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Library Directions/ A Newsletter of the University of Washington Libraries

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Volume 1 No. 2 Winter 1990

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From the Director

by Charles E. Chamberlin
Acting Director of Libraries

The title of this publication, **Library Directions**, implies movement, a journey, and the contents of this issue reflect the wonderful diversity of that journey for the University Libraries. As Nancy Baker, Associate Director of Libraries for Public Services, has written, the Libraries has fully embraced new technology with the aggressive acquisition of resources on CD-ROM. The article on Frances Hilen reminds us of our mission to develop collections for research and scholarship and the joy and satisfaction there is in fulfilling that responsibility. Finally, the interview with Jon Blake, newly hired Director of Branch Campuses Libraries, begins to tell the story of an exciting new educational initiative in Washington State, the Branch Campuses of the University of Washington at Tacoma and Bothell-Woodinville. These two institutions will focus on helping students develop proficiencies in writing and oral communication, in critical thinking and in the assembly and analysis of information. Library literacy is seen as a fundamental aspect of the educational process and we are proud to be playing a central role in this initiative.

Equally exciting is the progress on the Allen Library, the impressive new addition to the Suzzallo Library. Construction has advanced to the point where all can sense the wonderful character of the new building as well as the scale of its towers and arcade. The project is on schedule for completion in late summer of 1990. At that time, we will begin moving some collections, staff and services into Allen and will begin the redistribution of other functions in Suzzallo.



Charles Chamberlin (center) chats with Mead Emory and Carla Rickerson at a Libraries open house on Visiting Committee Day, Nov. 3, 1989.

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Libraries System Welcomes High Tech

by Nancy Baker

The comfortable and familiar reference book is competing for a place in libraries these days as microcomputers and compact discs are becoming fast, efficient substitutes which make research easier. Most prominent of these developments is CD-ROM (Compact Disc-Read Only Memory) which can store the contents of 200,000 typed pages, or hundreds of books, making it an ideal electronic form for reference books.

Data is stored on the CD-ROM disc as a spiral track of microscopic pits that can be "read" by the laser beam of a CD-ROM player. The light that is scattered by the pits is converted to electronic signals which a microcomputer, linked to a CD-ROM player, can interpret. Just as its cousin and look-alike, the audio compact disc, has revolutionized the music industry, so is CD-ROM beginning to transform the way libraries meet their users' needs for information.

While the commercial compact disc is designed to reproduce audio signals, CD-ROM has much broader capabilities. The data on each CD-ROM disc can be retrieved by a user easily and in a variety of ways. Researchers enjoy such options as the ability to search for combinations of words and phrases (Boolean searching), to limit by date, and to produce a convenient print-out of the results or to download the information to computer diskettes.

During the past two years, the University Libraries has purchased or subscribed to over forty reference sources on CD-ROM. These cover a wide range of subjects in the humanities, social sciences, and science and technology. Some, such as the **MLA Bibliography** CD-ROM, have a print equivalent, while others provide textual or statistical information previously available only by consulting a myriad of publications.

For example, the Government Publications Division of the Suzzallo Library houses a set of CD-ROM databases of U.S. government-generated economic and demographic information. These provide actual statistics rather than serving as an index to other publications. Citations to selected articles from over 300 American newspapers are provided by **Newsbank**, an index emphasizing current events and issues,

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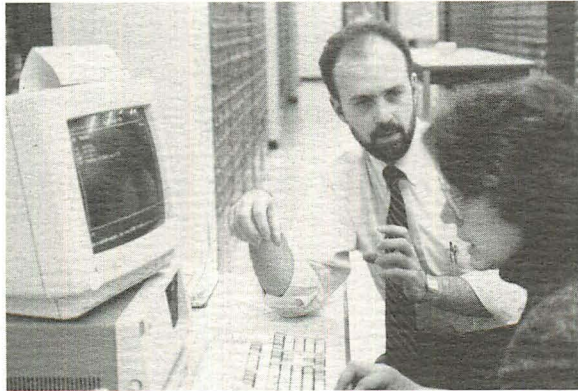
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One of the many CD-ROM success stories at the U.W. Libraries is **InfoTrac**, an electronic index receiving heavy use in the Odegaard Undergraduate Library. The index is so much in demand that students stand in line to use it. Updated monthly, **InfoTrac** is popular among undergraduates because it provides current indexing to hundreds of frequently used sources.

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of the leaders among academic libraries in bringing new technology to the service of its users

Nancy Baker is Associate Director of Libraries for Public Services.

The Hilén Legacy

by Linda Di Biase

When Frances Gilmore and Andrew Hilén were introduced in 1937, it was after the historic occasion of the UW's first Rose Bowl game. Neither one imagined that their meeting would one day culminate in marriage and a life in which the University of Washington would always play a major role. At the time Andrew, a senior at the University, was years from becoming an authority on Henry Wadsworth Longfellow and a mainstay of the UW English Department. Frances, the daughter of one of Southern California's early oil men, would have been surprised to learn she would eventually travel all over the globe, become a benefactor of various libraries and cultural organizations, and develop an intense interest in literary women of 19th century New England.

In time friendship turned to love, and after a courtship of several years, the Hiléns married and began a life that richly blended home and family with the wider world of scholarship, travel, and cultural affairs. Except for the period of Andrew's wartime service and two years' residence in Sweden, where Andrew taught at various universities, the Hiléns lived in Seattle, later acquiring a summer home on Shaw Island. From the beginning books and libraries were an important undergirding to Frances's nurturing of her growing family and to Andrew's scholarly activities. In the economy that operates among library lovers, the Hiléns gave as much as they received. Hours that Andrew spent in the literature stacks of the Suzzallo Library or the former Parrington branch were transmuted into lectures and books, including the definitive, six-volume edition of Longfellow's letters. The Hiléns took an active interest in the founding of a public library at Burton on Vashon Island, and to this day Frances volunteers when needed at the Shaw Island Library.

The Hilén legacy at the University of Washington Libraries is particularly significant. For more than 25 years the Libraries' Special Collections have been enhanced by the Hiléns' donation of books, photographs, and ephemera by, or relating to, Longfellow and other American authors of his day. In 1980 the Andrew and Frances Hilén Endowment Fund for Nineteenth-Century Americana was established to provide long-term support for this collection. Among the treasures purchased with this fund are the first American and English editions of Melville's **The White Whale** (later published as **Moby Dick**) and Hawthorne's **Fanshew**, an extremely scarce work located in only one other institution in the West, the



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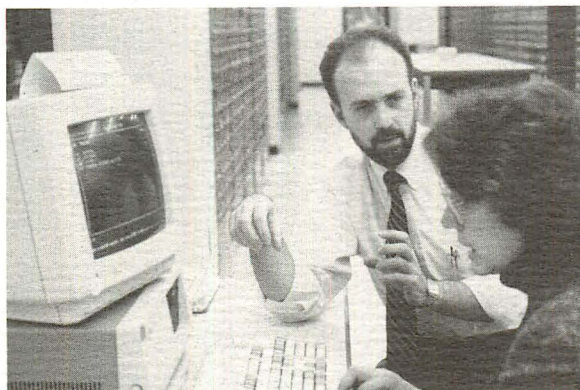
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The Branch Campuses Libraries: An Interview With Jon Blake

Ed. note: During an interview conducted in October, Library Directions editor Linda Di Biase discovered that Jon Blake, who was appointed Director, Branch Campuses Libraries, on October 1, is no stranger to the UW. Jon earned his Master of Library Science degree at the University and served as Assistant Media Librarian and Head of the Undergraduate Library Media Center from 1978 to 1983. He also has considerable community college library experience, most recently serving as Director, Instructional Resources, North Seattle Community College.



What has equipped you for this job?

By a serendipitous career path, I had the opportunity both to know this system and to direct a small college library during a period of complete automation and great change. That experience seems to augur well for success in this effort, since we are establishing two new libraries, but they will be in very close relationship to the University of Washington Libraries system. As a consequence we will have both the support and the necessary ties to this system plus a clean slate upon which to develop a new library.

It's exciting enough to get the opportunity to create an academic library—something hardly anyone ever gets to do — but I'm pushed almost beyond being excited to being daunted, because I will be creating two.

What is the role of librarians in the branch campuses?

There's very strong support among the branch campuses administrative team for having the librarians closely involved with the faculty in curriculum development. In fact, the curriculum in its present draft form calls for several areas of proficiency that students must demonstrate in order to graduate. One of those areas is information processing and analysis, and in that area in particular I anticipate that librarians will be called upon to help in the design of curriculum and to help instruct students in how to identify information and evaluate it.

How are you involved in planning for the branch campuses?

I am a member of the Branch Campuses Academic Advisory Council and the Branch Campuses Curriculum Committee, and I have weekly meetings with the branch campuses administrative team.

What will the branch campuses collection look like on the opening day?

There will probably not be ready-made, "opening day" collections at the branch campuses libraries mirroring a standard booklist of recommended materials. There will be resources that we know are re-

The Mission of the Branches

by Kathy Elias

Last spring the Legislature appropriated funding for the opening of two UW branch campuses in the Bothell-Woodinville and Tacoma areas. Scheduled to open October 1, 1990, each branch will initially admit four hundred students. The branches will be upper-division and masters institutions, structured in a "two-plus-two" relationship with the academic programs of the community colleges. During the first year's operations, one degree program will be offered, an interdisciplinary Bachelor of Arts.

The University of Washington branch campuses will serve the rapidly developing urban and suburban areas of Central Puget Sound. The branches are designed to address the needs of a diverse population of students, many of whom are employed. A considerable number of the region's residents have been unable to take advantage of the educational opportunities offered by existing institutions, owing to enrollment limits and to personal circumstances which make it difficult for them to move to colleges removed from metropolitan centers. The branch campuses serve to help many more such "placebound" persons to complete bachelor's degrees, and in the process to acquire knowledge and skills that will enrich their lives and forward their careers. To this end, the branch campus curriculum places a special emphasis on helping

students develop proficiency in written and oral communication, in the assembly and analysis of information, and in critical thinking.

The branch campuses are building strong ties with regional industries, businesses, and civic organizations, and they will pay particular attention to cooperation with the thirteen "feeder" community colleges in the region.

In future years, the branches will offer, in addition to the Bachelor of Arts degree, undergraduate degree programs in nursing, engineering and business. At the graduate level, master's degree programs are planned in the areas of business, engineering, nursing and teaching.

Kathy Elias is on the staff of the Office of Branch Campuses.

quired by the students and faculty for the program to go forward and mechanisms in place for both the faculty and students to get the resources they need from the larger system. I fully expect to have basic reference collections, class reserve materials, and the beginnings of core collections of faculty-recommended items. In the coming years faculty and librarians will work together to build on this foundation. I feel that it would be counterproductive for me in splendid isolation in this office to build a collection and then when the faculty are hired and have their orientation in April, to blithely walk in and say that we expect the librarians to be involved with faculty in curriculum development—and oh, by the way, I've chosen all your books for you.

Another part of that "clean slate" aspect of our work that I should mention is the fact that we will be the first UW library with no card catalog. We will rely completely on a computerized catalog for access to our branch collections.

What is the time schedule for launching the branch campuses libraries?

We are recruiting for a full time head librarian and a half-time public services/collection development librarian at each branch campus. The librarians currently are scheduled to come on board July 1. I've been very pleased with the branch campus planning team's sensitivity to how complex libraries are and their recognition that I need the facilities long before classes begin. They are committed to trying to have both library sites ready for habitation July 1.

Have you been able to profit from the experience of other institutions?

Our branch campus model is different from many others in its incrementalism, in its targeting of a particular kind of student, and in the geographic and demographic factors leading to it. But I must say that in the areas of providing library services, building collections, and relating to a larger provider, there have been profitable contacts made with other institutions, such as the University of Arizona's developing Arizona West campus.

What will be the branch campuses libraries' relation to other libraries in the Tacoma and Bothell areas?

Once the siting of the campuses is determined, I will want to establish contact with other libraries and try to find the means to make our students' use of these resources efficient without unduly impacting the other institutions. The actual impact should not be burdensome given the limited initial enrollment.

How will library materials be shared between the UW Seattle libraries and the branch campuses libraries?

The branch campuses libraries will be connected to the UW Seattle's Online Catalog, and there will be a twice-daily shuttle to deliver materials to the branches from Seattle. I hope to site fax machines at each branch library to handle interlibrary loan requests. There are some interesting possibilities for sharing reference sources in electronic formats such as databases mounted on the University's computer network.

How does it feel to be back at the UW after five years?

I am very pleased to be back at the University, and my pleasure rests on more than just the excitement of establishing the new libraries. There is an emotional aspect that is very strong and very pleasing. Maybe it's just the honeymoon period of a new job, but I find myself occasionally just breaking into a smile.



Huntington Library. The endowment and working fund have grown with periodic contributions from various sources, including the many friends of Andrew who made memorial donations after his death in 1982.

Since the mid-1980s the endowment has supported the development of a collection of works by nineteenth century women writers, whose contributions are the focus of increasing scholarly interest. It is an interest that Frances enthusiastically shares, having spent hours reading the correspondence and journals of little-known women in the Longfellow literary circle.

Though preferring the calm of Shaw Island to an increasingly congested Seattle, Frances has no regrets about the growth of the University of Washington into one of the nation's premier institutions of higher education. She is frequently on campus to attend meetings of the Libraries' Visiting Committee and other University functions. "Libraries are such a vital part of an institution — and of a city," affirms this dedicated library supporter. By her efforts and those of hundreds of other donors and volunteers, Frances Hilen, like her husband before, is helping to insure that the UW Libraries continues to play a vital role in the life of the University, the city, the region and beyond.

Linda Di Biase is co-editor of Library Directions.

From the Bookshelves

by Carolyn Mateer

Despite new recognition for the short story, inspired chiefly by our own Raymond Carver, many Northwest bibliophiles prefer to spend winter's blustery evenings with massive tomes, weighty works of many pages to be savored slowly, prolonging the enjoyment of good fiction, or becoming intimately acquainted with the subject of an all-encompassing biography.

For the reader seeking length as well as depth, the shelves of Suzzallo yield many new, and old, works of sufficient substance to tax both mind and muscle during the long nights of the solstice.

Taylor Branch takes nearly 1,200 pages to describe the Martin Luther King years in his prize winning work, **Parting the Waters**. Combining his scholarly account of the early civil rights period with Ralph Abernathy's, **And the Walls Came Tumbling Down**, should occupy a number of evenings and no doubt generate additional explorations through Branch's extensive bibliography.

At a mere 640 pages, Jonathan Kandell's engrossing history of one of the world's most fascinating cities, **La Capital** (Mexico City), is still only slightly less hefty to tote than **Parting the Waters**. Kandell penetrates layers of treachery, corruption, great wealth and enormous poverty to explore in-depth the beginnings and the contemporary problems of this most complex modern megalopolis.

Another new work, impressive in size and scope, is Simon Schama's controversial **Citizens**, a timely history of the French Revolution. The book captures the essence of the era, raising new questions from the perspectives of time and recent scholarship. Whether the violence generated by the Revolution can be defended by its motives is a question of significance in today's troubled world.

The lover of fiction who wishes to pursue a study of history from a more imaginative perspective may wish to explore **Freedom**, William Safire's 1,125 page biography of Lincoln. By also reading an entirely different interpretation of Lincoln's life, Gore Vidal's 1984 novel entitled simply **Lincoln**, the reader has a rare opportunity to see how two politicized, in fact polarized, authors use similar source material to reach opposite conclusions.

If summer is the time for paperbacks tucked in a backpack or travel bag, winter is the time for the "long read", the occasion to indulge an obsession with the printed word. This is not to say that all writers know when to quit; the greatest of all novels would not have suffered had Tolstoy omitted the epilogue from **War and Peace**.

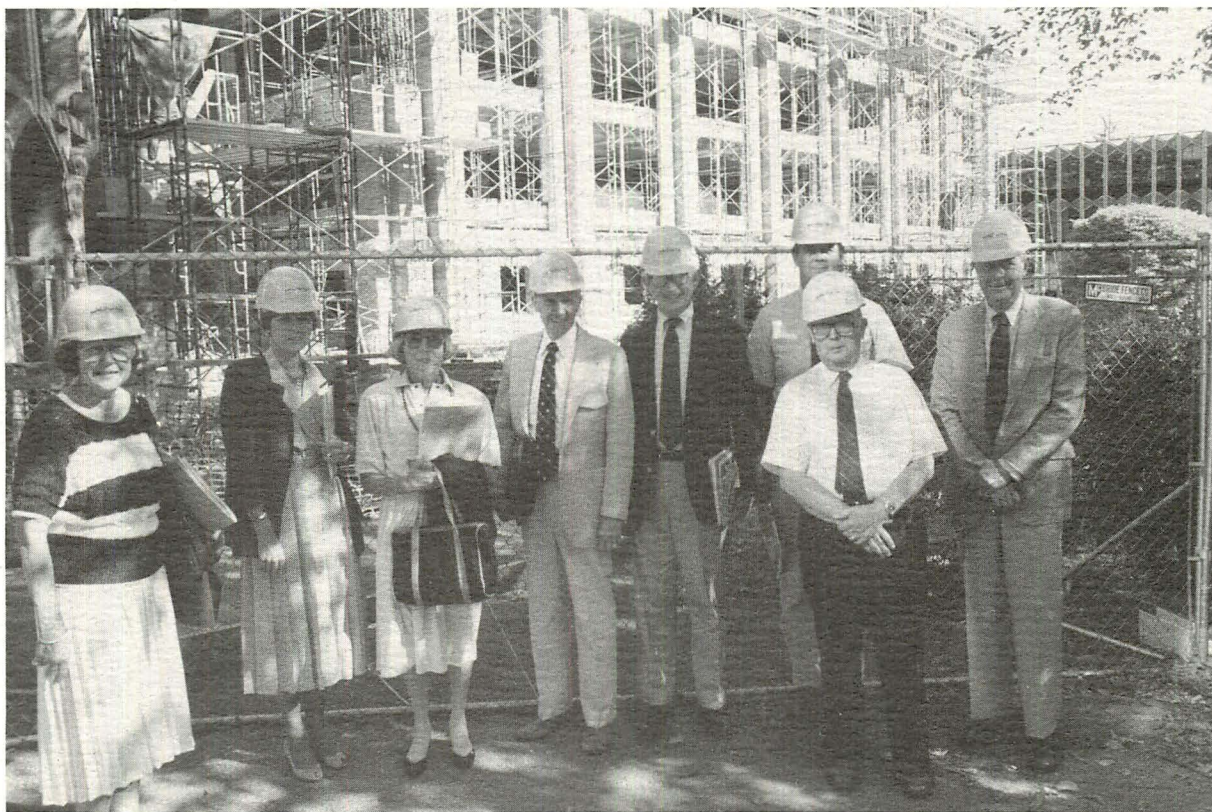
And in the final analysis, as Arnold Bennett has said, "The test of a first rate work and the test of one's sincerity is that you finish it."

Carolyn Mateer is Library Development Officer.

Library Directions is published three times a year by the University of Washington Libraries.

Editors: Linda Di Biase, Cynthia Fugate, Sarah Michalak.

Photos: University of Washington Libraries Media Center.



Members of the Libraries' Visiting Committee toured the Allen Library construction site during their September meeting. L to R: Frances Hilen, Linda Martinez, Ann Nieder, Carl Jarvie, Chair, Wilton Fowler, Ken Jacobsen, Philip Padelford. Front: Robert Burke.

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