



Info Navigator

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Virginia State University

Spring 2006

A Message From the Dean

Spring is here! It is the time of year to enjoy watching our green earth come alive bursting with color and excitement as we begin to plan for outdoor events. It is also a time for a hubbub of academic activities.



It is now the final push towards the end of the semester. Some students are trying to finish their requirements for graduation while others are simply trying to finish out the term and move on to the next level. Here in the Library we can see the rise in activity, particularly in the Computer Lab and the heavy use of the numerous study rooms. We also notice the rise in usage statistics in general and subject specific electronic databases. It is refreshing and confirming to see students using the Library. It substantiates findings that students still view the Library as a good place for using computers, studying, conducting research, and for reflection. The reconfigured space with expansive outdoor views makes the Library a perfect place to visit. We look forward to seeing you!

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Jump-Starting Information Literacy At VSU

Beginning in the Fall of 2006, Johnston Memorial Library will begin hosting Library Information Literacy sessions. There will be forty classes, with a total of eighty sessions including one session for basic research and a second session that will be content-driven based on specific class assignments given by faculty members. This new general education course will be worth two credit hours and will be required of all Freshman and Sophomores before advancement to the Junior level. The course will carry a simple "pass or fail" grading system, with faculty members responsible for grading their content-driven assignments.

Currently, Librarians provide Library Instruction to groups and individuals. Library instruction sessions for classes, database demonstrations, Internet workshops or library tours are offered throughout the year by Reference staff. University faculty may request an instruction session by Head of Reference Services, Mrs. Mary Ann Bailey, via e-mail at m Bailey@vsu.edu or by calling 524 - 6821.





National Women's History Month



Above : On the first floor, between Reference and Circulation, you will find several displays that focus on the contributions and accomplishments made by VSU Alumni, as well as famous American women.

Women: Builders of Communities and Dreams

To address the absence of information about women in America's schools, the national Women's History Project led a movement to have congress designate a celebration to recognize women's historic achievements. The goal was to insure that information about the myriad ways women have changed America would be part of our children's education.

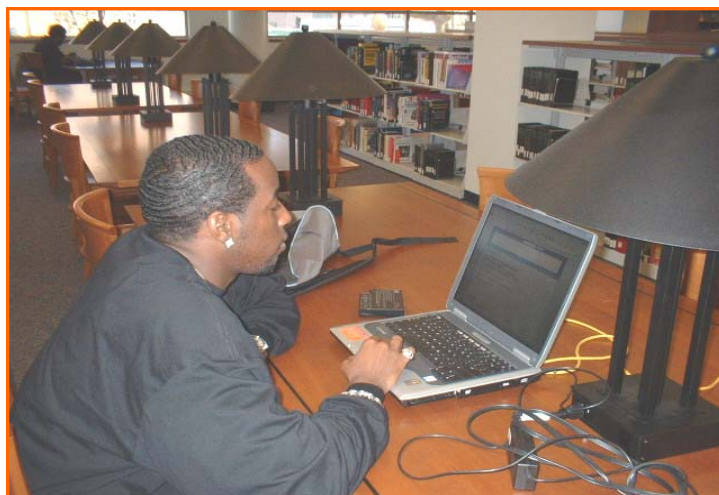
In 1980, President Carter issued the first Presidential Proclamation calling on the American people to remember the contributions of women. By 1987, fourteen governors had declared March as Women's History Month, and that same year, Congress and the President followed by declaring March as National Women's History Month.

Student Services - Did you know...

That...

Johnston Memorial Library is completely "wired"? What this means for students is instant Internet access from any location in the building. All table arrangements within the library are equipped with pop-up data ports that allow you to connect with the installation a UBC cord, or from any location via your wireless access card.

Now having the quiet you may need to focus does not mean the loss of access to your own computer and files. From the quiet of the third floor to the warmth of the window seating areas, your library provides the perfect environment for study.



That...

The library offers much more than books and magazines. Videos, DVD's, picture slides, CD's, music scores and maps are all available in the Reference department to enrich your learning experience, and to provide multi-media resources to spice-up assignments, presentations, and reports.

Located behind the Reference Research Computer Stations, the Media Center is stocked with all manner of media resources, as well as TV/VCR combo sets to preview and select exactly what you need. There is also a manual typewriter for filling out applications and other forms not available on the Internet.





The Cornell Project: “Building Collections, Building Services,



Lucious Edwards,
University Archivist

“Building Collections, Building Services, Building Sustainability” is the digital image production project designed to provide better access to documents that chronicle the histories of Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and the African American experience. Funded through a grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the project is modeled after the Appalachian College Association’s “Digital Library of Appalachia Project” which spurred that organization’s Central Library Collection.

The HBCU Alliance is a coalition of HBCU library deans and directors working to strengthen the role of libraries on historically black campuses and expand access to information and cultural resources available in their collections. Dean Elsie S. Weatherington and JML are one of ten HBCU libraries selected to participate in the initial project which will open the door to the treasures of historically black colleges and universities, fostering the research and teaching of scholars specializing in African American Studies, the American South, American Democracy, cultural pluralism and other related disciplines.



Rare Book School

Collecting African-American Materials: C-75

June 12-16, Lecture by Lucious Edwards & Michael Plunkett

RARE BOOK SCHOOL (RBS) is an independent non-profit educational institute supporting the study of the history of books and printing and related subjects. Founded in 1983, it moved to its present home at the University of Virginia in 1992. This course is aimed at research and rare book librarians, MS librarians, and archivists whose current responsibilities include the care of collections containing African-American printed and/or MS materials. Topics include: the history of African-American institutional collecting; sources for acquiring materials; developing clienteles of users; description and preservation; and current issues (Afrocentrism vs Eurocentrism, ethics, inter-institutional competition). VSU University Archivist, Lucious Edwards will again lecture on the collecting of African American materials. An Adjunct Professor of History, also at VSU, he lectures frequently on the use of African-American primary research sources in the teaching of U.S. history. For more information visit <http://www.virginia.edu/oldbooks/2006/applications/>

Second Floor Group Presentation Rooms

“Wow, we can really use this equipment!?” That is generally the reaction our librarians receive after opening the door to one of two group presentation rooms located on the second floor. Complete with 42”, wall mounted flat screen monitors, Smart Board software and all the needed peripherals, these presentation rooms are a one-stop resource for planning, creating and modifying almost any type of presentation. From Excel to PowerPoint, Word to Publisher, students are able to design professional projects for all manner of subject and discipline. While students have access to these rooms at any time during JML’s hours of operation, there are a few rules to be mindful of before heading over to begin your session. Firstly, all students who plan to use the room, as a group or individual, must present and leave their VSU ICard at the Serials Desk upon checking in. Also each individual must sign-in, at which time they will be issued the necessary hardware, such as keyboards, Smart Board Pens and mouse. Access to the Group Presentation Rooms is on a first come, first served basis.

For additional information and/or to make a reservation, please call the serials department at (804)524-5042.



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Federal Information at your Fingertips

There is a wealth of information in federal government documents and you deserve to have access! Instant access to current titles, 24/7, government documents are now freely available on the Web.

DOCUMENTS WITHOUT SHELVES is a subscription service that is new to JML, offering instant searching and retrieval of current (2006 and later) documents through the Troy Library Catalog. No longer will you need to spend time searching through lengthy and irrelevant indexes to access documents, simply use traditional keyword and subject searches to quickly hit on full-text documents. Adding up-to-date and relevant statistical and federal data to your papers and reports has never been easier!

Stop by the Reference Desk for more information or contact Gloria Beck at 804.524.6945.

Regular Library Hours

Monday—Thursday8:00a.m.-11:00p.m.
Friday8:00a.m. - 6:00p.m.
Saturday10:00a.m.- 6:00p.m.
Sunday 3:00p.m.-11:00p.m.

Contact Information

Main Number.....804.524.5040
Reference Desk.....804.524.5582
Circulation Desk.....804.524.5043
Serials Desk.....804.524.5042
Interlibrary Loan.....804.524.6944
Special Collections & Archives.....804.524.5749

<http://www.library.vsu.edu>

The Info Navigator is a quarterly publication of Johnston Memorial Library. This edition was edited by Kelly A. Mitchell. Send corrections or suggestions to JML, P.O. Box 9406, Petersburg, VA