**Libraworks Releases *Virtual Library***

*Virtual Library* – Anthony Tran, Grant Saylor, Kyle Smith, Jiayi Xu

**Libraworks’ *Virtual Library* for avid readers wishing to share and read new books contactlessly during the COVID-19 pandemic**

**SEATTLE: FRIDAY, September 30th, 2020. –** Libraworks announces *Virtual Library,* a circulation and map system that gives easy access to search for a book in your locale, giving you the option of looking at a book on a list and finding which little library it is at, or looking at a map to see what libraries and books are near you. The primary features are checking books in and out of a library contactlessly via ISBN, seeing libraries on a map near you, searching books and availability of books at any library.

In our current pandemic, *Virtual Library* provides a pandemic-friendly way to share books and catalogue them that may be more accessible. Large traditional libraries are indoors, a *Virtual Library* is typically outdoors, reducing COVID exposure. A traditional outdoor Little Library is typically not catalogued, by attaching our *Virtual Library* application to your collection of books you solve the issue of not knowing the circulation of each neighborhood Little Library. In the *Virtual Library* app we have a map feature will allow users to easily find where a Virtual Library is located, this reduces time around others while looking for a location and gets you to your books faster. If you choose to use the list feature you can easily search for a book and the circulation(s) that contain that title will be filtered onto the map if it is in your locale.

The user can download *Virtual Library* from the Google Play Store and access the feature set. If the user is a virtual library provider, they can create and account to add/remove books from circulation and put the library on the provided map.

Grant Saylor, a developer of *Virtual Library* at Libraworks says “*The Virtual Library app provides an outdoor and contactless solution to your traditional library system. During the COVID-19 pandemic Little Libraries have provided a way for people to share books without needing to go inside of a regular library, coming into contact with many others. With our app we provide a way to create a circulation system to user provided libraries giving users easier access to books they want in their locale*.”

Madonna Ciccone a beta tester, reviews the app: "*The Virtual Library is so convenient, it's the worst when you go to a neighborhood library, and they don't have anything you're interested in, what a waste of time! With this app, you can see what books are available in libraries near you, so you always know what you're going to get!*"

Joseon Kim says: “*My entire family uses the Virtual Library app because it is so easy to use, even my father who never uses apps loves to browse the map and go pick out books to read. During this pandemic (and I even think after!) this app really lets me feel connected to my community by seeing the variety of books people read*.”

Carrie Bradshaw, a steward of a little library says: “*Virtual Library has really made it easy to see what books are most popular at my little library and allows me to add more books that people in my neighborhood would like to read most!”* she adds “*I myself love to visit other virtual libraries now that they are so easy to find on a map!”*

Go to the GitHub page today to start beta testing *Virtual Library* today! Beta access is free, and your feedback improves the final release!

**FAQs**

**Do I Need an Account to Use the Product:**

During the beta phase the user can access a safe APK via GitHub to sideload on their Android device to beta test features. After beta the user can access the product from the Google Play store. No account is needed unless you are a Library Curator.

**Where Can I Download the App:**

*Virtual Library* can be downloaded from the Google Play Store.

**Is the App Free:**

*Virtual Library* is a free application that you can download through the Google Play Store.

**How can I Join the Beta:**

You can join the beta via our GitHub and sideloading the app onto your device.

**What Information Does the App Collect About Me:**

If you are a library curator, the app will use the library location and books to display on the map and circulation. Personal info is not shared.

**What Hardware Do I Need to Run the Application:**

To run *Virtual Library,* you will need an Android device with a camera to scan ISBN.

**Internal FAQs**

**How Does The App Generate Revenue:**

The app *can* be supported via ads or donations if we decide to monetize the application at a later date. Revenue would be used to maintain the lifespan of the application and add additional features.

**How Can the App be Extensible (I.e. Aspirational Features that may be cut):**

Over time features such as leaderboards, requesting a book, adding achievements, photos of books, user profiles to keep track of circulation and more can be added.

**What Is the Purpose of a User Profile:**

Library Curator profiles allow little libraries to be added to the map. If non library user profiles are added they could be used to keep track of circulation.

**What is our goal for usability of the app:**

Our usability goal is to design an app that allows users to quickly and easily check out books with zero human contact needed to complete the checkout process. Users can have vision to what books are available and if it is worth traveling to a library.

**What language is our application written in:**

*Virtual Library* will be written in Java for Android devices.