



Virginia Department of Planning and Budget  
**Project Request Justification**

2006-2008 Biennium Date: July 22, 2005

**A. General Information**

- 1. Agency name: Virginia Tech
- 2. Agency code: 208
- 3. Project title: Construct Newman Library Addition
- 4. Agency priority: 12
- 5. Contact Person: M. Dwight Shelton, Jr.
- 6. Contact's telephone number: (540) 231-8775
- 7. Contact's e-mail address: mdsjr@vt.edu

**B. Proposed Project**

1. Project Cost:

General Fund/General Fund supported debt	7,750,000
Nongeneral fund	
9 (c) revenue debt	
NGF supported 9 (d) revenue bonds	
<b>Total request</b>	<b>7,750,000</b>

2. Project cost changes:

NONE.

3. Description:

- This project has been on the university's plan since 2001, formerly titled Newman Library Addition. The project request is to construct a 5,000 gross square foot addition to the east side of Newman Library between the existing loading dock and Squires Student Center. The addition will contain high-density, self-supporting, heavy-duty storage shelving and an automated, robotic retrieval system capable of handling up to one million volumes.
- The addition will increase the ability to efficiently store and quickly retrieve materials without delay and without additional staff or floor space. This project will also free up library floor space to restore needed student study areas and improve circulation through the remaining library shelving system that has been lost as a result of overcrowding to accommodate the critical on-site volume storage.
- The scope of the project was based on the number of volumes that need to be stored on-site at the campus library.

- The life expectancy of the project is 80 years with proper maintenance.

**4. Project scope change:**

NONE.

5. a. **Approved Master Site Plan:** Yes  No   
If not, explain:

b. **2004-10 Capital Outlay Plan:** Yes  No   
If not, explain:

**6. Equipment for a previously funded project.**

NONE.

**7. Supplement to a previously funded project.**

NONE.

**C. Project Justification**

**1. a. Existing condition:**

- Newman Library was constructed in 1955, with an addition in 1980. Book storage and all other library functions for the university are managed at this facility. At approximately 227,000 gross square feet, Newman is a comparatively small library for a university of over 25,000 students.
- In 1995, the university completed a high-density library storage facility off-campus for the housing of infrequently accessed library materials. Since that time, the library has exhausted the available shelf storage capacity in Newman and the remote site.
- Additional, easily accessed, on-site, high-density storage space is needed to manage the inventory of permanent materials and to restore student study space in the library.

**Higher Education Only**

b. **Facility Condition Index:** FCI \_\_\_\_\_

c. **Space deficit:** Yes  No

**2. Programmatic information:**

- Newman Library, the main Virginia Tech facility, is at full capacity. New storage space is needed for two reasons: First, to accommodate a conservatively projected growth of collections in recognition of the likely mix of future print and electronic resources. Second, to free up space in Newman so that it can be reconfigured to meet the ways that 21st century students and scholars expect to work within library spaces.
- Adjacent and accessible storage, as would be provided by the storage cube, is critical. Users need immediate access to resources when they come to the library. A review of the library's use-data from the remote site shows low customer satisfaction with the response – delivery – time of requested materials. A reflective sample of customer comments include:
  - It would also be really nice if there were a quicker way to access papers in storage.
  - Too much off-site storage of not-yet-outdated journals.
  - It would be nice if fewer resources were in storage, because it takes time to retrieve these items, and it is not possible to browse them.
  - Another problem I have is the amount of journals in storage.
  - Too much material is located off-campus in storage.
  - The only consistent inconvenience I experience with the library is that I am very often needing to request journals out of storage. It would be nice to keep more on site.
- The size of the university's collection (2.3 million volumes, placing VT at 102nd out of 114 research libraries in North America), and young age mean that it is unsuitable to be moving major parts of the collection to a remote storage site as is currently the practice. Materials need to be stored in a way that a user can reasonably expect to get what she or he needs within a few minutes of requesting the item on the automated system.
- The proposed project will create a robotic, high density library storage cube linked to Newman Library for fast and automated retrieval of items stored in the cube. The cube will be seven times more efficient than conventional library shelving for storage, is economical in using staff resources, and will allow for the delivery of better service to the user than is possible with traditional remote storage facilities.
- For the user, getting something from the linked storage would be fast and easy. For example, a student on Newman's fifth floor might search Addison, the library catalog, and identify that the item wanted is in the storage cube. The student would request the item on the library system and go down to the third floor to pick it up. The request would be sent immediately to the storage retrieval site. The storage retrieval machine would move to the appropriate rack and level and pick off the bin holding the item. The bin would be automatically delivered to a staff station, and the item would be ready to place in the student's hands by the time he or she got to the pick-up location.
- With more than a million visits a year, Newman Library needs to be reconfigured to provide for group project rooms, secured study carrels for graduate students, and an information commons that will consolidate library help staff in one area. The consolidated information commons concept will mean that users will have one place to stop for help for most library services, and staff will be able to be more efficiently located to provide services to library visitors. The proposed project will free up a small portion of the stack space that would be reallocated to accommodate these critical programmatic needs.

### **3. Alignment to strategic plan:**

This project will support Virginia Tech's strategic plan in the areas of Research and Scholarship, Graduate Education, and Undergraduate Education. This project supports the following goals of the university by adding efficient storage space to the campus library to provide for more study areas and an increased collection of library resources for growing research and academic programs:

Research and Scholarship:

1. Increase the stature of Virginia Tech as a national research university in quality of research and scholarship.
2. Increase the stature of Virginia Tech as a national research university in quantity of research and scholarship.

Graduate Education:

1. Increase the quality of the graduate programs.

Undergraduate Education:

1. Maintain a current, relevant, and comprehensive undergraduate curriculum.
2. Strengthen the quality of undergraduate instruction.
3. Create learning experiences for undergraduate students that maximize the benefits of attending a large research university.

#### **D. Options Considered**

Other options considered but not selected include leasing off-campus storage capacity or delaying the project entirely. Improving the current library building to include high-density storage with automated retrieval is the selected option because it is the most effective choice for meeting expanded storage needs, while maintaining timely service to patrons.

Leasing off-campus storage space is not a favorable option because this would not allow timely service of student and faculty needs for library materials and would require additional staff and vehicles to effect retrieval.

Delaying the project to a future biennium is not a viable option because current shelf storage capacity has been exhausted and additional space is necessary to meet the needs of expanding academic and research programs.

#### **E. Project Schedule Changes:**

NONE.