

IEEE Xplore and Blackwell Journals Now Available To VIVA Institutions

VIVA

The Virtual Library of Virginia

PRESS RELEASE

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The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, Inc. (IEEE) is the world's leading organization for engineers and developers in areas as diverse as computers, software engineering, telecommunications, electronic power, consumer electronics, aerospace systems. Among its most important and visible products are hundreds of journals, magazines, technical standards, full-length books, and conference transactions that form the premiere information resource for technologists and developers seeking to keep abreast of advancements in their fields.

VIVA is pleased to announce access to the IEEE Xplore All-Society Periodicals Package for all of Virginia's public institutions of higher education, including the entirety of the Virginia Community College System. Students and faculty at all institutions now have online access to the core collection of 128 IEEE Society-sponsored journals and magazines, with full-text access to over 170,000 articles, including the journals' previous issues back to 1998. In addition, users at six of the state's largest public universities have expanded access to the complete text of IEEE transactions, letters, conference proceedings, and standards, as well as all Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET) publications.

VIVA has acquired the IEEE journals and other full text research materials through a powerful new collaborative model designed to fund large-scale purchases otherwise beyond the reach of Virginia higher education. Previously, eight public institutions of higher education in Virginia had collectively negotiated access to the IEEE publications at advantageous prices for their faculty and students. Although the VIVA community felt strongly that the IEEE service should be more widely available to Virginia's academic community, VIVA's budget could provide only part of the funding necessary to extend the service to all public institutions in the Commonwealth under similarly advantageous terms.

During the first half of the 2006-07 academic year, VIVA and academic libraries from across Virginia studied ways to expand IEEE Xplore access to students and faculty throughout the Commonwealth. From these discussions, the VIVA community developed a funding model that leverages available VIVA funds with existing investments by Virginia institutions in IEEE Xplore to acquire access for public higher education institutions in the Commonwealth. The new model reduces the cost to current subscribers in exchange for the contribution of their IEEE funds to a larger funding pool. This pool is then supplemented by VIVA funding to provide the total funding necessary for a State-wide access agreement. This new approach provides benefit to current participants by reducing their costs, while combining their existing investments with VIVA funds to expand access to institutions in Virginia that could not otherwise provide access to IEEE publications for their students and faculty. Further,

with the support of a larger community and a larger funding pool, VIVA has been able to obtain more favorable terms on future annual price increases through negotiated contract terms.

VIVA has taken a bold step in creating a new purchasing model for library materials. State funding has grown for the VIVA collaborative over the past several years, to the great benefit of students and faculty throughout the Commonwealth. However, even this increased funding has proven insufficient to cover both pricing increases on existing library resources provided by VIVA and to provide for the acquisition of important new digital library materials needed by Virginia's higher education community to support expanding enrollments and growing research goals. With this new model for collaborative acquisition of digital library materials, VIVA institutions are able to leverage their investment in important high-cost, high-impact resources for undergraduate and research support for all VIVA members.

In addition to the new IEEE purchase, VIVA also is pleased to announce a new agreement for access to the Blackwell Synergy collection for all 39 VIVA public member institutions and 23 of the VIVA private nonprofit member institutions. This agreement provides online access to over 700 journal titles covering a wide scope of research. As with the acquisition of the IEEE collections, this access agreement was made possible through a cost-sharing model, wherein each member library contributes a portion of the total cost from within their individual budgets and the remainder is funded from the VIVA central budget.

VIVA, the Virtual Library of Virginia, is a consortium of the libraries of 73 nonprofit institutions of higher education in Virginia, including 39 state-assisted colleges and universities at 55 campuses within the Commonwealth of Virginia, 33 independent private, non-profit institutions, and The Library of Virginia. VIVA's mission is to provide, in an equitable, cooperative, and cost-effective manner, enhanced access to library and information resources for Virginia's academic libraries serving the non-profit higher education community. VIVA is funded by the State of Virginia through the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV) and by investments from participating institutions.

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