

VIVA Supports Open Access and Open Educational Resources for Virginia Students

The Virtual Library of Virginia and its member libraries have shown their commitment to the open dissemination of knowledge, for the benefit of both college students and the general public in Virginia, through two recent initiatives.

First, VIVA has joined the Open Textbook Network (OTN), <http://research.cehd.umn.edu/otn/>, a program devoted to the promotion of access, affordability, and student success through the creation and adoption of open textbooks. Nine early OTN members have reported a \$1.5 million savings in textbook costs to students, showing that open textbooks provide real savings for students and their families.

By joining OTN as a consortium, VIVA is able to bring this opportunity to academic libraries across Virginia. More than 30 VIVA member libraries will send representatives to System and Campus Leader training, positioning the consortium for successful adoption of these resources across the Commonwealth. VIVA looks forward to bringing similar savings to Virginia students as [other participants in this program](#) have achieved. Open textbooks directly contribute to students' academic success by ensuring that all students, no matter their means, have access to their course materials.

VIVA has also committed to open education and open scholarship through consortial support of the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ), <https://doaj.org/>, an authoritative international directory for quality, peer-reviewed, open access journals. By making this curated list of resources available, DOAJ "aims to increase the visibility and ease of use of open access scientific and scholarly journals, thereby promoting their increased usage and impact" ([About DOAJ](#)). The DOAJ brings together more than 10,000 open access journals from more than 100 countries, featuring nearly 2 million articles that are freely available to all. Nearly half of VIVA's 72 members became supporting members of the DOAJ. This type of support enables the DOAJ to continue in their work processing and reviewing journals to be listed and promoting best practices in open access publishing.

Support of these innovative approaches to making educational resources available is directly in line with VIVA's goal to deliver equitable and cost-effective access to academic resources for Virginia students.

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VIVA is the consortium of the libraries of 72 nonprofit higher education institutions in Virginia, including 39 state-assisted colleges and universities within the Commonwealth of Virginia, 32 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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