VIRGINIA TECH – UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES
INSTRUCTION & OUTREACH DEPARTMENT
ANNUAL REPORT
Mid-May 2002 - Mid-May 2003

I.   Overview/Introduction

The Instruction & Outreach Department has had another good year with much success in addressing departmental goals. It appears there will be a slight decrease in the 12-month figures for classes and presentations, which is not surprising given the changes that are taking place on campus. On the plus side, the number of people taking tours has increased significantly with only a small number of additional tours being added to the schedule. Success with the freshman composition curriculum contributed to this increase. A number of department members participated in national, regional and state conferences and several had publications appear during the year.

II.   Special Projects
- CAM closed and services transferred to Circulation with minimal disruption for patrons.
- Library booth at all sessions of Freshman Orientation.
- Departmental role in planning, developing dynamic subject pages, My Library portal project.
- Phase One of Standardized Assessment of Information Literacy Skills (SAILS) Project successfully completed with over 500 student participants.

III.   Achievements and Accomplishments
- Successful integration of library component into pilot for freshman composition curriculum; number of sessions taught should double in spring 2004.
- XCaliber Certificate of Excellence awarded to the Information Skills Modules (ISM) http://info-skills.lib.vt.edu/; presentation to be made in fall 2003.
- Very successful In-Service Day held on May 17, 2002 (ISD4 – It's Your University; It's Your Library)
- Fourteen library and security/ethics questions were included on the summer 2002 Annual Freshman Survey.
- FDI and CEUT both included library workshops in their 2002-03 schedules.
  - FDI
    - *Electronic Library Resources for Teaching and Research* (Fall 2002, Spring 2003)
    - Library component in *Campus Instructional Resources/Computer Security* (Spring 2003)
    - *Information Skills Modules: Online instruction in information management for 21st century classes* (Spring 2003)
    - Library sessions on copyright, TEACH Act in seven tracks (Summer 2003)
    - *Tools and Resources for Faculty Research* (Summer 2003)
  - CEUT
    - *Designing Effective Research Assignments* (Fall 2002)
    - *Using Information Literacy Concepts to Enhance Critical Thinking Skills* (Spring 2003)

IV.   Departmental Publications
- Electronic Library Newsletter http://news.lib.vt.edu/libnews/index.php in place, will be officially presented to the university community in fall 2003.
- Microform user guides to describe collections and relevant print and electronic finding aids

V.   New Service
- Tours offered on regular schedule during spring semester; faculty members encouraged to send students during these times (outside of class time) so more time available for library instruction.

VI.   Personnel & Organizational Changes
- New College Librarian position created; Nicole Auer named College Librarian for the College of Arts & Sciences (College of Liberal Arts & Human Sciences).

VII.   Professional and Scholarly Contributions
Publications

Auer, Nicole J., Nancy H. Seamans, and Laura Pelletier. "Peer Advising in the Research Process: A Year of Student Success" in *Managing Library Instruction Programs in Academic Libraries: Papers and Session Materials Presented at the Twenty-Ninth National LOEX Library Instruction Conference*, eds. Julia K. Nims and Eric Owens. (Ann Arbor, MI : Pierian Press, 2003), 25-30.

Gray, Caryl, editor. *Virginia Culinary Thymes*, Spring 2003, http://spec.lib.vt.edu/culinary/CulinaryThymes/2003_04/

Gray, Caryl, Chair. ALA/LIRT Newsletter Committee, January 2003 -

Lener, Edward. Editor – "Earth Sciences" section of *Magazines for Libraries*, 12th edition (with Flora Shrode). In press.

Lener, Edward. Editorial Board, *Virginia Libraries*, 2002 to present.

Seamans, Nancy H. "Electronic Theses and Dissertations as Prior Publications: What the Editors Say." *Library Hi Tech*, (21) 2003: 56-61

Seamans, Nancy H., and Paul Metz. "Virginia Tech's Innovative College Librarian Program." *College and Research Libraries*, 63 (2002): 324-332.

Seamans, Nancy H. "Student Perceptions of Information Literacy: Insights for Librarians." *Reference Services Review*, 30 (2002): 112-123. (Selected as one of LIRT's Top Twenty for 2002 – one of the best instruction articles published in 2002.)

Thompson, Larry. "Engineering Conference Papers: A Primer for Collection Development and Reference." *Science & Technology Libraries*. 20: 4 (2001): 13-28.

Young, Michelle L. "Looking for Employment? Tips for New Librarians on the Job Hunt." *Virginia Libraries*, April-June, 2003: 19-20.

Presentations

Auer, Nicole, Poster Presentation: *The Power of Peers in the Academic Setting* (with Nancy Moeckel and Jenny Presnell of Miami University of Ohio). ACRL National Conference. Charlotte, NC, April 2003.

Gray, Caryl, *Culinary History Collection at Virginia* Tech, presentation at Virginia Library Association Annual Conference (October 2002)

Gray, Caryl, *Culinary History Collection at Virginia Tech, presentation* (with Gail McMillan) at Virginia Association of Family and Consumer Sciences (March 2003)

Krupar, Ellen, Nicole Auer, and Jay Lefkowitz, Poster Presentation: *The Virginia Tech Undergraduate Honor System: Librarians Get Involved*. ACRL National Conference. Charlotte, NC, April 2003.

Krupar, Ellen, Nicole Auer, and Jay Lefkowitz, Presentation: *The Information High Road: Partnering with Librarians to Promote Academic Integrity.* Center for Academic Integrity Conference, October 2002, Charlottesville, VA.

Lener, Edward, Susan Ariew, and Nancy H. Seamans, Poster Presentation: *Creating a Culture of Assessment in Instruction: The Virginia Tech Experience*. ACRL National Conference. Charlotte, NC, April 2003

Merrill, Margaret, Invited presentation: *Internet resources for organic farmers*. Carolina Farm Stewardship Association Annual Conference, Boone, NC, November 2002.

Pencek, Bruce, *Looking Back: Doing End-of-Term Assessments* (with Susan Ariew, and Penny Burge). LOEX 2003, Madison, WI, May 2003.

Seamans, Nancy H., *Two (or Twelve) Heads are Better Than One: Addressing the Complexities of Working with ACRL's Information Literacy Competency Standards* (with Consuella Askew Waller, Lisa O'Connor, Carolyn Radcliffe, Chris Sheetz). ACRL National Conference, Charlotte, NC, April 2003

Young, Michelle, Students *in Jeopardy: How we can help* and *Librarians + WINGS=Academic Angels? Not Quite But Close*, presentations at Virginia Library Association Annual Conference (October 2002)

Conference Planning

Textile Information Users Council, Blacksburg, April 2003 – Ellen Krupar and Caryl Gray.

ASEE/ELD program of the ASEE Annual Conference, Nashville, TN, June 2003 (organization and oversight of the ELD program for the ASEE) – Larry Thompson.

United States Agricultural Information Network (USAIN) biennial conference, April 2003 (Chair and program planner of the Social Issues/Rural Information Interest Group; Chair, Contributed Papers and Posters Committee) – Margaret Merrill

Agricultural Economics Reference Organization biennial conference, October 2003 (planning for conference to be held at Virginia Tech) – Margaret Merrill

Professional Organizations

Auer, Nicole, Chair – ACRL Instruction Section, Teaching Methods Committee (ISTM), 2002-2003.

Lener, Edward, Chair, Website Advisory Committee, Geoscience Information Society, January 2002 – present

Merrill, Margaret – USAIN: United States Agricultural Information Network, Chair of the Social Issues/Rural Information Interest Group

Merrill, Margaret - Agricultural Economics Reference Organization, President 2002-2003

Thompson, Larry – ASEE Engineering Libraries Division (ELD), Program Chair, Division Chair Elect, involvement at different levels through 2005.

Young, Michelle – Virginia Chapter of the Special Libraries Association, Webmaster and Listserv moderator, (2002-2004).

Virginia Tech

Auer, Nicole. Requested and received 3rd year of funding to continue work with Delores McDowell on the One2One Information Skills Peer Advisor Program, a Student Success grant-funded project.

Gray, Caryl, Nancy H. Seamans, Michelle L. Young – Faculty Volunteers in the Faculty Associates Program

Gray, Caryl, Ellen Krupar, Bruce Pencek, Young – Faculty Panel Members and/or Faculty Counselors for the Virginia Tech Undergraduate Honor System

Professional Instruction, Outreach
Seamans, Nancy H. – Designed and presented Forum for Information Literacy, University of West Florida, Pensacola, FL.
Merrill, Margaret – Invited to serve as a founding member of the North American Library Advisory Board for CAB International.
Thompson, Larry – Participated as a Guest Librarian in the Academic and Research Libraries class, a Distance Learning class that is part of the University at Buffalo MLS program.
Thompson, Larry - IEEE Library Advisory Committee.

VIII. Outlook for next year - Goals & Planning for 2003-2004
- Identify outreach efforts for the University Libraries that complement or enhance those identified by the Communication Committee.
- Develop a plan that provides upper level students with discipline-specific skills needed for successful completion of their academic career, lifelong learning, and/or graduate school success
- Plan, implement and evaluate activities in support of the University Libraries' Strategic Plan
- Respond to and, when possible, help shape the library role in a restructured university
- Market Information Skills Modules (ISM) to faculty, including graduate students who are teaching.
- Include in annual FAR for 2003-04 a brief appendix that details how evaluations of teaching have had an impact on the ways that instruction is delivered.

Training
- Plan In-Service Day 2004, tentatively scheduled for May 2004 (dependent on date of University's Staff Appreciation Day).
- Implement and assess new employee Orientation Program.

IX. Data
- Based on 10 months of statistics, a significant increase in the number of people taking library tours while adding only a small number of tours to the schedule.

Goals and Planning from 2002-2003
- *Current phase of Information Skills Modules is largely complete and teaching resources are being developed. TILT has been modified for Virginia Tech use.*
- *Upper Level Skills Team worked on plan to provide upper level students with discipline-specific skills needed for successful completion of their academic career, lifelong learning, and/or graduate school success; request from Commission on Graduate Studies & Policies for formal proposal regarding implementation will be developed during summer 2003.*
- *Information literacy was included in proposal from University's Core Curriculum Committee; proposal was rejected by University Council, but a summer group is reworking the proposal in hopes of sending it through university governance during the 2003-04 academic year.*
- *No work was done on developing a 1-credit hour (elective) course on research skills, information literacy, and/or using the library.*
- *Departmental goals were developed to support Goal 3 of the University Libraries' Strategic Plan and are addressed above.*
- *Decision was made to postpone departmental workshop until fall 2003 or later.*

- *Restructuring at the university appears to be ongoing; the department will continue to try to respond to needs of all constituent groups and will follow the plans of a restructured university whenever feasible.*

Training

- *Several training programs were provided in support of data-driven decision making.*
- *An orientation program for new employees has been developed and will be implemented and assessed with the next new hires.*

Ongoing goals from previous years:

- *Evaluation of instruction sessions continues.*
- *Development of a plan that provides a curriculum-based cumulative learning experience for students to develop information skills continues.*

Training

- *Process of linking training paths to the University's mandatory job dimensions for classified staff continues.*