



**Virginia Commonwealth University
VCU Libraries Advisory Committee
Teleconference – Zoom
Friday, November 20, 2020, 2:00-3:00 pm**

Attending

Tom Nelson (*chair*), Jean Bailey, Matt Bogenschutz, Rachel Cloutier, Catherine Ingrassia, Aniket Jadhav, Inho “Richard” Joh, Nastassja Lewinski, Valerie Robnolt, Srinivas Sistla, James Smither, Jayaraman Vijayakumar

Absent

Sydney Biondi, Lelia Brinegar, Lex Coelho, T. Corey Davis, Holly Morrison, Christy Tyndall

VCU Libraries staff

Kathy Bradshaw, Laura Gariepy, Jimmy Ghaphery, Emily J. Hurst, Teresa L. Knott, Antonia Vassar (*recording secretary*)

Business

Review and approval of agenda (Tom Nelson)

The meeting opened at 2:00 pm. Agenda approved with no objections.

Review and approval of minutes from September 25, 2020 (Tom Nelson)

Minutes from September 25, 2020 were approved as presented.

Reports and Discussion

VCU Libraries Overview and Update (Teresa Knott)

[Cabell Library will be closed from Dec. 19th through January 3rd.](#) The intersession is fully online. For the one week that the library closure overlaps with intersession and the January term, there will be virtual support and chat assistance for teaching and research. Closing the building during this time is due to the incredibly low building density this semester (about 20% of usual traffic) and to also give on-site staff a break. VLAC members are asked to inform their colleagues, especially those who will be teaching during the intersession and January session.

Negotiations are ongoing with Elsevier. They have offered to eliminate the 4% increase contracted for 2021. VCU Libraries expects to retain access to current subscriptions through the end of 2021. This will give VCU Libraries more time to educate the community and make decisions. The University restored a portion of the collections budget, but did not provide unavoidable cost increase money. While Elsevier has removed cost percentage increase, other database vendors have not. VCU Libraries was the only one of the seven Virginia research libraries engaged with these negotiations

that was able to continue with the current subscription. The other libraries are making radical cuts to their Elsevier subscribed journal titles.

The library dean search is resuming. Corey Davis is the VLAC representative on the search committee. Valerie Robnolt is also on the search committee, representing the Faculty Senate. VCU is committed to bringing the candidate on campus for part of the interview process. It is expected the new provost will be hired by the time an offer is made for a new dean.

Still working through the process [of decommissioning](#) the name of Tompkins-McCaw Library. Issue is currently under review by the Virginia Art and Architectural Review Board.

Questions for the group: How have faculty members integrated librarians or library resources into their remote instruction? What worked well? What frustrated the faculty? Are there library resources faculty wish more colleagues knew about?

Valerie Robnolt: distributed liaison email. Sergio met with their students.

Jean Bailey: John Cyrus did presentations on literature resources.

Tom Nelson noted H&S colleagues have always had strong relationships with liaison Jenny Stout and other librarians that is greatly appreciated.

VIVA received an additional \$400,000 from the state, committed to using funds for streaming/online resources. Please let VCU Libraries know if there are any particular resources to consider adding.

VCU Publishing Update (Jimmy Ghaphery)

VCU Publishing launched earlier this year. VCU Libraries joins many other research libraries across the country who are developing publishing programs (including UVA, VaTech, and George Mason in the state).

How does library publishing differ from university press? University press: often pride in NOT publishing from their own scholars. Library publishing: focus on own institution, open access, and forming partnerships across campus.

VCU Publishing supports the mission of VCU and VCU Libraries. Includes many members from VCU Libraries as well as individuals across the university – about 3 FTE (.75 of that is funded by private funds from the Cabell Associates). This builds on previous work from the last 20 years.

This work of VCU Publishing includes: consultation and support, Scholars Compass repository, journals, books, and digital scholarship.

What can VLAC do? Feedback, signal boost, ideas and connections for future projects. Check out publishing.vcu.edu to find out more and explore.

Topics the committee would like to explore (Tom Nelson)

VCU Libraries doesn't send emails out to all faculty so it can be a challenge to get faculty attention – information is disseminated via VLAC and liaisons.

Teresa Knott shared a slide from Ithaka S+R regarding perception of library role between library and faculty showing the perspective of faculty perspectives versus library deans.

Jean Bailey: finds it valuable when library liaison etc. comes to the unit to present to faculty on relevant areas. Requested more faculty development, and getting liaisons in front of the faculty as

much as possible. Teresa Knott asked if there would be interest from other units in this sort of faculty development. Nastassja Lewinski requested short (2 -3 hr) workshops about how to use various databases, these would also be helpful to grad students. Also requested workshops about [targeted strategies for publishing](#) geared toward specific audiences. It is difficult to know if undergraduates actually meet with library liaisons.

Richard Joh: asked how library support could be combined with technology support. Jimmy Ghaphery explained some of the current ways VCU Libraries collaborates with Technology Services, including meeting twice yearly meeting. It would be helpful to coordinate this into a central area. Knowing where the problem points are could be helpful, not just to solve individual problems but to know more about larger concerns.

Please email Teresa Knott or Tom Nelson with any additional thoughts or ideas.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:40 pm.