



March 20, 2020

Dear VCFA Community,

The VCFA Library remains committed to doing all we can to support our students, faculty and staff in their pursuit of knowledge and creativity in this time of unprecedented change. We have spent much of the last week working on how best to respond to the new circumstances. Our top concern is protecting the health and safety of everyone in this remarkable community.

Academic and public libraries all across the US and around the world have been shutting their doors to help curtail the spread of COVID-19. Likewise, the physical VCFA Library will be closed to the public and the VCFA community for the foreseeable future. Most of the Library staff are working remotely, but the building is now staffed on a restricted schedule, from 9 am - 2 pm EDT, Monday through Friday. We will continue to monitor email seven days a week.

Interlibrary Loan services are being significantly impacted by the nationwide library closures. The vast majority of institutions have halted loans of all physical items. In light of this, we ask you all to shift your focus to requesting electronic resources. Article requests can still be processed as usual. While most eBooks still can't be loaned because of licensing restrictions, we may be able to request PDFs of specific chapters for you. We recognize that this is a drastic change in how we have been able to provide you material, and we appreciate your patience and understanding as we navigate through these changes. We are actively looking for new ways to support your scholarly and creative endeavors. If you are unable to find electronic resources in your area of inquiry, or require a physical book or other item, please email us directly at vcfalibrary@vcfa.edu and we will investigate how we might be able to acquire it for you.

To compensate for the diminished access to physical materials, the Library staff is creating a new database of Open Access and other free online resources. This is an ever-growing area, as many institutions lift paywalls and provide access to previously closed digital collections during this time. Please refer to the Library's [website](#) in the coming days to access a list of these resources. We also encourage you to share your own knowledge of such information! Please email Tia McCarthy at tia.mccarthy@vcfa.edu with links to OA and other free resources so that we can make this knowledge available to all.

This is going to be a time of great creativity and collaboration as we all work to find solutions to these new challenges. We hope you will continue to turn to the VCFA Library for support as we face and surmount these challenges together.

With gratitude and best wishes for you all,

The VCFA Library Staff

