

Sonia Yaco
Special Collections Librarian and University Archivist
Perry Library, Room 327
Old Dominion University
Norfolk, Virginia

Dear Ms. Edwards,

Before I answer the specific questions you've asked, let me clear up some misunderstandings.

DOVE is not a collection. The Desegregation of Virginia Education (DOVE) Project is a collaborative effort to locate, catalog and preserve records that document Virginia's school desegregation process. One main outcome of DOVE is a catalog that details the locations of records related to Virginia school desegregation.

Institutions and organizations cooperating with DOVE:

American Association for Retired People (AARP)

College of William and Mary

George Mason University

Library of Virginia

Longwood University

National Archives and Records Administration

Norfolk Clerk of Courts

Norfolk Public Library

Norfolk State University

Old Dominion University

Texas A & M

University of Virginia

Virginia Commonwealth University

Virginia Department of Historic Resources

Virginia State University

Virginia Tech

Washington and Lee University

Washington D.C. Public Library

DOVE is not trying to collect all school desegregation records in a central location. Historically school desegregation records have found their way to a wide variety of organizations/institutions, from churches to teachers' associations, throughout the state and that will continue in the future. DOVE feels it is often more appropriate to retain these records in local institutions. DOVE's role is simply to make sure we know where these records are located. Preservation of the records will be handled by the donors and receiving institutions themselves. Local archivists are more knowledgeable about the local history and are more trusted in some communities. The lack of African-American collections at the Library of Virginia is one indication that there may be hesitancy to donate records to statewide agencies that were once strongly committed to segregation.

1. Given the specific mandate on the LVA and the stipulations of the Virginia Public Records Act (VPRA), is there a conflict between DOVE's collection and preservation of public records with the responsibilities of the LVA?

There is no conflict. Public records will continue either to reside in the locality that produced them or to be sent to the Library of Virginia, as specified by VPRA. The DOVE project will help to insure that more public records are preserved and that through the DOVE catalog, their location is known to scholars.

2. Does DOVE have the support of ODU's administration for its efforts?

DOVE has the support of ODU's University Librarian. She has committed librarian and support staff time and Web server resources to the project.

How likely will support transcend administrations, i.e. new appointments to the Board of Trustees, new president?

At this time, the ODU University Librarian supports this project.

3. Will DOVE adhere to the VPRA concerning records management and retention? Does ODU have the capacity and resources to manage the collection and permanent preservation of the records it receives?

DOVE will adhere to VPRA. There is no DOVE collection, rather there is a DOVE catalog. There are hundreds of collections at dozens of institutions that hold material on school desegregation that will be listed in the DOVE catalog. ODU has the expertise, capacity and resources to manage the DOVE catalog.

4. How is DOVE funded? Given the economic recession and further potential state budget reductions to higher education, what assurances does DOVE have that it will remain a funding priority at ODU?

Old Dominion University Libraries provides staff time as well as Web server space for the DOVE catalog for the project. The College of William and Mary is paying for the production of a DOVE brochure and DOVE pens. We are investigating grant opportunities to support the project, including discretionary grants from the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities.

5. Is it envisioned that DOVE's collection will include legislative, Governor's and other public records, if so, what authority will DOVE employ to receive them?

We anticipate that legislative, Governor's and other public records will to be given to the Library of Virginia.

6. How will the records be made accessible to scholars, researchers, governmental agencies, and the public? Will researchers and scholars be permitted to physically examine, use, and copy the records? Will the records circulate? Will there be a fee for accessing and/or copying the records? Public records, e.g. General Assembly and local governing bodies, cannot be copyrighted by other entities; therefore, will complete access be afforded to the General Assembly and state agencies?

Material cataloged by DOVE may reside at dozens of libraries, archives, churches, courthouses throughout the country. Repositories with these records have individual policies regarding access and photocopying. Two institutions with entries in the DOVE catalog, the National Archives in Philadelphia and the Digital Library of Georgia, for instance, understandably have different access policies.

7. Will the DOVE collection be web-based only? Does DOVE plan to collect "original" documents and public records held by private citizens and organizations, or will the records owned by such persons and entities be duplicated/digitized for inclusion in the DOVE collection?

The DOVE catalog is available online. <http://www.lib.odu.edu/special/dove/scripts/viewitems.php>. It includes entries for digital collections and physical collections. In physical collections, most archives prefer to collect the original documents but some archives are willing to accept photocopies or digital images instead.

8. How will DOVE manage privacy issues, FERPA, HIPAA, and protect against identity theft relative to making public and other records accessible to the public?

Material cataloged by DOVE is located at a variety of institutions. Most have policies regarding privacy.

9. What will happen to DOVE and the records collected should ODU's administration determine it is no longer feasible to maintain them or the website? What would be the State's recourse in the event, for whatever reason, the public and other records collected by DOVE/ODU are lost?

If ODU were to cease funding the DOVE catalog, its records could be brought into ODU's regular library catalog, which is open to the public on the internet. Material donated to ODU Libraries' Special Collections and University Archives is permanently retained by the University.

I've also attached an electronic copy of the new DOVE brochure to include in your info packet.