

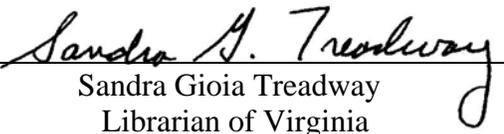
**Report of the Library of Virginia
to
The Department for the Aging
Progress toward Addressing the Impact
of an Aging Population on Library Services**

In accordance with § 2.2-55 10 (A.4.) of the *Code of Virginia*, The Library of Virginia submits the following report on its progress for addressing the impact of the aging population on its ability to deliver services:

- The Library has no direct funding stream dedicated to providing library services to an aging population. However, the Library endeavors to develop public programs and services to as wide an audience as possible. One of the Library's most successful public events during the past year recreated the experience of lunch at the Tea Room of Miller & Rhoads Department Store. One of two former downtown department stores, Miller & Rhoads for over a century was a retail anchor for Richmond. The store peaked in popularity in the late 50's until sales steadily decreased in the 70's and 80's. The store closed in the early 90's and remains a strong memory common to a large segment of the city's population. The Library's success with this program has encouraged planning for similar events.
- The Library maintains a regular schedule for review of its reading room facility and equipment to assess continued compliance with ADA best practices. The Library's Information Technology Department regularly reviews all facets of the Library's Web site to ensure ADA compliance.
- The Library Development and Networking Division of the Library of Virginia assists local libraries around the state with staff training and career development. As part of a continuing education needs analysis, the Division is investigating sponsorship of a workshop for public library staff on services to older adults.
- The Library of Virginia administers Find It Virginia (www.finditva.com) which provides free library service 24 hours a day anywhere an individual can connect to the internet. The databases on Find It Virginia are heavily used by public libraries and contain specific health related materials that are of interest to older adults. In FY 2007, more than 16 million searches occurred in these databases. Unfortunately, continuation of funding for this valuable resource is in jeopardy for the coming biennium.

- The Library has been a continuing participant with the Virginia Center on Aging at VCU with Elderhostel programs open to individuals over 55 years of age. The Library's programs focus on its genealogical resources and the courses offered fill rapidly and usually have a substantial waiting list. The Library provides space and professional staff as instructors at minimal cost to VCU to keep participant costs low. The Library also makes its experienced staff available as speakers and provides tours of its facilities to local groups such as the Shepherd's Center in Richmond which provides personal service, education and socialization for seniors and the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at the University of Richmond.

November 9, 2007


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Librarian of Virginia

