

The Virtual Library of Virginia
Fall Semester 2013
8/22/2013

Universal Borrowing Pilot Allows Students and Faculty to Borrow Books Directly from Other VIVA Institutions

Starting September 1, 2013, VIVA will begin a universal borrowing pilot project that will allow patrons at any VIVA institution to borrow print books held at libraries that participate in the pilot project by simply walking in the building and presenting their home institution ID card. In recognition of the increased importance of online education, it is believed that this project will benefit patrons who live near or visit other institutions, and it will have the most positive impact on distance education students.

The guidelines for this pilot project were developed to provide as much flexibility as possible to the individual institutions. The lending institution will determine the kinds of items to be lent, the limit on the number of items an individual can borrow, loan periods, and fine and fee structures. In return, the home library of the VIVA borrower agrees to work with the lending library to resolve issues as they arise. To date, 32 institutions have opted in as lenders and 34 have opted in as borrowers. The pilot will take place from September 1, 2013 to May 31, 2014.

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VIVA is the consortium of the libraries of 73 nonprofit higher education institutions in Virginia, including 39 state-assisted colleges and universities within the Commonwealth of Virginia, 33 independent private, nonprofit institutions, and The Library of Virginia. VIVA's mission is to provide, in an equitable, cooperative, and cost-effective manner, enhanced access to library and information resources for Virginia's academic libraries serving the nonprofit higher education community. VIVA is funded by the Commonwealth of Virginia through the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV) and by investments from participating institutions.

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For additional information contact:
Katherine A. Perry
VIVA Director
George Mason University, MS 1D1
Arlington Campus Library
3351 Fairfax Drive
Arlington, VA 22201
Tel: 703-993-4654
Email: kperry@gmu.edu