

## A View of Library Resource Use in the VCCS

Over a century ago, John Dewey pointed out that the best learning is not based on simply the transmission of information, but rather on guided discovery, by research and creative exploration. In the academy one of the fundamental services that support this discovery is the library and the resources it provides. Over the last decade, this service has been greatly enhanced by the availability of electronic resources to supplement the traditional physical library resources. This snapshot examines the extent to which the library's electronic and print resources are being used within the VCCS.

### Definitions

- FTES: Full-time equivalent student
- E-resources: subscription article databases
- Downloaded articles: saved to a personal computer for later use
- Full-text: complete text of an item, instead of a citation or summary

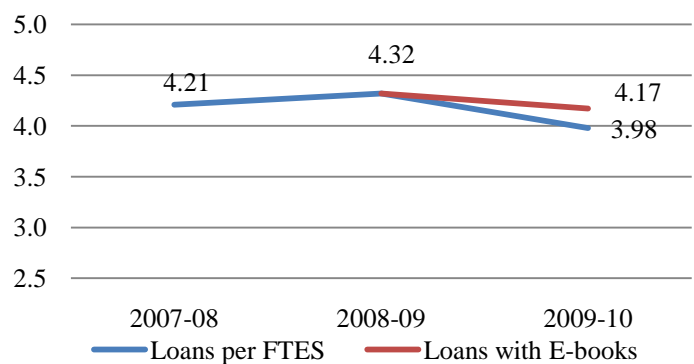
### Observations

- Use of print and other more traditional library materials remains relatively stable over time. In 2009-10 VCCS libraries loaned 3.98 items per FTES, down from 4.21 items in 2007-08. Actual circulation increased by 14%, from 428,471 to 487,017 items.
- VCCS users downloaded 2,513,890 full-text articles in 2009-10, a 73% increase over three years. Use per FTES increased by 44%.
- The direct cost of providing access in 2009-10 was \$1.08 per article, down from \$1.46 per article in 2007-08.
- When the number of full-text downloads is compared to VCCS college transfer FTES, the pattern is similar to that of FTES downloads at Virginia's comprehensive four-year (non-doctoral) institutions.

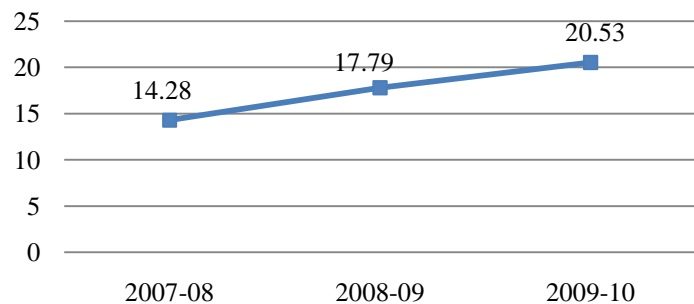
### Reflections

Many factors are responsible for driving the level at which library resources are used. Perhaps the most significant are the levels to which discovery, research, and creative exploration that require library resources are integrated into the curriculum and the role that information literacy has in the overall objectives of undergraduate education. Colleges should explore the ways in which library resources are used by faculty and students as a means to strengthen student success.

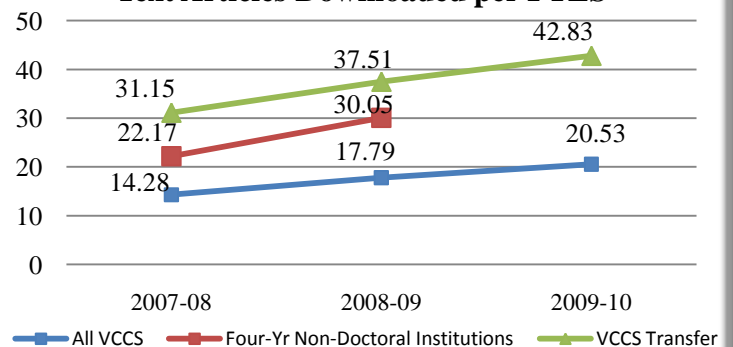
### Annual Library Circulation per FTES



### Annual Number of Full-Text Articles Downloaded per FTES



### Comparison of Annual Number of Full-Text Articles Downloaded per FTES



## Annual Number of Full-text Articles Downloaded per FTES by College

College	2007-08			2008-09			2009-10		
	Articles	Per College FTES	Per College Transfer FTES	Articles	Per College FTES	Per College Transfer FTES	Articles	Per College FTES	Per College Transfer FTES
Blue Ridge	97,408	37.14	71.05	78,550	28.03	55.08	110,437	35.41	68.64
Central Virginia	44,404	18.01	41.23	56,338	21.24	45.54	77,465	26.57	52.17
Dabney S. Lancaster	4,785	6.23	20.89	5,745	7.37	24.34	12,977	14.97	53.62
Danville	44,127	17.59	95.72	37,412	14.95	71.53	47,066	16.49	81.15
Eastern Shore	6,048	11.16	30.39	16,340	28.32	73.60	17,451	26.36	63.46
Germanna	33,351	9.90	17.69	39,892	10.74	19.63	59,856	14.10	26.73
J. Sargeant Reynolds	77,409	11.25	30.66	105,448	14.20	36.35	190,044	23.41	57.41
John Tyler	74,688	16.66	44.25	90,456	18.29	45.85	111,331	19.36	46.74
Lord Fairfax	66,647	21.67	41.45	74,188	21.88	38.98	95,864	24.96	52.16
Mountain Empire	16,757	8.74	32.99	18,676	9.67	36.84	25,813	12.08	46.26
New River	55,346	19.41	49.37	47,964	15.98	39.77	46,368	13.67	34.71
Northern Virginia	347,245	12.53	22.11	492,587	16.90	28.40	745,263	22.91	36.59
Patrick Henry	35,903	19.47	72.68	35,924	16.37	63.47	65,649	24.97	94.73
Paul D. Camp	11,708	13.47	31.90	10,572	11.55	29.21	21,277	21.67	58.61
Piedmont Virginia	57,878	23.57	39.75	69,347	25.99	42.65	81,825	28.43	46.23
Rappahannock	21,793	13.64	41.35	15,979	9.31	26.54	18,824	10.13	28.83
Southside Virginia	25,664	8.05	44.02	33,944	10.12	50.66	27,751	7.19	39.81
Southwest Virginia	13,715	5.90	17.67	18,359	7.82	22.75	11,128	4.30	12.92
Thomas Nelson	43,888	7.92	16.95	103,714	17.24	35.91	117,108	17.79	34.17
Tidewater	275,407	16.02	30.47	446,633	24.39	46.06	480,570	22.34	44.04
Virginia Highlands	18,911	12.03	31.89	18,165	11.30	29.54	9,375	5.16	14.36
Virginia Western	58,876	13.68	38.18	92,703	20.41	54.95	127,397	26.04	68.86
Wytheville	22,843	12.74	63.45	22,488	11.14	48.26	13,050	5.32	22.01
System	1,454,801	14.28	31.15	1,931,424	17.79	37.51	2,513,889	20.53	42.83

### How Were Data Generated?

VIVA and e-resource vendor data were used to report e-resource user sessions.

VIVA and VCCS data were used to report FTES.

COUNTER, VIVA, and e-resource vendor data were used to report full-text article downloads.

The library catalog system was used to report circulation.

### For More Information

Visit <http://www.vccs.edu/studentsuccess> to learn more about student success.

Visit <http://library.vccs.edu/reference> to access the VCCS electronic library resources collection.

Visit <http://www.vivalib.org/> to learn more about VIVA, the Virtual Library of Virginia consortium.

Visit <http://www.projectcounter.org/> to learn more about the COUNTER Project.