Library technology-science leaders to gather Jan. 9

As one of the first major research universities to launch a pioneering new cloud-resident enterprise library platform, Virginia Commonwealth University is hosting an educational session Jan. 9 designed to help other libraries around the world prepare for the next generation of library technologies.

VCU Libraries went live in fall 2012 with Alma from Ex Libris Inc. Alma is a unified resource-management system that replaced the system VCU had used for the past decade, which also had been developed by Ex Libris. VCU is the third library in North America to implement Alma.

"Libraries have always been on the cutting edge of technology," said University Librarian John E. Ulmschneider. "Emerging cloud technologies are building blocks for the research libraries of the future — more accessible, scalable, secure and content-rich than ever to advance scholarly endeavor."

At the Jan. 9 event, industry leaders will discuss how emerging cloud-based technologies are transforming research libraries. To attend or to watch live on the Web, visit http://www.library.vcu.edu/events/cloud/

By the numbers: Another busy semester ends
The busiest week of the fall semester 2012 was Dec. 3-7. Some 67,000 people were in our buildings — many of them all night long.

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**Survey data drives changes**

Library staff members have been paying close attention to results from the 2011 LibQUAL survey, which measures consumer perceptions and satisfaction with service and collections. View a full report on the 2011 data here. VCU Libraries staff worked intensively to improve services, collections and spaces based on 2011 data. Highlights include:

- Design work is well under way to construct a new library building on the Monroe Park Campus.
- Hours were expanded on both campuses.
- Substantive renovations at libraries on both MCV and Monroe Park Campuses created additional user space with improved furnishings and study conditions.
- A new one-button search function was introduced to the library website in 2012 to expedite online discovery of library materials.
- Alma, new technical infrastructure, was adopted in 2012 to add speed and efficiency.
- Collections in all formats were expanded.
- A task force is working on a redesign of an improved website to launch in 2013.

The 2013 LibQUAL survey will be conducted online during the spring semester.

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**Readers needed**

The 2013 VCU Cabell First Novelist Award contest is under way! Help to select the finalists by checking out one of the books on the shelf next to the Circulation Desk in James Branch Cabell Library and returning a completed review form by March 30. Additional contest books
will appear in January. Thanks for your help, and happy reading! More about the award.

Best books lists

To plan your 2013 reading, VCU Libraries Book ReMarks blog gives you links to some of the best of lists published at the end of the year.

Events

- The 11th Annual Black History Month Lecture is Feb. 5. The topic is “Justice for All: Race, Wrongful Conviction and the Innocence Project.” Peter Neufeld, co-director of the Innocence Project, will take the stage with Marvin Anderson, who was exonerated of wrongful conviction through the use of DNA evidence. In 1982, Anderson was charged with crimes that he did not commit, and he spent the next 15 years in prison. Anderson, currently an Innocence Project Board member, and Neufeld, who assisted Anderson in winning his exoneration, will explore the controversial relationship between race and wrongful conviction in a program focusing on the important work of the Innocence Project. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. A book sale, signing and reception will follow. Registration is now open.
- Save the date for the annual Brown-Lyons Lecture given by Jack D. Spiro, Ph.D. It’s set for April 4, 2013. The topic: What Gives Life Meaning?
Exhibit salutes VCU School of Social Work

In January 1917, the institution that became VCU’s School of Social Work was founded by a small group of Richmond citizens interested in improving the social conditions of Virginia’s urban and rural poor. Their efforts led to a training school for social workers, the first of its kind in the South. In honor of the school’s 95 years of service, being marked during the 2012-13 academic year, VCU Libraries offers an exhibition on the fourth floor of James Branch Cabell Library. Up through the spring semester, the photograph- and document-rich exhibit draws on materials from the library’s Special Collections and Archives.

To learn more about the founding of the school, see "History of the Richmond Professional Institute: From Its Beginning in 1917 to Its Consolidation with the Medical College of Virginia in 1968 to Form Virginia Commonwealth University" by Henry H. Hibbs Jr. (1887-1977), longtime leader of the Richmond Professional Institute.

The photograph: First class of the School of Social Work and Public Health pose with Dr. Henry H. Hibbs Jr. in front of the monument to Dr. Hunter H. McGuire, former professor of surgery at the Medical College of Virginia.

Thanks for your annual gift

Happy New Year and a heartfelt thank you to our many donors who made VCU Libraries one of their giving priorities for 2012. Your annual giving supports our collections, preservation efforts and our services to students and faculty. Thank you!

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