

## Library buildings to reopen July 27 and Aug. 3

VCU Libraries has been researching best practices and preparing to adapt and enhance services in the era of COVID-19, taking precautions to protect the health and safety of all members of the VCU community. Some changes may affect your teaching and planning for fall courses. We hope this information will be helpful to you as you plan for courses and seek resources to support your teaching.

The plan is that Tompkins-McCaw Library for the Health Sciences will open July 27 and James Branch Cabell Library will open August 3. These dates may change because of the need to procure certain supplies for reopening.

[Details and plans for reopening](#)

## Access to the libraries' collection returns

### **Front Door Pickup service debuts and enhanced scanning and shipping delivers items to your office or home**

While the library buildings remain closed, VCU Libraries provides enhanced document delivery services and pickup for materials from its physical collections.

VCU faculty, staff and students can request physical items from circulating collections and offsite storage through [the interlibrary loan request system](#) called ILLiad or through the request option in VCU Libraries Search.

Users can choose to have these materials shipped to their preferred address in Richmond or another location—such as home or campus office—at no charge, or they can schedule a physically-distanced pickup at either Cabell Library or Tompkins-McCaw Library for the Health Sciences. They can also request to have articles or chapters scanned and delivered electronically. Most requests will be fulfilled within two working days.

Please share this information with your students. [Details about the process](#)

## Course Reserves Advisory

As you plan for fall courses, please note that **traditional course reserves** (in which students check out physical materials for a brief period) may not be quickly accessible to students because returned materials will be quarantined for three days before they can circulate again.

Faculty are urged to consult with librarians to find electronic or open access alternatives for course reserve materials. Contact Open Educational Resources Librarian Jessica Kirschner at [kirschnerj2@vcu.edu](mailto:kirschnerj2@vcu.edu).

**Scanning of full textbooks**, a service offered to faculty in spring 2020, when courses moved online with limited notice, will not be offered for fall 2020. This is because of copyright concerns.

## Contacts for Your Students

Whether you are teaching on campus or online, please encourage your students to get help from VCU Libraries this fall. [We offer robust chat and text services as well as remote consultations.](#)

## Schedule library instruction now

Librarians are already booking instruction sessions for fall. The majority of sessions will be conducted online to adhere to remote work and physical distancing policies. In-person sessions will be scheduled as needed following discussion with faculty. [Schedule sessions for your courses.](#)

## Consult librarians for help

Librarians continue to work full time and are available to assist in research or teaching projects. Librarians can direct you to videos that you can use in courses. Librarians can also create customized videos or tutorials to support asynchronous learning. Collections librarians can also advise about materials. Questions? Reach out. [Find the librarian for your area of specialty.](#)

## Special Collections and Archives open by appointment or remote access

Discussions are underway about how to make Special Collections and Archives materials accessible to researchers this fall. An announcement will be made in early August. In the meantime, requests for research support, consultations and instruction should be directed to (804) 828-1108 or [libjbcsc@vcu.edu](mailto:libjbcsc@vcu.edu) for Cabell Library and (804) 828-9898 or [libtmlsca@vcu.edu](mailto:libtmlsca@vcu.edu) for Tompkins-McCaw Library.

## Multimedia services continue and equipment loans resume on both campuses

A fuller complement of multimedia services in The Workshop and on the MCV Campus at Tompkins-McCaw Library will return as soon as possible. Some decisions are being finalized and a detailed announcement will be made in August.

- Equipment loans will resume, initially as part of the Front Door Pickup service.
- Consultations and instruction for multimedia projects will continue to be available virtually.
- VCU Libraries high-end computers and software--that have rendering power to do 4K video editing, GIS computations, 3D modeling, data visualizations, virtual environments and more--

may be made available for remote use. Staff are evaluating the technical feasibility of implementing remote access to these computers, which would be used for coursework and research projects under faculty supervision.

- 3D printing, laser cutting/engraving, and other services will be made available as a staff-mediated service.
- Modified in-person access to The Workshop is anticipated for early September.

## Faculty and student projects invited

When Cabell Library reopens, exhibits will resume on the Cabell Screen on the front facade of the building. If you would like to propose an exhibit or include a student project for the screen in your course plan, contact [cabellscreen@vcu.edu](mailto:cabellscreen@vcu.edu). Screen exhibits feature art and images of scholarship of all sorts. We will work with you to schedule class critiques and the exhibit.