

9. The institution, through ownership or formal arrangements or agreements, provides and supports student and faculty access and user privileges to adequate library collections as well as to other learning/information resources consistent with the degrees offered. These collections and resources are sufficient to support all its educational, research, and public service programs.

- Compliance
- Partial Compliance
- Non-compliance

Narrative:

The VCU Libraries facilities include two main libraries, the [James Branch Cabell Library](#) (JBC) on the Academic Campus and the [Tompkins-McCaw Library](#) (TML) for the health sciences at the VCU Medical Center. Other campus libraries include the Community Health Education Center ([CHEC](#)), the School of the Arts [Visual Resource Center](#), the Computer Based Instruction Lab ([CIBL](#)) in the VCU School of Medicine, the [Linen-Powell Research Library](#) in the Massey Cancer Center, and the [Virginia Adult Learning Resource Center](#). The library for the VCU School of the Arts in Qatar has a head librarian and reference librarian; the head librarian holds a graduate degree in Library Science and the reference librarian holds a B.A. in Library and Information Science. Collection resources at that library meet the needs of the art foundation and three B.F.A. programs.

The VCU Libraries advances learning, teaching, research, health care, and public service at Virginia Commonwealth University by engaging the University community in acquiring, finding, sharing, and creating information in all formats. The Libraries' [mission](#) and broad-level goals are available to the public on its [webpage](#). The VCU Libraries' mission is to support learning, teaching, research, health care, and public service at Virginia Commonwealth University by: 1) selecting, acquiring, organizing, and preserving information and recorded knowledge in a wide variety of formats; 2) facilitating access to materials and information available at Virginia Commonwealth University and elsewhere; and 3) instructing and assisting users to identify, locate, and use its resources. Furthermore, the VCU Libraries strives for excellence in all of these endeavors, keeping uppermost in mind at all times the importance of the highest quality service to the students, faculty, and staff of the University.

To achieve its tactical and quality objectives, the VCU Libraries develops a detailed annual plan to guide its operations and services. A visionary [strategic plan](#), drafted in 1999, provides a framework for the development of annual plans. The strategic plan articulates a vision and goals in six areas: 1) support for all enterprises of the VCU community; 2) the design and delivery of programs and services; 3) the delivery of collections and services to users wherever they are located; 4) a process of continuous assessment 5) enhancing Libraries facilities; and 6) funding and development. The VCU Libraries began a new strategic

planning effort in spring 2003. In addition, the VCU Libraries documented its support of student learning in VCU's *WEAVEonline™* initiative in 2002.

To ensure that the VCU Libraries' resources and services are responsive to the needs of the VCU community, library administrators meet regularly with the VCU Libraries Advisory Committee (VLAC). Members of VLAC include faculty from each VCU school, as well as undergraduate and graduate student representatives. Current membership of the [VLAC](#), as well as minutes from meetings (1996-present), are available on the VCU Libraries webpage.

The VCU Libraries' achievements of annual goals and objectives are reported and documented in [annual reports](#). Beginning in 2002, an internal annual report contains unit-by-unit activities documenting achievement of annual goals and objectives.

Information about all of the VCU Libraries' [services](#) and access to virtually all of its [resources](#) are available online. Nearly 100% of the collections are represented in the online catalog. The collections include over 1.72 million volumes (1.5 million catalogued and an additional 200,000 government documents), 3 million microform items, 44,000 audiovisual materials, nearly 14,000 print & electronic journal subscriptions, access to articles from over 24,000 electronic titles, and over 4,400 linear feet of manuscripts. VCU Libraries was among the first research libraries in the U.S. to catalog electronic serials in aggregated collections like InfoTrac and Dow Jones. More than 34,000 titles in electronic monograph collections, such as NetLibrary, also are cataloged. Special Collections & Archives at JBC includes over 20,000 volumes in special subject areas, including Virginia history and literature and graphic arts as well as the official records and archives of VCU and its predecessor institutions. At TML, Special Collections & Archives houses archives, artifacts, books, manuscripts, photographs, portraits and prints related to the history of health care in Virginia as well as the archives for the VCU Medical Center. The medical artifact collection, among the largest in the U.S., contains over 4,000 items.

The VCU Libraries provides materials for users through interlibrary loan and a number of formal resource sharing arrangements as well as reciprocal agreements with local, state, and regional libraries. The Illiad system enables borrowing requests for materials to be submitted and tracked online. VCU Libraries participates in the National Library of Medicine's Loansome Doc program, enabling users of Pubmed and Internet Grateful Med to require document delivery through either service. VCU Libraries receives requests and processes them as requests for document delivery. The Richmond Academic Library Consortium ([RALC](#)) is a group of 11 Richmond area libraries that have agreed to extend limited borrowing privileges and expedited interlibrary loans to faculty, graduate students, staff, and undergraduates of any RALC school. In 2001, the Association of Southeastern Research ([ASERL](#)) launched Kudzu, a system of linked online catalogs at 17 participating research libraries across the Southeast, connecting approximately 300,000 students and faculty to more than

30 million volumes. The Kudzu system allows users to browse the participating catalogs using a single search interface and to submit interlibrary loan requests directly to the source library. Most documents can be delivered to the user within a few days.

A team of more than a dozen librarians develops collections. The goal of developing and managing collections that meet the needs of faculty, researchers, and students is ensured by the [subject](#) expertise of the librarians and formally by collection development policies for all VCU subject areas and programs. Relevance of collections also is achieved through the [faculty liaison program](#), formal [review of new courses and programs](#) by subject librarians, and by vigilant [collection budget planning](#) and [realignment](#) of needs to match available resources. VCU Libraries ranks last among its peer academic libraries in collection expenditures since collections are strengthened by a rich array of electronic resources available through the Virtual Library of Virginia (VIVA).

The Virtual Library of Virginia ([VIVA](#)) mission is to provide, in an equitable, cooperative and cost-effective manner, enhanced access to library and information resources for the Commonwealth of Virginia's non-profit academic libraries serving the higher education community. All libraries at the 39 state-assisted colleges and universities (at 54 campuses) within the Commonwealth are members of VIVA. In addition, the Library of Virginia and 30 of Virginia's private, non-profit colleges and universities participate as full members where possible. In addition to resources allocated through the General Assembly of the Commonwealth, individual institutions have supported VIVA's efforts in a variety of ways, most notably through significant amounts of time donated by library staff members throughout the state.

VIVA is comprised of two major components: enhanced support of resource sharing of Virginia's exceptional print and microform collections, and shared access to online library resources and improved coordination of collection development through VIVA. VIVA has improved access to all books and journals in the vast collections of Virginia's academic library along with improved interlibrary loan service. VIVA improves faculty and staff productivity, enhances learning, utilizes technology, and avoids duplication of collections. From its inception in 1994, VIVA has recorded cost avoidance for its public member libraries of approximately \$74.5 million.

Whenever a new course or program is submitted for review by the University Undergraduate Curriculum Committee or University Graduate Council, included with the proposal is a ["New Course or Program Review Form"](#) that must be reviewed and signed off by the University Library confirming that the necessary library resources are available to support any new academic initiative.

Library operations currently occupy approximately 202,000 net usable square feet in the James Branch Cabell (JBC) Library and approximately 70,000 net

usable square feet in the Tompkins-McCaw Library (TML). Renovations, which focused on enhancing user space at JBC and TML, were completed in late 2002. The objectives and benefits of the \$3.8 million VCU Libraries Renovation (2001-02) are described online at <http://www.library.vcu.edu/building/>.