Hacking the Stacks: Diversifying Collections Through Community Connections

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## The Big Picture

As a public university library, we have a mission to

- Engage faculty, students, and the public in shaping our collections and our services.
- Build stronger relations with local community leaders, local public libraries, and area residents.
- Employ a diverse staff who can create inclusive collections, services, and spaces.
- Collaborate with faculty to develop or identify course-related materials that are free to the student.



#### Organizational Context

- New leadership at the University and Library levels
- Shifting strategic priorities and greater emphasis on community engagement
- Library reorganization and implementation of liaison model
- User-focused collections strategy
- Charlottesville current events

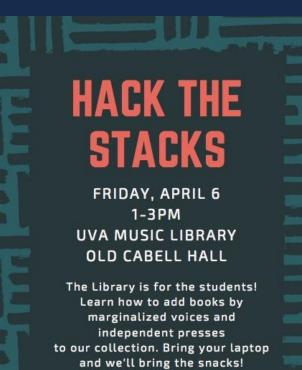


# 1. Hack the Stacks





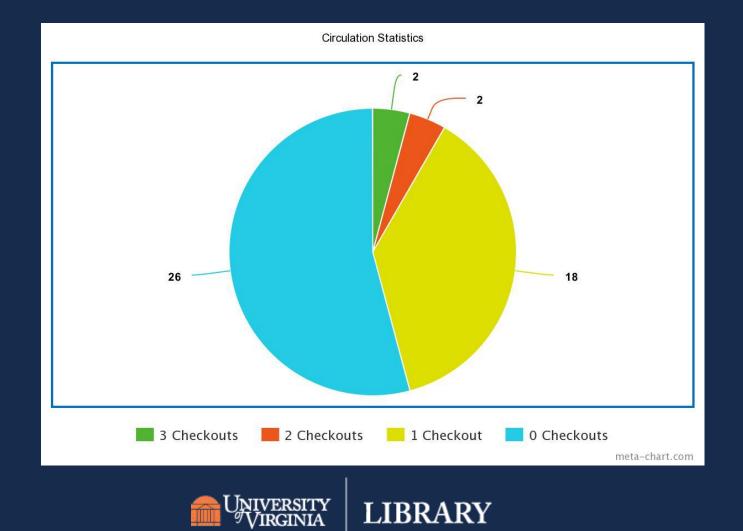
#### Iteration #1



Sponsored by the University of Virginia Libraries and the Graduate Student Coalition for Liberation









#### Iteration #2

- Strategies and pitfalls of organizing an HTS event without a community partner
- List generation: WorldCat

- Who showed up?
- Using GoogleDocs to collectively examine options
- Promotion of HTS using book displays



#### Iteration #3





CURRY SCHOOL of EDUCATION and HUMAN DEVELOPMENT



CURRY SCHOOL of EDUCATION and HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

- <u>Curry's 2018-19 Common Read</u> Life Animated: A Story of Sidekicks, Heroes, and Autism
- Partnership with the Diversity Action Committee and SEEDS4Change
- <u>Disability as Diversity</u>
  - Children's Literature Teaching Collection
  - Disability and Education (Counseling, Administration, K-12 Teaching)



#### I #HacktheStacks

to broaden the representation of books in the UVA librory, especially picture houlds for;







# Challenges and Implications

- Community organization/student
  group buy-in
- Limited funds; having to balance competing interests in the library
- Aligning collections and liaisons' expectations
- Increasing attendance

- Identified gaps in collection plan
- Strengthened relationships
- Aligned with Library and University strategic goals
- Spotlights behind-the-scenes advocacy work that collections team and liaisons do
- Exposes that our assumptions about our patron groups are not always accurate.
- Increases transparency in a process that is really opaque



# 2. HistoryMakers





## HistoryMakers Digital Archive



## HistoryMakers Digital Archive

- Oral history interviews with ~2,700 prominent African Americans
- Rich resource for understanding the experiences of 20th-21st century African Americans and implications of these experiences for U.S. and World History
- Special relationship with UVA Libraries
  - John Unsworth (Dean) involved since 2008
  - Oct. 1, 2018 -- \$1.5 million Mellon grant with Carnegie-Mellon University to redevelop interface, and ultimately "get it into academic library collections"
  - "The real need in this phase of our collaboration is to drive faculty adoption," John Unsworth
- But... we subscribe to 600+ databases



#### From Promoting to Centering HistoryMakers











## Developing a Plan

- Videos on U.Va. Library home page
- Black History Month Event featuring Julieanna Richardson as keynote speaker
- Performance by Paul Robeson Players based on HM stories at event.
- Essay contest/classroom integration (Julieanna's idea)
- Modeled on Library's Course Enrichment Grants
- Questbridge Scholars (first-generation students)
- Sony Prosper embedded at Luther P. Jackson Cultural Center



#### Classroom Integration









## **Classroom Integration**

- 11 invitations, 7 participants
- Examples
  - A. D. Carson, Music (hip hop)—mix tape, listening party
  - Theresa Davis, Drama—dramatic monologues for BHM event
  - Brian Williams, Batten School of Leadership and Public Policy— develop BHM curriculum for different educational levels (k-college)
  - Michael Mason—
    - (1) students listed 10 words to describe themselves, searched HM for those words, identified five HistoryMakers whose stories seemed especially compelling, and reflected on why;
    - (2) students identified 3-5 broad social issues and suggested solutions based upon the experiences of HistoryMakers

LIBRA

• Lessons that can be learned, lessons that can be taught"



# 3. Global Lunches











## Meeting the Faculty Halfway

Finding new voices in the disciplines

Bringing faculty in to talk about current research

Meeting unmet Collection needs

Supporting new disciplines with Collections

.....Leads to Diversifying Collections organically





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RESEARCH

#### **Indigenous Studies**

Resources for Indigenous Studies, American Indian, Native American, First Nations, Alaskan and Hawaiian Native, and Australian and Oceanic Aboriginal Peoples.

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Chicanx/Latinx Studies

**US Government Resources for Native** 

Americans 🗷

Indigenous Linguistics

We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land we are on today, the Monacan Nation, and pay our respect to their elders past and present.

Art, Archaeology, Classics, Indigenous Studies Librarian



Databases for Indigenous Studies Research

#### Tribal Writers Digital Library

The Native Writers Digital Text Project brings the works of Native poets and writers of fiction and other prose to readers world wide. Featuring out-of-print literary efforts of American Indians, Alaska Natives, and First Nations people of Canada, the project seeks to broaden the definition of "Native Writing" not only by focusing on writers who are not ordinarily anthologized, but also by publishing works which originally appeared in "ephemeral" sources and the periodical press, especially in those publications edited and produced by Natives.

Bibliography of Native North Americans

Lists articles, books and other publications about the native peoples of North America published from the sixteenth century to the present. Lists all titles from the Ethnographic Bibliography of North America. Includes book reviews.

Ethnic NewsWatch

Full-text of newspaper, magazine, and journal articles from 200 ethnic, minority, and native publications in the U.S., in English and in Spanish.

Anthropology Plus (1890-present)

Find articles, reports, and other materials on social, cultural, physical, biological and linguistic anthropology, ethnology, archaeology, folklore, material culture and interdisciplinary studies.

more ...

#### Websites and Online Resources

ATALM Association of Tribal Archives, Libraries, and Museums

ATALM is an international non-profit organization that maintains a network of support for indigenous programs, provides culturally relevant programming and services, encourages collaboration among tribal and non-tribal cultural institutions, and articulates contemporary issues related to developing and sustaining the cultural sovereignty of Native Nations.

Indian Country

Serving the Nations; Celebrating the People

D'Arcy McNickle Center for American Indian and Indigenous Studies

The D'Arcy McNickle Center for American Indian and Indigenous Studies was founded in 1972. Its goals are to encourage the use of the Newberry

# 4. Building New Programs



## Indigenous Studies @ UVA

Grassroots organization

Support events

Put the Library in the Curriculum

Collaborate in Curricular Support

Be in on the Hire

Attend to new Faculty & Program needs



# Local petition calls for U.Va. to remove George Rogers Clark statue

The President's Commission on the University in the Age of Segregation is considering the Clark statue's presence in the scope of broader project on the University's role in segregation

By Bridget Starrs | 08/02/2019

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