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## News for Friends of VCU Libraries

November 2017



**Suffrage, Child Welfare, Temperance, Civil Rights and more**

## Explore our past's ephemera in new Social Welfare History Image Portal

[The Social Welfare History Image Portal](#) is now online and ready for you to explore. The site presents archival materials related to the history of social reform and social welfare in the United States. Included are photographs, pamphlets, placards, handbills and comics pages drawn from the collections of numerous [participating institutions](#). The new Image Portal is a collaborative project based at [Virginia Commonwealth University Libraries](#), Richmond, Va. Every image links back to the archive or museum where it can be found. The Image Portal is a companion to [The Social Welfare History Project](#), a website that provides articles and essays about these topics.

- [VCU News' article about The Image Portal and slideshow of images](#)
- [VCU Libraries updates and e-launches companion web project](#)

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## ARL membership a major milestone

In early October, the board of the Association of Research Libraries voted to invite VCU Libraries to join the association. The vote to approve VCU's membership followed a review of the university library that considered both qualitative and quantitative documentation and a site visit. The rigorous review process included an examination of the breadth and depth of collections, uniqueness of research resources, services to the library's community, potential contributions to scholarship, and leadership in the library and information science profession. The review committee noted in particular the sustained growth of the institution and its support for the library. [Full article about ARL membership](#)

## Affordable course content a 2017 priority

The high cost of course materials is a concern for both students and parents, and it has also been shown to place many students at academic risk. "Affordable course content" describes any free or low-cost educational resources that can serve as alternatives to high-cost course materials. VCU Libraries is taking a leadership role on campus, working with faculty, the bookstore and others to help students and their families save educational dollars.

- [More about this initiative](#)
- Learn more by reading this [online guide to affordable course content](#) and open educational resources.

**“Membership in the Association of Research Libraries is an immense honor and advances VCU’s mission as a major urban research university.”--President Michael Rao on the election of VCU to the Association of Research Libraries**

### [News](#)

[VCU elected 125th member of ARL](#)

[Social Welfare History Project website updated and re-launched](#)

InLight Redux: Art installation on view in Cabell Library

[Wednesdays in The Workshop open](#)

### **Events**

Nov. 1: [Advance Your Research: Citation Management Tools](#)

Nov. 9: [Real Life Film Series Presents "Age of Champions"](#)

Nov. 9: [Questioning Cinema Film Series Presents "Frankenstein"](#)

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[Arts librarian surveys students for national research project](#)

Dec. 1: [Open Textbook Workshops](#)

[Tompkins-McCaw chief tapped for national mentor role](#)

Dec. 6: [A Talk by alumna Eva Dillon, Author of \*Spies in the Family\*](#)



Jade Chang, winner of the 2017 VCU Cabell First Novelist Award for *The Wangs vs. the World*, reads from her book and is then joined by her agent and editor for a discussion of the evolution of the book from original idea to first draft to published work. Join us for this Nov. 16 event, 7–8:30 p.m. in the Cabell Library Lecture Hall. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. The event will be followed by a public reception and book sale and signing. [Details and registration](#)



Students wrote thank you notes to donors during the annual Thank a Donor Day, sponsored by Development and Alumni Relations. The thank-a-thon event was set up on the Compass, right outside Cabell Library. [Read the full article.](#)

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