

NATIONAL FOLK FESTIVAL COMING TO RICHMOND IN OCTOBER



In a few short months, the banks of the James River in downtown Richmond will welcome the 67th National Folk Festival, featuring 25 groups on seven performance stages, 15 of Virginia's finest musical instrument makers, amazing foods, a showcase of the finest craftspeople from Virginia and the region, and a children's area. This "moveable feast of deeply traditional folk arts" has been held in 27 communities around the country, beginning in 1934, and now finds itself on the banks of River City October 7-9, 2005, as a signature event of Richmond Region 2007. The entire weekend is free to the public.

The National Folk Festival features a broad array of music including Cajun, blues, African, Celtic, bluegrass, Hispanic, klezmer, Asian, rockabilly, gospel, cowboy, and much more! The National Folk Festival is the oldest multi-cultural traditional arts celebration in the nation.

Please visit <<http://www.nationalfolkfestival.com>> for the latest information on music and dance performances, workshops, storytelling, parades, dances, crafts exhibitions, and foodways scheduled for this event.



The Library of Virginia and the Library of Virginia Foundation hosted a reception for NAGARA conference participants on July 21 at the Library of Virginia. NAGARA, the National Association of Government Archives and Records Administrators, held its annual conference in Richmond from July 20 through 23. The association is dedicated to the improvement of federal, state, and local government records and information management.

8TH ANNUAL
LIBRARY OF VIRGINIA AWARDS
Celebration
HONORING VIRGINIA AUTHORS & FRIENDS

October 15, 2005

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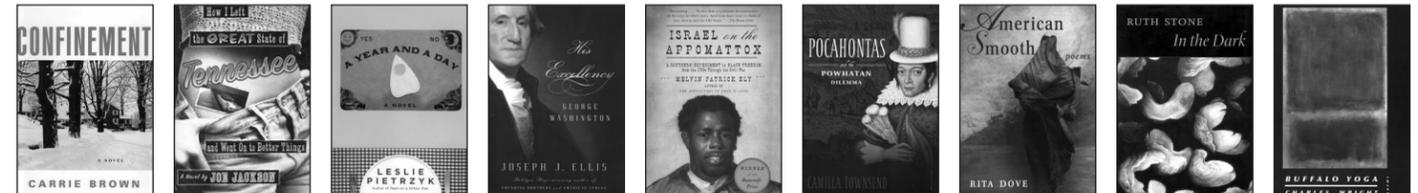
THE LIBRARY OF VIRGINIA

Issue 170 • July/August 2005

Official Newsletter

NINE BOOKS ARE FINALISTS FOR THE 8TH ANNUAL LIBRARY OF VIRGINIA LITERARY AWARDS

Historian Merrill D. Peterson Is Lifetime Achievement Recipient



The Library of Virginia and the Library of Virginia Foundation are pleased to announce the finalists for the 8th Annual Library of Virginia Literary Awards. The finalists were chosen by an independent panel of judges from 110 books nominated for the awards. Winners of the prestigious literary awards will be announced at a gala celebration on October 15, 2005, at the Library of Virginia.

The finalists for the best work of fiction by a Virginia author are:

Carrie Brown
Confinement
Algonquin Books

Joe Jackson
How I Left the Great State of Tennessee and Went on to Better Things
Carroll & Graf Publishers

Leslie Pietrzyk
A Year and a Day
William Morrow, an Imprint of
HarperCollins Publishers

The honor book in the fiction category is *Enchanted Heart* by Felicia Mason, published by Dafina Books-Kensington Publishing Corp.

The finalists for the best non-fiction about Virginia or by a Virginia author are:

Joseph J. Ellis
His Excellency: George Washington
Alfred A. Knopf

Melvin Patrick Ely
Israel on the Appomattox: A Southern Experiment in Black Freedom from the 1790s through the Civil War
Alfred A. Knopf

Camilla Townsend
Pocahontas and the Powhatan Dilemma
Hill and Wang

The honor books in the non-fiction category are *Sir William Berkeley and the Forging of Colonial Virginia* by Warren M. Billings, published by Louisiana State University Press and *Scandal at Bizarre* by Cynthia A. Kierner, published by Palgrave Macmillan.

The finalists for the best book of poetry by a Virginian are:

Rita Dove
American Smooth: Poems
W. W. Norton & Company

Ruth Stone
In the Dark
Copper Canyon Press

Charles Wright
Buffalo Yoga
Farrar, Straus and Giroux

The honor book in the poetry category is *Insomnia Diary* by Bob Hicok, published by University of Pittsburgh Press.

The recipient of the Library of Virginia Lifetime Achievement Award is Merrill D.

Peterson, Professor of History Emeritus at the University of Virginia. Dr. Peterson, a noted Jeffersonian scholar, is the editor of the Library of America edition of the writings of Thomas Jefferson and author or editor of 37 books including *Lincoln in America* and *John Brown: The Legend Revisited*. Peterson remains a superb historian, meticulous researcher, and writer of numerous books in retirement. In fact his latest work, *Starving Armenians: America and the Armenian Genocide, 1915-1930 and After*, was nominated for this year's literary awards. Peterson went to Armenia as a Peace Corps volunteer and became fascinated by the country's history. The result is an eloquent narrative of the tragedy and resilience of the people of Armenia and the American response to the Armenian genocide.

Dr. Peterson also has served as a mentor to a generation of Virginia's and the nation's historians of early America. A gifted teacher and winner of the 1997 National First Freedom Award, Peterson has guided scores of undergraduate and graduate students on to careers as historians and teachers.

The winners of the fiction, non-fiction, and poetry awards will be announced on Saturday, October 15, 2005, from 7:00 to 9:30 PM at the 8th Annual Library of Virginia Awards Celebration Honoring Virginia Authors & Friends. The winners of the People's Choice Award, sponsored by the James River Writers, also will be announced that evening. Winners will receive a monetary award and a crystal replica of a book. Tickets are available at \$75 per ticket. For ticket information, please call 804-371-4795.



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WILLIAMSBURG REGIONAL LIBRARY TO HOST 2006 ARBUTHNOT LECTURE

Russell Freedman, award-winning author of outstanding history and biography for children and young adults, will deliver the 2006 May Hill Arbuthnot Honor Lecture in Williamsburg on April 28. The Library of Virginia will partner with the Williamsburg Regional Library to present the lecture. The Center for the Book at the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities and Public Policy also is a partner.

According to an article in the winter 2005 Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC) newsletter, Freedman was drawn to write history for children because of his belief that uninspiring texts cause children to under-appreciate our heritage. "Freedman set out to breathe life into what he believed was a fascinating subject." That he was successful is unquestioned; in 1988 he received the Newbery Award, the highest honor in children's literature, for *Lincoln: A Photobiography*. This was followed by a Newbery honor for *The Wright Brothers: How They Invented the Airplane* in 1992, and two more honor designations—for *Eleanor Roosevelt: A Life of Discovery* in 1994 and *The Voice that Challenged a Nation: Marian Anderson and the Struggle for Equal Rights* in 2005. In 1998 Freedman received the Laura Ingalls Wilder Medal for making a "substantial and lasting contribution to literature for children."

The match between Freedman's expertise in writing history, Williamsburg's role in our nation's history, and the activities surrounding the Jamestown 2007 anniversary, which will begin in the spring of 2006, all contributed to the success of the application by the Williamsburg Regional Library. The proposed site for the lecture is the Kimball Theatre in Colonial Williamsburg. A reception at the Williamsburg Regional Library will follow the lecture. The lecture is free and open to the public, but tickets must be requested.

The May Hill Arbuthnot Honor Lecture is named for May Hill Arbuthnot, educator and author of the groundbreaking children's literature textbook, *Children and Books*, published by Scott Foresman in 1947. Arbuthnot was instrumental in bringing academic rigor to the knowledge, understanding, and criticism of children's literature, and was also one of the co-authors of the *Dick and Jane* series of books for beginning readers.

The lecture was originally established with funding from Scott Foresman and is now funded and administered by the ALSC, a division of the American Library Association. The 2006 lecture will be the 37th annual presentation.

In 1993 the Virginia Center for the Book and the Virginia State Library and Archives (now the Library of Virginia) hosted the Arbuthnot Lecture in Richmond. Internationally known children's author Virginia Hamilton, whose books celebrated the African American experience, was the honoree and speaker for the lecture. Hamilton was the recipient of the Newbery Medal, National Book Award, Coretta Scott King Award, and the Hans Christian Andersen Award.

—submitted by Pat Muller, Library Development and Networking Services

Fry-Jefferson Map Lends Authenticity to Modern Powder Horn

In these days of heightened security, a man carrying a powder horn attracts attention even if no black powder rifle is in view. So it was when David Childress visited the Library of Virginia on June 28. Archivists were curious about what he brought into the reading room.

Childress stopped by to show Library of Virginia staff the powder horn and leather bag that he commissioned from a Midwest craftsman. Childress used the Fry-Jefferson map from the Library's collections as the basis for the horn's design. The modern artifact appears to be old and represents the latest example of how archival records and historic maps at the Library of Virginia may be used in innovative ways.

The powder horn also features an Oliver Cromwell quotation: "Trust in God but keep your powder dry." This quotation was first used in the mid-1600s but has continued to be widely used. The horn was fashioned from a steer horn by Kenny Robertson, a craftsman from Belmond, Iowa, who specializes in period correct, hand-stitched, museum quality bags and scrimshawed powder horns. His powder horns were used in the recent film, "The Alamo."

Childress decided to use the Library's Fry-Jefferson map because it represented the appropriate period history for the powder horn and contained geographic landmarks important to him. Childress lives in Goochland and has a son who graduated from Radford, and the map section used for the horn includes those places as well as Scotts Landing, Lynch Ferry, Looney Ferry, the Blue Ridge, Southwest Mountains and the Wagon Road. The Fry-Jefferson map was the first map of the colony to show the correct orientation of the Appalachian range through which ran the Great Wagon Road that connected Philadelphia with North Carolina.

Childress used a copier to enlarge sections of the Fry-Jefferson map to decide what he wanted to include given the limited space on the horn. Much detail was eliminated but the resulting artifact is a handsome new piece designed to look old. The powder horn and leather bag for lead balls, patches, and spare flints are handsome replicas with an interesting Library of Virginia connection.

PARTON'S IMAGINATION LIBRARY COMES TO VIRGINIA

Young children in Buchanan, Scott, Dickenson, Wise and Warren counties can now enroll in the Dolly Parton Imagination Library, which sends one book each month to children until their fifth birthdays, as long as they remain residents of these counties. Dolly Parton, the award-winning singer, songwriter, and actor, is an advocate for literacy and other educational initiatives. The Imagination Library, a program of the Dollywood Foundation, encourages preschool reading and parental involvement as keys to success in school.

The nonprofit literacy program was launched in 1996 for preschoolers in Sevier County, Tennessee, where Parton was born. Each book in the 60-volume collection, which starts with *The Little Engine That Could*, is chosen by a committee of representatives from areas of expertise including education, child development, academia, and early childhood literacy.

In 2004, 375 communities in 39 states participated in Parton's Imagination Library.



Tom Camden, director of Special Collections at the Library of Virginia, displays one of the Library's miniature books in his palm for members of the Edgar Allan Poe Museum's Young Writers Conference. Camden and other Library staff are in demand to show tour groups of all ages some of the unique items in the Library's extensive collections.

FVSA CONTINUES STAFF SUPPORT THROUGH SCHOLARSHIP

The Friends of the Virginia State Archives has again this year contributed a \$500 scholarship in memory of Dennis M. Hallerman, a former archivist at the Library of Virginia. Hallerman, a certified records manager, served as archivist and records manager with the agency from 1988 until 1996. He began his career with the Library in 1973 as an archivist. The scholarship helps underwrite the cost of a Library of Virginia staff member attending the Modern Archives Institute. The National Archives and Records Administration, in cooperation with the Library of Congress, presents two sessions of the Modern Archives Institute each year. The fee is \$675. This includes publications and instructional materials. Transportation and room and board are not included. Payment is required before participants can be considered enrolled. Enrollment is on a first-come, first-served basis for persons currently working in archives or manuscripts.

Amanda Morrell, the recipient of the 2005 Hallerman scholarship, attended the Institute's June session. She recently joined the Archives Research Section. The two-week Modern Archives Institute program provides an introduction to archival principles and techniques for individuals who work with personal papers, as well as for those who work with the records of public and private institutions and organizations. It is intended to help archivists acquire basic knowledge about caring for archival materials and making them available.

Overhead costs for the program are covered by Dolly Parton, the Dixie Stampede dinner theater chain, Dollywood, and corporate sponsors. Local communities pay for the cost of the books and mailing. Cost of the program is approximately \$30 per year per child and is paid through local philanthropic organizations, banks, and foundations.

Local groups supporting the Imagination Library in southwest Virginia include the Lonesome Pine Office on Youth, United Way of Southwest Virginia in Scott County, Lonesome Pine Regional Library, Dickenson County Office on Youth, Dickenson County Office of Virginia Cooperative Extension, Friends of the Buchanan Public Library, and the United Way of Front Royal/Warren County.

For more information about the Imagination Library, please contact Christy Crouse, Regional Director, Dollywood Foundation, 1020 Dollywood Lane, Pigeon Forge, TN, 37863; 865-428-9607; <crouse@dollyfoundation.com>.



Sean Wright signs up his daughter Heather for the Imagination Library at Lonesome Pine Regional Library in Wise County. More than 700 children in Wise County are enrolled in the program.

Norfolk Public Library Director Norman Maas Elected to ALA Board

Norman Maas, director of the Norfolk Public Library, has been elected to the American Library Association (ALA) Board of Directors (Council) for 2005–2008. He will represent the Public Library Association (PLA) division of the ALA. The Council is the policy-making body for the ALA and helps to govern the association.

The ALA is a national organization dedicated "to providing leadership for the development, promotion, and improvement of library and information services and the profession of librarianship in order to enhance learning and ensure access to information for all." The ALA is the oldest and largest library association in the world. It is headquartered in Chicago, Illinois.

Maas has been the director of Norfolk Public Library since August 2003. He brought more than 30 years of library service experience to his position. Prior to arriving in Norfolk, Maas worked at the Detroit Public Library and directed the public libraries of Saginaw, Michigan, and the Metropolitan Library System in Oklahoma County, Oklahoma.

At the Norfolk Public Library Maas has helped to implement programs such as Family Place, an early childhood literacy initiative, and has overseen progress on Norfolk's new 30,000-square-foot Mary D. Pretlow Anchor Branch Library, scheduled to open in February 2007.

—submitted by Tia Towe Freeman, Norfolk Public Library

2005 SLATTEN LECTURE FEATURES THOMAS W. JONES

Dr. Thomas W. Jones, certified genealogist and certified genealogical lecturer, will be the presenter at this year's Slatten Lecture at the Library of Virginia on October 15, sponsored by the Friends of the Virginia State Archives. Jones is an editor of the *National Genealogical Society Quarterly*, a trustee of the Board for Certification of Genealogists, and past president and a former Association of Professional Genealogists trustee. In 2004 he was the recipient of Grahame T. Smallwood Jr. Award of Merit from the Association of Professional Genealogists. Jones has more than 40 years of personal and professional genealogical research experience and is a professor of education at Gallaudet University in Washington, D.C.

Among the sessions he will offer are: "How to Avoid Being Duped by the Internet," "The Jones Jinx," "Tracing Common Surnames," "Organizing Evidence to Overcome Record Shortages," "Problem-Solving With Probate," "Solving Problems with Original Sources," and "What is the Standard of Proof in Genealogy?"

For more information about the Slatten Lecture and the Friends of the Virginia State Archives, contact Carolyn Barkley, 4100 Virginia Beach Boulevard, VA 23452-1767; 757-431-3072; <cbarkley@vbgov.com>.

BOARD ADOPTS MEETING SCHEDULE

At the annual meeting of the Library Board the following schedule of meetings was adopted:

September 19, 2005

November 14, 2005

January 27, 2006

March 13, 2006

June 12, 2006
(ANNUAL MEETING)

All meetings will be held at the Library of Virginia in Richmond.

Saint-Mémin Drawing Restored

The Library of Virginia has conserved a significant and valuable drawing from its collection. The early 19th-century profile portrait of Dr. James Jones was drawn from life by French portraitist Charles Balthazar Julien Fevret de Saint-Mémin between 1807 and 1808 in Richmond. The portrait, measuring 21 7/8 [Amy – make this a fraction] by 16 inches, was a gift to the Library in 1933 by the subject's niece, Mrs. Crawley Jones.

James Jones was born in 1772 in an area of Amelia County, Virginia, that later became Nottoway County. He attended Hampden-Sydney College, studied medicine in Philadelphia, and received an M.D. degree in 1796 in Edinburgh, Scotland. Jones practiced medicine in Nottoway County, representing that county in the Virginia House of Delegates from 1804 to 1809 and 1827 to 1829. From 1809 to 1811, Jones was a member of the Council of State. During the War of 1812 he served as director general of hospital and medical stores, and from 1819 to 1823 served in the United States House of Representatives. Jones died in 1848 at his home, Mountain Hall, in Nottoway County, and is buried in the family cemetery nearby.

Born in Dijon, France, in 1790, Saint-Mémin and his noble family were exiled after the start of the French Revolution, eventually settling in New York in 1793. He started his career as an engraver but by 1796 began a portrait business. In 1803 the artist began an itinerant life, moving along the east coast in search of work. Between 1804 and 1809 he practiced extensively in the mid-Atlantic region, making portraits of prominent clients in Baltimore, Annapolis, Washington, D.C., and other cities. He made an extended visit to Richmond from July 1807 to the following spring, a stay surely timed to coincide with Aaron Burr's treason trial, which brought a large number of visitors, and potential customers, to Richmond. Jones, serving in the House of Delegates, was one of many who sat for Saint-Mémin in Richmond. The artist completed 120 portraits in less than a year while in Richmond, a record for him. In 1814, after the defeat of Napoleon, Saint-Mémin returned to Dijon and served as a museum director until his death in 1852.

Saint-Mémin's working methods were unusual, and his drawings are immediately recognizable. He became famous for drawn profile portraits on paper that was coated with a pink wash. Saint-Mémin created these likenesses with the aid of a physiognotrace, a French invention that consisted of an eyepiece attached to a pantograph, or drawing tool. This tool allowed the creation of portraits quickly and economically. The artist traced the profile he saw through the eye piece, and the pantograph transferred the basic forms to paper. The outlines of the Jones portrait were initially sketched by Saint-Mémin in graphite using this method, but afterward the artist had to sketch in details with black and white chalk.

Saint-Mémin also produced numerous smaller, engraved versions of his one-of-a-kind drawings, which were often sold to his sitters for distribution to family members or friends. Saint-Mémin's stylish, Neo-Classical portraits were praised as strong likenesses and became extremely popular because they were less expensive and faster to produce than traditional painted portraits.

The Jones drawing, which long ago suffered extensive water damage, was repaired and stabilized by Wendy Cowan with Richmond Conservators of Works on Paper. The complex conservation treatment required research and a thorough knowledge of the methods and materials employed by the artist, as well as numerous consultations with the curator, Tracy Kamerer. The portrait of Jones uses Saint-Mémin's characteristic glass decorated with black paint and gold leaf, and retains its original gilt frame, which is also undergoing conservation work.

The newly conserved portrait of Dr. Jones will be displayed temporarily in the Library's current exhibition, "Virginia Collects: Art from Capitol Square," which runs through April 1, 2006.

—submitted by Tracy Kamerer, Collection Management Services



Marston to Lead State Library Board

Christopher M. Marston, of Alexandria, Virginia, has been elected chair of the Library Board. Marston, who was appointed to the Board in 1999 by Governor James S. Gilmore, received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Dartmouth College and his juris doctorate from the Georgetown University Law Center. He currently serves as director of the State of Ohio's Washington, D.C., office.

From 2001 until 2004 Marston served as the chief of staff for the Office of National Drug Control Policy. In that capacity, he was the senior policy advisor to the director and chief operating officer of the agency. Prior to that, he held several positions on Capitol Hill, most recently with the Office of the Parliamentarian, U.S. House of Representatives. He was also an aide to Congressman Rob Portman and a legislative assistant with the House Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

Dr. Charles W. Sydnor Jr., of Midlothian, Virginia, was elected vice chair of the Library Board. Sydnor is president and chief executive officer of Commonwealth Public Broadcasting Corporation.

Library Board members are appointed by the governor and serve five-year terms. They are eligible for reappointment.

TRADITION OF PRESERVING THE PAST CONTINUES AT THE LIBRARY OF VIRGINIA

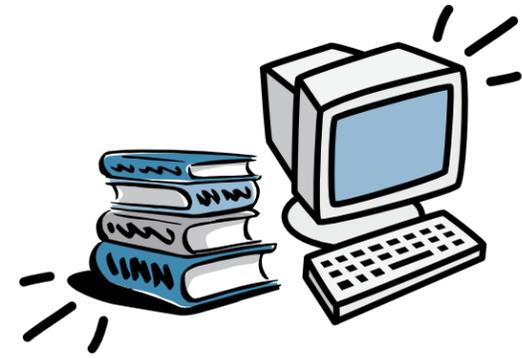
The Library of Virginia in 1998 initiated what was then its first public-private partnership. That initial endeavor—with the Etherington Conservation Center—provided access to a wide range of complex restoration and preservation services through the Library's own conservation laboratory, as well as through the company's extensive facilities in Greensboro, North Carolina. Such contractual services are awarded in accordance with the Commonwealth's stringent proposal, bid, and negotiation processes and have proven to be an especially effective way to stretch budget dollars and to make the best use of limited staffing, matching Library knowledge and experience with well-established and expert commercial resources. That first foray into new ways of doing business continues to serve as a model for other long-term Library needs. This past fiscal year, for instance, the Library added another such partnership, one several years in the making.

During the significant state budget reductions of 2002 and 2003 several Library of Virginia programs were hit hard, many even eliminated. The Library's long-standing Imaging Services program, for example, was severely reduced. The department for many years had reformatted significant state agency, local government, and circuit court records to preservation microfilm, producing copies for research and reference and, especially important, for permanent, archival security. The program also served as the Library's primary source for reformatting its own heavily used manuscript, newspaper, and other fragile collections, providing an easy-to-use, safe, and stable alternative medium for researchers visiting the Library or requesting materials through Interlibrary Loan. Since then, the Library—in close cooperation with the Virginia Information Technologies Agency (VITA)—has worked hard to establish a competitive, multi-year statewide contract with outside vendors to assist Virginia's 120 circuit courts with digital scanning and microform needs. The Library still faced the challenge of meeting its own immense reformatting requirements.

In May 2003, the Library of Virginia began planning for an additional partnership, one that would provide onsite microfilming services and also offsite capabilities for significant additional filming, a full range of film processing and duplication functions, and increased access to digital scanning and other reformatting technologies. After a long review and negotiation process, the Online Computer Library Center, Inc. (OCLC), headquartered in Dublin, Ohio, became the Library's partner in this important work. OCLC is perhaps best known for its many bibliographic and other collection management services for academic, research, and public libraries, and archival institutions. The Library has long been an active OCLC participant, contributing a substantial number of unique catalog records each year to OCLC's immense WorldCat database that provides quick online access to detailed bibliographic information for millions of books, manuscripts, and other materials across thousands of collections worldwide.

This particular partnership, however, is with OCLC's Digital Collection and Preservation Services Division, based in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, with additional Preservation Service Centers in Lacey, Washington, and in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada. There is also a laboratory in Holland. The new Richmond center, however, is unique—the only one of the five to be dedicated to reformatting a single institution's collections.

The Library's OCLC Preservation Service Center opened on July 1, 2004, and in its first year completed an impressive amount of work, coupled with additional projects sent to the Pennsylvania center. The onsite center is equipped with two German-made Herrmann & Kraemer cameras, specially manufactured for OCLC and incorporating several significant OCLC-designed modifications. With an additional microfilm technician joining the center in March 2005, the onsite facility filmed 146,552 frames of primarily manuscript material. In addition, the Pennsylvania facility filmed numerous titles for the Library's Virginia Newspaper Project and processed and duplicated film from the Library's multi-year project at the Huntington Library of San Marino, California, to reformat hundreds of manuscript collections comprising the famous Robert ...see [Preservation](#), pg. 5



Did you know...?

On May 12, 2005, the Library installed the SAM (Smart Access Management) Internet management software on its reading room and Internet computers to coordinate patron access to those computers. This software ensures wider and more equitable access to the Internet on public computers available at the Library of Virginia. In addition to the five Internet stations and the Gates station that offers Microsoft Office software as well as Internet, there are now two express Internet stations in the circulation area, limited to 15-minute sessions, for patrons who need only a brief session to check e-mail or other sources.

The SAM software does not have the ability to track Internet usage or any work done on the computer. It simply manages time and queuing. In other words, it keeps track of the length of time one uses an Internet computer and administers the line of patrons waiting for the next available station. The SAM software asks computer users to enter their library card numbers at the start of computer sessions. If a user does not have a library card, visitor passes are available at the nearest information desk. Users are provided with a total of two hours of computer time each day. These rules apply only to the Internet computers and not the terminals that provide access to the Library's website, catalogs, and subscription databases. There is no time restriction on those computers.

IVA SUPPORT FOR VISION IMPAIRED BRINGS BENEFITS TO ALL

The Library of Virginia has long had available in its reading rooms a Reader's Edge Kurzweil reader that converts printed documents to the spoken word. With the advent of Internet service and the increased use of electronic catalogs and databases, we have had feedback from patrons about varying degrees of difficulty in seeing these materials. Pat Hiott from the Library's Information Technology Division has been proactive in seeking to meet these needs. She involved public service staff in exploring issues surrounding visual impairment and assistive technology.

One thing the group learned was that most vision impairment is not total, but varies widely in degree and type. For maximum assistance, resources had to be flexible. In the West Reading Room, the Library has a computer equipped with the Jaws for Windows system from Freedom Scientific, Inc. This system provides blind users the content of the screen in audible form. Some training in this software is necessary for optimal use, much like a computer user must be familiar with Microsoft Access or PowerPoint to use it at peak capability. For less severe impairment, magnifying screens for the catalog and Internet monitors are available in both the East and West Reading rooms. In addition to the trusty magnifying glasses available at all service desks, the Library has added lighted magnifiers in the manuscript

room and in the East Reading Room to assist in reading paper texts.

This spring, Hiott invited a representative from the Department of the Blind and Vision Impaired to tour the Library's reading rooms, evaluate the facility for accessibility, and suggest equipment or devices that might best assist those with impaired vision. The Library received a positive evaluation, and Library staff also learned of an exciting magnifier that promises to be very helpful for those who have trouble reading anything from modern print, to manuscripts, to faint lettering on maps, to the crabbed print in many of the Library's older publications. The Library has purchased and installed inline video magnifiers in the Manuscript Room and in the East Reading Room. These provide crystal-clear, full-color viewing at any range. Magnification ranges from 2 to 50X. For improved clarity, readers may also switch to black-and-white and negative-positive viewing. These magnifiers are easy to use. Simply turn them on and press up or down arrows to bring the material into the focus desired. Patrons may try the new video magnifiers themselves, or ask for a demonstration at the reference desks.

CENSUS WORKSHOP FOR LIBRARIANS

On July 20, 2005, Library of Virginia Reference Services hosted a workshop for Richmond area librarians on the U.S. Census Bureau. W. Kenneth Wright, an Information

Services Specialist from the Charlotte, N.C., Census Office, conducted the workshop. In addition to the Library Reference and Government Documents staff, librarians from the Henrico County Public Library System and from various state agencies attended the meeting.

The focus of the meeting was on how to mine data, create tables on demand, and download from the American Factfinder section of the U.S. Bureau of Census website. Given the fact that only 20 percent or less of the 2000 Census has been published in book format, the meeting proved extremely helpful in demonstrating how to extract and compile the data available only in electronic format from the U.S. Census database.

RECENT ACQUISITIONS

New Media Reference Sources

Whether serving as an entertaining pastime, an outlet for information on the world, or simply an annoying distraction, the media and its pervasive nature in our present culture is hard to ignore. Media products and producers play an influential role in the lives of Americans. Although new media will continue to be a dynamic force in American life, several technologies like recorded sound and television have reached a point in their development that scholars are now able to assess their histories. New reference sources are becoming available that provide authoritative, concise, comprehensive, and critical

treatments on media topics. The Library of Virginia recognizes the needs of researchers in these areas and recently has acquired two important new reference sources.

Country Music Records: A Discography, 1921–1942 (Oxford University Press, 2004) was compiled by the British music writer Tony Russell with editorial assistance from the late Bob Pinson and the staff of the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum. This large single-volume work documents every known recording from the first two decades of commercial country music. Russell devoted more than two decades to compiling information that was previously available only in obscure periodicals, monographs on individual artists, or within corporate archives and collections of early country music. The discography includes references to 2,500 artists, 5,000 session musicians, and 10,000 songs. Each entry is organized alphabetically by the name of the artist or group, and contains the full names of all known musicians with their instrumentation as featured on the recording. Also provided are the location and date of the recording session, the matrix number (a number most recording companies assigned to each recording during a session), information on a number of "takes" or recordings of each song during the session, the titles for each song recorded, and any associated issue numbers for the release of the recording on a label. There are also extensive indexes at the end of the work for both performers and song titles. A thorough introduction to the discography includes a description of how to use the source, as well as a discussion of the research methodology and editorial policy used in the creation of the book. Of particular note is the section devoted to concise histories of the labels primarily involved in releasing country music in the United States, Canada, Australia, Great Britain, Ireland, and India.

The Encyclopedia of Television, 2nd edition (Fitzroy Dearborn, 2004) was produced with support from the Museum of Broadcast Communications in Chicago, Illinois, and under the editorial direction of Dr. Horace Newcomb, a leading academic specializing in television, the director of the George Foster Peabody Awards Program, and a professor in the Grady College of Journalism and Mass Communication at the University of Georgia.

A group of project advisors assisted the editor in selecting the topics that would be included in the reference work. The second edition of this title features nearly 1,150 entries, including 200 new articles and 500 revisions of previous entries. The clear focus of the topics selected for inclusion is on programs from English-speaking countries; however, there are several entries that deal with significant international issues in television and country overviews that discuss the specific development of television in each region. Each of the articles is signed by the contributor, and there are biographical notes on nearly all of the 300 authors provided in the last volume of the work. The entries are arranged alphabetically and fill four volumes. Subjects covered include television programs, biographical entries on persons who contributed to the history of television, specific events related to the development of television, television organizations and networks, program genres, and technology. Entries on specific television programs include a narrative description of the show and its significance, cross-referenced listings of related topics in the encyclopedia, a list of the cast by character name, the program's producers, its programming history, and recommendations for further reading. The second edition also includes 750 black-and-white illustrations throughout the text. A general index is included in the fourth volume and has special notations for main entries and images.

The acquisition of these reference works marks an investment in a scholarly resource that will likely remain the benchmark in their subject fields for some time. Although both of these titles were written to support specialized research, they also contain a wealth of accessible information for the general reader. In a media landscape that is forever changing, it is comforting to see the continuing relevance of one of the oldest forms of media around—books!



SEPTEMBER TALKS

Join us at noon in the conference rooms of the Library of Virginia for these free talks. Please see <<http://www.lva.lib.va.us/whoware/events>> for details on these and other exciting events at the Library.

Tuesday, September 13, 2005
Worms, Smokescreens and Medicinal Whiskey: The Records of the Virginia Prohibition Commission

Thursday, September 15, 2005
Richmond Artists in the State Art Collection

Thursday, September 22, 2005
Off-White: A Memoir

Preservation... Alonzo Brock Collection of Virginiana.

Especially significant was the substantial progress made in duplicating archival film housed in the State Records Center's media vault. The Library of Virginia for years filmed local government records, ensuring that in the event of a disaster there was a security copy. However, there were never sufficient funds to duplicate these archival surrogates—to produce film for the Reading Room and for Interlibrary Loan. Now, we can. Within this past year alone, public-service copies are now available for additional materials from Augusta, Buchanan, Buckingham, Campbell, Caroline, Carroll, Charles City, Clarke, Culpeper, Cumberland, Dickenson, Dinwiddie, and Essex counties, as well as the city of Norfolk.

Moreover, the onsite center made excellent progress in addressing a long-standing prioritized list of collections badly in need of preservation filming. In addition to the ongoing reformatting of Personal Property Tax Books, also completed were 124 reels of Department of Education teacher lists, as well as business records of the Mutual Fire Insurance Company of Loudoun County, the John G. Wallace Papers, and manuscript volumes from several Virginia churches, to mention only a few projects.

In the first year, the joint endeavor produced 2,041 reels of preservation microfilm. During the second year the Library and OCLC plan to increase production further—all in the effort to preserve, and provide access to, more and more of the Library's incomparable collections.

—submitted by Edward D. C. Campbell, Jr.,
Collection Management Services