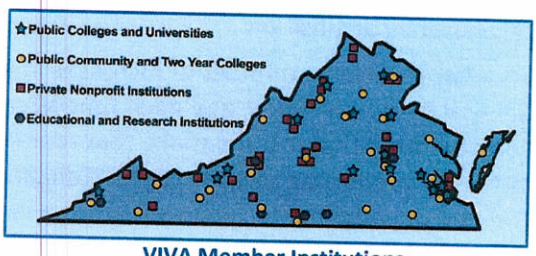
VIVA: Delivering VALUE Equitably, Cooperatively, and Cost-Effectively

The Virtual Library of Virginia (VIVA) is the consortium of the nonprofit academic libraries within the Commonwealth of Virginia. Members include all of Virginia's 39 public colleges and universities, as well as 32 private institutions and the Library of Virginia.

- VIVA is **equitable**, distributing its impact across the Commonwealth.
- With services located in Arlington, Harrisonburg, Sweet Briar, Blacksburg, Charlottesville, and Richmond, VIVA shows a high level of **cooperation** among higher education in Virginia.
- VIVA is **cost-effective**, having demonstrated a cost avoidance of over $695,000,000 through group purchases since it began in 1994.



VIVA Member Institutions

What does VIVA do?

Virginia Plan for Higher Education Goal 1, Affordable Access, in service of Goal 2, Student Success

- Collaboratively select, license, and acquire online library resources, saving its member institutions and the Commonwealth significant money and time.
- Provide extensive resource sharing of books, journal articles, and more among member institutions – over 2 million items have been shared since VIVA began.
- Provide educational and training opportunities for its member libraries.

VIVA's Resources

At a base level, for all public institutions, VIVA provides:

Over **40,000** e-journals

Over **75,000** e-books

VIVA provides key resources in all of the target industries for the New Virginia Economy. These resources support the creation of highly-skilled professionals who will be critical to the economic future of Virginia.

VIVA resources get extensive use – over 15,400,000 journal article and book chapter downloads in FY15 alone.

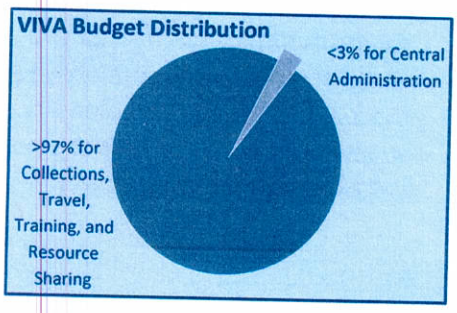
Over **150** databases

More than **3.8 million** additional reports, proceedings, and newspapers

Over **7,000** videos

Budget Highlights

- Over 97% of the total VIVA budget of around $16,000,000 is allocated directly to library materials and services for member libraries.
- Administrative costs of any kind are below 3% of the total budget.
- The General Assembly provides 45% of the revenue that supports VIVA ($7,033,019 for FY16); 55% comes from member institutions, both public and private.

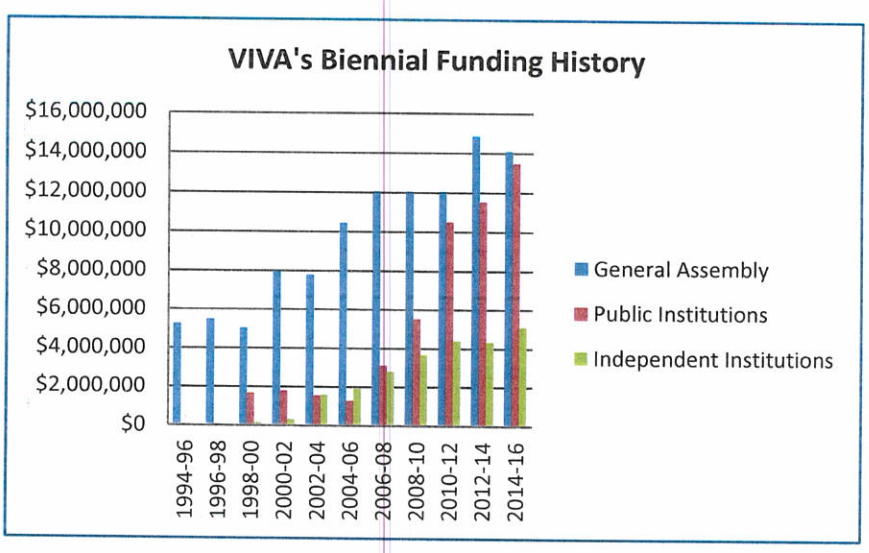


Learn more about VIVA at http://vivalib.org

A Closer Look at VIVA's Budget

Since it began in 1994, VIVA has demonstrated increasing levels of cost effectiveness as it expanded its resource acquisitions from databases to e-journals to e-books. The evidence of VIVA's success in negotiating excellent deals can be seen in the steady increase in member institutions' investment in collaborative acquisition.

VIVA has received a number of increases in its General Assembly funds, and each time VIVA demonstrated that it could make that money go further in supporting Virginia Higher Education. The recent budget cuts, however, are the largest in its history.



A Closer Look at VIVA's Collaboration

In addition to the substantial cost avoidance that VIVA provides its member libraries, VIVA also provides a structure for collaboration. VIVA's long history of cooperation has resulted in programs and initiatives that benefit institutions across the state.

Cooperative Borrowing Program

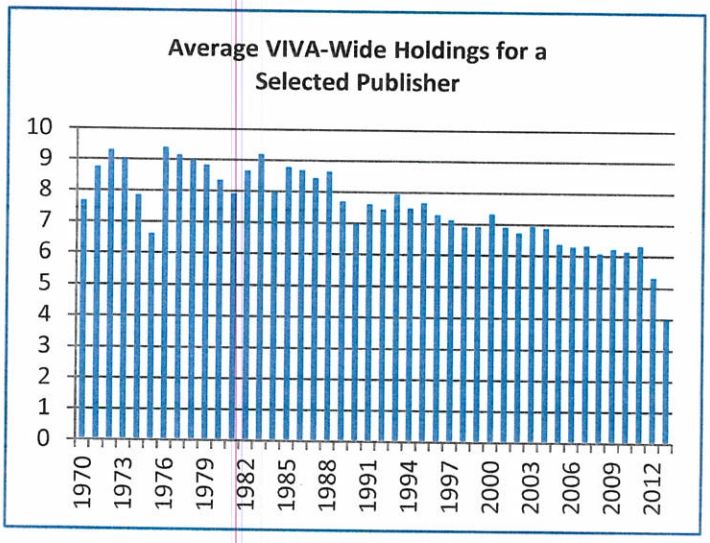
Started in 2013, the Cooperative Borrowing Program allows students, faculty, and staff at participating VIVA institutions to borrow materials on-site from any other participating institution. With over half of the public and private VIVA institutions participating, VIVA is supporting user access to print collections across the Commonwealth.

This program is particularly important for distance education and online students, as they can borrow materials directly from institutions that are geographically closer to them than their actual institutions.

Collection Analysis

Between 2013 and 2015, the VIVA Collections Committee conducted an analysis of over 6 million member institution books. The study resulted in several important initiatives, including:

- A data-driven way to select and negotiate pricing for e-book collections with statewide relevance.
- The protection of tens of thousands of rare and unique materials discovered within the collections.
- An agreement to cooperatively retain print books.
- The establishment of a voluntary cap on the purchase of new print books to reduce statewide duplication and expand the buying power of VIVA members.



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VIVA's Budget Requests for the 2016-18 Biennium

VIVA Collections: $1,353,744 for FY17 and $1,421,433 for FY18

- VIVA received cuts to its budget provided by the General Assembly during the 2014-2016 Biennium – 5% cuts each year – and needed to cancel many important research resources due to these cuts. Included in these cancellations were collections of STEM-H e-books, mathematics journals, and government and policy research databases, among others. Institutions that could afford to resubscribe to the cancelled resources paid significantly higher costs because the buying power of the group was lost. VIVA requests $370,158 for FY17 and $370,158 for FY18 to regain its previous buying power.
- Although VIVA aggressively and successfully negotiates for substantially better rates than the industry standard, the contracts for VIVA's databases and subscriptions include, by necessity, negotiated annual price increases. Without funds to sustain current collections, VIVA will be forced to cancel core collections beginning in FY17. VIVA requests $324,836 for FY17 and $359,587 for FY18 to sustain its ongoing subscriptions.
- Over the past two years, VIVA conducted a collection analysis of over 6 million books held at member institutions. The study provided a data-driven way to select e-book collections with statewide relevance. With the proposed funding, VIVA could demonstrate millions in cost avoidance and reduce staff costs through centralized licensing and payment activities. The identified e-book collections provide important content in many of the target industries for the New Virginia Economy, including healthcare, life sciences, cyber security, and energy. VIVA requests $526,000 for FY17 and $552,300 for FY18 for the public institutions to purchase these shared e-book collections.
- Pooled Funds support for the VIVA nonprofit colleges and universities has not increased since FY05, and their ability to acquire materials is in need of support. There have been a number of VIVA-negotiated deals that the nonprofit institutions have been unable to take advantage of due to a lack of shared, central funding. VIVA requests $132,750 in FY17 and $139,388 in FY18 for the Pooled Funds Program so that the private nonprofits will be able to participate more fully in the e-resource deals negotiated through VIVA. These additions will be matched by the participating private nonprofit colleges, further leveraging the state resources on behalf of the students and faculty served throughout all nonprofit colleges and universities.

Virginia Service Hub for the Digital Public Library of America: $400,000 for FY17 and $400,000 for FY18

- The Digital Public Library of America (DPLA, http://dp.la/) is a free national online resource that centralizes the digital cultural heritage material found in libraries, archives, and museums across the United States. Unfortunately, at this time all Virginia institutions, with the exception of the University of Virginia, lack the infrastructure to participate directly in this national effort. Including collections from Virginia would dramatically increase worldwide access to Virginia's living history resources, including foundational documentation from the early republic. Of particular note is the increased access this initiative would provide to currently underserved populations within Virginia who have less ready access to primary source research materials about the Commonwealth.
- VIVA, in partnership with the Virginia Heritage, proposes to create a sustainable Virginia DPLA Service Hub that includes the provision of preservation and digitization services to participating institutions. By becoming a Service Hub provider, Virginia would join the growing list of statewide contributors to the DPLA, including New York, Massachusetts, North Carolina, Maryland, Missouri, Indiana, Kentucky, Georgia, Connecticut, and Texas. The corresponding creation of K-20 curricular resources would broaden and deepen the impact of these materials.
- To supplement this work, grant and foundation funding proposals are underway, including an invited application to the Mellon Foundation to support the one-time and time-limited costs of this initiative. The costs requested for VIVA are contractual service costs for digitization and preservation, support for the development of curricular materials, and travel and training costs. VIVA requests $400,000 in FY17 and $400,000 in FY18 to support the creation of a DPLA Service Hub for Virginia.