergrads
- Office of Learning Technology- Its charge is to develop innovative, cost-effective technology-enriched teaching and learning initiatives while enhancing student access.
 - Council is recommending an appropriation of \$600,000 for the office of learning technology; \$100,000 for staff support and \$500,000 for “seed funds”

2. New Members: State Council received three new appointees from Governor Kaine: B. R. (Bob) Ashby of Danville, Helen E. Dragas of Virginia Beach, and Susan A. Magill of Alexandria. Governor Kaine also reappointed Christine T. Milliken of Arlington to serve a second term.

3. Council elections were held at the September meeting and Alan Wurtzel was elected chair again. The committee chairs were each reappointed by the chair.

4. Whittington Clemet was elected vice-chair and will serve as the chair of the planning committee for the Systemwide Strategic Plan for Higher Education.

5. SCHEV is still searching for a director of academic affairs and is also searching for someone to fill a new position as the director of restructuring. Both positions are on the agency website.

6. The Measuring Up 2006 Report Card was released during September 2006. Virginia's greatest strength according to the report was its high proportion of college graduates. In addition, the Commonwealth was just one of six states earning a grade higher than a B for the preparation of students for postsecondary education and training. Virginia earned a “B+” for completions and a “B” for participation. Virginia joined 42 other states in receiving a failing grade for affordability and 41 other states in receiving an incomplete for learning.

7. The recently issued Spellings Commission Report also targets the concept of assessing student learning, calling on institutions to become more innovative in their pursuit of student learning.

Library of Virginia Update: Tom Camden for Nolan Yelich

Tom highlighted recent accomplishments and activities of the Library of Virginia:

1. Web archiving -- In the fall of 2005, the Library of Virginia, among several cultural heritage institutions, participated in a pilot project to test and refine a service that would collect, manage and provide access to web content of significant and enduring value. Since that time the Library has continued to work with the Internet Archive (www.archive.org) and other partners to develop best practices for Web archiving, metadata standards and other enhancements that address the needs of these institutions. More information may be found on the LVA website: <http://www.lva.lib.va.us/whatwehave/webarchive/>
2. DIG-Comm – The Digital Initiatives Guidance Committee (DIG-Comm) was formed in the spring of 2006 in response to increasing opportunities for the Library’s participation in various digital initiatives and projects. The National Digital Newspaper Project, funded by the NEH and led by the Library of Congress, is one of the more significant projects that the LVA will pursue as a long-term initiative. This project has the potential of creating a comprehensive on-line digital collection of historic Virginia newspapers.
3. DigiTool – The LVA recently added the DigiTool content asset management system from ExLibris, which will allow many cross-functional applications for digital initiatives and electronic records management.
4. NHPRC fellowship – Don Chalfant and Kathy Jordan of the Library of Virginia have been selected as part of the 2006-2007 cohort of the NHPRC Electronic Records Fellowships Program.
5. Staffing changes – Don Chalfant was hired as the Electronic Records Archivist; Ariel Billmeier was hired as the Records Analyst for Electronic Records; Rebecca Morgan was appointed as Digital Collections Systems Engineer.

Virtual Reference Service

Longwood University polled VIVA members to determine if there were interest in establishing a partnership or agreement for virtual reference services provided by VIVA libraries. Discussion followed, with members sharing their experiences with other virtual reference delivery systems and consortia in which they have participated. Some mentioned contracting out virtual reference service with vendors or academic libraries during evening and weekends hours. Others have used commercial products with varying degrees of satisfaction. The Virginia Community College System provides virtual reference service through voluntary coverage from the colleges’ reference librarians, supplemented by part-time staff. VIVA members also analyzed features of specific software that supports online, synchronous reference assistance.

Since no consensus was reached at this time, the issue was tabled for future discussion.

Firefox Scholar: Dan Cohen

Kathy Perry introduced Dr. Dan Cohen, Associate Director of the George Mason University Center for History and New Media.

Dr. Cohen summarized his work at GMU heading an IMLS grant-funded project for the “Zotero” product, a free, open source research management tool (<http://www.zotero.org/>) Formerly known as “Firefox Scholar,” Zotero offers multiple advantages to scholars:

- Open source and freely available
- Runs in the browser (not a separate application) and can capture metadata from the browser
- Automatically saves text as the user types
- Indexes full text in the background for later searching
- Allows user-generated tags
- Supports many library research databases, such as JSTOR, EbscoHost, LexisNexis and others
- Automatically captures citation information from web pages

Dr. Cohen then gave an online demonstration of Zotero so that members could see how researchers would use its features.

Following the demonstration, Kathy Perry noted that VIVA was included in the IMLS grant, and as such, VIVA institutions were strongly urged to participate as beta testers for the Zotero product. Kathy will send more detailed information and publicity to VIVA directors so that they can encourage faculty participation in the beta testing. Dr. Cohen hopes for hundreds of volunteers to test the product and to make sure that it works seamlessly. In addition, library directors and college faculty can provide further support in various ways, such as linking to the product from their web pages, submitting ideas for development, volunteering for workshops, and integrating Zotero with current instructional and library technologies.

Dan Cohen may be contacted directly at dcohen@gmu.edu.

For the Good of the Order

Don Samdahl thanked Chris Bean for his hospitality during these meetings.

Future LAC Meetings with VIVA Steering Committee the preceding day:

December 7-8	Sweet Briar College
March 1 – 2	Longwood University

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 noon.

Aileen Schweitzer, Secretary