



LIBRARY OF VIRGINIA

Sandra Gioia Treadway
Librarian of Virginia

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Library Board Announces Hiring of 10th Librarian of Virginia

RICHMOND, VIRGINIA — After conducting a national search, the Library Board has appointed Dennis T. Clark to serve as the 10th Librarian of Virginia. Clark brings more than 12 years of senior leadership experience in academic research libraries, and currently is chief of researcher engagement and general collections at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C., where he leads the largest researcher-focused division at the Library, encompassing research services and collections in business, fine arts, genealogy, history, humanities, social sciences and science. Clark will begin Jan. 25, 2024, and succeeds Sandra Gioia Treadway, Ph.D., who previously announced her intent to retire after serving as Librarian of Virginia since July 2007.

“We’re incredibly excited to welcome Dennis to the Library of Virginia,” said C. Paul Brockwell Jr., chair of the Library Board. “The Search Committee was impressed with his depth of experience and how closely it aligned with the generational opportunities the Library has right now to reimagine our public spaces, complete a major renovation and continue the important work of helping to unlock the powerful stories in the Library’s rich collections for people across the Commonwealth and the world.”

Clark’s role at the Library of Congress includes oversight of the historic main reading room and for the majority of the researcher-focused services at the Library, including reference and outreach, collection development, and direct services and loans to members of Congress and their staff.

“The opportunity to lead the Library of Virginia into its third century is the absolute pinnacle of my career in so many ways,” Clark said. “I cannot think of a more prestigious opportunity in libraries today. My passion as a librarian and library leader has always been in connecting libraries with their public, whether that is at a local university community or a national library with a global cohort of researchers.”

Prior to his appointment at the Library of Congress, Clark served as dean of libraries at the University of Arkansas, where he led a university library with four branches and an overall budget of \$18 million, and more than 150 librarians, archivists and staff. While at Arkansas, he energetically approached efforts to secure private philanthropy in support of the state’s flagship university, including a multi-year capital campaign, and helped lead a \$25 million renovation to the main library building, streamlined administrative departments to realign resources toward user needs, increased open educational resources and contributions to the institutional repository, and elevated the special collections of the library.

Clark brings deep knowledge of Virginia universities to his role. He served as associate university librarian for research, learning and spaces at the University of Virginia, and he was associate university librarian of research and learning for seven years at Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU), where he led a divisional change management initiative to better integrate the library and its services with the academic community. Clark also led the library's efforts to successfully complete a \$50 million renovation and expansion of the university's flagship library. During his tenure, VCU Libraries received the Excellence in Libraries Award from the Association of Colleges and Research Libraries. The James Branch Cabell Library renovation included a unique service model, an innovation studio incorporating a large makerspace, and a renovated and expanded special collections and archives department. The project was designated a "New Landmark Library" by *Library Journal* in 2016.

During his last year at VCU, the university libraries were invited to join the Association of Research Libraries, the first U.S. library to receive an invitation in 15 years. Clark holds a master's degree in library and information studies from The University of Alabama and a bachelor's degree in music from Samford University.

"I'm grateful to the Search Committee's work to recruit an excellent new Librarian of Virginia," said the Hon. Aimee Rogstad Guidera, Secretary of Education. "I look forward to working with Mr. Clark as he begins his leadership at the Library of Virginia and helping him advance the Library's important mission to ensure access to knowledge and our history throughout the Commonwealth."

ABOUT THE LIBRARY OF VIRGINIA

The Library of Virginia is the state's oldest institution dedicated to the preservation of Virginia's history and culture. Our online offerings attract nearly 4 million website visits per year, and our resources, exhibitions and events bring in nearly 100,000 visitors each year. The Library's collections, containing more than 130 million items, document and illustrate the lives of both famous Virginians and ordinary citizens, and the Library houses the most comprehensive collection of materials related to Virginia history in the world. The Library is located in downtown Richmond near Capitol Square at 800 East Broad Street, Richmond, VA 23219. Learn more at www.lva.virginia.gov.

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