New University Librarian Selected

The University Libraries are delighted to announce that George Fowler has accepted the position of University Librarian at Old Dominion University beginning July 25, 2015. He has been Interim University Librarian at Old Dominion University from July 2014-July 2015, and was Associate University Librarian for Information Resources and Technology at ODU since 2011. Prior to that, he was Head of Library Systems Development at the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, from 2006-2011 and Systems Librarian at Temple University from 2002-2006. George Fowler holds an MS in Library Science (University of North Texas (1998)) and is a doctoral candidate in Higher Education at Old Dominion.

State of the University Libraries Address

On Friday, August 21st, George Fowler delivered the inaugural State of the University Libraries address. In summary, the state of the Libraries is very strong, with a firm commitment to our mission, vision and values.

Milestones achieved in Academic Year 2015 include completing a 2-year, 7-phase future planning process; having more than 1,000,000 visits to Perry Library; keeping the Learning Commons @ Perry Library open 363 days, even when the University was closed due to inclement weather, closing only for Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day; adding more than 1,000,000 new electronic items to our collections; moving the Hofheimer Art Library to the Barry Arts Building; recording more than 19,000 loans of iPads, laptops, cameras, recorders and other equipment; making nearly 27,000 reservations of the 19 student collaboration rooms; partnering in enabling ODU to accept electronic theses and dissertations; and having over 18,000 items in our digital collections (including all ODU yearbooks, thanks to support from the Friends of the Libraries).

Challenges for the Libraries include organizational environment (amazing people need an environment that encourages their awesomeness); assessment and impact (do the Libraries make a difference at ODU?), space (to meet Libraries and University needs), and engagement on campus (so many opportunities; so few resources).

Strategies to address these challenges include: organizational culture (mission first, people always; staff retreat; reorganization planning and inclusive excellence); LibQUAL+ (University-wide survey on student, faculty and staff expectations and perceptions of the Libraries’ services, collections and resources effectiveness; spaces and overall effectiveness and opportunities for improvement); space planning (task force, and increased quiet study space); relationship building (on campus and beyond); institutional repository (ODU Digital Commons); and communication and fundraising.

Future possibilities include implementing a new library and discovery system, consolidating the two service points in Perry Library, creating a Research Commons for graduate students and faculty, and expanding the Learning Commons. See the slides from the Address at digitalcommons.odu.edu/libraries_reports/
Dear Friends,

I am back! I am excited that ODU thought I did well enough as Interim University Librarian to offer me three more years to continue leading the Libraries in accomplishing our amazing transformation!

With this position settled, we can now focus on filling the other vacancies. The Libraries are in the process of recruiting for our Head of Systems Development, Librarian for Health Sciences, Administrative Assistant to the Administrative Services Librarian and two Associate University Librarians.

I am extremely pleased to report that we have hired Corrie Marsh as our Scholarly Communication and Collection Development Librarian and Steve Bookman as our University Archivist.

Focus was italicized earlier because we have a lot to focus on! (Almost too much!) As my first official act as University Librarian, I accepted the Libraries’ 2015-2019 Future Plan, which we had spent the last two years developing. With that final step, the Libraries now have definite directions in which to progress. We will be looking at our organization, space, services, funding, and engagement, to name just a few of the broader areas.

Stay tuned for future updates! Or, better yet…contact us to get involved directly in making these exciting opportunities real!

Sincerely,
George

New Graphic Novels Collection

The University Libraries have recently purchased almost 200 graphic novels to support programs in Education, Communications, English, and Interdisciplinary Studies. The education community has begun to embrace graphic novels as a way to reach reluctant readers, engage visual learners, improve comprehension and interpretation of themes, literary devices, and social issues, among other topics (Downey, 2009). Our goal is to provide a collection that will benefit students and faculty in their studies and research as well as to provide engaging reading for the ODU community.

Faculty were consulted in compiling the list of novels to purchase, as well as American Library Association recommendations. Titles include classics such as those by Alison Bechdel, Neil Gaiman and Mike Richardson; new titles include Black River by Josh Simmons and Bodies by Si Spencer; as well as analysis, historical, and informational selections including Understanding Comics by Scott McCloud.

Selections are currently featured in the bookcase exhibit on the first floor of Perry Library; all can be found by searching the ODU Online Catalog.
Dear Friends,

I am delighted to begin my term as President of the Friends of the ODU Libraries. It is always a pleasure to work with a strong board and appreciative staff members. George Fowler has been named University Librarian and has many wonderful ideas to go with his new title. We are all looking forward to working together.

We are completing our year-long series of lectures that were designed to highlight our Libraries and the wonderful expertise available on campus. The final four lectures in this series will take place on campus this fall. (Please see the calendar of events on page 6.)

The theme of our events for 2016 will be the quadrennial presidential election. We will kick off the year on January 13 with our annual fundraiser. We are very excited to bring Larry Sabato, University of Virginia Professor and well known political commentator, to campus to give us a look into his Crystal Ball. Information on ticket sales will be disseminated in October. This event is being co-sponsored by the Department of Political Science and Geography. Watch your newsletter and our Web site for other election-related events this year. We are planning debate viewing evenings, as well as talks on the impact of social media on elections, statistics and the elections and other related topics.

On your next visit to campus, please stop and take a look at the results of our yearbook digitization project. You are sure to dig up some wonderful memories and marvel at the transformation of campus. Pat yourselves on the back as well. Your membership dollars have made this project possible.

We hope you will take advantage of as many of our events as you can. If you have further ideas, please pass them on. All of us working together will only make our libraries stronger.

Sue Doviak
President
Friends of the ODU Libraries

New ODU Digital Commons (Institutional Repository)

One of the University’s strategic goals is to increase ODU’s reputation for research excellence by establishing a database of scholarship publications in the University Libraries. The repository will be a single location to collect the University’s scholarly content of all types; it will promote open access; and it will ensure the content is permanently accessible. Most users find repository content through Google and Google Scholar.

So far there are 503 papers included, and 326 uses have been recorded. The majority of the papers (250) are master’s level papers done by graduate students in the STEM Department. We have 300 more papers still to convert.

Our new repository also includes electronic theses and dissertations (ETDs) –7, so far, from students participating in the pre-pilot ETD program last spring. By fall of 2017 all graduate students will be required to electronically submit their theses and dissertations to be included in the repository. More will be added soon from summer graduates. Ultimately, we would also like to include past theses and dissertations in the repository.

Some faculty have agreed to help us get started by including their publications (e.g., Mark Butler, Fred Dobbs, Lucy Rush, Rachel Stott, Dylan Wittkower, the Center for Bioelectrics and the Center for Coastal Physical Oceanography). We are still processing these, and we have also added our ODU Yearbooks.

The new Digital Commons is off to a good start! Please check it out at http://digitalcommons.odu.edu.
Libraries’ All-Staff Retreat

On Wednesday, July 22, the University Libraries held an all-staff retreat, to allow all librarians and staff to provide input to the Management Team about the Libraries’ Strategic Goals: 1) Promote an effective organizational environment; 2) Ensure access to the full scholarly record for the University community; 3) Contribute to student success; 4) Provide services to support the full cycle of research and scholarly exchange; 5) Provide flexible and responsive physical and virtual spaces for the University community; 6) Build mutually beneficial relationships with the University and the community; and 7) Develop diversified, sustainable funding.

To allow every employee a chance to participate, all Libraries’ offices were closed for the morning, with the exception of the Learning Commons @ Perry Library, which was staffed by student assistants.

The first session had an area for each of the Libraries’ strategic goals, facilitated by a member of Management Team. Each staff member selected the 3 goals they wished to discuss, and spent 15 minutes at each goal before rotating to their next choice. Facilitators encouraged discussion and noted information and questions to be shared with Management Team.

The second session was facilitated by staff volunteers, while Management Team left the area. These volunteers facilitated small group discussions about all aspects of the Libraries to get comments, questions, compliments and concerns. This information was provided to Management Team in a de-identified form. There was also a comment box available during the retreat to provide an opportunity to give fully-anonymous feedback.

Management Team is working on the comments from the retreat and focusing on the themes identified.

Lunch was provided at the end of the retreat, and the entire staff assembled for a group picture on the lawn in front of Perry Library.

Interlibrary Loan Move

Interlibrary Loan and Document Delivery Services has moved back to their first floor location, room 1208 in Perry Library.

The pick up and return location for interlibrary loan books has been changed to the Circulation Desk on the second floor of Perry Library. Circulation Desk service hours are posted on the Libraries’ webpage at [www.odu.edu/library](http://www.odu.edu/library)

ILL office staff will continue to be available to answer ILL related questions.
In addition to documents related to the Virginia Opera Association, Virginia Opera Guild, and the Virginia Opera Docents, the University Libraries have several collections associated with Opera staff, musicians, and benefactors. The rich variety of these collections helps to tell a comprehensive story about the Virginia Opera and the history of the arts community in the Tidewater region of Virginia. To foster an ongoing spirit of collaboration, the Old Dominion University Libraries invite members of the community to help to take care of, and advocate for, the archival collections that we have acquired with their assistance. These efforts, along with the Libraries’ commitment to documenting local history, have led to a dynamic partnership between ODU and our arts community which in turn has helped make the Virginia Opera Papers one of our most high-profile and heavily-used collections.

Founded in 1974 by Edythe C. Harrison, the Virginia Opera Association was launched with two productions at the Norfolk Center Theater. In 1975, Peter Mark signed on as conductor for the Virginia Opera, a position he would hold for 36 years. His wife, the Scottish-American composer, Thea Musgrave, would compose many works for the company during Marks’ tenure. In 1977, the Virginia Opera also began to hold performances in Richmond, and, by 1983, the Richmond and Central Virginia Board of Virginia Opera had been formed and a Richmond office was opened. The Opera established its main stage in Norfolk in 1993 when the Norfolk Center Theater was renovated and became the Edythe C. and Stanley L. Harrison Opera House, in honor of the Virginia Opera’s founder and her husband. In March of 1994, Virginia Opera was named the “Official Opera Company of the Commonwealth of Virginia” in recognition of the organization’s contribution to the Commonwealth and to the world of opera. In addition, the Virginia Opera serves more than 200,000 students and community members yearly through its Education and Community Outreach programs.

As part of the University Libraries’ efforts to document the history of the local arts scene, Libraries’ staff began to collaborate with several community arts organizations to acquire collections that would broaden our research scope. Eleanor Bader, a long-time supporter of the Virginia Opera, donated her collection of materials related to the Virginia Opera as part of this initiative in 2004. Mrs. Bader’s initial gift contained programs, guides, organizational documents, correspondence, and audio-visual materials. Following the acquisition, the Libraries developed a relationship with Virginia Opera staff that resulted in the addition of more materials. During the next several years, the Virginia Opera transferred their archives to the University Libraries’ Special Collections, and continues to send new documents and other records as they are created.

The material in the Virginia Opera Papers dates from 1975 to the present day. Represented in the collection are the Virginia Opera Association, the Virginia Opera Guild, the Virginia Opera Docents, as well as information on the Harrison Opera House. The Friends of Virginia Opera also are represented to a lesser extent.

Sketch for costume, makeup, and hair design for the character of Tristan in the 2005 production of Tristan und Isolde, signed “RDM”
Several other collections have been acquired by the Libraries that have an affinity with the Virginia Opera Papers. One of the most significant of these is the Virginia Symphony Orchestra Papers, which consists of materials dating back to the founding of the organization in 1921. Historically, the Virginia Opera’s pit orchestra has been staffed by members of the Virginia Symphony Orchestra (VSO), and the records of the VSO contain valuable information about connections between the two institutions. Recently, the Libraries also acquired the personal collection of Peter Mark, the founding Music and Artistic Director of the Virginia Opera (and current Artist Director Emeritus). These papers contain information about his life while he was working with the Virginia Opera, and help to document the establishment of the Opera as well as its evolution over time. The collection also contains documents, scores, and other materials related to his wife, Thea Musgrave, who composed several works for the company.

A third collection that is essential to telling the story of the Virginia Opera is the Edythe C. Harrison Papers. While Mrs. Harrison’s collection is valuable for many reasons, it serves as a rich resource for researchers interested in the early days of the Virginia Opera’s formation. Together, these collections provide a comprehensive history of the Virginia Opera, as well as a multifaceted lens into the history of the Tidewater arts community.

In addition to academic research, the Virginia Opera Papers are still used regularly by Virginia Opera staff. Last year, during their 2014-2015 Best of the Best Season, the Virginia Opera celebrated its 40th anniversary and relied heavily on the archives in developing promotional materials. Other organizations in the community that were associated with the Opera’s anniversary, such as Norfolk’s PBS affiliate WHRO, were interested in the Virginia Opera Papers as well.

The Libraries’ efforts to acquire and promote a broad scope of collections encourage opportunities for serendipitous scholarly research, as well provide a comprehensive history for musicians, artistic directors, managers, and other professionals interested in opera companies and productions.

Please check these and other collections at our website: www.odu.edu/library/special-collections

Jessica Ritchie, Head, Special Collections and University Archives

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2015/16 Libraries’ Calendar

**Friends of the Libraries’ Lecture series is free & open to the public.**

Please RSVP to 683-4141 to reserve a seat.

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Peter Eudenbach, Art, “To arrive where we started – The Redwood Library, Newport, RI”
Celebrating Art and the ODU Libraries. FoL Lecture Series
September 17, 2015 -- 7:00 pm, Learning Commons @ Perry Library

Dr David Burdige, Oceanography, “Writing books in the sciences; giving new meaning to ‘publish or perish’”
Celebrating the Sciences and the ODU Libraries. FoL Lecture Series
October 22, 2015 -- 7:00 pm, Learning Commons @ Perry Library

Dr. Dylan Wittkower, Philosophy and Culture, “Teh Intarwebs: Maed of Cats, Akshully”
Celebrating Philosophy and the ODU Libraries. FoL Lecture Series
November 6, 2015 -- 7:00 pm, Learning Commons @ Perry Library

Jessica Ritchie, Head of Special Collections and University Archives, Guided Tour of Special Collections
Celebrating Special Collections and the ODU Libraries. FoL Lecture Series
December 4, 2015 -- 7:00 pm, Special Collections, Perry Library

Larry Sabato, Robert Kent Gooch Professor of Politics at UVA, “Sabato’s Crystal Ball”
January 13, 2016 - Details to be announced.

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Editor: Fern McDougal (may be reached at fmcdouga@odu.edu)
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Friends of the ODU Libraries page 6 September 2015
Libraries’ Annual Book Sale 2015

Donations for the Book Sale (books, magazines, DVDs, sound recordings) will be accepted until 5:00 pm on October 23. Donations should be brought to the Circulation Desk on the 2nd floor of Perry Library.

The Book Sale will be held from October 28 to October 31.

The Friends-only Preview Night will be held from 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm on Tuesday, October 27.

The Book Sale will be open to the public as follows:

Wednesday, October 28, 9:00 am to 7:00 pm
Thursday, October 29, 9:00 am to 7:00 pm
Friday, October 30, 9:00 am to 7:00 pm
Saturday, October 31, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm