



The Institute for Advanced Technology in the Humanities

June 5, 2018

John Unsworth
University Librarian and
Dean of Libraries
University of Virginia

Re: Alderman Renovation

Dear Dean Unsworth,

I am writing to express my strong support for the current plans and for the extensive process to come to this stage. As you know my faculty home is in Computer Science, however, my involvement in IATH for almost two decades has given me a rather unique perspective on the current state of Alderman Library building and the promise for the library of the future that the reconstruction of the stacks and renovation of the historic sections of the building hold. Indeed, I believe the current plans embody a path to a vibrant Library, that is, a building that will enable and promote communities of scholars: student, faculty, staff and public.

While IATH was created with the mission of transforming scholarship of faculty in the humanities with respect to technology, my IATH collaborations with faculty, graduate students and undergraduate students has solidified my conception of the fundamental importance to scholarship of the primary materials, even when the most tangible results of IATH project are internet accessible thematic repositories. Thus, I fully appreciate the importance of substantial open stacks, that is, substantial opportunities for direct interaction with the primary materials of books, maps and special collections artifacts. I believe the current plans envision exciting new possibilities for that direct interaction in both research and learning settings.

Moreover, I commend you, the Provost and the architectural group on the process reinvigorated just after you arrived as University Librarian. The opportunities, early and often in the process, for the UVa community to communicate their perspectives directly to the architects were extremely beneficial. One can easily see the evolution of their understanding of the scope and breadth of the program needed for Alderman as they assimilated the details of desires, hopes, even fears, of the UVa community.

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In addition, the several "town hall" meetings provided opportunities for all to communicate directly with you and the numerous UVa staff and administrators responsible for the overall process.

Again, I strongly support the current designs and believe they constitute an extremely strong base for proceeding to the detailed design phase of the overall project.

If I can provide any further information in this regard, please contact me at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,



W.N. Martin

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and

Associate Professor of Computer Science
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